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Where the rubber meets the walk

Sidewalks being replaced with recycled tires

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Special to the Daily Press

City homeowners have long battled the large Ficus trees that line the streets of Santa Monica, replacing concrete sidewalks every couple of years as the tree's roots destroy the walkways.

But now there's a new idea bounced around town — rubber sidewalks. They work because they expand to growing tree roots but don't threaten the health of the tree. The city is installing the rubber sidewalks free of charge where tree roots have raised up the concrete.

Santa Monica is one of four westside communities that is installing rubber sidewalks — but only in front of the problem trees.

"It's a little more expensive to initially install the rubber sidewalks," said Robin Jarit, acting street superintendent, "but in the long run you don't have to replace concrete every other year."

The new sidewalks, which are made from recycled tires, already have been

installed in five or six locations, but many more are planned as damaged sidewalks are replaced.

As Lamell Guido renovated his Pine Street residence, he had the city install the new sidewalks in front of a Ficus tree that had destroyed both the sidewalk and the driveway in front of his home.

"This tree eats sidewalks up, and unfortunately for Santa Monica it's the same kind of tree planted throughout the city," said Guido, a musician. "We should install these sidewalks everywhere."

Guido said installing the rubber material was an easy decision because the city will now maintain the sidewalks and replace them when they wear out, adding he especially likes that they are made of recycled material.

The sidewalks come in two colors — red and gray — and can be made to match the color of concrete. However, there are already long waits for gray, causing many residents to choose red for in front of their homes.

"Why isn't the whole world paved with this stuff — it's great," Guido said. "I'm just trying to make my little corner of it right."



Andrew H. Fixmer/Special to Daily Press

A new stretch of rubber sidewalk on Pine Street is one of many new installations the city is making throughout Santa Monica.

Santa Monican fourth in grueling endurance race

Eco-Challenge race in Borneo lasted more than four days for Jason Middleton

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

To the casual observer, the relatively new sport of adventure racing conjures images of hard-bodied, superhuman masochists in Polypro bodysuits who climb, swim, ride, run, and paddle to the limit of human endurance.

And while those athletic anomalies comprise adventure racing's elite, the reality is that the majority of competitors are just like you and me. Weekend warriors — albeit, highly motivated weekend warriors — who share a common passion for competition, the great outdoors, and pushing themselves to their limits.

Above all, adventure racing is a team sport. A collaborative effort that demands cooperation, trust and an unyielding commitment to achieving the near-impossible. Teams race the same courses, but in this demand-



Teamates Roman Dial and Jason Middleton cross a river in Borneo during their four-day Eco-Challenge race.

ing sport there is a distinct difference between the leaders and the rest of the pack.

Santa Monica flight instructor Jason Middleton knows better than most about the differences between good and great. At 29, the former triathlete is one of the

See RACE, page 3

No more chances to get naked at Los Angeles resort

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Not enough skin is forcing the closure of Los Angeles County's last nudist resort.

Declining membership is to blame for the decision to close the 33-year-old Elysium Institute.

The resort's owners were evicted from the Topanga Canyon location last year when the land was sold. The nudist enclave was relocated to a remote area in the Malibu mountains, 40 miles west of Los Angeles.

"We're closed," said Betty Meltzer, the resort's director. "Elysium has no money. We've put the property up for sale."

Meltzer, 67, and her hus-

band, Sanford, 70, bought the land by tapping \$300,000 of their retirement funds. The couple has been unable to keep the resort afloat because not enough people are using the 20-acre property.

In the late 1980s, Elysium enjoyed its best showing with more than 1,000 nudists. This week, the resort closed with only 270 members.

Unwilling to make the drive along winding roads, many stopped coming to weekend events and week-night seminars.

"Nobody else seemed willing to step up except Betty and Sandy. Now the only nudist place in L.A. is going away," said nudist Steve Katz.

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HOROSCOPES

Capricorn, speak your mind today

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** You're a fireball - hard to stop, especially if you don't get your way. Others misinterpret your reactions and behavior. Slow down, please. Think of those on the receiving end, not only for their sake but for yours, too! Use your intuitive sensitivity. Tonight: Wander home, stopping here and there. It's good medicine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** Passion runs high between you and a friend or loved one. Be careful how you direct this intensity, and understand another's reaction. One-on-one relating could easily go off kilter if you do not hone in on another's needs. Keep talks going, even if you want to walk away. Tonight: Follow your friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Stay on top of errands. You might not want to go in to work. A parent pushes your buttons. Chill out! Don't become a crab. Be friendly and seek out your pals. Make it OK to splurge - after all, this is Black Friday. Tonight: Have a good time, wherever you are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** A partner surprises you. This person means well. You might have a project or a special hobby you would like to do. Invite a loved one along. Lighten up about expectations and accept what another offers. Tonight: Follow someone else's lead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Success develops by dealing with another as if he is the most important person in your life at the moment. Take this attitude in your home life as well. You shake up the status quo in a positive manner. Rock the boat and make waves. Tonight: Share with a loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

