



FRANK DOES EVERYONE
SEE PAGE 17

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE AND YOU DON'T STOP ISSUE

Does Santa Monica's

PAST have a FUTURE?



Life in a historic district comes with a cachet ... and restrictions

By Melody Hanatani Page 9

Photo by Brandon Wise news@smdp.com Illustration by Frances Casareno production@news.smdp.com

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Calendar

2

WEEKEND EDITION, NOVEMBER 17, 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

Garden of Angels Craft Fair

1009 18th St., 10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Garden of Angels is holding their annual Country Craft Fair with games and entertainment for kids. Plus a host of foods and handmade pieces from local artists, designer clothing, handbags, jewelry and more.

Tough Cookies vs. Sirens

1910 Temple St., LA, doors open at 6 p.m.

Not your ordinary "girls next door," the Derby Dolls roller derby girls are competing on new turf. Tickets are \$15 general admission (ride your bike and get a \$2 discount); \$35 for VIP; \$45 for VIP with valet parking. More information is available at www.derbydolls.com/la.

Monthly Movie Musical: 'Dreamgirls'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Free screening of the Oscar-nominated musical starring Beyonce Knowles and Jennifer Hudson. Seating is first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Crazy Cool Super Ridiculous Holiday Gift Bazaar

1512 16th St., 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Dig on some music from Battle of the Bands contender Darius Lux and nosh on tamales while doing some early holiday shopping at local businesses. For more information, visit www.holidaygiftbazaar.com.

'Remember to Laugh: Writing My Way Around the World'

2601 Main St., 11 a.m. — noon

Maggie Kilgore was a foreign correspondent in Vietnam, as well as a Statehouse and Washington reporter, and is sharing her tales during a book presentation at the Ocean Park Library. For more information, call (310) 392-3804 or visit the library Web site at www.smpl.org.

First United holiday boutique

1008 11th St., 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica is selling crafts, antiques, jewelry and food at their holiday boutique. Admission is \$5.

Sunday, Nov. 18, 2007

'42nd Street'

2627 Pico Blvd., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

"Come and meet those dancing feet," when the Youth Education/Entertainment Series at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre performs its 12th annual youth musical — "42nd Street." This full-length musical, inspired by Busby Berkeley's 1933 movie, is a show-within-a-show featuring 35 talented local youth, ages 9 to 19, singing and tap-dancing for your enjoyment. \$15 for reserved seats. Reservations are recommended. To purchase tickets or for information, call (310)-828-7519, or visit www.morgan-wixson.org.

On their own planet

Santa Monica Boulevard and Amherst Avenue, 10 a.m. — 11 p.m.

The grand opening celebration for Planet Beach Santa Monica will feature a local DJ, food provided by local restaurants, coupons, discounts, and a grand prize of an iPhone with a two-year membership.

The other Jerry's kids

1348 14th St., 7:30 p.m. — 11:30 p.m.

Cubensis brings the sights and sounds of a live Grateful Dead concert to 14 Below every Sunday. Tie-dye shirt not included.

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.



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Uncle Sam settles up

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE More than \$42,000 in tax refunds is sitting in the U.S. Treasury waiting for Santa Monicans to claim it, officials with the Internal Revenue Service said this week.

The agency in charge of collecting the nation's taxes every April 15 is trying to find 60 Santa Monicans who are still owed money, but are difficult to find because they may have moved or changed their names after tying the knot, said Victor Omelczenko, a spokesman for the IRS.

There are more than 5,000 taxpayers in Los Angeles County who are due refunds totaling \$5.7 million.

In efforts to find these taxpayers, the IRS has released a list of names and zip codes in hopes that residents will contact the agency to claim their cash.

"This is something that we do every year," Omelczenko said. "We find that towards the end of the filing deadline, if you don't electronically file, you'll be waiting a couple of months to get your refund, and during that time, people get married, leave town or just move down the street, but don't file a change of address with the post office. Their check is coming in the mail, but to the old apartment or under a previous name, and checks go undelivered."

"I would think that with the holidays, people would want to get their hands on a little extra packet money that is owed to them."

Those 60 Santa Monicans who have not received their refund checks from the IRS are owed an average of \$709.72.

Those who think they may be entitled to that money can go online to the official IRS Web site at www.irs.gov and use the "Where's My Refund?" tool to check the status of their refunds. Taxpayers with undeliverable checks can update their addresses using "Where's My Refund?" Those who do not have access to the Internet can call IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1954 to update their address.

Money that is not claimed will remain in the U.S. Treasury indefinitely, Omelczenko said.

kevinh@smdp.com

DOES THE IRS OWE YOU MONEY?

■ See complete list on page 8



IN KNEAD OF DOUGH

Photo courtesy of Art Institute of California

Students from the Culinary Club at The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles will be selling homemade apple pie with infused orange zest and cranberry chutney at the Farmers' Market on Wednesday, Nov. 21. All proceeds benefit the club. (From left to right) Sharon Widjaja, Maximillian Cavaleri, Mina Sotoodeh and Ramon Espinosa prepare for their Thanksgiving fundraiser.

Decrying homeless policies

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN The nation's oldest and largest homelessness advocacy organization is accusing Santa Monica and other cities across the country of criminalizing homelessness by enacting laws and policies that restrict groups who share food with the poor.

The National Coalition for the

Homeless, along with the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, issued a report this week that called into question a Santa Monica law passed in 2002 requiring groups that give away food to the homeless to obtain permits if they serve more than 150 people.

The report also addressed a law passed in May that makes it illegal to leave food or clothing in Santa Monica parks.

"Punishing charitable groups and peo-

ple for the 'crime' of feeding their hungry fellow human beings is appalling," said Maria Foscarnis, executive director of the National Law Center. "It is also counterproductive: Cities should be working with these groups, not against them."

City officials said the report, "Feeding Intolerance: Prohibitions on Sharing Food with People Experiencing Homelessness,"

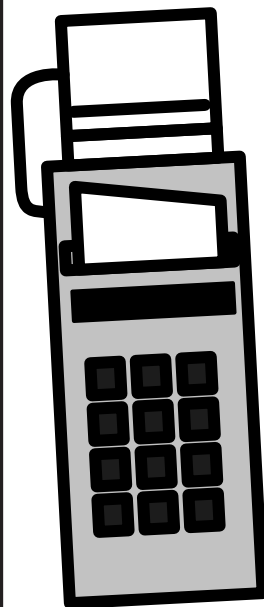
SEE HOMELESS PAGE 7

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

‘Mikey’ should go sober
Editor:

Regarding the weekly “Hey, Mikey” column written by Michael Tittinger, the editor of the Santa Monica Daily Press that appeared in the Nov. 14 issue (“Raising a glass to the maligned”), I would like to make a few comments.

First, as regards to the (Santa Monica College) student journalists who were not allowed to compete because they drank beer in a public place: If this was against the rules of the competition and they knew of the rule and broke the rule, then they must accept the consequences. Case closed.

I’m not saying that their having a few beers was a bad thing – just bad timing.

What I really want to address is “Hey, Mikey’s” premise that booze and journalism/writing is sort of a romantic go-together situation and cited Hemingway and Hunter Thompson as examples. Hemingway and Thompson both blew their brains out as well – Hemingway because he could no longer write; and to Thompson’s drug-fogged mind, it was simply time to go, or so his friends say.

My premise is that I am so so tired of the glamorization of drugs and alcohol as an almost prerequisite of creativity. No one can convince me that someone operating on two cylinders (the drugged mind) is more creative or brilliant than when they are operating on all eight cylinders. I would wonder at what any famous alcoholic writer, artist, performer, comic genius could have produced if not brain addled. That’s a loss for us all.

A friend of mine ... used to drink with Dylan Thomas in the White Horse, a pub on Hudson Street in New York. He said he never knew Dylan Thomas was a brilliant poet when he was drinking with him. That is the truth about alcohol and drugs. It reduces everyone to the same level of being a boring drunk who repeats sentences 10 times and vomits on your shoes. Stephen King said when he was drinking, he looked the same as the truck driver when vomiting in the gutter.

