



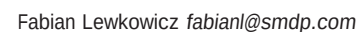
Volume 6 Issue 11

Coming up short on the holidays

Daily Press Staff Writer

At 4-feet, 8-inches tall, Frankel suffered from “heightism,” the cultural bias favoring tallness and stigmatizing shortness. Feeling inadequate because of something she couldn’t control, Frankel became obsessed with something she could control, her weight.

See SHORT PEOPLE, page 21



SHORTCAKE: The holidays can be a stressful time when physical differences are pointed out by family and friends.

See SHOPPING, page 11

Jessica Roberts news@smdp.com

Beach rings are the thing for one tight-knit community

Special to the Daily Press

The row of metal hoops can seem more daunting in adulthood, when a

See RINGS, page 16

SM BEACH — Passing the sets of rings hanging just south of the Santa

Economic indicators don't slow shoppers

In a slowing but still steady economy, retailers heightened their pitch to shoppers with expanded hours, generous discounts and free money in the form of gift cards. A growing number of stores and malls threw open their doors at midnight to jump-start the season. CompUSA Inc. and BJ's Wholesale Club Inc. even opened on Thanksgiving for the first time to grab customer dollars before the competition does.

At a Wal-Mart store in Cincinnati, Gary Miller, a 45-year-old computer programmer, was on the hunt for a 20-inch LCD television that he had seen advertised online.

"My wife sent me out for this one," he said, pointing to the television in his shopping cart. "But then I saw this

See SHOPPING, page 11

AP Business Writer

Bargain shoppers, many braving frigid temperatures, headed to the nation's stores and malls before the sun rose on Friday to nab specials on everything from toys to flat-screen TVs as the holiday shopping season

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WESTSIDE TODAY

IT'S WHAT'S GOING ON, SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Nov. 27, 2006

XTERRA Topanga Turkey Trot Scramble
Trippet Ranch in Topanga State
Park,
7 a.m. — 12 p.m.

Mar Vista Farmers Market
Downtown Mar Vista,
9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Winterlit Best Gift Ever gift drive
Third Street Promenade,
10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

And Awaay We Go To Wonderland
Santa Monica Playhouse,
12:30 p.m. — 1:45 p.m.

Santa Monica's Top Model Search
Santa Monica Place Mall,
1 p.m. — 3 p.m.

Red Chief! — Children's theater in Santa
Monica
Third Street Promenade,
3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Winter Wine Samplings
Sheraton Delfina,
5 p.m. — 7 p.m.

Cinderella
Santa Monica Playhouse,
6 p.m. — 7:20 p.m.

Audition! The Musical
Santa Monica Playhouse,
7 p.m. — 9:15 p.m.

Debbie Merrill's Learn To Inline Skate
Group Class
Perry's Cafe,
1-2 p.m.

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Adidas Sport Performance Store,
All Day

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.

Sunday, Nov. 26, 2006

Mar Vista Farmers Market
Downtown Mar Vista,
9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Break Point Bridge Sunday Meeting
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club,
10:30 a.m. — 12 p.m.

Orientation for Prospective Students
Santa Monica,
10 a.m. — 12 p.m.

Lawn Bowling Lessons
Douglas Park, Santa Monica,
10:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.

Winterlit Best Gift Ever gift drive
Third Street Promenade,
10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

And Awaay We Go To Wonderland
Santa Monica Playhouse,
12:30 p.m. — 1:45 p.m.

75th Annual Hollywood Christmas Parade
Hollywood Blvd from LaBrea to
Orange,
5 p.m. — 7 p.m.

Winter Wine Samplings
Sheraton Delfina,
5 p.m. — 7 p.m.

Cinderella
Santa Monica Playhouse,
6 p.m. — 7:20 p.m.

Audition! The Musical
Santa Monica Playhouse,
7 p.m. — 9:15 p.m.

Salsa Dance at Casa Escobar
Isabelle's Salsa/Tango/Pole Dance
Academy,
9 p.m. — 12 a.m.

Debbie Merrill's Learn To Inline Skate
Group Class
Perry's Cafe, 1 — 2 p.m.

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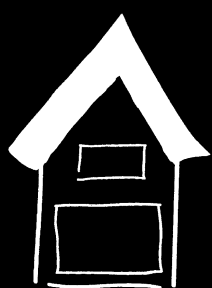
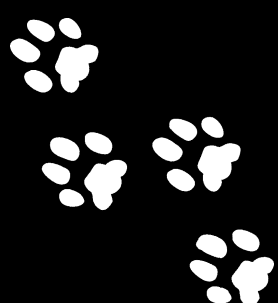
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A tamer 'Kramer' apologizes

BY SOLVEJ SCHOU
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Michael Richards is doing damage control.

In the aftermath of his racial tirade against two black hecklers during a standup comedy routine, Richards on Wednesday hired a publicist with strong ties to the black community who set up calls to two black leaders.

New York publicist Howard Rubenstein took on Richards as a client Wednesday after being contacted by the comic. He then arranged for Richards to call the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

"I've known those gentlemen for many years," Rubenstein told The Associated Press.

"Michael apologized profusely. He wants to heal the tremendous wound that he's inflicted on the American public, and on the African-American community. ... I think it was a positive discussion," he said.

Jackson, reached by phone, said Richards called "expressing his remorse and his confusion."

"He's embarrassed. He got caught on tape. That's a big part of his anxiety now," said Jackson.

"Clearly he needs some race sensibility training, and some psychiatric help. His anger is volatile and dangerous to himself and others," Jackson said. "I hope he gets the help he needs. But the culture that's producing this kind of animosity toward blacks must be addressed. ... We're increasingly facing cultural isolation in Hollywood, in the movies and in TV."

Jackson added, "We have to evaluate the use of the n-word and categorize it as hate speech, no matter who uses it."

Calls to Sharpton's home and to his National Action Network on Wednesday were not immediately returned.

Richards, who played the kooky neighbor Kramer on the TV show "Seinfeld," lashed out at the hecklers last week during a performance at West Hollywood's Laugh Factory. A video of his rant then appeared on TMZ.com.

In a subsequent satellite appearance on David Letterman's "Late Show," Richards said his tirade was fueled by anger, not bigotry.

See RICHARDS, page 25



A couple of whistle-blowers

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Santa Monica Police traffic control officers Louis Elias (left) and Julio Penado direct traffic in front of Santa Monica Place Mall on Friday, keeping a semblance of order as shoppers were expected to turn out in droves downtown to get a jump on holiday shopping.

Feminism through a child's eyes

Harassment project is subject of documentary

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

14TH STREET — "It's not fair."

They're the words of an adolescent girl named Crystal, a junior high school-aged student who is being sexually harassed by her peers and doesn't understand why she is always the target of ridicule.

It's a problem that anyone seldom hears about in junior high and high school, but is unfortunately a regular occurrence, according to four John Adams Middle School students who spent 10 months studying the topic of sexual harassment and other feminist issues through the "Girl House Art Project" at the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside.

"I see it happen," said Lily Jacobius, an



Photos courtesy

DELVING DEEPER: The 'Girl House Art Project,' conceived by four John Adams Middle School students, shone a light on a fictitious girl's room and her attempts to deal with sexual harassment.

eighth grade student at John Adams on Friday. "It's kind of depressing."

"It's different kinds, like whistling and making noises (and other acts that would make a girl uncomfortable)," said Jacobius, describing the forms of sexual harassment she has seen at school.

As part of the 10-month project, which included workshops and discussions, Jacobius and three friends addressed the topic of sexual harassment and created "Crystal's Room," belonging to a fictional character

See GIRL HOUSE, page 19

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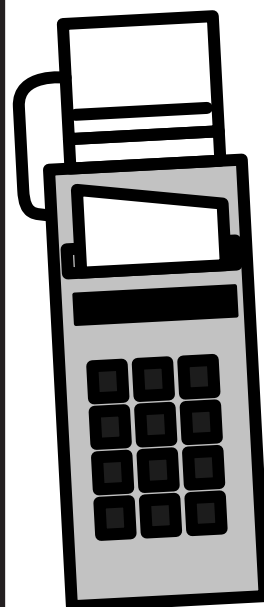
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The Q Line

TAKING STOCK AMID TURKEY

This past week, Q-line asked:

What about Santa Monica are you thankful for? Why do you choose to live here? Explain.

Here are your responses:

© “The only thing that keeps me in Santa Monica for the moment is the inability, at the moment, to make a major change ... and some degree of nostalgia for the past, having been a resident for 40 years. But I would leave this very moment if an offer came along. This is not the lovely Santa Monica of yesteryear. It is filthy, bum-ridden, unhealthy, crime-ridden, etc. No thanks for living here, just resignation.”

© “Well, I’m thankful living in Southern California. I can go surfing in the morning and skiing in the afternoon and dancing at night. Or at least I could if I knew how to surf, ski or dance. I’m also thankful that “The Simpsons” are on two times a day. I’m thankful that George W. Bush will be out of office pretty soon.”

© “Thank God for rent control. Without rent control, there would be a lot more homeless. Even though I’m not under the old rent control laws in the apartment where I live, there is still a little bit of constraint and I’m very, very, very grateful.”

© “I am thankful to live in Santa Monica because of the endless voter support for lifetime council members. I am thankful to our council for bringing Santa Monica into the 19th century with bicycle power and helping to rid us of those nasty cars. I am thankful for the many homeless in our town, free meals and sewage draining into the street reminds one of the cholera epidemics. People in this town have a sacred duty to support out-of-town bums, out-of-town non-profits, out-of-town businesses, out-of-town students and planners who are kind enough to bring all the problems of a big city — greed, congestion, cameras, a socialist right to live as cheaply as possible at someone else’s expense. But most of all, after 50 years of living here, I am amazed how East Coast liberals and their cutting-edge ideas have missed and messed up what was once a simple and infinitely more beautiful beach town.”

© “I was in the audience when Veronica played her harmonica on the pier in Santa Monica. While I sat in the audience, I smelt a smelt. I must say, I never smelt the smelt like that smelt smelt. Recently, Dick Dale played his steel guitar on the pier in Santa Monica. Again, I was in the audience and smelt the smelt. It must have been the same smelt, because I remember the smelt of the first smelt that I smelt on the pier in Santa Monica. I am thankful for Santa Monica because it is a paradise for smelt smellers.”



Emptying ‘Modern’ mailbag brings closure for columnist



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

It’s time for me to share some of the e-mails that I have received in response to some of my recent columns. So, enjoy:

In response to my column about Miami Dolphins’ coach Nick Saban saying he was too busy to have dinner with the president, readers wrote:

BARRY: “Is this news or more hate and divide from our ‘free left wing press?’”

JERRY: “Saban is a social buffoon! He was disrespectful to the president without a really good reason.”

CAROLYN: “Yes, in these times, it is very hard to have dinner with the President, as this one is out to lunch!”

XRITISM: “I would have declined the invitation, too — even if on the same evening, I was seen sharing a hot dog with my neighbor’s dog.”

In response to my column about the wall to be built along our southern border, readers wrote:

RICHARD: “Under the current administration, the country I have loved for so long is changing rapidly and there is not a pretty picture resulting from these changes.”

DIAMOND: “True patriotic Americans ... want defense for the entire border, and ... we would be willing to build it ourselves if the government can’t get the job done.”

ED: “The worst shame of the proposed Mexican border fence is that Bush and Congress came up with the fence in place of a meaningful guest worker policy and program, which might actually have stood a chance of making a dent in the illegal immigration. I hate to imagine what sort of barrier Bush plans to protect us from those horrible Canadians, not to mention its price tag.”

CAROLINE: “If I believed you possessed a logical, reasoned and practical mind, I would tell you how the illegal aliens have affected my neighborhood and community. I won’t waste my time.”

ROSS: “... the Berlin Wall was there to keep people in a country against their will. Our fence is to stop people from illegally entering our country. There’s a big difference, you liberal *****.”

MYRNA: “To reason things out is not a human quality nowadays here in the U.S.; people are just too mad, and too racist to understand the implications of closed borders. What a shame. Even my ninth-grade daughter understands that walls between countries are conducive to hostility.”

In response to my column about being tired of the campaign, readers wrote:

MUCHADO: “Actually, I am tired of being constantly lied to by these folks. Could we not, as voters, demand the resignation of candidates who failed to fulfill their campaign promises?”

TOM: “(I can’t stand) the little signs over the highways ... Sometimes I say to myself, ‘If I see that guy’s name one more time, even though I like him, I am voting for someone else who did not litter the highway.’”

ED: “At least we are treated to ads from competing sides in an arena where all sides are free to put their tongues into the debate, however ill-advised they may be in so doing. It may be boring and sometimes downright offensive, but there are nations where only one party is even allowed to advertise.”

In response to my column about getting more people to vote, one reader wrote:

GLEND: “Why not have a \$10,000 lottery in every state, with the funds coming from a required percentage donation from the campaign funds of all office seekers? At least we would get something out of our elected officials, and \$10,000 is not a bad incentive just for driving down to vote. Having a computer select the winner from the voter registration numbers would assure nobody gets paid directly to vote. I’m only half joking.”