** Pressure from someone you put on a pedestal forces you to handle something you would prefer to avoid. Your family also has expectations. Friends or a partner wants your time as well. Now you know how it feels to be in a pressure cooker! Tonight: Play ostrich.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** Deal with others' demands first and free yourself up to do whatever you want. You don't need to have substantial plans; you need only to please yourself right now. A must appearance delights you, as others acknowledge and praise your abilities. Tonight: Don't get too carried away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** A partner could let you down when you least expect it. Finances prove to be an issue that needs to be dealt with head-on, especially before you start your holiday shopping. Good news finds you through the mail or the phone. Avoid gossip. Tonight: Togetherness works.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Someone inadvertently tests his limits, and you give him the feedback he deserves. Though you might want to avoid a knee-jerk reaction, you can't help yourself. Slow down. Make time for a quiet one-on-one discussion with a special friend or a loved one. Tonight: Help another relax.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Speak your mind, even if you feel a bit uncomfortable with the words you're going to say. You're pushed to the limit and are exhausted as an end result. Another remains much more positive than you anticipated. This person reads you well. Tonight: Continue a pleasant chat over dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Your possessive streak emerges with a child or new friendship. Don't make yourself uncomfortable, just state your feelings. Learn to express your emotions and thoughts in a more nurturing manner. Do something special for a friend, even if you really would prefer not! Tonight: Let someone else treat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Pressure builds on all fronts. You could lose your patience when dealing with others. Staying cool, calm and collected might not be possible unless you visualize yourself as totally in control of your destiny. Delight a child or loved one with a special treat. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.



WEATHER

Today ... Partly cloudy. High near 66F. Winds S 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday ... Mostly cloudy with rain. A chance of showers late. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 40s.



QUOTE of the DAY

“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”

— Albert Einstein

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530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #200 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa.....ext. 104

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason.....ext. 102

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana.....ext. 106

TEST SUBJECT

Dave Danforth.....ext. 103

LOCAL



Middleton sets sights on victory at next year's Eco-Challenge

RACE, from page 1

most experienced adventure racers in the world. A veteran of many races — including six appearances in Eco-Challenge, the sport's most high-profile competition — Middleton has raced with and against most of the world's greatest champions.

But it wasn't until his sixth go-round at Eco-Challenge, which was held last month in the rugged back-country of New Zealand, that Middleton got his first taste of adventure racing life in the fast lane. The team he captains, Team Earthlink, finished fourth in a field of 75 four-person teams. The top-5 ranking marks Middleton's best-ever finish in a major championship.

"In the past, I've always been one of the strongest — if not the strongest — racers on whatever team I raced with at Eco-Challenge," said Middleton. "This year, I was probably the weakest person on the team, which presented me with a challenge I hadn't faced before."

Mark Burnett, executive producer of "Survivor," created Eco Challenge in 1992. He based the idea on the New Zealand-based multi-sport and European endurance races, popular since the early '80s. He lengthened the race, removed assistance crews and added a strong environmental message.

Eco-Challenge became the ulti-

mate adventure. Each team of four, comprising men and women, races non-stop for six to 12 days, 24 hours a day, over a rugged 300-mile course using mountain biking, river rafting, horseback riding, mountaineering and fixed ropes, kayaking and navigation skills.

The first team to cross the finish line together, in full complement, is the winner. If a team loses a member due to illness, fatigue, injury or a team disagreement, they are disqualified. Only teams that can work together as friends have any hope of reaching the finish line.

Middleton's teammates on the reconfigured Team Earthlink included Isaac Wilson and Robyn Benincasa, both of whom — as members of Team Salomon Eco-Internet — finished first last year at Eco-Challenge Borneo, and legendary racer Roman Dial, one of the sport's founding fathers.

Two days into the race, with Team Earthlink in a heated battle for first place with eventual winners, Eco-Internet, Middleton knew he'd entered a whole new realm of athletic competition.

"I was wiped out," he said. "When we arrived at PC 4 (Passport Check, a transition area), I just couldn't believe how fast things were moving. Being up front with the leaders meant moving at what felt like impossible speeds."