I know the horrible aloneness of writing and being in your own head that can drive you to the nearest pub just to get away from yourself – but watch that predisposition of artists to carry things to the Nth degree. Then we won’t have to mourn the stories, the paintings, the performances we’re all denied by an early death of the product of the self.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Adding fluoride is such a ‘waste’
Editor:

Some readers may be vaguely aware that the Metropolitan Water District has begun implementing plans to fluoridate the water of their 18 million customers in Southern California. Santa Monica’s water supply will begin the fluoridation process on Nov. 19. Most readers, however, are completely unaware of the source of the fluoride being used. It is not a pharmaceutical-grade chemical developed in a laboratory; it is hydrofluorosilicic acid taken directly from the pollution scrubbers of a phosphate fertilizer plant in Florida.

The origins of water fluoridation can be traced back to the aluminum industry. In the 1930s, the director of the Aluminum Company of America wrote a letter to Gerald Cox of The Mellon Institute of Industrial Research. He was worried about the health effects of fluoride pollution on workers in aluminum plants and resulting litigation. His idea, however, was to see how well this highly toxic, corrosive substance cleaned teeth. In time, The Mellon Institute – also staunch defenders of DDT, asbestos and tobacco – began a massive spin campaign to promote the use of fluoride as a healthy addition to public drinking water. From there, the Kettering Laboratory (who also promoted the use of lead in gasoline), formed a highly-funded alliance with the National Institute of Dental Research to sell fluoridated water and dental products to the American public.

Hydrofluorosilicic acid is an industrial-grade hazardous waste that ranks between lead and arsenic in toxicity. Adding any amount at all to the state and to the rest of our nation’s water supply is not only hazardous to our health, but also to our democratic process and our supposed freedom of choice.

Shirra Leavitt
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A healthy baby in the making

I’M VERY HAPPY THAT I DON’T happen to be pregnant right now. I’m not just talking about my avoiding the weird thing with the belly button or ankles that swell up to be the size of grapefruits — or all the stares I’d get from people who aren’t used to seeing a pregnant man. I just feel it’s a very confusing time to be pregnant: Don’t eat this, eat that. Don’t drink that, drink this. Don’t breathe in this stuff, don’t live near that stuff. It’s a puzzling time to have a baby inside of you, and I wonder if all the knowledge we have today just makes people more nervous. And, of course, stress is one of the things pregnant women are supposed to avoid.

The latest research indicates that what parents eat and breathe is often more of a determining factor in how the child turns out than their parents’ genes. Obviously, if you’re pregnant and happen to work in a nuclear waste plant, you might want to look for other employment. But seemingly innocent things can affect that baby, too. For example, a study in “Human Reproduction” reported that if a pregnant woman eats more than seven servings a week of beef, the son that will be born is more likely to have “poor sperm quality” when he grows up. The baby’s not even out yet, and you have to worry about his ability to have babies?

Needless to say, pesticides, pollution and poisons are all bad for the unborn baby. And, of course, if you eat a lot of high-fat, high-sugar foods during your pregnancy, your baby may be predisposed to becoming obese later.

But it’s not all bad news. You can do some things to help that unborn child. All those obnoxious fathers who brag that the reason their kid is so good at playing shortstop is because he has “Dad’s genes” are in for a rude awakening. Pregnant women who take supplements of omega-3 fatty acids are more likely to have kids with good hand-eye coordination. So, back off, Dad. It could be the pills that Mom took that make Junior an All-Star.

Of course, you can get omega-3 fatty acids from some fish, but doctors warn pregnant women not to eat too much fish because they might be tainted with mercury and other toxins. But nobody knows exactly how much is too much fish. Confusing? It’s maddening.

Somehow, most mothers and babies end up being just fine. But that doesn’t mean you’re home free. After the baby’s born, you have the confusion over what toys are OK to buy. Lately, the news has reported more toy recalls than slips made by presidential candidates. Toy after toy has been found to be decorated with lead paint. Other toys were found to explode

or possibly burn the kids playing with them. One of the latest recalls involves something called “Aqua Dots.” If swallowed, these things turn into a powerful “date rape drug.” Now that’s something my parents didn’t have to worry about when I was in that playpen with the little girl from down the block.

OF COURSE, YOU CAN GET OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS FROM SOME FISH, BUT DOCTORS WARN PREGNANT WOMEN NOT TO EAT TOO MUCH FISH BECAUSE THEY MIGHT BE TAINTED WITH MERCURY AND OTHER TOXINS. BUT NOBODY KNOWS EXACTLY HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH FISH. CONFUSING?

And if you think you’ll get a break by putting the baby in front of the television set, forget it. The current writers’ strike affects children’s programs as well as those for adults. And who among you doesn’t think your child is smart enough to tell a rerun from a new show?

Just as in previous generations, the joy one gets from a child should make up for all the confusion and difficulties. Obviously, there has been much progress that has made prospective parents more informed and babies healthier in recent years. But sometimes it seems that many of the scientific advances have made pregnancy more stressful.

So even though it would be nice for strangers to offer to carry things for me and for my friends to tell me that I’m “glowing,” I’m still happy that men can’t get pregnant. But I guarantee you that scientists somewhere are working on making that possible right now. And I’ll bet most of those scientists are women.

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

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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

“When you think about who should play a porn star, don’t I just pop into your mind?”

— Actress Sarah Michelle Gellar, on an upcoming role

“Your plumber can go out and (start) a surf camp.”

— Mary Setterholm, director of the Surf Academy, on the proliferation of unregulated surf schools springing up all over Santa Monica beach

“We find it sad that Ellen spent an entire week crying and fighting for a dog that she gave away, yet she couldn’t even stand by writers for more than one day — writers who have helped make her extremely successful.”

— WGA East, denouncing Ellen DeGeneres’ choice to resume her talk show despite the ongoing writer’s strike

“I treat my cheeks like breasts in a push-up bra. I just reach down in there, lift them up and push them together. And they’ll stay put if the jeans are tight enough.”

— Kelly Ripa, co-host of the morning talk show, “Live with Regis and Kelly”

“I avoid them because American women suffer from a special kind of crazy.”

— Santa Monica Daily Press columnist Kenny Mack

“I’m surprised, but there’s been an effort to get Barry for a long time. I’m curious what evidence they have now they didn’t have before.”

— Barry Bonds’ attorney, John Burris, on Bonds’ indictment for perjury and obstruction of justice for lying to a federal jury that he did not knowingly take steroids

**I TRIED
FANTASY
GOLF
BECAUSE I’M
AN IDIOT.”**

— Venice resident Abe Quigley

“If they won’t allow me to open, I might as well close my business and put 45 people out of work because of one schmuck.”

— Izzy Freeman, owner of Izzy’s Deli, referring to his neighbor’s demands that Izzy’s cut its hours of operation due to what he claims is excessive noise from patrons in the parking lot

“The comandante should have more power because he is the force behind our revolution.”

— Egda Vilchez, a pro-Chávez activist, as she campaigned in favor of a new charter that would benefit Venezuela’s lower-income population with six-hour workdays and state-mandated pensions, while giving President Chávez enhanced powers and making him eligible for re-election for life

Quotations captured and compiled with care by CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.

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The QLine

WORK MORE, PAY LESS

This past week, Q-line asked:3

Do you feel the City Council should meet more often, and if so, do they deserve a pay raise?

Here are your responses:

"FIRST OF ALL, NO MATTER WHAT THEY decide about the number of meetings, they should not receive any increase in pay. They are overpaid right now. Look around the city. Would you, in good conscience, take money for this mess? They have succeeded in destroying a lovely, quiet beach community, and turned it into an overbuilt, dirty looking, traffic-clogged nightmare."

"I PERSONALLY DON'T THINK THAT THE City Council should meet often. Now this pay hike, to me, is ridiculous. Every one of these City Council people are people who are making plenty of money on their other jobs. What they do on the City Council is not worth more than about \$25 to \$50 a month. Giving them more time to sit there and do nothing is really ridiculous. I can't understand all that."

"I THINK ANY CHANGE TO BE MADE FOR our councilmembers should wait until after the next election. Too many of us are against most of the actions taken by our present Council and they won't listen to us."

"SANTA MONICA COUNCILMEMBERS should be paid a salary comparative to those councilmembers of municipalities in size and population. The main issues in Santa Monica have not changed in years and will remain as follows: Airport noise, pier, rent control, schools, parking, traffic congestion, what to do with Santa Monica Place shopping center and Third Street Promenade ... More meetings with a question mark. One would have to be masochistic to sit through and endure the rehashing. More meetings would be as useless as whipping a thoroughbred horse that is running 20 lengths behind in the pack."

"YES, I THINK THE CITY COUNCIL should meet more often, but those dun-derheads should not receive more pay the way they've been treating our city, cutting down our beloved trees and such."