In response to my column about the recent midterm election, in which I “half-jokingly” said that the Republicans really won, readers wrote:

HARRY: “Is it true that W. told Cheney to take Rummy hunting with him?”

TOM: “When I arrived at work the day after the election, I took a beating from all my Democratic coworkers ... Seriously, I hope the Democrats have some new ideas and we get our troops home ASAP.”

DON: “That’s about the stupidest thing I’ve ever seen on a decisive election that rejected right wing extremists running the Republican Party. And it’s typical of the corporate/Republican media that they would even carry your half-baked opinions.”

CARMEN: “An ignorant person is one who doesn’t know what you have just found out. Outstanding!!!”

Oh, there was one other e-mail in response to my column about the building of the fence along our border with Mexico:

CLINT: “Way to go, Lloyd. You just totally screwed the whole world over!!! Who knew I had that kind of power?”

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A life with porpoise isn't found in a book



**LAUGHING
MATTERS**
BY JACK NEWORTH

Until a few days ago, the heatwave in Santa Monica had some people considering barbecuing the turkey, which might have been cumbersome on my hibachi. It was so hot, last-minute shopping could have included cranberry sauce, stuffing and sun-screen. At Thanksgiving, it's supposed to be cold with a fire crackling in the fireplace, or in my case, an old space heater that barely glows. But suddenly, it was summer again!

I decided to hit the beach. I got my boogie board from my storage locker, which I'd forgotten was jammed. As junk came crashing down on my head, I suddenly remembered — Styrofoam may be unsafe for the planet, but it saved my skull.

Sunning at the beach at this time of year is surreal. One feels a combination of rebellious, adventuresome and ... pasty. As I put my feet in the water, I started thinking of Pat Robertson, whom I had seen the night before on a Larry King repeat. Pat said God had warned him of a catastrophic tsunami and then he giggled, which always gives me the creeps. Fortunately, Santa Monica's geography is not conducive to a tsunami. And besides, why would God warn Pat Robertson? Somebody in FEMA maybe, or Fritz Coleman, but Pat? Since the Chavez assassination threat, Pat's "Prince of Peace" connection seems a little dubious.

Finally, King reminded Robertson of previous failed prophesies, like when God spoke to him and said the 2004 election would be a landslide. With a boyish grin, Pat guffawed, "Ya know, Larry, sometimes you're not sure if you're actually talkin' to God or just hearin' things." That may be the most intelligent thing Pat Robertson's ever said.

I mentioned seeing Pat to a workout friend in the gym who is "born again." Before I'd even broken a sweat on the treadmill, somehow I'd committed myself to reading "The Purpose Driven Life" — Rick Warren's book about modern Christianity. I'm worried about my cardio while apparently my friend is worried about my eternal soul. I have A.D.D., so "eternity" is kind of a tough concept. But he insisted on lending me a copy of the book, so I was stuck.

So three days before Thanksgiving, I was

in my beach chair by station #26. I wasn't there long before a wonderful sight caught my eye. No, not women in bikinis, though that too. It was a school of porpoises close to shore, frolicking and jumping out of the water. On the beach, we humans stood and watched in awe. The lifeguard told me they swim by around 4 p.m. every day. Maybe an Early Bird Dinner at the pier? He also said they were dolphins, not porpoises, but "The Dolphin Driven Life" just doesn't have the same ring.

I confess, I'm not very religious. Perhaps it was the era in which I grew up. In 1966, a Time Magazine cover read: "Is God Dead?" Today, God is everywhere, except in People Magazine's Top 100 Sexiest Celebrities, although who knows. God is also much in the contemporary parlance, as in, "He's richer than God," or "He has more money than God," as if God has bank accounts and a 401k.

Lately, some of God's biggest advocates — Mel Gibson, Mark Foley, Tom Delay, Ralph Reed, and of course, Ted "Meth 'n Massage" Haggard — have strayed a little. And yet, faith among the flock has never been greater. The Purpose Driven Life has sold 25 million copies! It's also available in CD and books on tape, along with Purpose Mini Book, Purpose Daily Inspirations, Purpose Daily Reminders and Purpose Refrigerator Magnets. Apparently, Purpose is a cottage industry, but I confess I made up the refrigerator magnet bit.

Purpose is thought provoking, but I had trouble with some of the passages ... "Even before the universe was created, God had you in mind." Me? Before the universe was created? It seems a stretch, but OK. Or, "You were made to last forever." Oh yeah? Tell that to my rotator cuff. "You were made by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense." I had a very demanding girlfriend once who said pretty much the same thing.

As I was packing to leave the beach, I was thinking more about the porpoises than the book. "Maybe I lead a Porpoise Driven Life?" I thought to myself. And then I wondered if, in the storage locker, the hit to the head was harder than I thought?

In the meantime, I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving (I'm thankful O.J.'s book deal was canceled). By the way, if you barbecued the turkey, let me know how it turned out.

Jack Neworth can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.



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Fresno officials are ordered to leave the homeless alone

BY OLIVIA MUNOZ

Associated Press Writer

FRESNO, Calif. — A federal judge ordered Fresno city officials Wednesday to stop seizing homeless people's property without warning as a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union proceeds against the city.

The ACLU claims police and sanitation workers violated the constitutional rights of thousands of homeless people in the last three years by defining their property as trash and bulldozing their tent encampments.

Homeless advocates said the preliminary injunction by U.S. District Court Judge Oliver W. Wanger would help cement homeless people's property rights.

"This is very significant in protecting not just the rights of homeless people in Fresno, but nationally," said Maria Foscarnin, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. "It's the court saying, 'Yes, there are legal rights, constitutional rights that are at issue here and this case needs to go forward.'"

James Betts, an attorney for the city, argued that forcing Fresno to log and store belongings seized in the "cleanups" would be a burden because the city doesn't have the space, money or the manpower to handle the volume of items.

Estimates of the number of people living on Fresno's streets range from about 500 to just under 8,900. Wanger's order blocks the city from raiding their tent towns and destroying their belongings until the case goes to trial, or reaches a settlement.

"Persons cannot be punished because of

their status," Wanger said Wednesday, before issuing his ruling. "They cannot be denied their constitutional rights because of their appearance, because they are impoverished, because they are squatters, because they are, in effect, voiceless."

Whether they squat in city parks or sleep in makeshift dwellings next to train tracks, homeless people in Fresno live in fear that their things — many "critical to their survival" — will be destroyed without warning, said Paul Alexander, who argued the case for the ACLU. Items of sentimental value also get destroyed in the sweep, he said.

"When they end up on the street, they still have their family photos, they still have their grandmother's wedding ring, and those are just as precious in a tent as they are anywhere else," Alexander said in closing arguments Wednesday.

Charlene Clay, one of six plaintiffs named in the suit, said city officials took her asthma medicine, false teeth and her only pictures of her deceased granddaughter in a raid earlier this year.

"All I can do now is close my eyes and remember what my granddaughter used to look like," said Clay, 48, who has lived in a tent under a freeway for the past six months. "I couldn't get any medicine for a week."

City officials throughout the hearing described homeless encampments as safety hazards, a nuisance and hotbeds of crime.

"We see evidence of drug use, we see human feces, we see other materials that we would be concerned about," Capt. Greg Garner testified last week. "If someone says this is my property, they're allowed to keep it."

Simpson says he knew 'If I Did It' profits would be 'blood money'

BY LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — O.J. Simpson said Wednesday that he knew any profit from his "If I Did It" book would be "blood money," but that he took part in the project to pay his bills.

"It's all blood money and unfortunately I had to join the jackals," Simpson told The Associated Press, referring to authors of books about him. "It helped me get out of debt and secure my homestead."

Simpson also said in telephone interviews this week that he saw the book as a way to provide for his children financially.

The book, said to describe how he hypothetically would have killed ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman, had been scheduled for release Nov. 30 following the airing of a two-part Simpson interview on Fox on Monday and Wednesday. News Corp., owner of Fox Broadcasting and publisher HarperCollins, canceled the project this week after it was condemned as revolting and exploitive.

In the AP interviews, he denied committing the murders, disputed his own publisher's contention that the book amounts to a confession, insisted the title was not his idea, and said the hypothetical sections were written by his ghostwriter.

News Corp. spokesman Andrew Butcher said the company paid \$880,000 to a third party in connection with the project. Of that amount, \$100,000 was to go to the book's ghostwriter and the rest to Simpson's children, Butcher said.

"Absolutely no money was ever given to

O.J. Simpson by us," he said Wednesday.

Simpson would not say how much he was paid in advance, but said it was less than the \$3.5 million that has been reported. He said the money already has been spent, some of it on tax obligations.

Butcher said News Corp. has no grounds to try to recoup any of the money because Simpson honored his end of the contract by producing the book.

Acquitted of murder in 1995, Simpson was later found liable in a wrongful-death lawsuit filed by Goldman's family. The former football star has not paid the \$33.5 million civil judgment, and his NFL pension and Florida home cannot be seized.

He made no apologies for the book and TV deal: "I've been pimped for 12 years. Everyone's made money on me."

In interviews with the AP, Simpson was bitter toward the Goldmans, who consider him a murderer and continue to try to collect the judgment. "They have become professional victims. America, you're being duped by these people," Simpson said.

Goldman attorney Jonathan G. Polak said the family will work to "place Simpson in a 'virtual' jail cell, from which he will never emerge. If that means pursuing him until his last day on this Earth, then they are prepared to do precisely that."

A family statement thanked people for opposing the project, declaring, "No more celebration of evil."

Simpson said he was convinced the book would have been a best-seller, adding he desperately needs the cash because his retirement funds are dwindling.

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LOS ANGELES

Apartment blaze leaves firefighter wounded

An apartment building fire injured a firefighter and seven other people, including some who jumped from the second floor, authorities said.

The fire was reported at about 6:15 a.m. Thursday on the first floor of a two-story building in the Walnut Park area south of downtown, Los Angeles County fire Capt. Mark Savage said.

Eight people were treated at hospitals but their injuries were not considered life-threatening, Savage said.

It took about 20 minutes to douse the fire. The cause remained under investigation.

LOS ANGELES

CatPeople seeking cat people

A group that cares for dozens of feral cats at California State University, Northridge, is seeking something harder to catch than felines — students.

CatPeople, formed in 2002, has about a half-dozen people who provide feeding stations for nearly 75 cats and trap, neuter and release kittens to control the population.

The nonprofit organization was budgeted to receive about \$1,000 in university funding next year as an Associated Students group. But an executive order issued earlier this year by CSU Chancellor Charles Reed states that such groups must include at least five students to receive funding.

CatPeople has Northridge staffers, faculty and alumni but only one current student.

“The university has been very supportive,” said member Louise Adams, who graduated last year. “But we are now in a somewhat tenuous place.”

Northridge is mainly a commuter campus and many students have jobs, so getting volunteers may be difficult, said the group’s faculty adviser, Sabina Magliocco.

The group plans to meet in December to discuss how to maintain its nonprofit status.

RANCHO CUCAMONGA

A vintage lesson at community college

Chaffey College is getting into the wine business.

The community college plans to turn two acres of open space into an agricultural demonstration garden with olive and citrus trees and a vineyard.

The college is teaming with Joseph Filippi Winery, which will do the actual planting and caring for the grapes.

“We’ve selected zinfandel which is a variety that grows well here and has been planted for decades,” said the winery’s Gino Filippi.

It will take about four years for the wine to be produced. It will be bottled with a special Chaffey label, Filippi said.

Some proceeds are expected to go to a college foundation.

Rancho Cucamonga once was a wine-producing region but many of the vineyards have been paved over for homes and business.

Filippi, whose family began planting in the area in 1922, said he and his brother, his father and a nephew all attended the college.

“Chaffey has played an important role in our family and it’s a chance to give something back,” Filippi said.

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles lackluster in special education

The nation’s second-largest school district has failed to meet most of the goals for improving special education that were required under a federal decree more than a decade ago, according to an independent monitor’s report.

The report, released Wednesday, said the Los Angeles Unified School District fell short on 13 of 18 items listed in a 1993 consent decree that settled a lawsuit brought by a learning-disabled student.

The monitor, Frederick Weintraub, said the district made too little progress on improving graduation rates, test scores and high school completion rates for special education students.

About 42 percent of special education students graduated in the 2005-06 school years, while the target was more than 46 percent.

The monitor did say the district was close to meeting a decree goal that 95 percent of special education students take part in standardized school testing.

The district is making progress, said Donnalyn Anton, executive officer of education services.

“We’re certainly doing better at providing education for special education students in terms of academics and having them meet standards,” she said. “I’m proud of what the district is doing.”

YORBA LINDA

Golf course hijinks land teens in the rough

Teenagers went on a pre-dawn rampage at an Orange County golf course, crashing carts, tearing up greens and causing an estimated \$250,000 in damage, police said.

Sixteen people, most of them from La Mirada, were arrested Thursday for investigation of burglary and vandalism.

Five 18- and 19-year-olds were jailed as adults while 11 boys and girls ranging in age from 12 to 17 years were taken to juvenile hall, police said.