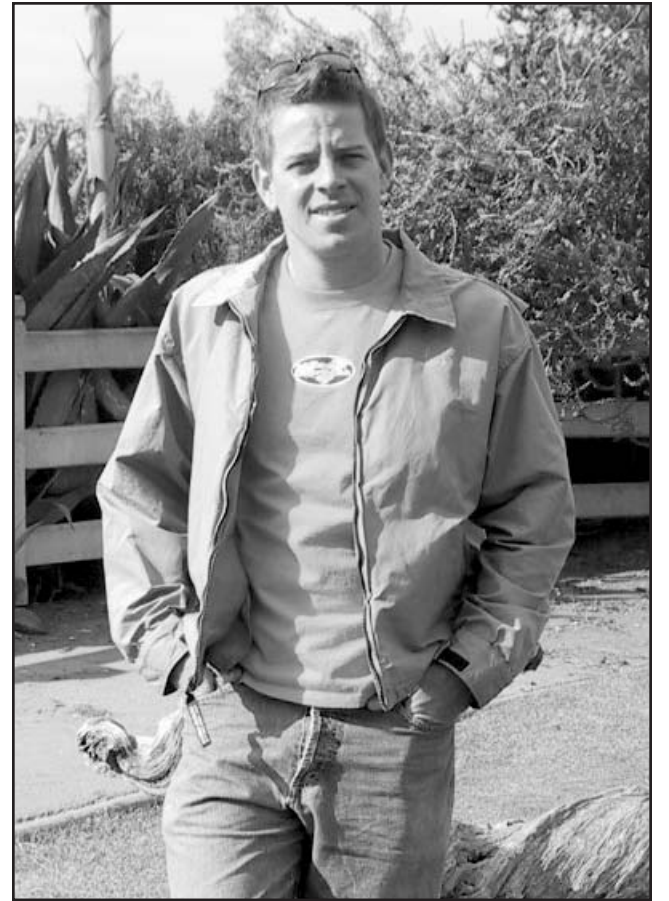
"At one point I asked Isaac (Wilson, his teammate), 'Do you think we're going too fast? Do you think the pace is too fast?' Isaac turned to me and said, 'This is how fast things always move at the front.'"

When things were toughest on the course, Middleton drew strength from the presence of his wife, Tricia, 28. As Eco-Challenge's event manager, she works tirelessly alongside Eco-Challenge executive producers Lisa Hennessy and Mark Burnett, to insure the race goes off with few hitches. All the while she keeps a close eye on her husband's progress.

"I worry about him. Even though I totally trust his judgment and his experience, I know that Eco-Challenge and other races are very dangerous, very physically and emotionally demanding events," said Tricia. "And I also get caught up — especially this year — in the excitement of seeing him compete for the lead."

"It's pretty emotional for me, having her there. She's a big source of strength and inspiration when I'm running on fumes," said Middleton, who slept a total of just six hours throughout the four-and-a-half days it took to complete the race. The average team finished the race in eight days.

On the heels of the finish in New Zealand, Middleton and his Team



Dan Dunn/Special to the Daily Press
Jason Middleton, of Santa Monica, recently returned from Borneo, where he trekked 300 miles across treacherous terrain with his teammates.

Earthlink teammates are preparing for a series of upcoming races, with an eye on the prize at next year's Eco-Challenge.

"I think we're as good as any team out there," said Middleton. "Once we get a bit smoother in the transition areas, we're going to be tough to beat. Finishing near the top isn't good enough anymore ... I'm in this to be the very best."

For more information, check out www.teamearthlink.com or www.ecochallenge.com.

Regulators impose price controls on three power producers, charging unfair market dominance

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators are imposing new price controls on power producers that dominate their markets, hoping to head off electricity price spikes like the ones that crippled California a year ago.

The action by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission stunned the electricity industry. Three of the country's largest wholesale power suppliers were told they faced new price restrictions because they wielded too much market power in their home regions.

American Electric Power Co., based in Columbus, Ohio; Southern Company, based in Atlanta; and Entergy Corp., based in New Orleans, were found by the agency to have too much influence on electricity markets because their power was deemed essential to meet peak demand.

"We're studying the ruling to assess what ramifications it will have for our company," said Mike Tyndall, a spokesman for Southern, the largest power supplier in the southeastern part of the country.

AEP on Wednesday asked for more time to respond to the order, said a spokesman for the company, which operates across much of the Midwest.

Morgan Stewart, a spokesman for Entergy, said the company had examined

the order and had not ruled out "some sort of injunctive relief or litigation" once its full impact is known.

"They surprised us with this," said Stewart.

The action sent a clear message to the industry that the FERC, now led by Bush administration appointee Pat Wood, wants

"We're studying the ruling to assess what ramifications it will have for our company."

— MIKE TYNDALL
Spokesperson for Southern Co.

to move more aggressively to impose order on wholesale power markets, while maintaining competition.

"It's a signal that the FERC is truly sincere about wanting to maintain a level playing field in a competitive marketplace," said Craig Goodman, executive director of the National Energy Marketers Association. The group's members compete with the major generating companies, including several singled out in the Tuesday order.

Earlier this year, the commission repeatedly rebuffed calls by Democrats in Congress to impose price controls on wholesale electricity markets. Critics charged that some large power producers and marketers wielded unfair market power in the West, pushing up prices, and that large utility holding companies were holding back competition elsewhere.

In June, after Wood and another Bush appointee joined the commission, the FERC ordered price caps on wholesale power markets in the West and said it would push more aggressively to monitor market abuses.

While the FERC on Tuesday singled out only Entergy, Southern and AEP, the commission made clear it will take similar actions against other power producers or independent marketers if they are found to violate the commission's new test for assessing market power.

Under the more stringent screening approved by the commission in a 3-1 vote, a power generator or marketer is viewed as having too much market power if its electricity is "pivotal" during peak demand and, as a result, the company "is in a position to demand a price above competitive levels."