"NO, I DON'T THINK THEY SHOULD GET a pay hike. I don't think they do that hard of work to deserve a pay hike and I don't think they are a good City Council to begin with. As far as meeting more often, instead of their marathon meetings, they should have shorter meetings and, yes, meet more often."

"IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION? WELL, I'll answer it if it's serious. No, they should not meet more often or get a pay hike. It was Will Rogers or Mark Twain or someone like that who said 'no man's freedom or property are safe while the legislature is in session.'"

"RATHER THAN MEETING MORE frequently, they should have the City Council meet less frequently, say, once a year. Or better yet, get rid of them completely so they can save money without having to pay anything to them or do anything because these people cause more trouble than they're worth anyway. Every time they have a meeting or do something, it ends up creating more hassles and problems than they are trying to fix, so better to get rid of them completely."

"THEY SHOULD MEET MORE OFTEN, BUT they shouldn't get a pay hike until they start being more accessible to the citizens, and also get rid of that stupid rule that you can't ask questions. That's totally manipulatory."

"NO, THEY SHOULDN'T MEET MORE often and they certainly don't deserve a pay hike. They don't do anything now. We've still got the bad homelessness, the parking is terrible. What do they do? And, by the way, who pays for all the snacks they have in the back, they are all constantly going to in the meeting?"

"I DON'T THINK THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE meeting more often. They only create more problems that cost us taxpayers money. That would justify them getting a pay raise by spending more time at council meeting. I definitely object to it."

"NO, THE COUNCIL DOES ENOUGH STUPID things with the meetings they already have, like cutting down perfectly good trees."

"KEVIN MCKEOWN SHOULD BE THE full-time mayor with staff, with Ken Genser as his assistant. The other councilmembers don't represent the residents' interests anyway, so we don't need them."

"FIRST CHOICE, THE CITY COUNCIL should meet once a week. They should receive no pay or lifetime medical so that members with a pre-existing illness cannot access expensive, tax-supported health care. Former councilmembers will not do business directly or indirectly with City Hall. That way, they will not be able to influence City Council policy in regards to bums, low income housing, light rail, and any more development. This will end lifetime employment. Second choice, each councilmember receives \$1,000 a month for every \$100 million knocked off the budget; \$10 for every one of the 8,000 parking meters that are eliminated; \$100 for every restricted parking area free to those affected; \$50 for every empty Blue Bus that is canceled; \$100 to rid the mall of its wrongly named street performers; \$50 for every millionaire's jet; \$5 for every helicopter flying over the beach area; and \$10 for every bum and low income housing recipient working at a hotel."

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National coalition takes city to task

FROM HOMELESS PAGE 3

does not take into account efforts City Hall has made to work collaboratively with groups participating in public feedings, and sends the wrong impression about Santa Monica.

The criminalization of homelessness in the United States is a severe problem, according to the report, with cities across the country implementing measures that ban eating, sitting or sleeping in public spaces.

"While these regulations have been on the rise over the past 10 years, laws targeting local churches and other groups who feed or shelter homeless people mark a disturbing new trend that threatens the well-being of America's most vulnerable citizens," the report states.

The report looked at a wide variety of ordinances and policies used by cities such as Las Vegas, Wilmington, North Carolina, Orlando, Portland and San Francisco. Laws that were cited include an ordinance passed in Las Vegas that bans the providing of food or meals to the indigent for free or for a nominal fee in city parks. Another law singled out was one passed in Orlando, Fla., that prohibits sharing food with more than 25 people in city parks without a permit and limits groups to doing so to two times a year.

Authors of the report said most cities do not have adequate shelter or food resources to meet the need. The report cites a survey conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2006 that found an average of 23 percent of overall emergency shelter requests are unmet, while 20 percent of shelter requests by homeless families were not satisfied.

The survey also reported an average increase of 7 percent in the overall requests for emergency food assistance, with 74 percent of surveyed cities reporting an increase. In addition, 23 percent of the requests for emergency food assistance went unmet and 18 percent of requests made by families went unmet.

The "Feeding Intolerance" report also references a survey by the federal Interagency Council on Homelessness that found 28 percent of homeless people sometimes or often do not get enough to eat, and 20 percent only eat one meal a day or less. Meanwhile, 40 percent went one or more days in the last 30 days without anything to eat because they could not afford food.

"Santa Monica was the first city to enact these kinds of restrictions on public feeding and other cities have followed," said Michael Stoops, acting executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless. "We know Santa Monica has made progress in tackling the issue and we recognize that, but we also think part of the process should not include making it difficult to feed people."

City officials have said public feeding laws were enacted to protect public health and encourage groups to move indoors so that those who receive meals could also access other services.

City Manager Lamont Ewell worked over the last year to convince two of the largest groups — Hand to Hand and H.O.P.E. — to move their operations to the OPCC Access Center, where case man-

agers are on hand to work with the homeless. H.O.P.E. offers roughly 150 meals twice a week, while Hand to Hand serves roughly 100 meals once a week.

"What this report doesn't talk about is all of the efforts that the city of Santa Monica has made to move people from the streets and into housing, in particular our recent efforts over the last two and half years to work on the people who have been on the streets the longest and who are the most vulnerable in terms of their health and their safety," said Stacy Rowe, a human services administrator for City Hall.

It is still legal for people to go up to a homeless person and hand them a meal or treat them to something to eat, Rowe said, adding that groups are still free to hand out meals in public parks without a permit as long as they serve less than 150 people.

THIS IS ABOUT PROTECTING PEOPLE'S HEALTH. NOBODY WANTS SOMEONE TO GET SICK."

Stacy Rowe, Human services administrator for City Hall

"This is about protecting people's health," she said. "Nobody wants someone to get sick (from spoiled or undercooked food)."

The laws were also enacted to ensure access to open space, Rowe said.

"This report is not looking at the big picture," Rowe said. "Santa Monica has a long and positive tradition for assisting homeless people in the city and to look at this isolated piece and say that makes us intolerant is really not fair."

The report called on cities to not punish or restrict public feedings, but instead work with religious institutions, non profits and individuals to improve and coordinate food programs, something which City Hall has done, according to Rowe.

The report also recommends creating a year-round, free lunch program for children and advocates for improved access to food stamps and other food resources for the homeless.

John Maceri, executive director of homeless services provider OPCC (Ocean Park Community Center), said the report makes suggestions that are already being done by City Hall.

"As far as the legality of the laws, I can't speak to that," Maceri said. "I can say that Santa Monica has, for a long time, struggled to do the right thing. The issue of homelessness and a lack of housing is tough and not unique to Santa Monica. It's a national problem, a complex problem and I think the city has stepped up significantly and are doing their fair share, and it probably can be argued that they are doing more than their fair share, so it's always a surprise to me when people characterize it as being a mean place."

"I don't see Santa Monica as a mean place."

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Santa Monica,, CA 90404

■ BJORNSDOTTIR, ANNA
Santa Monica,, CA 90403

■ BLANCO CANDELERO, M &
F CANDELERO
Santa Monica,, CA 90402

■ BOIHEM, HAROLD L III
Santa Monica,, CA 90405

■ BREECKER, MARNIE E
Santa Monica,, CA 90403

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Santa Monica,, CA 90401

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Santa Monica,, CA 90402

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Santa Monica,, CA 90404

■ DAKLOUSH, JOSEPH E
Santa Monica,, CA 90404

■ DICKEY, JOHN D
Santa Monica, CA 90403

■ DIMENTO, KATE F
Santa Monica, CA 90404

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Santa Monica, CA90405

■ FERRINI, STEPHEN
& DORETTA MORLACCI
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Santa Monica, CA 90401

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■ GONZALEZ-CASILLAS,
JOSE & ROSA
Santa Monica, CA 90404

■ GUO, JIAN &
DORIS Y FENG
Santa Monica,, CA 90404

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WEI FENG HSIAO MA
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A NOD TO THE PAST: A homeowner's construction plan upsets neighbors on Third Street.

Saving history clouds future

Construction project leads to major tension in a historical district

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK When Karen Blechman and her family moved into a California-style bungalow on Third Street a dozen years ago, the dilapidated historic home was showing its old age.

The couple put some tender loving care into the property, fixing the crumbling foundation and repairing the drip-prone ceiling, restoring the bungalow to a state reminiscent of its glory days after it was constructed nearly 100 years ago.