The youths cut the lock on a gate at Black Gold Golf Course and set off an alarm shortly before 3:30 a.m., said Sgt. Darrin Devereux, of the Brea Police Department, which patrols Yorba Linda.

The youths used a car to ram the door of the golf cart garage and took 30 vehicles, which they drove around the course. They damaged the greens, spray-painted property and overturned the carts, one of which was found in a lake, Devereux said.

Detectives were investigating whether any of the youths were involved in similar crimes at golf courses in Fullerton and Huntington Beach earlier this month.



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Oil industry denies price manipulation charges

BY JEFF DONN

Associated Press Writer

BAKERSFIELD — You'd think it was Texas. Dusty roads course the scrubland toward oil tanks and warehouses. Beefy men talk oil over burritos at lunch. Like grazing herds, oil wells dip nonstop amid the tumbleweed — or even into the asphalt of a parking lot.

That's why the rumor sounded so wrong here in California's lower San Joaquin Valley, where petroleum has gushed up more riches than the whole gold rush. Why would Shell Oil Co. simply close its Bakersfield refinery? Why scrap a profit maker?

The rumor seemed to make no sense. Yet it was true.

The company says it could make more money on other projects. It denies it intended to squeeze the market, as its critics would claim, to drive up gasoline profits at its other refineries in the region.

Whatever the truth in Bakersfield, an Associated Press analysis suggests that big oil companies have been crimping supplies in subtler ways across the country for years. And tighter supplies tend to drive up prices.

The analysis, based on data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, indicates that the industry slacked off supplying oil and gasoline during the prolonged price boom between early 1999 and last summer, when prices began to fall.

The industry counters that it's been working hard to meet untiring demand. It faults output quotas set by Mideast oil powers, global competition for oil from booming economies like China's, and domestic challenges like depleting wells, clean-air rules,

and hurricanes. They do make things harder.

Yet the AP analysis found evidence of at least an underwhelming industry performance in supplying the domestic market, when profits should have made investment capital plentiful:

■ During the 1999-2006 price boom, the industry drilled an average of 7 percent fewer new wells monthly than in the seven preceding years of low, stable prices.

■ The national supply of unrefined oil, including imports, grew an average of only 6 percent during the high-priced years, down from 14 percent during the previous span.

■ The gasoline supply expanded by only 10 percent from 1999 to 2006, down from 15 percent in the earlier period.

The findings support a conclusion already reached by many motorists. Fifty-five percent of Americans believe gas prices are high because oil companies manipulate them, a Pew Research Center poll found in October.

Even in Bakersfield, which lives off oil, many suspect that the industry goes easy on supply for its own reasons. "They ain't trying; that's more money for them," snorted JaRayle Madden, a construction worker filling up his little sedan recently at a local Shell station.

This fast-growing city of 300,000 shuttered in November 2003, when Shell confirmed it would soon close its local refinery. Plant workers, consumer activists and public officials rose up in resistance, firing off letters and demanding meetings.

The 70-year-old refinery only produced 2 percent of California's gasoline and 6 percent of its diesel fuel. Yet opponents feared its demise would push up prices in the tight markets all along the West Coast.

In these circumstances, surely the plant was worth something to someone, if not to Shell. After losing \$57 million mostly in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the refinery was making money again, Shell acknowledged.

Though set back temporarily by the attacks, the oil business has profited handsomely since then. For example, the biggest six refiners — Shell is only No. 12 nationally but powerful in California — rang up \$400 billion in profits since 2001, according to the consumer group Public Citizen and corporate reports. Even compliance with complex clean-air rules hasn't spoiled business.

The industry also protected profits by not building any new refineries, instead expanding existing ones when it could.

Shell portrayed its Bakersfield refinery as old and unfit. One executive said there was "simply no longer an adequate supply of crude oil" nearby.

Drillers across the country complain of maturing wells that are slowly running low. Gas or liquid is sometimes injected into reservoirs at higher cost to keep up the flow.

"The industry is working very hard," says Joe Sparano, who heads the Western States Petroleum Association representing Shell and other drillers, refiners and marketers.

However, oil reserves are expected to last for decades around Bakersfield and elsewhere, according to industry and government estimates. Fresh national reserves are found each year. To make up for older wells, oil companies regularly drill new ones — about 9,800 last year. Underground discoveries and technological strides have kept domestic

reserves at the same level as in 1999.

With demand growing, though, the United States has imported an expanding share of its oil from abroad — and quotas kept by Mideast nations do lift its price.

It's also true there's a new big buyer of oil: China, with its flourishing economy. Yet even China hasn't outstripped the world's capacity to deliver more oil, at least so far. Since 1999, world supplies grew four times more than China's imports, federal data show.

Imports were impractical at inland Bakersfield, Shell explained. Lynn Laverty Elsenhans, the head of Shell Oil Products US, said the refinery here just wasn't viable anymore.

"For this reason, we have not expended time or resources in an attempt to find a buyer and do not intend to do so," Elsenhans wrote to U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif.

Shell's blunt tone began to trouble opponents of the plan. Union officer Ed Huhn, a former refinery worker who was trying to keep the place open, began to wonder if it was folly. "They were trying to discourage anybody from buying it," he says.

Skeptics like U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., got more vocal. They began to suspect that Shell wanted to shut the refinery to sell pricier gas from its bigger refineries elsewhere in the region. By taking a hit at Bakersfield, maybe Shell could come out ahead.

"They were trying to squeeze the market in every possible way," Wyden insists.

Shell spokesman Stan Mays denies that. He says it's "impossible to speculate" on whether Shell would have profited from closing the plant.

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Whistle-blowing actor is sorry for copying election documents

BY GREG RISLING

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Actor Stephen Heller had minor parts in the film "About Schmidt" and TV shows such as "Criminal Minds." But his most significant role may have come in a real-life drama about the way elections are conducted in California.

During the past two years, Heller tapped the family savings and lost two jobs while fighting charges that he took copies of documents from a law firm where he worked. The records detailed potential problems with electronic voting machines made by Diebold Election Systems.

In the midst of his legal troubles, Heller was hailed by digital rights and political activists as a whistle-blower who tried to do the right thing by giving the documents to the advocacy group Black Box Voting.

Prosecutors countered that Heller was nothing more than a thief who could have been shielded by whistle-blower laws if he had given the documents to state authorities rather than the group.

"He would have been protected," said Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office. "He didn't do that."

Last Monday, Heller pleaded guilty to a felony count of illegally accessing a computer and making copies.

"I regret committing a serious crime," Heller, 44, told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "I knew it was a very serious crime, but I was afraid that our elections, and thus our democracy, were being weakened."

Heller was sentenced to three years probation and ordered to pay his former law firm \$10,000 in restitution. Two other felony counts were dismissed.

Ironically, as a felon, he also lost the right to vote.

Some observers believe prosecuting Heller could prevent

other people from revealing potential flaws with electronic voting systems.

"I think it could create a chilling effect because if you decide to give information about our election process, you could face criminal prosecution," said Cindy Coen, legal director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based digital rights group.

"It was really a travesty Mr. Heller was prosecuted at all," she said.

In January 2004, Heller was working as a temporary employee in the Los Angeles office of the Jones Day law firm, which represents Diebold.

Prosecutors said he copied more than 500 pages of documents, including memos suggesting Diebold may have broken state law by providing Alameda County with electronic voting machines that hadn't been certified by state officials.

Soon after, Heller gave the documents to Bev Harris, founder of Black Box Voting, which was involved in a lawsuit claiming Diebold used uncertified software in 17 counties, authorities said.

Harris then turned them over to the secretary of state and the Oakland Tribune.

Meanwhile, Jones Day told the Los Angeles County district attorney's office about the results of its internal investigation into the handling of the documents.

Some of Diebold's machines failed to work properly in the March 2004 primary election. Two months later, then-Secretary of State Kevin Shelley decertified 14,000 Diebold electronic voting machines in San Diego, Solano, San Joaquin and Kern counties.

Shelley said the machines — which didn't produce voter-verifiable paper records for every vote cast — lacked federal approval for the primary.

Sea lion attacks hurt their reputation

BY MARCUS WOHLSEN

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Millions of tourists flock to Fisherman's Wharf each year for the seafood, the wax museum and the stunning views of San Francisco Bay. But for many, the real stars of the show are dozens of California sea lions, the flippered and seemingly friendly fish-eaters that lounge and play by the water's edge.

Now, a series of human-sea lion confrontations has officials rethinking their relationship with the area's most visible wildlife attraction. And experts say sea lions, famous for their circus skills, are not as cute and cuddly as they seem.

"People should understand these animals are out there not to attack people or humans. But they're out there to survive for themselves," said Jim Oswald, a spokesman for the Marine Mammal Center just across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco.

In the most frightening of the recent episodes, a single rogue sea lion bit 14 swimmers this month and chased 10 more out of the water at San Francisco's Aquatic Park, a sheltered lagoon that adjoins the bay. At least one victim suffered multiple puncture wounds.

Some scientists theorized the animal's unusually aggressive behavior resulted from being poisoned after eating fish contaminated by a toxic algae bloom. But wildlife experts say even healthy sea lions are best left alone.

In Southern California in June, a sea lion charged several people on Manhattan Beach, then bit a man before waddling into the water and swimming away. And in Berkeley, a

woman was hospitalized in the spring after a sea lion took a chunk out of her leg.

Last year, a group of sea lions took over a Newport Beach marina and sunk a vintage 50-foot yacht. And a lifeguard in Santa Barbara was bitten three times while swimming off El Capitan State Beach.

In one of the most dramatic incidents, a huge sea lion jumped onto an Alaskan fisherman's boat in 2004, knocked him overboard and pulled him underwater; he escaped without serious injury. By comparison, fewer than 10 people have been attacked by sharks off the California coast since 2000, according to news reports and California Department of Fish and Game statistics, though two of those attacks were fatal.

Sea lions, which can reach 1,000 pounds, will typically bite only if they feel threatened or cornered. And they are more likely to flee people than fight them if they can find an escape route. Researchers have described the most recent attacks, where some swimmers were chased through open water, as abnormal behavior.

Still, with a population numbering about 200,000 and growing, these playful, social creatures and their onshore human neighbors are increasingly likely to meet. And the encounters won't always be friendly.

Sea lions accustomed to the easy pickings of seafood scraps in popular fishing areas can become aggressive toward people if they fear that food source could disappear — a likely factor in the Berkeley attack, Oswald said. A food shortage off the Southern California coast could be driving more hungry sea lions than usual to San Francisco Bay, said Lynn Cullivan, a spokesman for Maritime National Historical Park.

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Microsoft's software is taking care of business

BY BRIAN BERGSTEIN

AP Technology Writer

REDMOND, Wash. — Bill Hartnett got accustomed to the screaming. As Microsoft Corp.'s manager of software sales to financial services companies, Hartnett used to get pelted with complaints about the security and reliability of Microsoft's products.

Hartnett speaks openly about those dark days because he's sure they're well past. He and his colleagues contend the company is about to give businesses compelling reasons to not just tolerate Microsoft, but to be thrilled with it.

The occasion is the launch of crucial upgrades to Microsoft's most widely used and most profitable products. All at once, Microsoft is releasing a new Windows operating system, known as Vista; an update of the Office "productivity" package, which includes Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint; and server software that handles behind-the-scenes functions.

The products will begin to be available for business users Nov. 30, with a consumer release of Windows and Office on Jan. 30.

Even in a less competitive world, the enormity of the launch would make this a crucial time for Microsoft. Vista has been delayed so long that it has been five years since the last overhaul of the operating system, which runs 90 percent of the world's personal computers. Office last got refreshed in 2003.

But the stakes are particularly high now. Savvy competitors using the Internet are challenging Microsoft's status as computing's vital plumbing provider. Meanwhile, Microsoft is spending some of the vast for-

tune it has amassed in desktop software to branch out with expensive splashes in video games and music players.

In other words, this is no time for Microsoft to deliver a dud in the core of its franchise. Next Thursday's corporate launch of Vista, Office and server software is being called "A New Day For Business," meaning Microsoft's customers, but the phrase applies in Redmond just as well.

Microsoft executives claim that computer users who upgrade to Vista or Office, but especially both together, will be dazzled by how much more productive they can become. The company spent years studying how people use its most popular programs and retooled the user interface accordingly, trying to make it easier to find and use features.

It also worked to make its software sturdier than ever — less prone to crashes and less vulnerable to hackers. Because of that and new tools aimed at pleasing corporate technology staffs, Microsoft estimates the labor costs of supporting a machine running Vista will be \$507 per PC a year, down from \$542 with Windows XP.

Despite the improvements, many analysts don't expect corporate technology buyers to rush to buy PCs with Vista or Office 2007 upgrades. Surveys have found that fewer than half plan to adopt Vista in its first year of release.

That's largely because switching can be a complicated, costly process. Many organizations only recently upgraded to Office 2003.

And while Vista and Office may look better, a lot of the features are likely to be seen as nice-to-haves rather than must-haves.

"If you look at Vista, you say, 'What's the

killer app?'" said Forrester Research analyst Ted Schadler. "Somebody else will build a killer app on it, but until you get a killer app, you don't see the power of the platform."