For the first time, the new analysis will consider transmission constraints in determining market power. Once found to have excessive market power, a company is limited in what it can charge for its

uncommitted electricity under the new order.

Wood said the commission was committed to rooting out market power abuses in a way that focuses on companies "that have the potential to undermine competition's benefits."

Representatives of some major producers criticized the FERC's focus on a company's size.

"We don't think there's a good enough link between owning ... (electricity) generation and the ability to manipulate the market," said Lynne Church, executive director of the Electric Power Supply Association, which represents independent generators and marketers. "We don't think that's a very good test of market power."

The new price controls do not apply to the Western power market, which is under a separate price mitigation plan announced in June, nor to companies that agree to join regional market managing groups, which are being championed by FERC as a way to assure price stability and ease transmission problems.

This has prompted some critics — including FERC Commissioner Linda Brethitt, who voted in the minority — to suggest that the price controls were largely "a back door" to force power companies into joining regional power market organizations.

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NATIONAL

California's housing costs leave less for food, fun and basics

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Millions of Californians spend a third or more of their paychecks on housing, a new census survey shows, leaving less for fun, food and other basics.

Combinations of low incomes and expensive housing have forced half the renters in Los Angeles and Anaheim to spend more than 30 percent of their pay for housing, the new numbers show. In nearby Santa Ana, 52 percent of the mortgages consume at least 30 percent of residents' income.

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development says housing that costs 30 percent or more of income is no longer affordable.

"Sometimes people say 'I might buy this house, and if I think I'm going to have trouble making the payment maybe I'll rent a room to someone else,'" says Idalia Barcenas, a realtor with Homenet Mortgage in Santa Ana.

Statewide, 45 percent of renters and 37 percent of mortgage-paying homeowners spend too much on housing by HUD's definition, the census data suggest. Nationally, 38 percent of renters and 26 percent of mortgage-paying homeowners break the 30 percent barrier.

The new census data show Californians spend far more of their paychecks for housing than most Americans. The median monthly mortgage in California is \$1,483 — compared to \$1,085 nationally. California's median monthly rent is \$765, compared to \$612 nationally. The median is the point where half is higher and half is lower.

In the nation's most populous state, where 35 million people live in 11.3 million households, authorities call higher prices another byproduct of a growing housing deficit. The state says construction of 140,000 dwelling units a year still falls 80,000 units short of demand.

Last year a state Department of Housing and Community Development report said a huge increase in home building could bring down price tags.

"Certainly fundamental issues of demand and supply have big price impacts," says Linda Wheaton, a housing policy specialist who guided the report.

The new census survey, a prelude to more detailed information later this year, provides a colorful snapshot of how Californians live and where they call home. Among the highlights is that state's most common residence is the \$200,000 to \$299,000 house that dominates cities such as Anaheim, Long Beach, Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Ana.

Oakland, Riverside and Sacramento the typical house is valued at \$150,000 to \$199,000. In Fresno, the dominant home value is \$50,000 to \$99,000.

Ironically, the survey reveals low-cost Fresno as the state's least affordable city for renters. It estimates 51 percent of Fresno renter households spend 30 percent or more of their pay for housing. The city is home to thousands of seasonal farmworkers and Mexican and Asian immigrants.

"In Fresno, it's a poverty problem, not a housing cost problem," says Michael Teitz, housing expert at the Public Policy Institute of California. "Although both house prices and rents are lower in Fresno, the incomes, especially at the lower end, are even lower."

Conversely, San Francisco, one of the state's most expensive cities is also the most "affordable" for renters, according to the HUD definition. Even though one in five rentals went for more than \$1,500 a month last year, only 35 percent of San Franciscans spent more than a third of their incomes on rent, the survey shows.

Estimates of households in California cities that spend heavily for housing

By The Associated Press

Californians frequently spend more than 30 percent of their incomes for home mortgages or rent. The following is a look at Census Bureau estimates of California cities with a population over 250,000 people. The first column is the city; the second column is the percentage of city residents with a home mortgage who spend more than 30 percent of their take-home income on the mortgage; the third column is the percentage of renters in the city who pay more than 30 percent of their take-home income on rent.

City	Mortgage	Rent
Anaheim	32%	50%
Fresno	36%	51%
Long Beach	34%	47%
Los Angeles	46%	50%
Oakland	41%	42%
Riverside	31%	43%
Sacramento	32%	40%
San Diego	41%	43%
San Francisco	41%	35%
San Jose	40%	44%
Santa Ana	52%	43%
California	37%	45%
United States	26%	37%

NATIONAL



No snow at Olympic venues; folks aren't worried

BY PATTY HENETZ

Associated Press Writer

PARK CITY, Utah — It's Thanksgiving week and the American flags on Park Avenue flutter in a quiet breeze, the sun hangs in a sapphire sky and a few gauzy clouds trail over the Wasatch Mountains.

It's supposed to be snowing. The Olympics are coming, yet here the mountains around prime competition venues were brown and furry-looking, like a lion's dry, dusty back.