Today, the Blechmans are the proud owners of one of a series of California bungalows that help make up the fabric of the Third Street Neighborhood Historic District, a formally designated geographic region of Ocean Park that contains several turn-of-the-century properties, evocative of Santa Monica's past as a sleepy beachside community.

"It's not a pretentiously flashy house, nevertheless, it's a gracious home," Blechman said Wednesday. "It's a home I can be proud of, yet it's not intimidating."

Yearning for a neighborhood with a sense of antiquity, something to remind Blechman of her hometown of York, England — one of the most historic towns in that country — the couple decided to purchase the district home in 1995.

But now the Blechmans fear that their charming corner of Santa Monica could lose its defining character.

Controversy is brewing in the historic district, pitting neighbor against neighbor. At the root of it all is one homeowner's proposal to build an addition on to a two-story structure behind a historic house at 2617 Third St.

The Blechmans are among the majority of historic district homeowners trying to persuade the Landmarks Commission to shoot down the construction project, labeling it "modern-style" architecture that

would ruin the fabric of the neighborhood, and if approved, would set a "dangerous precedent" that could signal the beginning of the end of the historic district.

More than 500 people — a head count larger than the population of the Historic District — have signed a petition calling for the project's rejection.

Their efforts to bring about a timely and favorable resolution were thwarted last Monday when the commission decided to continue a public hearing on the project for another month at the request of the applicant, Mark Woollen, who has owned his 102-year-old bungalow for the past six years. The request was made in order to allow architect Michael Folonis more time to make additional modifications to the project.

GRASS ISN'T ALWAYS GREENER

To the residents standing on the other side of the fence, the project seems to defy the expectations set forth under a set of guidelines that regulate construction projects in the district, requiring that restoration, rehabilitation and additions be respectful to the overall character of the neighborhood, staying within the scale of surrounding homes and include elements of neighboring buildings.

The district — bounded by Third Street to the east, Hill Street to the south, Second Street to the west and Ocean Park Boulevard to the north — includes both contributing and non-contributing structures, the former of which adds to the historic nature of the neighborhood. Construction on both categories of structures require approval from the Landmarks Commission because of their potential impact on the district.

In terms of new construction, the guidelines strongly recommend against faux-Victorian architecture, instead encouraging construction that includes elements that complement surrounding buildings.

Woollen contends his vision is respectful to the fabric of the neighborhood, noting that most of the construction will be contained to his two-story back house, a non-contributing structure. Woollen and his girlfriend have lived in the back house since they

SEE HISTORY PAGE 12

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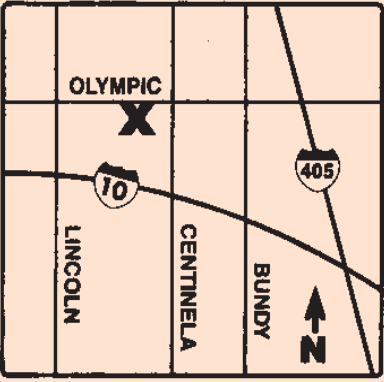
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Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

STAYING TRUE TO THE PAST: Some homeowners in the Third Street Neighborhood Historic District want pending home renovations to keep in line with the neighborhood's architectural style.

History takes on progress

FROM HISTORY PAGE 9

moved into the property because the front bungalow is not habitable, with neither a kitchen nor a bathroom — both of which were gutted by the previous homeowner.

"We took a sensitive approach by doing an addition to an already non-contributing building," Woollen said on Thursday. "I still believe we are following the guidelines."

The contentious situation highlights the somewhat strict guidelines set forth in order to protect the nature of the historic district.

The regulations are meant to afford protections for the homes that were once threatened with demolition in the late 1980s, galvanizing a group of long-time residents to file an application to designate the neighborhood as a historic district.

"We know we can spend money (renovating) our homes and know that the home next door won't be torn down into condos," Blechman said.

A GLIMPSE AT THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

After a resident on Third Street applied for a demolition permit to construct condominiums in the late-1980s, a group of neighbors approached the Landmarks Commission about establishing a historic district. In addition to the demolition permit, Bea Nemlaha, who lived next door to the applicant, learned that a trust had purchased a row of five signature California bungalows across the street from her with the sole objective of tearing them down for new development.

"When the people next door to me got permission to tear down that house, it became really apparent we had to do something quickly if we were going to protect the street," Nemlaha said.

That sparked a year of research into the history of the homes in the neighborhood, discovering that 29 of the bungalows were constructed between 1903 and 1915 and the oldest structure in the area was a Victorian farmhouse on Beach Street, built in 1880.

The Victorian farmhouse belongs to Tony Haig, who purchased the home in the 1970s and is currently working to restore it. The house was originally located on Second Street — formerly called Lake Street — and moved to its current location in the early part of the 20th Century.

The district includes a wide array of architectural styles, with homes in the California bungalow, Victorian, American

Colonial Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival styles. The homes are also unique in that many of them share driveways, fostering a sense of community.

More than 40 historic homes contribute to the district, including two churches, one church converted into a private residence and perhaps one of the most popular homes on the block, the so-called airport bungalow craftsman home on the corner of Ocean Park Boulevard and Third Street.

The City Council formally established the district on August 1990.

It's one of two historic districts in Santa Monica, the other being the Bay Craftsman Cluster Historic District, which includes a row of four early-1900s craftsman houses between Main Street and Nielson Way. There were several failed attempts to designate other areas of Santa Monica as historic districts in the past, including an area north of Montana Avenue.

There are talks of possibly designating a historic district in the South Beach Tract neighborhood, bounded by Hollister Avenue, Ocean Park Boulevard, Barnard Way and Nielson Way. The area includes 109 homes, 88 of which would be contributing structures. The neighborhood contains a high concentration of turn-of-the-century bungalows, according to Nina Fresco, chairman of the Landmarks Commission.

The process to designate a historic district typically begins with the filing of an application, going through a series of reports and public hearings before a recommendation is forwarded to the City Council for approval. If more than 50 percent of the homeowners in the affected neighborhood oppose the district, the application automatically dies.

"Historic districts are an opportunity for us to preserve a sense of our culture and our past as it comes to us in a way that is much more evocative of individual landmarks can ever be," Fresco said. "It has community benefits because it creates a defined distinct neighborhood."

Historic homes and designated neighborhoods increase property values, but can make it difficult to initially market the home to potential buyers, according to Peter Mullin of AP Real Estate.

But once buyers learn of some of the flexibilities in the guidelines and the tax break with owning a historically designated home, the historic district becomes a selling point.

"With these historic properties, you can do anything you want inside the property in terms of remodeling," Mullin said.

Opponents say Woollen purchased the home knowing full well it was a house in a

District typically start at \$2.5 million, Mullin said.

Residents say the historic district is a friendly and open place where neighbors share sugar, walk their dogs together and watch out for each other's homes.

It's an area also attractive to renters.

Erica Kyrakatos moved to a Spanish Colonial Revival apartment on Beach Street a month ago, attracted by its proximity to the beach and Main Street.

"I like that it has that quaint and cozy feel," Kyrakatos said on Friday. "There's a lot of new development all over the place, but there's not much building going on (here)."

TROUBLE BREWING IN DISTRICT

The controversy surrounding Woollen's proposed addition seems to have strained neighborly relationships in the district.

"This is a grassroots effort animated by love for the neighborhood and the community it supports," Blechman said.

At issue with the neighbors of the project at 2617 Third St. is the scale and design of the addition, believing that it would overpower the front bungalow and stick out like a sore thumb. Woollen is also proposing moving his house forward seven feet to bring it in line with the setback of the adjacent homes and make more room in the back for the addition, another sore point for the residents that oppose the project.

The design has gone through several versions since it was first presented to the Landmarks Commission in June, reduced in size considerably, its height cut down by about two feet and width by several more. A once-stucco exterior opposed by the commissioners has since been replaced with reclaimed redwood siding, and a roof deck on the taller portion of the back house has been shifted to eliminate it from street view, another concern for commissioners, Folonis said Friday.

The project would add 1,200 square feet to the existing 1,140-square foot back house. Woollen is planning to restore the front bungalow and use it as a guest house.

Folonis presented renderings of the proposed project from several different street views, each showing that with the inclusion of ginkgo biloba and evergreen trees in the backyard, the house would blend in and not stick out noticeably, as some neighbors have claimed, he said.

Opponents say Woollen purchased the home knowing full well it was a house in a

historic district.

"It's not personal," Blechman said. "They chose to buy a historic home in a neighborhood with established guidelines."