His Forrester colleague Kyle McNabb, who tracks business computing, believes the most powerful new item from Microsoft won't be something PC users can see. It's Microsoft's server software — particularly the Sharepoint document-management service — that McNabb believes has been best reshaped.

This is no small matter. Together, Sharepoint, the Exchange e-mail offering and Office software rang up \$14.5 billion of Redmond's \$44.3 billion in revenue in the last fiscal year, which ended June 30. That exceeded Windows sales of \$13.2 billion.

These segments are so profitable — that combined \$27.7 billion from business software and Windows sales produced \$19.9 billion in operating income — that they all but float the company, letting Microsoft's entertainment and online divisions lose money.

Still, competitors have made important inroads — one reason that Microsoft stock remains cheaper today than when Windows XP launched in 2001.

Open-source offerings such as Zimbra, an e-mail service that competes with Microsoft Exchange, have grabbed customers with lower sales prices and a more flexible delivery method. Zimbra founder Satish Dharmaraj thinks the Office 2007 launch is a great opportunity for his company, since it forces companies to think about what to do with their e-mail systems.

Other rivals, including Google Inc., are increasingly hosting Office-like applications

over the Web for free, supported by ads. For now, that threat to Microsoft is somewhat muted, since most businesses probably would rather pay for software than let their workers be distracted by ads all day. Even so, Microsoft has been racing to develop ways to deliver its software over the Web as well.

And it's not just a bunch of gnats targeting Microsoft. IBM Corp. sells a range of productivity applications and Web services. Database leader Oracle Corp. has been maneuvering closer to Microsoft's territory by pledging to support open-source products.

Proof that Microsoft is watching closely came in the recent \$400 million cooperation pact it signed with Linux vendor Novell Inc., a deal aimed at strengthening Microsoft's hand against other open-source players. Even after the agreement was signed, however, Microsoft and Novell were squabbling over its details.

Microsoft's best chance of continued riches from the business sector likely lies in its products' ubiquity. Just about every PC user is familiar with Microsoft programs. That tends to make it safe for many companies, and a risk to use something else.

Of course, that ubiquity is also a hazard for Microsoft. Its software is the ripest possible target malicious hackers could exploit, so they do. And being everywhere often ties Microsoft's hands. Microsoft considered more radical changes to Vista, for example, but feared whether users and third-party software developers would be able to adapt.

This landscape means that "Microsoft's always going to be a half-step to a full step behind" many of its rivals, said McNabb at Forrester.

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Jesuits, archdiocese settle sex abuse cases

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Jesuit order in the Northwest has settled a lawsuit against the Rev. Michael Toulouse, a priest who taught at Seattle University from about 1950 to 1976, the year he died.

The Seattle Archdiocese has also recently reached settlements in some of its priest abuse cases, including three against the Rev. James McGreal, whom the Vatican has permanently barred from ministry.

The plaintiff in the Jesuit case, who sued in 2005, claims the abuse occurred in 1968 at a Jesuit residence at Seattle University when he was 12. He settled for \$350,000 dollars on Monday.

The Very Rev. John Whitney, head of the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesuits, said “we admitted the allegation from the very beginning. I said I believed the survivor suffered what he had talked about. Litigation was about just compensation.”

The Seattle Archdiocese settled the three lawsuits against McGreal for \$1.25 million last week. Previous suits against McGreal have ended with multimillion-dollar settlements, including a \$7.9 mil-

lion agreement reached in September 2003 with 15 alleged victims.

A major issue in the Jesuit case was whether province leaders had known before 1968 that Toulouse was a danger to children. At one point Whitney said the province did not know about the allegations against Toulouse until about the early 1990s.

But documents unearthed while the case was investigated indicated that some priests in the province, though not necessarily any living ones, had known since at least 1951 that Toulouse had had sexual contact with a minor.

Whitney said he was glad a settlement had been reached — not just because the matter was scheduled to go to trial in December, but because the plaintiff “clearly suffered something. I hope this can be a step toward healing.”

Plaintiff’s attorney Michael Pfau said he plans to file several more lawsuits against the Oregon Province on behalf of several others claiming they were abused by Toulouse.

There are about 30 to 50 pending claims against priests who are or were with the Oregon Province, which covers Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

Retailers kick-start the shopping season

SHOPPING, from page 1

one (a 20-inch conventional TV) for \$85 and said, what the heck, I’ll get that one, too.”

Meanwhile, Monica Midkiff, a 27-year-old homemaker from Peebles, Ohio, said she got up at 3:30 a.m. to go to Wal-Mart for a VTech game system.

“They usually cost about \$60, but this was on sale for \$30. That’s a deal,” she said.

Midkiff said she was on her way next to KB Toys and Toys “R” Us while her husband took care of their five children. She said she didn’t mind the crowded stores on Friday morning.

“That place was crazy — a madhouse,” she said.

Also at the Wal-Mart in Cincinnati was Clint Stapleton, 20, a construction worker from Mount Orab, who said he was happy with the deal he got on one of Wal-Mart’s featured items, a 32-inch LCD TV. He said he paid \$630 for a TV that usually costs about \$1,000.

“After I got that, I said, that’s enough, but I think I’ll still look for an Xbox somewhere,” Stapleton said.

In Albany, Ga., Cheryl Haley, 37, was among the 300 people lined up outside a Circuit City store when it opened at 5 a.m.

“This is the only thing on my little boy’s list,” said Haley, of Albany, Ga., pointing to the store circular advertising a \$299 laptop. “I couldn’t pay \$800 for it.”

She and her sister, Wendy Blount, 35, of nearby Lee County, argued over who earned the spot at the head of the line.

“I drove her here, so I’m first,” Blount said. Eric Gordon, 30, of Albany, arrived half an hour before the store opened — far too late to get one of the limited number of bargain computers.

“I should have stayed in bed and shopped online,” he said. He noted it was his first Black Friday shopping experience.

retailer, which promised its most aggressive price strategy ever this holiday season, is using heavily discounted TVs, such as a Viore 42-inch plasma TV for \$988, to attract shoppers to its doors for its 5 a.m. opening on Black Friday, so named because it is traditionally when a surge of shopping makes stores profitable for the year.

Meanwhile, Sears Holdings Corp.’s Sears, Roebuck and Co., which opened at 5 a.m. Friday, one hour earlier than a year ago, was giving out \$10 reward cards for the first 200 shoppers who showed up. Other early bird specials include Protron 37-inch LCD HDTVs for \$949.99 and 50 percent discounts on many toys. At Sears Holdings’ Kmart stores, shoppers will find 50 percent discounts on men’s and women’s outerwear as part of its early morning doorbusters.

While Black Friday officially starts holiday shopping, it’s generally no longer the busiest day of the season — that honor now falls to the last Saturday before Christmas. But stores see Black Friday as setting an important tone to the overall season: What consumers see that day influences where they will shop for the rest of the season.

Last year, total Black Friday sales dipped 0.9 percent to \$8 billion from the year before, dampened by deep discounting, according to Shopper Trak RCT Corp., which tracks total sales at more than 45,000 mall-based retail outlets. For the Thanksgiving weekend, total sales rose just 0.4 percent to \$16.8 billion.

Still, last year merchants ended up meeting their holiday sales projections, helped by a last-minute buying surge and post-Christmas shopping.

This year, analysts expect robust holiday sales gains for the overall retail industry, though the pace is expected to be slower than a year ago.

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Geothermal prospectors seeking energy in Idaho

JOHN MILLER

Associated Press Writer

MALTA, Idaho — Mormon ranchers in Idaho's Raft River Valley who hit gushers of hot water while drilling irrigation wells in the 1950s soon learned the corrosive, 300-degree liquid killed their crops.

Their sons and daughters who remain in this wind-washed country near the Utah border, where antelope outnumber humans, remember the steaming ponds were good for at least something: boiling farm animals.

"The locals would bring their chickens and pigs and scald the hair and feathers off them," recalls Paul Barnes, a Malta rancher. "When I was a kid, we actually cooked pinion nuts we gathered in the hills."

Barnes now returns to the geothermal area daily — not to roast pinions, but as a roughneck on a drilling crew boring 6,000 feet into the earth. Come next October, his employer, U.S. Geothermal, expects to begin producing electricity from a hot-water-fired power plant. Utility Idaho Power Co. has agreed to buy enough electricity to light 7,500 homes.

It's no coincidence U.S. Geothermal, which in August won \$34 million in financing from investment bankers at Goldman Sachs in New York, is now prospecting for geothermal energy on Idaho's high desert. Across the West, some 60 new geothermal projects are in the works, in addition to 61 existing sites in five states.

And for the first time since 1978, federal agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey are taking stock of the region's geothermal resources — on marching orders from a Congress trying to bolster America's energy independence.

"The public and the government all want renewable energy fast," Jack Peterson, who heads renewable energy projects in the West for the Bureau of Land Management, told The Associated Press. "It's a wake-up call. We're racing to get it done."

If all the projects were to be built, it would double U.S. installed geothermal power production to 5,000 megawatts — enough to power 3.8 million homes. The Western Governors Association estimated in June that 13,000 megawatts of electricity could be generated by geothermal sources "within a reasonable time frame."

In addition, more than 20 states have passed renewable energy standards, including Nevada, where 15 percent of electricity by 2013 must come from sources such as wind and geothermal. California in September enacted a greenhouse gas emissions law and demanded utilities produce a fifth of power from renewables by 2020.

"We are seeing a geothermal power renaissance in the United States," said Karl Gawell, director of the Geothermal Energy Association lobbying group in Washington, D.C.

Gawell is now pushing Congress to restore \$23 million for U.S. Department of Energy geothermal research programs and to extend renewable energy production tax credits to make startups like U.S. Geothermal more attractive to investors.

U.S. Geothermal wasn't the first to prospect for hot water in the southern Idaho desert.

Between 1970 and 1982, the Department of Energy spent some \$40 million to develop an experimental, five-megawatt power plant aimed at demonstrating the feasibility of generating electricity from moderately hot water.

Court confirms new uranium standards for groundwater

BY BARRY MASSEY

Associated Press Writer

SANTA FE, N.M. — A state regulatory decision to impose a more stringent health standard for uranium in groundwater has been upheld by the state Court of Appeals.

The New Mexico Water Quality Commission adopted the new standard in 2004, and the mining industry went to court to challenge the decision.

In an unanimous ruling issued Wednesday, the Court of Appeals concluded the commission followed state law in changing the standard and that "credible scientific data existed in the record to support its action."

The New Mexico Mining Association contended the standard was unattainable for cleaning up groundwater at uranium mines and mills.

There are no uranium mines currently operating in New Mexico but in the 1970s there were more than 50 in the state. However, there's a potential the industry could be revived because of rising uranium prices.

A lawyer for the Mining Association didn't return a telephone message seeking comment on the court's decision and whether it will be appealed to the state Supreme Court.

Eric Jantz, a lawyer for the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, said the court's ruling was important for health reasons and because it affirmed the commission's decision-making process.

"It's a standard that going to protect the

health of New Mexicans, not only the New Mexicans that are the most vulnerable to the effects of uranium discharges, such as Navajos and folks who live in the areas where uranium mining takes place or may take place, but also everybody," Jantz said.

"You make a mess, you can clean it up to a point where people can use the water again," he added.

The commission revised the standard to 0.03 milligrams per liter — the same as the Environmental Protection Agency's standard for drinking water — from five milligrams per liter. Discharges are prohibited that will cause uranium concentrations beyond the regulatory standard.

The tougher standard went into effect in September 2004 for new water discharges, but starting in June 2007 it becomes effective for past discharges, such as when a pollution abatement plan comes up for renewal before the state Environment Department.

The department asked the commission in 2002 to revise the human health standard for uranium. The agency initially asked for a standard tougher than the one adopted in 2004.

The Environmental Law Center represented the Eastern Navajo Dine Against Uranium Mining, which intervened in the court case and is fighting the possible revival of uranium mines on the Navajo reservation.

The group is concerned about possible groundwater pollution from proposed in-situ mining, in which chemicals are injected into the ground to release uranium.

From pigs to horses, feral animals roam Hawaii

BY TARA GODVIN
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Pillaging native forests, screeching through the night in suburban neighborhoods and rooting around in rural taro patches, wild animals of Hawaii's ancient past and globalized present abound across the islands.

Stealthy and sometimes nearly invisible, unwelcome species such as hybrid Polynesian pigs and a newly discovered gall wasp have eluded eradication efforts and taken hold in an ecosystem that was once home to only one terrestrial mammal, an insectivorous bat.

Some nonnative animals, like the vocally endowed coqui frog from Puerto Rico, arrived by accident.

Others — like the Big Island's wild horses and cattle, Molokai's resident goats and Honolulu's legions of feral felines roaming the Iolani Palace grounds — were released deliberately for hunting or broke free from the two-legged residents who brought them.

In the island's warm, moist, Petri dish-like environment, some of these interlopers — known as invasive species — have flourished and helped push out the species that evolved here.

Partly as a result of island interlopers, Hawaii today has more than 300 endangered and threatened plant and animal species accounting for about a quarter of the nation's protected species.