Only Payday, Park City Ski Area's showboat ski trail, seemed to have enough snow on it for a top-to-bottom run, thanks to the snowmaking guns. The run just east of Payday, King's Crown, was a ribbon of bare dirt.

Not to worry, said Ski Utah spokesman Nathan Rafferty. Snow's coming.

"Most people don't know we get 500 inches a year. And in the horrible years, we get a meager 400 to 450 inches," he said. "The Olympics are in February. I guarantee that the worry is that there is going to be too much snow rather than too little."

Don't expect weather experts to make such a promise, however. Steve Dunn, lead forecaster for the National Weather Service in Salt Lake City, flatly refused to forecast February conditions in November.

If snow doesn't fall during the Winter Games, the Salt Lake Organizing Committee is ready with snowmaking

machines at all the venues, said Grant Thomas, SLOC's manager of venues.

"We have full course coverage. All we really need is cold weather," Thomas said. The optimum temperature for snowmaking is 25 degrees, but it's possible to make snow at 30 or 31 degrees.

any Utah resort, with 547 computerized snowmaking guns covering 22 miles of ski trails, including the men's and women's Olympic downhill, super-G and combined race courses.

The guns are linked by 106 weather stations that snowmaking manager Justin

ured in feet. "Even Park City will do well," forecaster Dunn predicted.

Snowbasin's Rowland scoffed at Dunn's report. Four to 6 inches, "that's nothing. You get 2 feet of Utah powder and it packs to about this," Rowland said, holding his thumb and index finger 2 inches apart.

Last February, World Cup ski races at Snowbasin were canceled because a three-day blizzard buried the course. The year before, Snowbasin lost the premier event to Colorado, which had snow, unlike Utah.

All this points to the futility of hand-wringing over the weather.

"It's like being a farmer," said Alta Mayor Bill Leavitt, who has watched the Utah skies for more than a half-century from the deck of the Alta Lodge, his family's ski hotel. "Every five years you get a drought. So you become philosophic."

Or you can tease the snow gods, like Mike Berliner did by wearing rubber flip-flops on his otherwise bare feet on a November morning. "Until it snows, I wear sandals," said Berliner, a vacation time-share salesman for the Marriott Corp. in Park City. "Last year, we were skiing in October."

Jim Smith, co-owner of The Shirt Off My Back, a souvenir shop on Park City's Main Street, was clad in shorts and a polo shirt; he was not underdressed. Smith shrugged off concerns about a snow-free holiday. "Thanksgiving is kind of hit-or-miss," he said. "This is just normal."

"Too much snow is probably more of a problem. You have to continue grooming it, and continue to make the course race-ready. Man-made snow is actually better, so it's used to finish off the preparations."

— GRANT THOMAS
SLOC's manager of venues

"Too much snow is probably more of a problem," Thomas said. "You have to continue grooming it, and continue to make the course race-ready. Man-made snow is actually better, so it's used to finish off the preparations."

Only one Utah ski resort — Brian Head, 218 miles south of Salt Lake City in southern Utah — planned to open on Thanksgiving with man-made snow. The other ski areas were waiting for their first winter storms.

At Snowbasin, only the highest peaks had a powdered-sugar dusting. But Snowbasin, an Olympic venue, has the most advanced snowmaking equipment of

Rowland will monitor and adjust individually; the computers will check the guns' temperature probes every 15 minutes and continually fine-tune the snow spewing onto the courses.

The weather, however, has yet to cooperate. "It has to snow, or it has to get cold, and it hasn't done either," Rowland said.

The National Weather Service forecast a series of storms would advance across the West during the long holiday weekend. The first was supposed to bring 4 to 6 inches of snow. Each successive storm will be colder.

By the end of the weekend, the snow in the Cottonwood canyons will be meas-

New WTC towers to be smaller

BY SARA KUGLER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — The 110-story towers of the World Trade Center may be replaced by buildings half as tall in as little as five years, the site's lease holder said Wednesday after meeting with the next mayor.

Larry Silverstein, who leads a consortium that holds the \$3.2 billion lease on the complex, also said the project would include a memorial for the Sept. 11 victims.

"I'm going to give you the next five, six, seven years of my life to make sure this gets done, and done to the very best of our ability to the point where we can all be very proud of it," he said.

Silverstein said it was too early to say how many towers are planned. As for their height, he said "50, 55-story towers are very much accomplishable in New York."

The plan would need to go through several steps before construction could begin. It is not clear how long it would take for decisions from the new city-state Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Corporation, the City Council, the mayor and the governor, among others.

Studies will be completed and presented to Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg soon, Silverstein said. He said he is sure people would want to work in the new buildings, which will offer "very affordable" rents.

Condit makes endangered list

WASHINGTON — You might expect Rep. Gary Condit to be a favorite target of Republican campaign rhetoric, but even Democrats are finding the Democrat's troubles useful.

"What do scandal-rocked Gary Condit and Congresswoman Anne Northup (a Kentucky Republican) have in common?" asked the Kentucky Democratic Party in its pre-Thanksgiving newsletter. "Capitol Hill's Roll Call has named both to its 'Top 10 Most Endangered in the 2002 Election' list."