Some residents have questioned the Landmarks Commission in postponing discussion for the project.

"The Landmarks Commission was formed to enforce the guidelines and protect the historic district," said Candace Veach, a renter who lives on Third Street. "If they're not going to do that, then why do they exist?"

The project was continued in June after the commission gave the architect several recommendations to improve the project. The meeting on Monday marked the second time it was continued.

Fresco defended the commission, saying that it wouldn't be fair to throw out the project without giving the applicant time to come into compliance.

"It's always our wish to try to encourage people to comply," she said.

Another project within the historic district receiving some resistance from neighbors proposes demolishing an existing non-contributing house in favor of a two-story home on Second Street. Venice residents Mark Gorman and Beth Burns purchased the property last year and are hoping to receive approval by the Landmarks Commission next month in order to make their home a reality.

The house Gorman and Burns want to build, however, has been criticized by some residents as being in the modernist style and out of tune with the character of the neighborhood, though opposition has been considerably less than that Woollen has faced.

The couple has met with neighbors on several occasions and modified their project to include smaller windows and reclaimed wood, hoping to offer a simpler looking building.

The existing structure currently sits between a parking lot and an empty lot. It's two doors down from a preschool, housed in a landmarked building.

"It's improving," Gorman said of the designs. "We're trying to make it better."

The outrage by neighbors and campaign against the project caught Woollen by surprise.

"I love the area. I've lived in this area a long time and it feels like home," he said. "But it feels less like home every day."

melodyh@smdp.com

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Notes from the film scoundrel

Kenn Tarr

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Oh, quit it, B-listers

WHILE WAITING FOR "LUST, CAUTION" TO START A couple nights ago at the Pico Landmark Theater, I was trying to mind my own business by reading a magazine. I looked up to realize that Cheryl Hines ("Curb Your Enthusiasm") and Keri Russell ("Waitress") were talking amidst a sea of handlers and assistants.

A pair of Russell's would-be bailiffs asked me for my seat at the bench I was ever so casually reading my magazine at and I politely refused. Who the heck is Keri Russell anyway? Both women seemed to be talking just loudly enough to be overheard going on and on about their "upcoming projects" and musing over their little ones. I realized then what many have already realized: Celebrities are annoying.

Becoming one makes you aloof, it makes you feel the need to pretend to be normal and makes you reliant on weirdo assistants who really would do anything for you but be genuine. That kind of lifestyle is abhorrent to me. Employing someone so willing to please that they would be subservient to a B-lister for the sake of being able to say they work for a B-lister seems pretty sad. These "celebrity" women seemed so painfully aware that the theater staff was at their beck and call and that passersby were intrigued by their mere presence. It also occurred to me that unless you are hugely famous and recognizable that it is remarkably self-indulgent to have handlers and assistants. Being an assistant or a handler also seems so "All About Eve." It reeks of false-idol worship to boot. I welcome any assistants or handlers who would like to comment on their job and role in the entertainment business to drop me a line.

TOLD YOU SO

As I predicted, "Fred Claus" came in at a disappointing \$19 million last weekend. The film should stay around for a while, and should eke its way to a minor profit. It will be interesting to see if people go to "Mr. Magorium's," "Enchanted" or "Fred Claus," the only true Christmas film of the season. The next two weeks will need close monitoring. "Beowulf" should take home over \$40 million this weekend. "Hitman" is also slated to be released nation-wide along with the Coen Brother's "No Country For Old Men." These movies might just hit the mark that "Claus" so obviously missed.

Is it me or is this Thanksgiving/Holiday season extremely lacking a sure-fire box-office hit or crowd pleaser of any kind? There may not be a film that crosses the \$200 million mark this Holiday season. If only one reaches \$200 million, that would be the first time since 2004.

AND NOW SOMETHING SERIOUS

I am preparing my reading audience for a relevant Iraq War picture. Brian DePalma, one of my favorite directors, has just completed a film dubbed "Redacted." The film is based on actual embedded journalists' accounts of the Iraq War. Rather than coming off as disconnected and exploitative as many recent Iraq films have been, the film is supposedly very realistic and part of the reality rather than a separate skewed version of it. The film will be very controversial and may be the one that gets people's attention, critical acclaim and awards consideration. It is already riling up many conservatives and war-veterans for its "non-truths" and "non-reality." Maybe they didn't see the previous war films, but it's about time someone tries to make a statement about the war rather than white-washing it.



photo courtesy FOX Searchlight

YOU AIN'T ALL THAT: B-listers, like Keri Russell, are annoying

LADIES IN THE LEAD

Let's talk about the best actress race shall we. Marion Cotillard whose portrayal of Edith Piaf in "La Vie En Rose" is the only guaranteed nomination. Though "Elizabeth" was a train-wreck, Academy favorite Cate Blanchett should still be receiving her mandatory nomination. Thanks to the film's failure, Blanchett should definitely not win. Ellen Page, the pregnant teen that everyone roots for in this season's presumed little engine that could, "Juno," will also receive a nomination.

Previous winner Halle Berry will be shut-out for "Things We Lost In The Fire." However, previous winner and three time nominee Nicole Kidman deserves to get one of the two remaining golden tickets. In "Margot at the Wedding," she exhibits dry humor and plays a dark and complex role. It is a good turn for her and should break her out of her protracted film funk.

So now, I the Film Scoundrel will point out myriad contenders and tell you who I am rooting for. Wei Tang, the awesome actress that stars in "Lust, Caution" is unforgettable. Despite her simple, girlish looks, she brings an all-knowing presence and craftiness to this three-hour

SEE CELEBRITIES PAGE 16

Santa Monica Daily Press

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NEW RELEASES

'Old Men' is not for the squeamish

BY GABRIELLE HARRADINE

Special to the Daily Press

The newest Coen Brothers movie, written and directed by both Joel and Ethan, is a disturbing tale told through a Texan's drawl. The story takes place around a small border town where drug-trafficking upsets the otherwise sleepy community. Like "Fargo," their previous crime in a small community film, "No Country for Old Men" manages to deliver moments of behavior-based humor that made "Fargo" work so well. The film even includes a comment on the appropriateness of laughter during serious moments: Tommy Lee Jones' character says, "Sometimes there's nothing else to do but laugh." But be warned: This is a much grittier film than "Fargo."

Javier Bardem plays Anton Chigurh, a psychopathic killer, who carries around a handy-sized tank of compressed air, a tool apparently used in cattle stunning, as one of his weapons. His performance is so intense, with his girlish hair and unnerving stare that he quickly becomes the main fuel of the film's fire.

Other strong performances come from Josh Brolin, who plays Llewelyn Moss, a welder, who gets mixed up with the wrong people when he stumbles upon a drug deal gone sour. Moss leaves the stockpile of dead bodies untouched, but tracks down and takes the money that's been left behind. When he makes the bad choice of going back to the scene, he gets found out by some new visitors, which eventually puts Chigurh on his trail.

Scottish born Kelly Macdonald, who plays Moss' wife in the film, does a convincing job as a small town Texas girl. The

relationship between her and her husband is a small part of the movie, but it is notable. They share a sweet collection of poignant moments that light-handedly convey a young couple in love.

Jones plays Ed Tom Bell, a salt-of-the-earth kind of guy that he's has played before. He's good this time around, mastering the small town attitude that creates much of the humor in the film, and making us feel the reason for every weathered crease on his face – I just felt like I'd seen it before. Bell's a ready-to-retire small town sheriff, who progressively loses faith in the times as he continues to find the dead bodies that Chigurh leaves in his path.

Woody Harrelson has a small role in the film as Carson Wells, an ex-colonel who's dealt with Chigurh before. He is hired to recover the drug money and proves his skills by finding Moss quickly, but Wells' search ends not long after Chigurh finds him.

The film is an adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's novel of the same name. The cast of "No Country for Old Men" is impressive with Bardem leading the way – Chigurh, the new ultimate bad-guy, is sure to become a lasting figure in the cult world. The story is fused with plenty of nail-biting suspense and shoot-em-up action to delight most moviegoers, but expect to be surprised by a few choices the Coen Brothers made to go against the Hollywood grain. Most notably, the offing of the main character before the end of the film, which is also not shown on camera, as well as an ending with a timing that left the audience in a stunned silence.

news@smdp.com

Lumet's latest is heavy on drama

BY KEN TARR

Special to the Daily Press

In Sidney Lumet's darkest picture yet, Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Ethan Hawke play brothers Andy and Hank (I know, they look nothing alike). Both struggling to get by, Andy comes up with a plan to rob a jewelry store and somehow convinces Hank to co-conspire. Hank is neck-deep in debt to his ex-wife and child and Andy is a closet heroin addict who is always looking for easy money. Andy's wife, Gina (played exceptionally by Marisa Tomei) wants the good life they once shared in Brazil and due to her wanderlust, she has started an affair with Hank. Hank and Andy have a bad relationship with their parents, but still love them. But, not enough to keep them from robbing THEIR jewelry store.