Humans have strengthened their defenses against the animals, spraying lethal citric acid to kill coqui frogs and setting out traps for pigs in suburban Oahu. And one Big Island taro farmer publicly acknowledged earlier this year shooting dead several wild horses that had damaged his crops.

Still, despite the annoyances and ecological upheaval these introduced animals and plants have caused here, not everyone feels they all need to be wiped out.

"I think semantics plays a big role in this.

The term 'invasive species' makes one think that the hordes are at our gates and threatening to destroy life as we know it, when actually the animals who are considered invasive for the most part had no say in coming to Hawaii," said Cathy Goeggel, Animal Rights Hawaii director.

Goeggel advocates fencing out and relocating the problem animals, such as rooting pigs.

Some sympathetic residents even help the survival of nonnative animals, setting out food for cats, including those known to prey upon colonies of native birds on Maui.

Hawaii wildlife officials, however, made their own stance on the feral pet issue clear earlier this month.

State-hired hunters on Nov. 6 shot and killed four dogs believed to have slain at least 113 fledgling wedge-tailed shearwaters inside an Oahu nature reserve.

"Pets that are abandoned or left to run loose in a Hawaiian ecosystem become predators with catastrophic results," said Peter Young, chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, following the shootings.

There are about 9,975 endemic species currently living in the islands. Another 1,100 endemic species once lived here but disappeared as invasive species showed up, said Earl Campbell, who heads the Invasive Species Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regional office in Honolulu.

Of the approximately 5,000 alien species in Hawaii, only about 300 to 500 have gone on to wreak significant damage and some, including agricultural plants, are even beneficial, he said.

Still, the problem of invasive species looms much larger in isolated island environments than on the mainland.

"If you look at factors that cause problems for species, invasives are important in many places. But here it is the primary reason right now that things are declining," Campbell said.

That's in part because the islands' native inhabitants have evolved without the defens-

es needed to fend off the aggressive attackers and competitors they now face, he said.

Mint in Hawaii isn't minty. Nettles don't have stings. And unlike their continental cousins, Hawaii's native variety of raspberry doesn't have prickles.

That means native raspberry plants aren't tough enough to withstand the ground foraging of nonnative animals such as pigs — which opens the door for foreign varieties of raspberries well-equipped to stand up against such adversaries.

"It's the mix of everything that builds and exacerbates a problem even further," Campbell said.

At the center of it all are people who need to recognize their mistakes and think more about how to make things better, said Christy Martin, spokeswoman for the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, a partnership that brings together a long list of federal, state and private agencies including The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service and the Hawaii Visitors Bureau.

ON THE NET

Animal Rights Hawaii:
<http://ww2.animalrightshawaii.com/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
<http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands/>

Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species:
<http://www.hear.org/cgaps/>

Oahu Invasive Species Committee:
<http://www.hear.org/oisc/>

"There's definitely a disconnect between caring for animals and setting up cat feeding stations, and protecting the ones that are native, that are supposed to be there, that need our help definitely more than the cats do," Martin said.

Human-introduced invasive animals began with rats that tagged along on Polynesians' voyaging canoes and continued in the mid to late 1800s when quick-spreading haole koa was planted to provide fodder for cattle in the islands, she said.

"If only we'd chosen better. And we say that again and again," she said.

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Yellowstone earthquake system being addressed

By The Associated Press

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. — The U.S. Geological Survey has developed an ambitious, decade-long plan to improve the geological monitoring system in Yellowstone, home to one of the world's largest active volcanic systems

The program has yet to be approved or funded. But Jake Lowenstern, a USGS geologist and head of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, said the idea is to begin talking about a better system.

"It's our way of thinking through what sort of techniques would be useful, what we do and why, and then where do we fall short and how we might improve," Lowenstern said.

Yellowstone already has 26 seismic stations. But there is concern that a large earthquake could so disrupt those instruments that they couldn't accurately record the event.

Also, some of the technology is outdated — it's analog, not digital. And the park doesn't have a redundant system to allow important geologic data to be relayed outside the park in case of a large-scale event.

The proposal calls for upgrading the seismic sensors. In addition, more gauges would be installed to monitor streams and potentially dangerous gases. Other devices placed

hundreds of feet underground would monitor groundwater, magma and shifting rocks.

Yellowstone has produced three of Earth's largest volcanic eruptions within the last 2 million years. Whether Yellowstone could produce another major eruption has been a topic of speculation.

"In terms of knowing whether an eruption is going to happen, we already have a pretty good system," Lowenstern said.

But geologists say that at least equal attention needs to be paid to hydrothermal explosions which, along with earthquakes and landslides, pose the greatest threat.

Hydrothermal explosions are caused by boiling groundwater. They create craters and toss rocks into the air. It's believed that at least one small hydrothermal explosion occurs in the park each year.

Hydrothermal explosions have created at least 20 large craters in the park over the last 15,000 years.

Meanwhile, about 2,000 earthquakes shake the park each year. Most are never felt, but a magnitude 7.5 earthquake at Hebgen Lake in 1959 — the largest recorded in the interior West — killed 28 people and caused extensive damage.

A federal report last year classified Yellowstone as a "high threat" system.

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New homes on the Range drawing fire

BY JUDITH KOHLER

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Homes and stores may someday be built where the military once practiced bombing raids southeast of Denver, but some environmental groups claim the planning has been rushed and the public hasn't had enough say.

The State Land Board is considering three proposals to build houses and businesses on roughly 3,000 acres of the former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range about 30 miles southeast of Denver. The plans include preserving open space.

A fourth proposal would preserve another 23,000 acres as open space. The Land Board manages 37 square miles of the 92-square-mile site.

Pam Kiely of Environment Colorado said the Land Board's planning process has been too quick and the comment period, which ends Friday, was too short for meaningful public input. Scheduling developer presentations on two days that included Election Day likely created conflicts for people, she said.

The online versions of the proposals were difficult to download and didn't contain the complete numbers of homes and other buildings planned, she said.

"This has been largely a very closed-door, in-the-boardroom type of process," Kiely said.

"For a project of this magnitude, with all its regional implications, there has been a profound lack of public involvement in this decision making," she said.

Melissa Yoder, the Land Board's manager for the project, disputed that characterization.

"We've been studying what the future uses of the property would be for over six years now," she said, and board members are under no deadline to choose a proposal.

The comment period isn't the public's only opportunity to have input, Yoder said.

"There are a lot of meetings that still have to take place. There's still a process we have to keep working through," she said.

Conservation groups have also questioned whether the board has adequately studied whether enough water is available for the hundreds of homes and businesses.

The development presents significant "economic, environmental and quality-of-life consequences" for the entire metro area, said Gregg Cassarini of the Colorado Environmental Coalition.

Questions have also been raised from within the Land Board. Former board member Pat Teegarden told The Denver Post in July he was forced off the panel because he criticized the way the agency was considering bids to develop Lowry.

Gov. Bill Owens' administration said Teegarden was asked to resign because of poor attendance and potential conflicts of interest posed by his work with a real estate development company.

Teegarden did not return calls.

The land in question is part of what started as an Army airfield, bombing and firing range in the late 1930s. Other branches of the military, including the Air Force, used the site for training until it was turned over to Denver in the 1960s for a landfill.

Portions of the landfill, in the northwest part of the site, were placed on a priority list of the country's most contaminated toxic waste sites in 1984. The Justice Department and Environmental Protection Agency approved an agreement on cleanup costs last year with Denver and companies that used the landfill.

Various state and federal agencies monitor health and environmental issues at Lowry. The Aurora Reservoir, some housing divisions and a conservation center are in the area. The Land Board leases some of its acreage for sand and gravel mining and oil and gas production.

The land is among about 3 million acres managed by the state board, whose members are appointed by the governor. As other states did, Colorado received the trust lands from the federal government upon statehood. Most of the money raised from sale or lease of the land goes to the public schools.

A law approved by voters in 1996 requires that some trust land be preserved as open space and that the board consider environmental values as well as profits when selling land.

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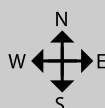
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Fellowship of rings begins with a 'Hello'

RINGS, from page 1

Tarzan up off the sand.

It's not surprising then that stuntmen come here to practice, including Holland Diaz, one of Tobey Maguire's stunt doubles in the soon-to-be-released "Spider-man 3."

"The cool thing about the rings is everybody's got their own style," said Diaz. "It's like dancing or skating."

But the rings are more than just a game or some kind of extreme stunt-double training ground. To the regulars, some of whom come for several hours each week, it is a way of life. For some, it is a mental release or a spiritual experience. For most, it is a community that provides support as strong as any family.

"They're all friends here," said Aaron Hedrick, a relative newcomer to the rings with only a few months' experience. "They all bring down blankets for each other and ice chests full of drinks."

"Everybody's really down to teach you, help you out," said Ali Moradi. "People don't really care what race you are, what religion you are. They just accept you for who you are."

Paul Scott has been swinging since 2000, when he saw an "attractive blonde" on the rings.

"I thought, this might be a sport I could enjoy," he said. "Now we've got, just over the years, all these people. Everybody kind of comes to it from wherever and they end up staying."

Santa Monica is one of only three places

in the country known to have a set of traveling rings — not to be confused with still rings. The other two are in Riverside Park in New York City and a campground in Ohio. Most ringers, or "swingers," as they alternately call themselves, had only heard of those two, but others may exist and have been forgotten.

During a fitness boom in the early 1900s, spas and health centers were built across the country, some including the "traveling" rings, often placed over pools. They got as far west as California, but then the spa business died down and most rings sets disappeared.

There are three sets of rings in Santa Monica, put up in 2000 as part of a renovation of the original "muscle beach" area. The largest set of rings hangs from a 75-foot structure with support posts and a top beam. The ten rings are spaced about 8 feet apart and hang 7 feet off the ground on chains. Swingers travel from one ring to the next by using their arms, legs and trunk to build momentum. The swivels on the chains allow swingers to spin around and use the rings creatively, according to swingaring.com, a Web site dedicated to the sport.

MAKING THE SCENE

Santa Monica's rings have been used for years, but the community of swingers only developed recently.

"Everybody used to come and do their own thing," Scott said. "We didn't talk to each other that much. Nobody was unfriendly, they just didn't say, 'Hi, how are



Jessica Roberts news@smdp.com

HANG TIME: Aaron Hedrick (right) assists Kimberly Fox with her form on the rings at the former Muscle Beach in Santa Monica. Fox describes the friendships that form there as 'organic.'

you?' But over time, you see somebody for weeks and weeks and months and months and after a while you ask their name."

From there, the community began to grow. "Then you're friends, right? You see each other every week, so you start talking," Scott said, "Then somebody new comes and you don't know if they're going to stay or not, but sometimes they do ... after a while you ask their name ... then they're like part of the group."

"Before that, I knew a handful of people, but then it blossomed and people started actively bringing them in," said Scott.

Kimberly Fox describes how the community came about as "organic."

In time, the group began to socialize after having played on the rings until dark.

"Slowly, we were just like, all right, sun's going down, what should we all do?" Hedrick said. "We all go get something to eat, we all go hang out... From there, we just always meet up."

"It's just bred a great new circle and network of friends," Hedrick added. "We all get together and it's like this army of insanely in-shape people — it's kind of odd."

The "army" often takes their act on the road, making use of anything and everything they can get their hands on, or their feet above, to do what they call "urban acrobatics."

"Any pole, railing, stop sign — anything they can find to swing off, hang off of," said Fox.

See RINGS, page 17

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CORE VALUE: Aaron Hedrick is a relative newcomer to the rings scene, having worked out there for a few months. A number of current and former gymnasts use the Santa Monica rings to stay fit.

Beach rings harken back to early 1900s

RINGS, from page 16

"Everybody'll just grab a piece of pavement or just walk across the street on their hands," much to the delight of waiting motorists.

"I think that the showman aspect of this is alive and well in a lot of the people," she said. "I think it's really fun and it's just like, 'hey, we know how to do all these cool things.'"

"I think a lot of us adults lose the child aspect and I think there's a lot of forever-young people down here," Fox said.

The community, which Scott estimates in the range of 50-75 regulars, continues to evolve.

"New people come in, they bring in a new feeling, and you see them improve," said Ahmad Saleh, who has been coming to the rings since 2002.

As with any tight-knit community, newcomers are often intimidated by the group's closeness, as well as their talents.

"I was really intimidated," said Ian Nankowski. "I just watched for like a month."

Once they put aside their own inhibitions, however, newcomers are welcomed and encouraged by regulars.

"Many different people teach you a lot of good stuff," said Saleh, a district manager for a computer company. Saleh lives in Culver City and comes to the rings at least four times a week. "A lot of them are gymnasts and stuff like that so they have a lot of good ideas and they're awesome teachers."

Nankowski, who has been coming to the rings for two years now, said it took him a long time to get comfortable.

"I didn't really get a good swing until maybe like three months in," he said. "Actually, I hadn't gotten really huge air until maybe six months ago."

The space for continuous learning appeals to many swingers.