Of course, eight other congressional incumbents made the list in the Capitol Hill newspaper. But Kentucky Democrats chose to highlight the incumbent they'd most like to see ousted next year — Northup — and the one who achieved national notoriety after federal intern Chandra Levy disappeared in Washington

in May — Condit.

Condit, from Ceres, Calif., has until Dec. 7 to decide whether to run for reelection.

Levy, 24, of Modesto, Calif., disappeared shortly after finishing an internship at the Bureau of Prisons in Washington. Condit, 53 and married, acknowledged a close relationship with her but denied any involvement in her disappearance.

Washington police have said repeatedly they do not consider Condit a suspect, and they admit to being baffled by the case. Police interviewed Condit four times, searched his Washington apartment, took a DNA sample and examined phone and other records.

During one of the interviews, Condit admitted to an affair with Levy, a police source has said.

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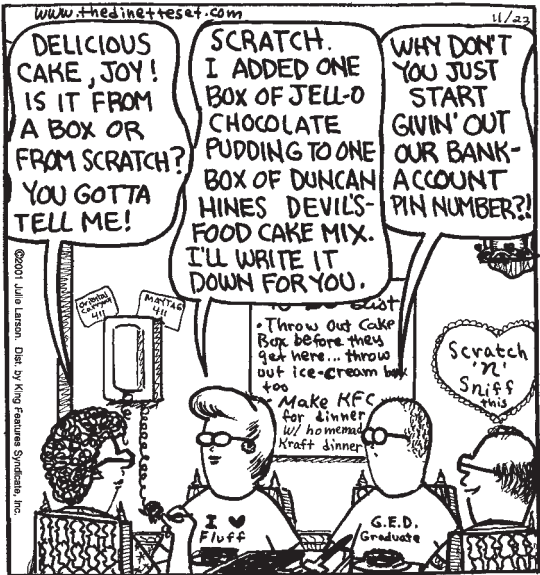
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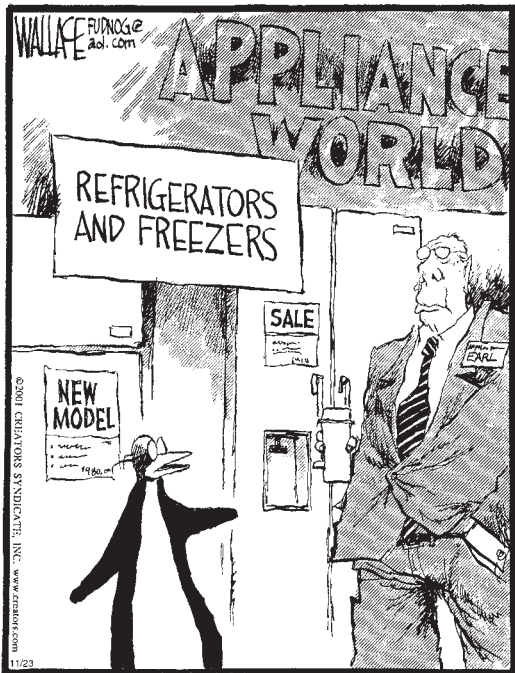


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



"Could I see something in a walk-in?"



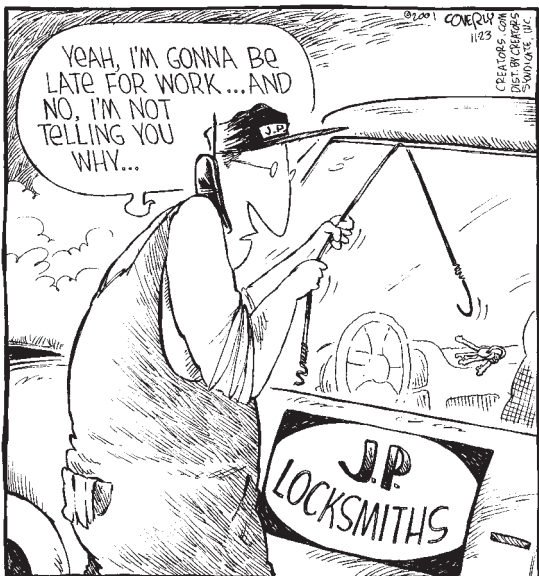
by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