This movie stretches the bounds of believability. Well-directed and anchored by strong performances from Hawke and Hoffman, the audience doesn't roll their eyes that often at this melodramatic story as much as one would expect. Every character acts out their vulnerability to the

Nth degree. The film is only missing a Greek chorus, because not very much is a Sophoclean tragedy. Albert Finney uses his full size and age to convey an emotional gravitas that in any other actor's hands would seem hackneyed.

The story switches perspective from character to character in a very unique, almost comedic manner, that at times is off-putting, at times pitch-perfect. For such a veteran and frankly, old director, Lumet seems to be having a lot of fun and in the process makes it OK to really go for it in melodramatic family tragedies. It is nice to see no fear in this film. It does hurt this film in the last 20 minutes as it grows weary because the characters are utterly unlikable. Still, for a very original story, executed without much emotion or sympathy for anything but the dramatic conflict, this film is definitely worth seeing.

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

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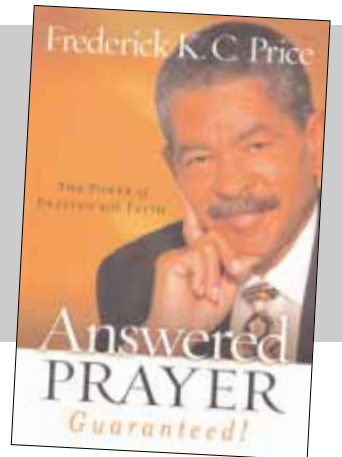
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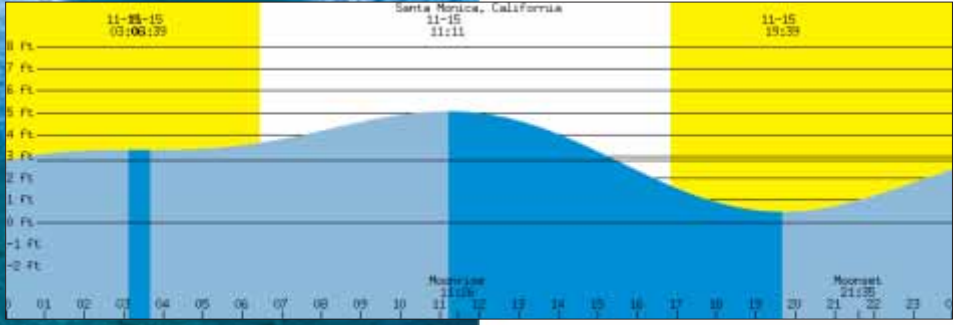


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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)	Number of sewage spills -- 4
	Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
	Number of wet days -- 5
	Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 33
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 12	

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+
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto 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



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



Odd Man Out

By Mark Marchillo

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Have a gay holiday

“I’M NOT DOING CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR. I can’t do Christmas single,” my friend told me at Baja Cantina the other night. The place was busy as usual and our waitress was struggling at the next table over. A older Hispanic gentleman had ordered a margarita. “Do you want salt?” she asked. No comprende. “Salt?” Nope. “SALT.” Lots of bitter conviction went into that last one. We cracked up and that was the end of our holiday conversation.

Single and alone on Christmas, which is nothing new to most of us. What’s hard are holidays once you’ve experienced what so many fortunate couples have had. Boyfriend in tow, to the parents’ house, sharing gifts, playing in the snow in the mountains. But when that’s no more, to bare the holidays single-handedly again seems too horrifying. Wrist meet scalpel.

I went to a child’s birthday party on Sunday. Parties in L.A. are so wonderfully overdone. This 1-year-old had five cakes. Happy boy. I mean me. And as I looked around at all of the straight couples, I didn’t feel resentful. Sometimes I do, when I see how the straighties make it work. But this time I felt something else. Something hot, in my chest. Like a con-soling warmth. It was inspiration. People

can do it. They can meet and fall in love and live happily. Maybe not ever after, I dunno if that happens anymore. But they can share life. Haters at bay, I think we can do it, too.

I’m an old softy when it comes to the finer things: A careless walk in the woods; holding hands; snuggling on a Sunday morning; or three hundred and twelve white daisies sitting on a doorstep. So whatever that means to you, in your time here. The little things. So important.

Maybe this is nonsense, or something worse – cornball. But put your dreams of money and fat shedding aside this holiday season. Buy yourself a little of the good life: Someone’s time. No, not a stripper. And live a little. It’s just the simple things, two people together. But it’s what’s pop-pin’ I assure you. On everyone’s mind. It’s worth gold. It’s worth a piece of you. Because it’s what’s true.

These are the things we have left, all we remember someday, after time steals the rest away.

MARK MARCHILLO is a freelance filmmaker and all-together nice guy living in Santa Monica. Send comments or suggestions regarding his column to capwellkid@hotmail.com.

Tang should win an Oscar

FROM CELEBRITIES PAGE 14

spy thriller. At times love-story and at times a dramatic tale of World War II Chinese resistance fighters, she anchors the story and it is at the moments when she sinks into the background and plays the emotion of the time and culture that Tang is at her best. She is my pick for a nomination, and the film should not be ignored.

Also strong is Laura Linney in “The Savages.” Despite two previous Oscar nominations, she is still remarkably under-rated and perhaps she will cement her place in Hollywood with a win. Not likely this year, yet in this film she stars opposite Phillip Seymour Hoffman in a family drama about their father conva-

lescing. Sometimes the Academy is drawn to a strong actress in strong material.

Also deserving attention are Julie Christie for “Away From Her,” the best film from the first half of 2007, and perhaps the whole year. The aforementioned Keri Russell in “Waitress” will hopefully be ignored. The film was trite and her performance one-note. And she was apparently out shopping for a nod, attending a screening for her film six months after its release. Note to stars, if you’re gonna promote a film, make sure it is not schlock.

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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CHANNEL SURFING

BY JACK NEWORTH

The many faces of Frank

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF HOLLYWOOD FLAM-boyant producers would advertise epic movies with the catch phrase "and casts of thousands." Impressionist Frank Caliendo has so many characters in his comedy repertoire that it feels like a cast of thousands. In actuality, it's probably more like a hundred, ranging from his most famous, John Madden, George Bush Charles Barkley, and Al Pacino, to more obscure impressions of Philip Seymour Hoffman, Al Michaels and Larry Flynt.

Caliendo, 33, boyish and a bit pudgy, is a high-energy talent reminiscent of Robin Williams or John Belushi. After years on the comedy club circuit, and as a cast member of Fox's "MADtv," Caliendo's finally got his own show, "Frank TV" on TBS. The question is: Will it showcase his remarkable performing skills? It has never been an easy task in the past, even with mega-talents like the late Richard Pryor or Jonathan Winters.

"Frank TV" is shot in front of a live studio audience on a set built like a living room, simple and homey. In his opening, Frank says that, in getting his own show, he feels like a kid at Christmas. He proceeds to give an improv, Williams-like tour pointing out the couch, the life-size bear in the corner and steer horns hanging on the wall. From there we go to a filmed sketch of the "Seinfeld Reunion Show" in the year 2027 in which Frank plays all the characters, including Elaine. The music, the set, the graphics and Frank's impressions of each "Seinfeld" character are all spot on.

George enters Jerry's apartment and heads to the fridge complaining that with global warming his car is under six feet of water. Self-absorbed Jerry whines that someone has stolen his "hover shoes." Kramer makes his dramatic if not bizarre

entrance and confesses he lost Jerry's hover shoes in a card game to ... Newman! After the sketch, Frank comments, "Elaine kinda let herself go. TV adds 10 pounds, I think I added the other 40."