"My philosophy of life, as is a lot of people's out here, is that there's no peak," said Fox. "There's no limit to what you can do. You can always push yourself further, try something new, get stronger, better and continue to grow, just like in life. And I think that this place is a great metaphor for that."

AT THE CORE

The rings are also an excellent workout, drawing former and current gymnasts, stuntmen, performers and martial artists. Others come with no experience at all. Anna Wills is an IT consultant and triathlete

from New Zealand who lives in Santa Monica. She tried the rings for the first time last month.

"It's so entertaining," she said. "It actually feels like you're flying when you're between the rings."

Hedrick said he added 12 pounds of muscle in four months: "This is the best shape of my life right now."

Scott, who turned 54 in October, took up the rings after his back gave out and he was diagnosed with cancer.

"I almost died," he said. "I was thinking, I don't want to do that. When I came back, I put everything — since I couldn't run anymore — all that effort into the rings, and I got really strong."

"I always had this great heart-lung-legs thing going, but nothing on the upper," he said. "Now I can do stuff I never would have thought I could do."

Chris Filkins knows something about tough times. He made his way to the rings after his marriage ended. His wife left with his daughter and he found himself without a home. After getting some money together, he bought skates and skated by the rings a few times before joining the community.

"It's a really great way of sort of putting yourself back together again," he said. "On the one hand, it's a completely singular event. You can't do it very well with other people, not like a team sport or anything, but on the other hand, it's very social because there's only one piece of equipment so everyone has to come out and see each other."

Filkins was a gymnast until age 16, competing at the state regional level, so the rings appealed to him.

"It's like flying and it engages every part of my body in a way that nothing else, except perhaps sex, does," he said. "It all comes from your core muscles ... if you exercise from your core, then every part of your body gets exercised."

Given the chance, swingers will wax philosophical about the rings.

"If it ended tomorrow, the experiences that I'm having with these people and being outside and breathing the air and working, making my body strong and my spirit strong and my mind strong..." Fox said. "That for me is what life is about."

"It just reminds you that you don't need that much to be happy," Nankowski said. "You have good people, the rings, good weather. Asking for much more seems to be kind of a sin."

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Girls spent months deconstructing Crystal

GIRL HOUSE, from page 3

who is being sexually harassed by her classmates. The room was located inside a cottage on the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside site on 14th Street and Pico Boulevard.

The process of creating Crystal's Room, from concept to reality, was documented by a film student at the University of Southern California. The students will view the 16-minute documentary, which will be targeted for non-profit women's organizations and schools, during a private screening on Monday.

In June, the students transformed the room to depict a scene in which an adolescent girl of about age 13 is expressing her fears and worries through artistic expression. To accomplish this, the students added items like a mirror that was scribbled on in red lipstick; a Scrabble board where the letters form provocative words and phrases; and a bed with tissues strewn about.

"What happened to her, most people don't understand that it really happens to people in real life more than they imagine," said Jacobius.

The room also included a giant diary where the girls wrote Crystal's entries about how a boy in class would make gestures or statements that would make her uncomfortable. The stories told in the diary were situations the four girls had either heard about or had witnessed themselves at school, said Kesa Kivel, a volunteer at the YWCA who conceptualized and coordinated the 10-month project.

"I'm not surprised it (sexual harassment) is the topic they

chose," Kivel said.

In fact, more than 80 percent of girls experience sexual harassment at school, as stated in a YWCA Santa Monica/Westside pamphlet.

Sexual harassment can have lasting effects on young girls, causing embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, poor grades and depression, according to the pamphlet.

Crystal's Room not only gave the students — Jacobius, eighth grader Angelica Malone, 13-year-old Kaitlyn Nickel, and a fourth student (whose name was made public for this article) — the opportunity to not only learn about feminist issues that might not be covered in their school curriculum, but to express their thoughts on the issue artistically.

"I loved installing Crystal's Room and writing the diary for her," said Malone on Tuesday. Malone's middle name, Crystal, was used for the character.

The installation was open for a public exhibition in June, when the girls gave tours of the room and asked visitors to record their thoughts in a guestbook.

While the experience of creating Crystal's Room and teaching others about the issue was gratifying, discussing sexual harassment initially made Jacobius uncomfortable, as it is something rarely mentioned.

"A lot of girls are shy about this topic," she said. "It's not something people usually talk about."

Inspired by Judy Chicago and Miriam Shapiro's 1972 art exhibit titled "Womanhouse" — an installation in a mansion in Hollywood where each room dealt with a feminist issue —

Kivel decided to create a curriculum addressing adolescent girl issues after imagining how a "girl house" would look.

Beginning in September 2005, Kivel began meeting with the four girls weekly to discuss feminist issues such as the wage gap, the "glass ceiling" and other forms of discrimination.

The girls also explored the issues through collages and other artistic means, such as the "North Star Values," a star where the girls wrote their guiding values in life. For example, one student wrote her guiding value in life was to be brave. The idea derived from the sailor's practice of using the North Star for guidance.

Another mini-project looked at different employment statistics, feeding the argument that the students live in a male-dominated society.

"Although I have the ambition to help empower girls and to change the status quo and help make a more equitable world, the heart of it is the girls," Kivel said about the project on Friday. "It's a blessing to be in their presence."

The 10-month project taught many things about the differences between the way men and women are treated, the students said. The experience opened their eyes to a world of sexism.

"I started noticing more examples of harassment and discrimination," Malone said. "Society is sexist. It favors men over women."

To receive a copy of the documentary, contact Kesa Kivel at kesakivel@earthlink.net

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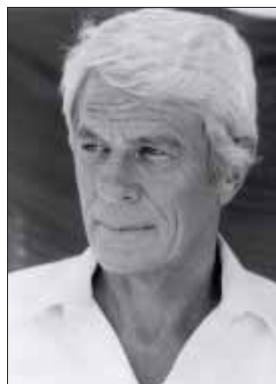
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Christmas concert with a 'Mission'

By Daily Press staff



PETER GRAVES

"A Christmas Celebration" — the popular holiday concert featuring the Santa Monica College Concert Chorale and other groups — will be held at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3 at the First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th St., Santa Monica.

The concert will feature actor Peter Graves as special guest narrator.

Featured will be "Schubert's Magnificat," "Vivaldi's Gloria," and other carols for the ever-popular seasonal music with audience sing-along.

Performing with the SMC Concert Chorale will be the Chancel Choir of the First United Methodist Church, Los Angeles Concert Orchestra and Spirit of L.A. Ringers (on handbells). The conductor is SMC music professor James E. Smith.

Feature soloists will be soprano Barbara Smith, mezzo soprano Erin Wood, tenor Rolando Sanz and bass William Trabold.

The suggested donation is \$15 general admission and \$10 for students and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 393-8258.

Main Street unfurls an extravaganza

By Daily Press staff

Main Street invites its friends, neighbors and visitors to join in its party extravaganza to celebrate the holidays, on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Over 35 businesses on Main Street will be having parties featuring holiday beverages, snacks, sweets, door prizes and more. Most of the parties will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Check www.mainstreetsm.com for details.)

The traditional Main Street tree lighting festivities will begin at 6 p.m. on the lawn of the California Heritage Museum at 2612 Main, just south of Ocean Park Blvd. This year will feature The Caroling Company and Santa.

After the tree lighting there will be a candlelight walk from the museum to Edgemar's famous Shopping Cart holiday tree, where there will be more entertainment from The Off Their Jingle Bell Rockers. Then the Rockers, Caroling Company, additional carolers, and Santa will stroll the street and entertain at the parties after the tree lighting.

'LA Mode' fashion show spotlights student works

By Daily Press staff



The Santa Monica College Fashion Program is pleased to present "LA Mode," an informal show spotlighting the cutting-edge designs of its students in four categories — red carpet, cocktail, resort and contemporary.

The free show will be held at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5 in the patio outside Room 111 of the SMC Business Building, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Altogether, more than 90 garments will be shown — all designed and created by approximately 25 students. Students will also model the garments.

For information, call (310) 434-4621.

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Criticism at its height over the holidays

SHORT PEOPLE, from page 1

Frankel ended up falling victim to an eating disorder.

"There was a lot of pressure on me growing up," she said. "My parents considered growth hormone therapy. There was just a lot of focus on my height, so much so that I felt the only way I could make everyone happy was to stay really thin."

"Short women were supposed to be very petite and that belief spawned my eating disorder."

The holidays can be an uncomfortable time for those returning home, only to hear critiques and criticism from relatives. It can be especially difficult for those like Frankel, who suffered from low self-esteem, particularly when grandmothers or great aunts are constantly sizing up their offspring. By doing so, the things they say and do may harm their loved ones, ranging from avoidance to inappropriate medical suggestions.

Frankel, a Massachusetts social worker and expert in the field of eating disorders, is looking to help those suffering from heightism and raise awareness about the "last acceptable prejudice" with her new book "Measuring Up: A Memoir About Short Stature and Inner Growth."

In her writing, Frankel, an advisor to the National Organization for Short-Statured Adults, shares the difficulties of living in a world in which stereotypes are based on gender and size. She also explores her life and the damaging choices she made to compensate for her feelings of not measuring up.

Frankel likewise touches on the pharmaceutical industry and the expansion of growth hormone therapy and painful leg-lengthening surgery.

"Imagine how difficult it is for somebody when their own families don't understand how devastating it can be to be constantly reminded how short you are if you haven't grown since you were 10 or 11," Frankel said. "You have this feeling that you're always the child. It's hard. A comment here or there

isn't bad, but when someone is constantly reminded, whether it be on the playground or corporate boardroom, it can add up.

"At the holidays, relatives will often focus on how much you've changed physically, instead of what your interests are or what you love to do," Frankel added. "It's really all about your body size or your height. You get comments like, 'When you are going to grow?' or 'Look at cousin Joe. He's two years younger than you and three times your size.' Sometimes that can be the straw that breaks the camel's back."

PUSHING BACK

Research has shown that shorter people — under 5-feet, 7-inches for men and 5-feet, 2-inches for women — are often treated differently than those who are taller; the exception being taller women, who generally have a harder time dating or receiving promotions. Shorter people are also more likely to be victims of bullying and research has tied this to lower levels of achievement later in life.

Then there comes discrimination in the workplace. Many jobs require, or at least favor, people who are tall, including many manual labor jobs, professional sports and the military, with pilots having to be between 64 and 77 inches tall.

While studies have shown that short people are typically paid less than taller people, generally, height discrimination is more covert, with people being passed over for promotions or denied jobs.

A survey of Fortune 500 corporate executives in 2005 found that they were, on average, 6-feet tall — 3 inches taller than the average American man. Similar surveys have uncovered that less than 3 percent of CEOs were below 5-feet, 7-inches tall, and that 90 percent were above average height.

Being short also plays a role in politics. Of the 43 U.S. presidents, only five have been more than an inch below the average height, according to psychologist John Gillis, author of "Too Small, Too Tall."

Moreover, of the 54 presidential elections,

only 13 have been won by the shorter candidate, and only 11 times has the shorter candidate received more popular votes. Abraham Lincoln has the distinction of being the tallest president at 6-feet, 4-inches tall.

SHORT, LIGHT AND HANDSOME?

Heightism may also be a factor in dating preferences. Researchers in London studied thousands of married men and bachelors and found that the height of a man is a major factor in sexual attractiveness. Taller men were more likely to be married and have more children than shorter men. Quantitative studies of women-for-men personal advertisements have shown strong preferences for tall men, with a large percentage indicating that a man significantly below the average was unacceptable.

Conversely, studies have shown that women of below average height are more likely to be married and have children than women who are above average height. Some researchers said the reasons for this could be that shorter women become fertile earlier and that shorter women make their partners feel taller, and therefore, more manly.

"If you look back thousands of years, the successful hunters and gatherers were big men," Frankel said. "If you were hunting, it was advantageous to be taller. It was a matter of survival, but yet the bias still exists, despite the fact that we buy our food in grocery stores. We don't need big strong hands to cure a computer virus."

"With this focus on the external we are neglecting the internal," Frankel said. "That leads to short men abusing steroids, more children being subjected to hormone treatment and more money being spent on products that claim to make you taller, but really don't."

Frankel said she is concerned about the increase in children taking drugs to grow taller, as well as those who elect to have leg-lengthening surgery, a painful procedure that includes breaking the shins and inserting a crank to stretch the bones as they heal.

Growth occurs in the space between the end of bones. In that space there is cartilage. As a person ages, the cartilage is replaced with bone tissue and the bone grows in length. Eventually, the end of the bone fuses with the bone shaft and a person cannot grow taller. This occurs for most people by their late teens, but can continue up until 20 or so years of age.

"We need to stop asking the question of how to make short people taller and instead ask ourselves how we can confront the prejudice and change the culture," Frankel said. "Right now, all we are doing is medicalizing a social prejudice. We would never say it is hard to be African American in America, so why not take a black child and make them lighter. That's absurd. Why do we think we can do that with one's height?"

The media has played a significant role in perpetuating heightism, Frankel said. Oftentimes, shorter characters provide the comic relief and are often portrayed as being unsuccessful in career and romance, or they are unlikeable tyrants in need of compensating for their lack of height. The unpopular, but girl-crazy, Bud Bundy from "Married With Children," and Radar O'Reilly from "M*A*S*H" are good examples, as are the hot-headed Louis De Palma from "Taxi" and the cranky Cosmo Spacely from the cartoon series "The Jetsons."