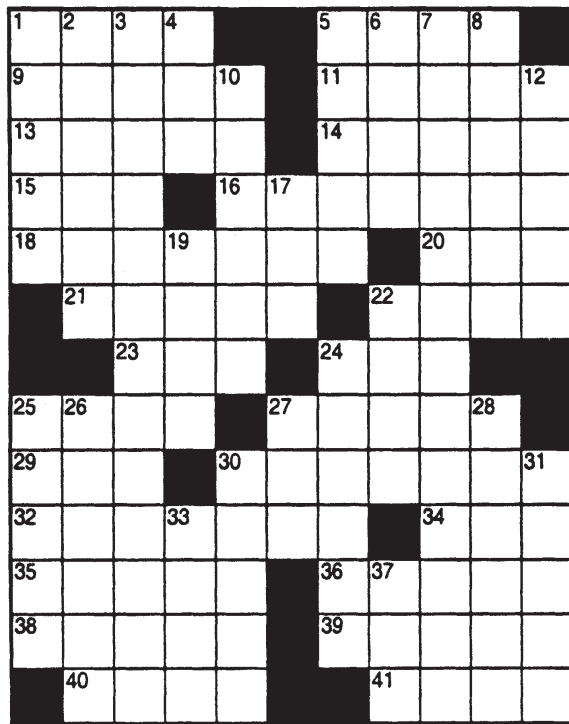
CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS 40 Sargasso Sea
1 Enthralled
5 Charts swimmers
9 Permit
11 Eyeballed
13 Torch feature
14 Butler's love
15 Christmas gift, often
16 Cleanser bottle
18 Sup-presses
20 Travel stop
21 Snide look
22 Small bills
23 Festive
24 Collar
25 Some-what
27 Tennis star
29 Real estate buy
30 Kitchen appliance
32 Even chances
34 Middling grade
35 Over
36 Steak-house order
38 Ransack
39 Chimney grimes



Yesterday's answer

- DOWN 1 River
2 Deals out
3 Avoiding risk
4 Huck's pal
5 Othello's people
6 Turkish title
7 Staying calm
8 Peace-ful
10 Actor Snipes
12 Fixes socks
17 For each
19 Accom- plishment
22 Rowing need
24 Isn't modest
25 Sacrifice site
26 Dance to rock music
27 Jazz style
28 Taken care of
30 Airs
31 TV's Della
33 Window feature
37 Fancy wrap



11-23

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Middle name 'Wayne' could mean jail time

• Arrested for murder in Shelby, N.C., in August: John Wayne Moses; and in Hastings, Minn., in October: Steven Wayne McBride; and in Ehrenberg, Ariz., in October: George Wayne McBroom; and in Bangor, Maine, in October: Carl Wayne Heath; and in Irving, Texas, in October: Darrell Wayne Wright; and in Toledo, Ohio, in October: Mark Wayne Jones. Sentenced to life in prison for murder in Dallas, in September: Michael Wayne Henry; and in Wellington, New Zealand, in October: Richard Wayne Gorrie. Executed for murder in Raleigh, N.C., in August: Ronald Wayne Frye.

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BACK PAGE

ABC getting heat for risque Victoria's Secret fashion show

BY DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — ABC says critics of its racy Victoria's Secret fashion special should see what hit the cutting-room floor.

The network, which is taking heat for devoting a prime-time hour to supermodels strutting in underwear, said it edited out camera shots that showed more skin.

"There has certainly been racier things on television than this," said Andrea Wong, the ABC executive in charge of alternative programming.

Groups like the National Organization for Women and the Parents Television Council criticized ABC for airing the special, and a Federal Communications Commission member asked for an investigation into whether it violated indecency regulations.

The special drew 12.3 million viewers Thursday, finishing third in its time slot and doing marginally better than the show it replaced. "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," which normally airs at that time, has an average audience of just under 11 million.

Michael Copps, an FCC commissioner, said he received dozens of complaints about the show and promotions for it that ran in advance.

"I would hope that television broadcasters would go the extra mile in exercising self-discipline when airing programming during the hours when children are likely to be in the audience," Copps said.

ABC pointed out that the program was clearly identified as being for mature viewers and that parents had the opportunity to tune it out.

Wong said ABC was assured that the fashion show would be no racier than the one Victoria's Secret sponsored as a Web cast last year. Still, ABC's standards division went over the show carefully before it was aired, she said.

"There are certain things that not everybody in the world is going to be happy with," she said. "It's impossible to please everyone."

ABC has pushed the standards envelope twice this month in different directions. Besides the Victoria's Secret show, it aired an uncut version of the movie, "Saving Private Ryan," with its violent opening scene of the D-Day invasion.

Broadcast standards in general have been in upheaval. The biggest broadcasters debate internally how far they can go in depicting violence, sexual content and strong language at a time cable networks have much more freedom.

Melissa Caldwell, research director of the Parents Television Council, said she doubted something like the Victoria's Secret special would have been on broadcast TV until recently.

"This year, in particular, it seems like there's been a lot more crass and vulgar content on TV than I've seen in years past," she said.

At the same time as the fashion show, CBS was airing an episode of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" that depicted a murder in a sadomasochistic sex club, and Fox was showing "Temptation Island," its titillating reality series about couples tested by swinging singles.

NOW complained about ABC's use of prime time to promote the sexual exploitation of women. NOW President Kim Gandy said ABC was making "a sad attempt to lift its ratings with Miracle Bras." ABC has been struggling mightily in the ratings this television season.

The fashion show was nothing but an infomercial for Victoria's Secret, Gandy said.

The lingerie maker, owned primarily by the Columbus, Ohio-based The Limited Inc., paid to produce the fashion show, Wong said. The company was also

responsible for buying most of the commercial time on the hour, to either use itself or sell to others.