One of the pitfalls for dynamic comedic performers on TV is the fact that they can overwhelm an audience. Whereas in a club such energy is compelling, over the television screen it can be exhausting. For many, a true great needs to be taken in small doses. Perhaps as a counter-balance, in each episode Frank selects a co-host from the audience who sits next to him on the couch. This allows Caliendo to be himself and chat and cleverly transition to the next sketch, which in this case, was a look at the Clinton Presidential Library. We are given the tour by former President Bill Clinton who looks remarkably like Frank Caliendo, or vice-versa.

The former Commander in Chief shows us around the lavish facility which includes computers with NO parental blocks and a reference-VIP lounge which is more like a Hooters than a library. Caliendo's Clinton is brilliant. As with all his characters, there's no meanness. The best example is his bumbling George Bush. I can't stand the president, but Caliendo's characterization of him as a boob, is somehow so endearing, I actually feel a tiny degree of affection for the real thing. (Don't ask me how.)

One of my favorite bits is "Caliendo's Squares" (a take-off on "Hollywood Squares") where each square is one of his many characters. It's a perfect device for humor and to demonstrate Caliendo's uncanny ability to go from character to character. In this segment he does his Charles Barkley which is hilarious. (He later went on TNT's basketball



Photo courtesy TBS

halftime live and did his Barkley for Barkley who was speechless, a rare sight indeed.)

The show has a homey quality as there was even video of Caliendo trying to teach his 4-year-old son how to do a Bush impression. The show ended with John Madden (Caliendo's signature impression) preparing Thanksgiving dinner by cooking a "turducken." (A duck, stuffed in a chicken, stuffed in a turkey.) When we return to see how the cooking is progressing, however, we discover that a hungover Madden has eaten the entire turducken. Actually he ate two.

In an era of mean-spirited comedy (Sarah Silverman, Dane Cook etc.) Caliendo is a PG throwback to the '50s. He's reminiscent more of Jonathan Winters than Lenny Bruce. It'd probably embarrass the hell out of him to be mentioned in the same sentence with those comedy legends, and rightfully so. But when Bruce first started out on shows like the "Ted Mack Amateur Hour" he did impressions. And for what it's worth, considering the genius that Bruce would become, he didn't do them half as well as Caliendo. Few have, ever. "Frank TV" debuts on TBS, Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 11 p.m. Even with the writer's strike, four shows have already been filmed. I suggest you don't miss them.

JACK NEWORTH also writes the "Laughing Matters" column. He can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.

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Gone Baby Gone (R)
10:40am, 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00

Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10

P2 (R)
10:45am, 1:00, 5:40, 10:30
Saw IV (R)
3:20, 8:00

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American Gangster (R)
12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 11:00

Beowulf (PG-13)
12:05, 3:00, 5:45, 8:30, 11:15
Beowulf: Digital 3D (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45

Dan in Real Life (PG-13)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Fred Claus (PG)
11:15am, 12:50, 1:50, 3:40, 4:40, 6:30, 7:35, 9:20, 10:20

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

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)

1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 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

Southland Tales (R)
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15

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

August Rush (PG)
7:30

Bee Movie (PG)
12:10, 1:10, 2:40, 3:50, 5:20, 6:30, 9:00

Lions for Lambs (R)
11:50am, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30

Love in the Time of Cholera (R)
12:30, 3:40, 7:10, 10:10

Michael Clayton (R)

1:30, 4:30, 10:20

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G)
12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

More information email news@smdp.com

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

Happy Birthday!

Work on centering yourself this year. Your ability to understand others emerges more than it has in the past. You might rethink a situation carefully that involves family. You might be taken aback by what life offers if you really go for what you want. If you are single, you can make your dreams realities. If you are attached, your relationship needs to focus more around your home life.



Born Today
Actor **Danny DeVito**
(1944)

Actor Rock Hudson (1925)
Pitcher Tom Seaver (1944)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Loving the moment, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ New beginnings become possible. If you try to see an opportunity in a positive light, you might feel much better. Your dynamic ability to think through problems distinguishes you from many. Tonight: Happily doing your thing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You are on top of your game, feeling as if the world is your oyster. If you believe that you can change the course of action and what is occurring, give it a shot, but don't be totally dismayed. Your gentleness counts. Tonight: "Togetherness" is the word.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink a question that involves a child or loved one. New information that heads in your direction defines events. Be willing to plunge into cold waters if need be. You feel much better than you have in a while. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your emotional response might be unusually high when dealing with one specific person. While you might be optimistic and happy, you see others very differently. Think about what you need to do to make life work. Tonight: Easy does it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Listen to what is being offered from those in your immediate circle. Think positively about your options. You might need to rethink a personal matter with new eyes. How you see a situation could change dramatically. Tonight: Say yes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Put your feet up and relax. Think positively about what you need to do. Your humor makes a difference to a family member. You feel good and relaxed because someone you care about is being so effusive. Enjoy. Tonight: Fun happens.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your creativity comes out when dealing with someone you really care about. Your sense of humor helps a loved one relax. You are able to move a situation in a new direction, if you so choose. Your gentle ways emerge. Tonight: Loving the moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Stay on top of what you need to do. Somehow, others could easily distract you. Investigate what needs to happen to help loosen you up with a significant person. You might want to try to do something very differently. Tonight: In the midst of action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might have a lot to say. Will others have the same willingness to listen? You might want to ask yourself that question. Investigate a new idea or project that might suddenly intrigue you. Think positively about a loved one. Tonight: Happy times are here.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Your tenacity pays off financially. Though sometimes you – yes, you – discover how fun it can be to be an easy touch. How could you mix the two effectively and make you and others happier? Tonight: Come on – play Santa Claus.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You are full of smiles and fun. Friends root you on to a very comfortable ending. The warmth of being with several different people makes a big difference in what comes down. Your goodwill comes through. Tonight: Smile away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Take a chance with a decision, and move in a new direction. At this point, you might see a situation quite differently than you have in a long time. Why not take a leap of faith and try something totally different? Tonight: A vanishing act feels appropriate.

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

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

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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

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

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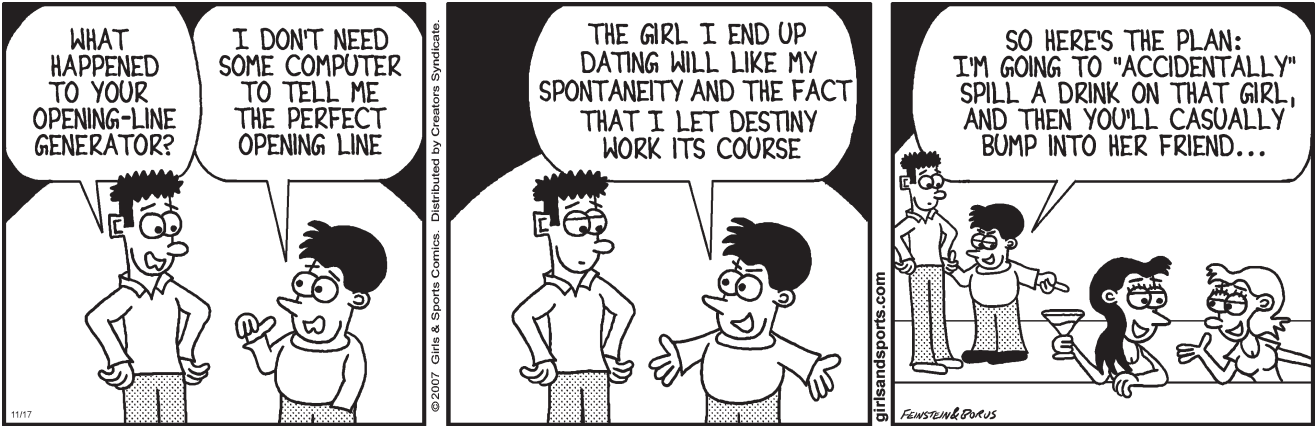
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By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis

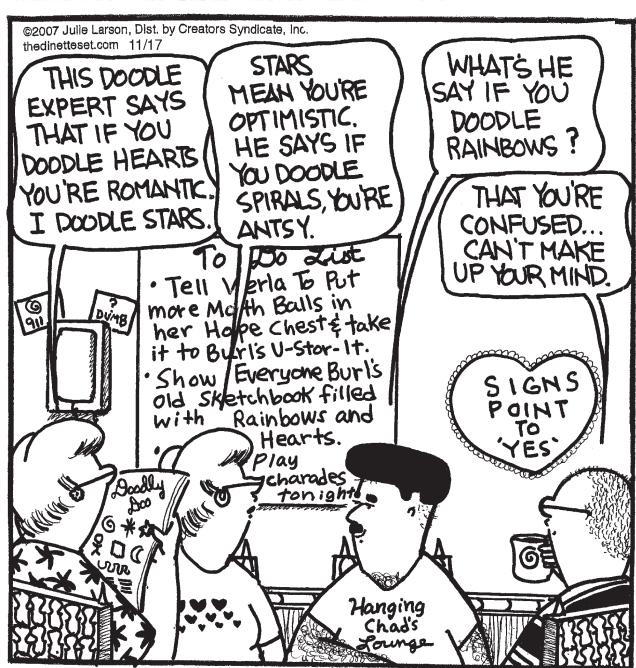


Dog eat Doug

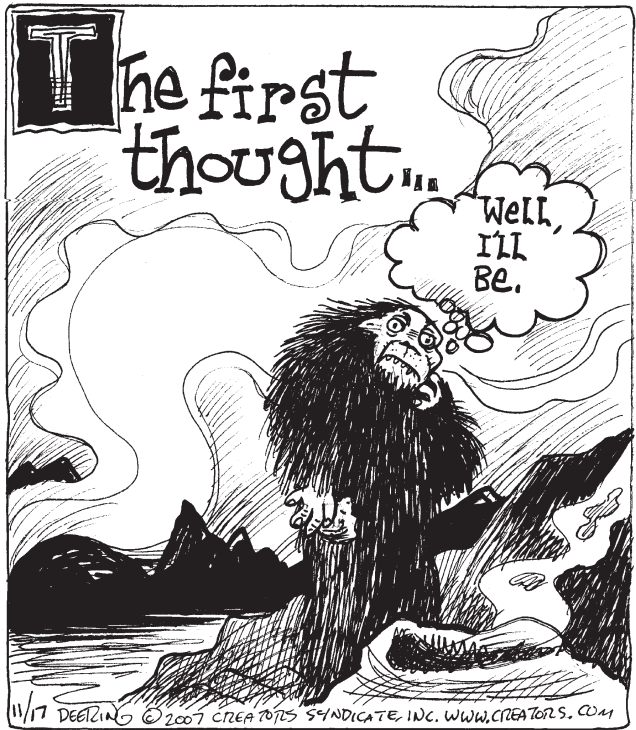
By Brian Anderson



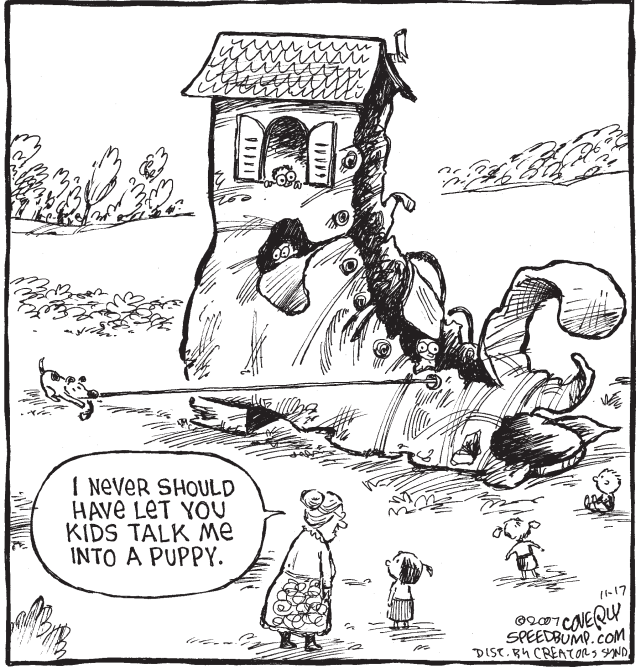
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew By John Deering



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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SLEEPER CELL
Brandon Wise news@smdp.com
Toni Klein is the winner of the most recent Mystery Photo contest, being the first to spot this shot as being taken of the mural at Cellular Fantasy at 26th Street and Wilshire Boulevard. Look for a new Mystery Photo in Monday's edition..

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Busted party
 - 5 San Juan Hill setting
 - 9 Jazz pianist Chick
 - 10 "Pride goeth before —"
 - 12 Takes on
 - 13 Friend of Nancy
 - 14 Asian lake
 - 16 Ghost call
 - 17 Poker prize
 - 18 Chooses not to participate
 - 20 Supplies with a crew
 - 22 Chow
 - 23 Burning
 - 25 Attention getter
 - 28 Anne Rice vampire
 - 32 Rhino-plasty
 - 34 Pindar product
 - 35 Dem.'s foes
 - 36 Boxing combos
 - 38 Cleaner's problem

- 40 Presenta-tion aid
- 41 Keyed up
- 42 Makes sound
- 43 Blocks
- 44 Includes

DOWN

- 1 Christie sleuth
- 2 Book blunders
- 3 Stagger
- 4 Make falsely
- 5 Jewel unit
- 6 Sky sighting
- 7 Panama explorer

S	O	U	L		S	L	A	M	
H	I	R	E	S		P	E	R	O
E	L	S	I	E		I	N	T	R
E	M	U			A	R	T	S	H
R	E	L	A	T	E	S			U
	N	A	M	E	D		B	R	E
		K	I	D			D	O	C
C	O	L	D			B	U	N	C
A	T	E			N	I	C	O	L
L	O	G	B	O	O	K		A	L
L	O	U	I	S			E	R	R
A	L	I	N	E			D	U	K
	E	N	D	S			M	E	S

Yesterday's answer

- 8 Con-certed
- 9 Cowboy leggings
- 11 Pillages
- 15 Letter after delta
- 19 Spots
- 21 Renown
- 24 Hitchcock film
- 25 Uneasy state
- 26 Laughed derisively
- 27 Sevilla setting
- 29 Ap-proaching
- 30 Worships
- 31 Analyzes
- 33 Music's Quincy
- 37 Fall sound
- 39 Belief

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

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

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS	12 13 30 31 39 Meganumber: 29 Jackpot: \$32M
Super LOTTO	1 14 21 35 36 Meganumber: 7 Jackpot: \$40M
Fantasy 5	18 19 20 27 32
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 3 2 3 EVENING: 6 4 3
DAILY DERRY	1st: 07 Eureka 2nd: 03 Hot Shot 3rd: 04 Big Ben RACE TIME: 1:47.93

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Crime-fearing female pedestrians in Tokyo can soon protect themselves with fashion designer Aya Tsukioka's skirt that opens into a realistic-looking (except made of fabric), full-size vending machine that she hopes thugs will pass right by. It's one of several fanciful crime-avoiding creations of the genre that Japanese inventors are noted for, according to an October New York Times dispatch. Another, the "manhole bag," resembles a sewer covering when laid on the ground but can hold a person's valuables, again provided that the thug passes it up. Yet another is women's wraparound sunglasses that are extra-dark so that even shy, eye-contact-avoiding females can stare unobserved at potential perverts in trains to guard against the ubiquitous groping.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1558 Elizabeth I acceded to the English throne upon the death of Queen Mary.
1869 The Suez Canal opened in Egypt.
1889 The Union Pacific Railroad Co. began direct, daily railroad service between Chicago and Portland, Ore., as well as Chicago and San Francisco.
1917 Sculptor Auguste Rodin died in Meudon, France, at age 77.
1934 Lyndon Baines Johnson married Claudia Alta Taylor, better known as "Lady Bird," in San Antonio, Texas.
1962 Washington's Dulles International Airport was dedicated by President Kennedy.
1970 The Soviet Union landed an unmanned, remote-controlled vehicle on the moon, the Lunokhod 1.
1973 President Nixon told Associated Press Managing Editors meeting in Orlando, Fla.: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."
1979 Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the release of 13 female and black American hostages being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.
1987 a federal jury in Denver convicted two neo-Nazis and acquitted two others of civil rights violations in the 1984 slaying of radio talk show host Alan Berg.

WORD UP!

aggrandize \uh-GRAN-dyz; AG-ruhn-dyz/, *transitive verb*: 1. To make great or greater; to enlarge; to increase. 2. To make great or greater in power, rank, reputation, or wealth; -- applied to persons, countries, etc. 3. To make appear great or greater; to exalt.

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072385370 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ARTEL DESIGN STUDIO, 904 PACIFIC AVENUE, VENICE, CA. 90291. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : ALEX PROTAJEVICH, 1234 6TH ST. #504, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: ALEX PROTAJEVICH
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/19/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/17/2007, 11/24/2007, 12/1/2007, 12/8/2007

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