Randy Newman's song "Short People" deals with heightism in a satirical, light-hearted manner as a protest against bigotry, but many people have found the song offensive. Fall Out Boy's song, "Short, Fast and Loud" is about a girl who dumps her boyfriend because he is too short for her.

"Being short is definitely something that is ridiculed and made fun of. It is not something that is taken seriously," Frankel said. "Why the glorification of tall and the stigmatization of short? We need to fight for everyone, of all sizes."

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Bombings trigger deadliest day in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A car bomb killed at least 22 people in northern Iraq on Friday, and police guarded funeral processions for the more than 200 people killed a day earlier in the deadliest attack so far in the war in Iraq.

The explosion occurred outside a car dealership in Tal Afar, 260 miles northwest of Baghdad, said police Brig. Gen. Sabah Hamidi.

Meanwhile, hundreds of men, women and children beat their chests, chanted and cried as they walked beside vehicles carrying the caskets of their loved ones killed in Thursday’s dramatic attack.

Baghdad remained under a 24-hour curfew aimed at stopping widespread sectarian violence. But Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, himself a Shiite, ordered police to guard the processions carrying victims of Thursday’s attacks by Sunni Muslim insurgents in Sadr City to Najaf, the holy Shiite city where they will be buried.

“God is great. There is no God but Allah. Mohammed is the messenger of Allah,” about 300 mourners chanted as they beat their chests while walking through the Sadr City slum alongside

slow-moving cars and minivans carrying 16 wooden caskets tied to the rooftops.

Once the processions reached the edge of Sadr City in northeastern Baghdad, the cars and minivans left most of the mourners behind for the 100-mile drive south to Najaf, a treacherous journey that passes through many checkpoints and areas controlled by Sunni militants in Iraq’s so-called “Triangle of Death.”

Three mortar rounds exploded Friday morning near the Abu Hanifa mosque, Sunni Islam’s most important shrine in Baghdad, wounding one guard, said its sheik, Samir al-Obaidi. But the rest of Baghdad remained mostly quiet, police said.

In Thursday’s well-coordinated attack, Sunni insurgents blew up five car bombs and fired mortars in Sadr City, killing at least 202 people and wounding 252 in an attack that sent the U.S. ambassador racing to meet with Iraqi leaders in an effort to contain the growing sectarian war.

Shiite mortar teams quickly retaliated, firing 10 shells that badly damaged the Abu Hanifa mosque in the Azamiya neighborhood and killed one person.

Eight more rounds slammed down near

the offices of the Association of Muslim Scholars, the top Sunni Muslim organization in Iraq, setting nearby houses on fire. Two other mortar barrages on Sunni neighborhoods in west Baghdad killed nine and wounded 21, police said late Thursday.

The bloodshed underlined the impotence of the Iraqi army and police to quell determined sectarian extremists at a time when the United States appears to be considering a move to accelerate the hand-over of security responsibilities. President Bush plans to visit the region next week to discuss the security situation with al-Maliki.

“We condemn such acts of senseless violence that are clearly aimed at undermining the Iraqi people’s hopes for a peaceful and stable Iraq,” White House spokesman Jeanie Mamo said in Washington.

On Thursday night, Iraq’s government imposed the curfew in the capital and also closed its international airport to all commercial flights. The transport ministry then took the highly unusual step of closing the airport and docks in the southern city of Basra, the country’s main outlet to the vital shipping lanes in the Gulf.

Leaders from Iraq’s Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish communities issued a televised appeal for calm after a hastily organized meeting with U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad. Al-Maliki also went on state TV and blamed Sunni radicals and followers of Saddam Hussein for the attacks on Sadr City.

The coordinated car bombings — three by suicide drivers and two of parked cars — billowed black smoke up into clouds hanging low over blood-smeared streets jammed with twisted and charred cars and buses.

Hospital corridors and waiting rooms were awash in blood and mangled survivors of bombs that struck at 15-minute intervals in the sprawling Shiite slum.

Iraq is suffering through a period of unparalleled violence.

The U.N. said Wednesday that 3,709 Iraqi civilians were killed in October, the most in any month since the war began 44 months ago, and a figure certain to be eclipsed in November. The U.N. said citizens were fleeing the country at a pace of 100,000 each month, and that at least 1.6 million Iraqis have left since the war began in March 2003.

Many polygamists don’t want to be lumped in with Jeffs

BY JENNIFER DOBNER
Associated Press Writer

ST. GEORGE, Utah — A criminal court case here paints the leader of a southern Utah-based polygamist sect as a controlling abuser, who breaks up families and forces young girls to marry men sometimes decades their senior.

But Warren Jeffs and his Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints aren’t the only polygamy practicing faith in this western state — and some say they don’t like the negative perceptions the case heaps on their lifestyle.

“I think everyone that lives the lifestyle now is guilty by association,” said Rachel Young, 45, a polygamist wife and mother of 12, who is a member of the Davis County Cooperative Society.

Polygamy is illegal under Utah state law and federal law also bans the practice.

Opponents say the lifestyle is abusive to women and children, often leaving them in poverty, without emotional support from a husband or father, and without the ability to leave if they choose.

“We believe that they are guilty by association, because they are all essentially doing the same thing,” said Vicky Prunty, director of Tapestry Against Polygamy, a group that helps women leaving the practice. “It’s a lifestyle with a lack of choices that is hurting people.”

Jeffs, 50, is the leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a polygamist sect with roots in the teachings of early Mormonism. He is charged with two first-degree felony

counts of rape as an accomplice for his role in the arranged marriage of a 14-year-old girl and her 19-year-old cousin in 2001.

Jeffs was in 5th District Court on Tuesday for a hearing to determine if there’s enough evidence to send the case to trial. The proceedings ended without a resolution, however, and will resume Dec. 14.

Attorneys for Jeffs said the case is not about rape, but targets polygamy and is the continuation of 165 years of religious persecution.

Washington County prosecutors maintain polygamy isn’t the issue, because the woman’s cousin had no other wives.

Polygamists say that detail gets lost in the frenzy of media reports, which also fail to differentiate between the FLDS and other polygamist groups.

Polygamy came to Utah in the 1800s when members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known as Mormons, settled the Salt Lake valley. The practice was abandoned in 1890 as a condition of statehood, although some members refused to accept the change, going underground to continue the practice.

The legacy of that split is an estimated 37,000 self-described “Mormon fundamentalists” who live in Utah and other Western states, according to a survey by Principle Voice, a pro-polygamy advocacy and education group in Utah. Some are members of organized groups or churches while others remain independent.

Those contacted by The Associated Press report they don’t arrange or force marriages, especially for young girls. They also don’t

condone abuse of any kind. And they say women are not prevented from leaving if they choose, nor are children expected to become polygamists as adults.

“But it’s hard to tell really what’s going on in some of these groups that haven’t been targeted. There is so much secrecy,” Prunty said, who applauds the case against Jeffs. “I think it’s also very easy to look in someone else’s backyard and say they are the ones committing the abuse.”

Utah isn’t the only place where polygamy is being practiced.

Nationwide, there’s also a growing number of fundamentalist Christian polygamists who claim no early Mormon roots and don’t belong to any organized faith, said Mark Henkel of TruthBearer.org, a polygamy rights organization.

Socially, most polygamists try to keep a low-profile in society. Since the Jeffs arrest in August that instinct to keep “our heads lower,” has been heightened, Henkel said.

“I have to protect my family more than ever,” he said in a telephone interview from Maine.

Like Utah polygamists, Henkel said polygamists without Mormon roots disavow Jeffs and the crimes he’s accused of. Henkel is disturbed that the FBI considered Jeffs such a threat that in May they named him to the agency’s Ten Most Wanted fugitives list along with such notorious criminals as terrorist Osama Bin Laden. The designation implies that polygamy is a Top 10-level crime, he said.

“It’s outrageous,” he said. “If you took out the word polygamy and put any other —

homosexual or Jewish — and tied it to this very very important list, the (groups) would be screaming political hate speech.”

Utah polygamists fear the immediate impact of Jeffs’ case could set back work they’ve done over the past five years to forge a more open relationship with Utah authorities that were designed to root out criminal abuses and help families access state services.

Young is concerned about the effect on her kids. In 1953, when Arizona officials raised the FLDS border town of Colorado City, Ariz., dozens of parents were arrested and their kids put in state custody.

“For the kids who are old enough to understand, there’s a lot of fear,” Young said. “They don’t want to be taken away.”

On some level it’s hard for polygamists to know how to react, said Marianne Watson, a historian raised in polygamy.

Some want to more publicly separate themselves from Jeffs by denouncing him, but there is also sympathy for his obedient followers with whom there is a shared belief and often family ties.

Watson said she’s angry. She believes Jeffs’ four-year rule over his faith is dismantling their culture.

Jeffs is revered as prophet who communicates with God and can strip followers of their eternal salvation. He is known for dismantling families on a whim by kicking out unworthy men and boys and reassigning women and children to new husbands and fathers.

“I have seen him turn a community inside out,” Watson said. “To see what he’s done is such a crime ... and they can’t prosecute him for that.”

Walking to the nearest newsstand increases circulation.

Santa Monica Daily Press

FOOTBALL

Brooks is looking to get Raiders offense on track

JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Aaron Brooks believes he can be a spark in what remains of a season that has featured few highlights for the Oakland Raiders.

He knows he has no choice but to do something positive now that he's the starting quarterback again.

Brooks helped Oakland make noticeable strides in last Sunday's 17-13 loss to the Chiefs in Kansas City, his long-awaited return after being sidelined for seven games with a strained muscle in his chest. Brooks will start again Sunday at AFC West-leading San Diego.

"We needed the energy, we needed the enthusiasm," Brooks said Wednesday. "We just haven't had that. So, it was important for me to bring that and show that to my teammates. But, as the course of the game went along, it was all even-keeled."

Still, Oakland (2-8) has managed only one offensive touchdown in the second half all season — and it wasn't last week with Brooks behind center.

While the mobile Brooks was able to avoid the type of punishment from opposing defenses that did in second-year pro Andrew Walter, he made a costly mistake late. Brooks led the Raiders on three consecutive first-half scoring drives before throwing an interception in the end zone in the final minute.

Randy Moss was the intended target, and the star receiver just watched and dropped his hands to his sides as Brooks got picked off. Only three balls were thrown in Moss' direction and he is coming off a game with no catches for just the second time since he

joined the Raiders before last season.

Clearly frustrated with Oakland's lack of success, Moss has hinted he wants out.

While his teammates know what they're getting with No. 18, defensive tackle Warren Sapp figures Moss should suck it up until the end of the season and then deal with his own business.

"I told you all this a month and a half ago, you have to take Moss with Moss. You have to take everything that comes with it," Sapp said Wednesday. "You get way more positives than you get negatives. ... You're not going to get him to understand that there's 57 other guys in here trying to get this job done, too, so if you have an issue with upstairs or whatever the hell it may be, you have a month and a half. That's six weeks. Sit down, shut up and let's play football, and then go talk to those people about whatever you got going. But you're not going to get that, so, so be it."

"One guy don't make my world go 'round."

Coach Art Shell didn't mind Sapp's outspokenness.

"That's not all bad," Shell said after practice. "It's good. Players should take care of each other. That's part of being a leader, and part of accountable for what you do."

As expected, the Raiders' offense took another hit Wednesday, when starting running back LaMont Jordan said he won't play again this season because of a torn medial collateral ligament in his left knee that won't require surgery. Shell said he would likely be placed on injured reserve soon.

"I have to get ready to return to the football team next year," Jordan said. "Not to be selfish, but right now I have to take care of myself."

BASKETBALL

Powe is still a big presence as Bears look to fill the void

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

BERKELEY, Calif. — Leon Powe's name comes up often these days during California basketball practices. No matter that he's now a rookie with the Boston Celtics.

How are the Golden Bears going to replace one of the Pac-10's top players? Who is going to pick up the rebounding load? And how about his scoring?

Coach Ben Braun and his staff are quick to remind their players of what's in store without the second-team All-American: Everybody must contribute more if the Bears are to return to the NCAA tournament.

"They told us we really needed to get rebounds to make up for Leon," starting freshman forward Ryan Anderson said. "With his presence gone, a lot of teams are going to be attacking down low. ... I know we can make up for the double-digit rebounding loss."

Powe, 6-foot-8 and 240 pounds, averaged 20.5 points and 10.1 rebounds in his first season back following a knee injury that sidelined him all of the 2004-05 season.

"I just think we have to be tougher," said senior point guard and leader Ayinde Ubaka, who came to Cal with Powe as freshmen after playing against each other in high school in nearby Oakland. "Last year I depended on Leon a lot. I didn't go to the boards and waited for the outlet."

Ubaka acknowledges they all were pro-

grammed that way — get out of the way and let Powe do his thing. That won't work now. DeVon Hardin will have to do more.