"We pass all the time on infomercials and time buys that we don't think are going to draw viewers or be entertaining," Wong said. "To us, this was pure, escapist entertainment."

Man breaks into cop shop

By the Associated Press

ST. CROIX FALLS, Wis. — One word might sum up James J. Casarez: persistent. Brash might work, too.

Casarez was charged with breaking into the St. Croix police station to retrieve the merchandise he had previously shoplifted from a Wal-Mart store, police said.

"You'd think a police department would be sacred grounds for a burglar, but not in this case," said St. Croix Falls Police Chief Paul Lindholm.

Casarez, 36, of Willernie, Minn., was charged with felony burglary, in addition to retail theft and resisting an officer, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Monday.

Casarez was accused of shoplifting a toy all-terrain vehicle, medication, batteries, a pellet pistol and a flip phone from the St. Croix Falls Wal-Mart store on June 24.

He was booked that day and released the next day. Officers discovered that someone had thrown a rock through a large window at the police station June 26. Only the items stolen from Wal-Mart were missing from the station.



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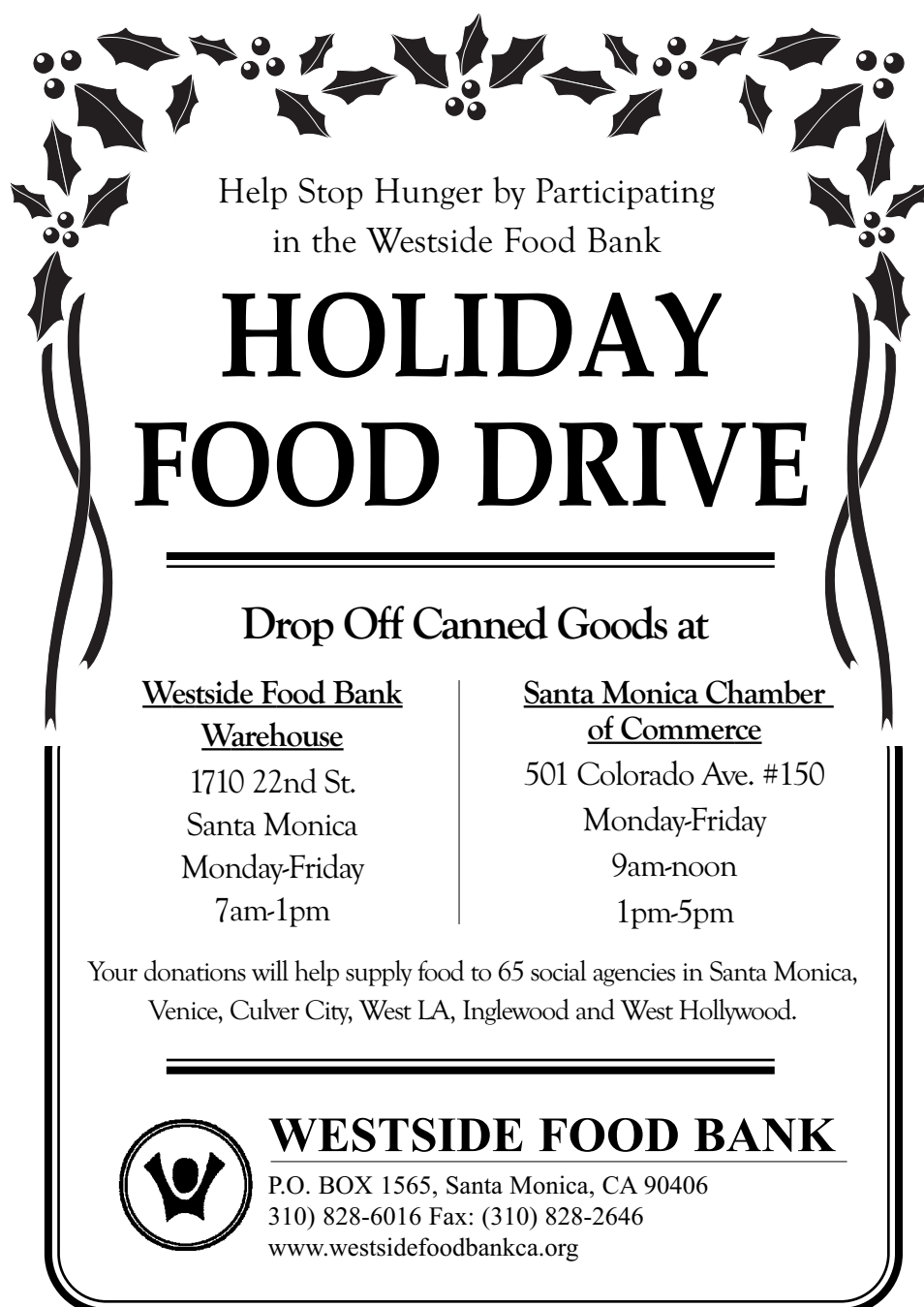
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