Anderson already been a spark. He scored 20 or more points in each of the first three games, including 25 on 9-for-15 shooting with five 3-pointers in a rout of Santa Clara on Monday night.

Cal went 20-11 last season, finishing third in the Pac-10, reaching the conference tournament title game for the first time and earning its first NCAA berth in three years. This year, the Bears are picked to finish fifth in the league. They play in the Great Alaska Shootout, starting Thursday.

Hardin, the starting big man and most experienced post player, hears questions from friends and around campus about whether he can guarantee 20 points and 10 rebounds a night as Powe did.

"Leon did get the majority of the touches. I knew my role: This is Leon's show," Hardin said. "I do know that I'm going to be more of a focal point. I feel extra responsibility and pressure. I put that on myself."

Hardin started all but one game last season as a sophomore, averaging 7.3 points and 6.6 rebounds.



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SURF REPORT

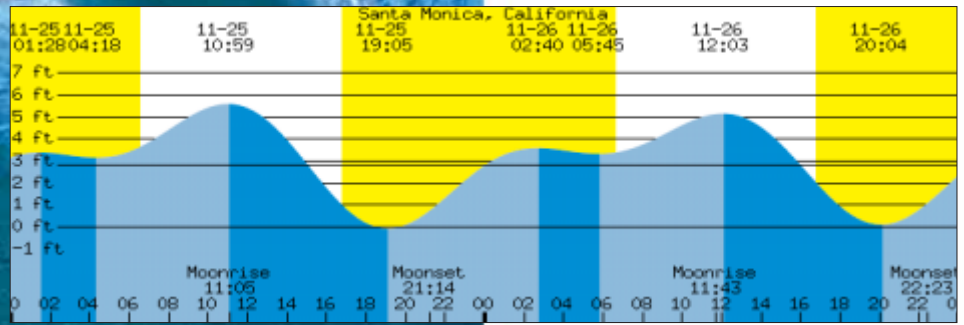
SURF CONDITIONS

SWELL FORECAST (3-6 FT)
This weekend we're expecting a dramatic change in swell with size dropping to waist to chest high at best at west facing breaks; south facing breaks are looking at knee high sets.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
NW BACKS OFF THROUGH THE WEEKEND...
NW DUE EARLY NEXT WEEK BUT RAIN CHANCE IN THE FORECAST...
MODERATE SW DUE ON THE 30TH...

WATER TEMP: 64°

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks as to the ending date of

November 18, 2006

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills — 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0
- Number of wet days — 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 34 / 35
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 12 / 35

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachness and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Escalante Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trabancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildfire Rd. (private)	A	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	ns
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Selentine Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marine Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Serfider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns
Serfider Beach (beach location)- daily	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	D	ns
Pine Creek at Los Tunes County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bell Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Palga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Tenesca Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsaugua)	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restroom)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Ross Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Tapsell St.	D	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- Margaret tower	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Belluna Creek mouth	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	A	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW jetty)	D	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	ns

LEGEND

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

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

ns — no sample taken

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



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

Say yes, Libra

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic ★★★★★ Positive
★★★ Average ★★ So-So ★ Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Use the first half of the day for that which is heartfelt and important. Time is of the essence today. In the p.m., lounge or do some mental relaxation. You'll discover answers and solutions. With some downtime, you will perk up in the near future. Tonight: What would relax you the most?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others count on you to seize the moment and run with the ball. This approach might be difficult but worthwhile. You could hit a home run this afternoon if you zoom in on what you want. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Gather information this morning. What you conclude might have a very strong impact on your attitude and the events that ensue. Make sure you are on the right path, for your sake and for everyone else's. Tonight: Prepare to be in demand.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Take the high road, but be aware of a partner's strong feelings. Make the right choice, and you'll get the right results. Don't question what is happening; simply go with the moment and events. You will be happier. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Sometimes you might need to be more creative or inventive. A partnership can be an unusual stimulus. Together the two of you can create what each of you cannot alone. Work with this person - be it in your personal or professional life. Tonight: Say yes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Conclude any key projects before the afternoon, if possible. As the noon hour passes, others seek you out and/or you will want to be more social. Others appreciate what you offer, but at the same time you could be overwhelming. Tonight: Let others make the first move.

Born Today

Musician Jimi Hendrix (1942),
Singer Eddie Rabbit (1941),
Actor, martial artist Bruce Lee (1940)



Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to listen more carefully to what is being offered. Your imagination goes wild thinking and evaluating. Let it. Later, you will have a strong basis for action. You could be overwhelmed by all the calls. Tonight: Say yes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You might be more anchored than you think. You are coming from a more dynamic point of view than in the past. You have many ideas and styles. Put on your creative hat, take action and move forward. Tonight: Happy as a cat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

HHHH A lot of information drops on your plate. Your ability to sort out relevant facts comes forward. You might want to carefully rethink a decision. Your ability to move forward might be somewhat curtailed this afternoon. Tonight: Remain optimistic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Slow down and make sure details are well-strung-together. Sometimes you might not be able to handle everything on your plate. You might want to review some decisions or ideas that become evident later in the day. Tonight: Tap into your innate resourcefulness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You wake up in the pink. Follow through on this attitude and be more optimistic. Situations don't have to become complicated. An idea might cost more than you'd anticipated. Follow someone else's lead. Tonight: Pay bills.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Take your time getting going this morning. If you feel out of sorts, understand that you aren't alone. By the afternoon, you will be much more yourself. Schedule as much as you can for the p.m. Think twice about a request or offer, as good as it might seem. Tonight: A must appearance.

Happy Birthday

Spirit and energy merge this year, making it hard to deny you what you want. Cruise into this birthday year knowing that you are about to enter a new 11-year luck cycle. You might want to transform your attitude and behavior. Opportunities will develop if you are ready to take a hard look at what you want. If you are single, you'll meet people by breezing through your life and not looking for "the one." You will draw many different people into your life.

Feed your lifestyle. Right here. Right now.



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Make benefit

Kazakh writer nominates ‘Borat’ for national honor

A leading Kazakh writer has nominated actor SASHA BARON COHEN for a national award for popularizing Kazakhstan. Novelist Sapabek Asip-uly called on the Kazakh Club of Art Patrons to give Cohen its annual award, according to a letter published by the Vremya newspaper Thursday.

Cohen's fictional Kazakh character Borat “has managed to spark an immense interest of the whole world in Kazakhstan — something our authorities could not do during the years of independence,” said Asip-uly, who chairs the writers' guild “The Land and Destiny of Kazakhs.” Authorities in the ex-Soviet

republic have been enraged by Borat's unflattering portrayal of Kazakh life in the spoof documentary, “Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit of Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan.” “If state officials completely lack a sense of humor, their country becomes a laughing stock,” Asip-uly said.

The film, following Borat on a journey across America to report to his homeland on its culture and lifestyles, has become a runaway hit and generated controversy for its misogynist and racist scenes. Dspite the film's worldwide success, Cohen has not received recognition in Kazakhstan, Asip-uly said.

The award of the Kazakh Club of Art Patrons was established in 2005. Asip-uly is known for novels describing the Russian colonization of Kazakh lands and the Stalinist purges that decimated Kazakhstan's political and cultural elite in the 1930s.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Here’s looking at Bergman

A small Swedish town is searching for a bride-to-be who looks like INGRID BERGMAN to re-enact the actress's first wedding in 1937. The search was initiated by the folklore society in Stode, 235 miles north of Stockholm, to mark the 70th anniversary of Bergman's wedding to Petter Aron Lindstrom in the town church. “We’re looking for a Swedish look-alike, and it’s going to be a real wedding — there won’t be any cheating — and we’ll pay for the wedding dress and dinner,” said Gertrud Svensson, a deputy member of the society. The wedding is planned for summer 2007 and, aside

from featuring a look-alike bride and wedding dress, guests will be invited to dine on the original porcelain at the wedding party. The groom does not necessarily have to resemble Lindstrom, who came from Stode. So far, the guest-list includes the daughter of Bergman and Lindstrom, Pia Lindstrom, as well as other family members living in Stode. Bergman's films include “Casablanca,” “Notorious,” and “Anastasia.” She won three Academy Awards and married three times, including to Italian director Roberto Rossellini. Bergman died of cancer in 1982 at the age of 67.

AP

Tyler drawn to ‘Strangers’

Actress LIV TYLER says when she first saw the title of the script for her new film, “The Strangers,” she thought it was a comedy. Turns out it was a thriller about a couple trying to survive when three masked strangers invaded their home. “I had stacks of scripts on the plane,” she told the Morning News for Thursday's editions. “I liked the title of this one because it sounded like a comedy. After reading the first three pages, I was stuck on the script and called my agent and said ‘Please get it for me. I want to be in this movie.’ “ She has been in Florence making “The Strangers,” costarring Scott Speedman, since

Oct. 10. Filming is expected to be finished Dec. 4 and the film is scheduled for release next October. Tyler took last year off after the birth of her first child, Milo, with husband, Royston Langdon. She said she returned to acting because her time off made her realize how much she liked her work. Calling it a “reflective period,” Tyler said, “That year off helped me realize I love what I do.” Tyler, daughter of Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler, played the elf princess Arwen in “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy. Her screen credits also include “Jersey Girl” and “Armageddon.”

AP

‘Seinfeld’ star looking to make amends for his racist routine

RICHARDS, from page 3

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said in a statement Wednesday that the tirade and anti-Semitic comments by Mel Gibson earlier this year point to a pervasive trend in American culture, and that Richards' declaration “is indicative of the type of denial that too often accompanies racist rhetoric.” Rubenstein, whose media relations firm specializes in “crisis management” according to the firm's Web site, said he had never met or spoken to Richards before the actor called him. “He convinced me that he was sincere in his repentance and would do what’s right,” Rubenstein said. Clients of Rubenstein’s firm include Amazon.com, the New York Yankees, ABC Inc., Walt Disney Co., Time Inc., News Corp., Columbia University, the NAACP Image

Awards and Bloomberg L.P., according to its Web site. “I’ve been very involved in the African-American community for 25 to 30 years,” Rubenstein continued. “It would be a tragedy if this exacerbated our race relations. I hope I can help. ... It’s always been an effort on my part to improve African-American and Jewish ethnic relations.” As for reports that Richards shouted out anti-Semitic remarks during another standup comedy routine in April, Rubenstein confirmed that Richards did, but that he was only role-playing. “He’s Jewish. He’s not anti-Semitic at all. He was role-playing, he was playing a part. He did use inappropriate language, but he doesn’t have any anti-Semitic feelings whatsoever,” Rubenstein said. “Michael says that he has a very hot temper, and that he says inappropriate things from time to time. Yes, there’s no excuse for that.”

RUNWAY ROCKER

Like his voice, MICK JAGGER'S wardrobe is still rocking after all these years. His sexagenarian frame hasn't missed a beat when it comes to fashion. Whether it's tight shirts or jeans, Jagger never fails to impress audiences with his style. “It doesn't matter if you're starting out or you're doing it for years,” Jagger told The New York Times in Thursday's editions. “There's no point in having a huge dress-up if you're playing a 500-seat club. And if you're playing for 50,000 people, there's no point in wearing rags.” Over the decades, Jagger has donned jeans and jackets by the Balenciaga designer Nicolas Ghesquiere and T-shirts by the Dior designer Hedi Slimane. But that wasn't always the case, said Jagger, 63. Like many bands just starting out, clothes were a luxury he and his mates couldn't afford. “We wore clothes very similar to what we wore off-stage because we didn't have any money and that was the look,” Jagger said.

AP

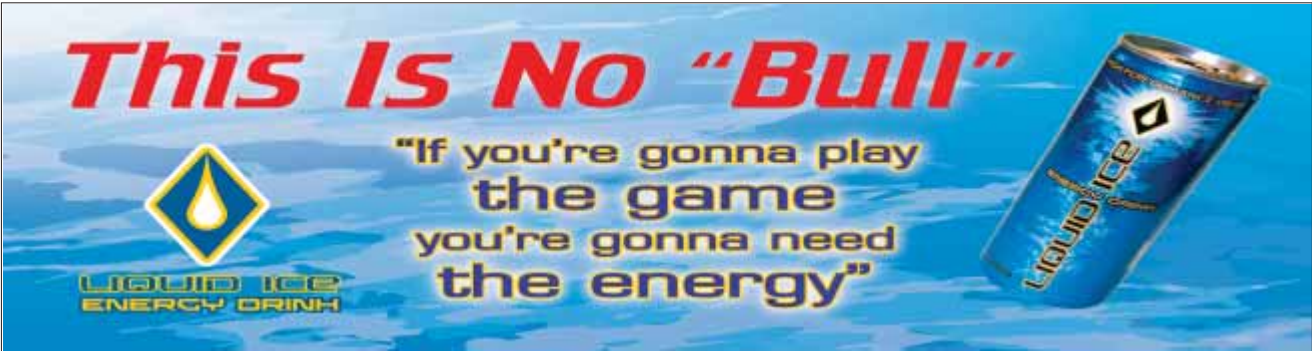
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Singin' in the Rain

7:30

Sunday

Fiddler on the Roof

5:00

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Babel (R)

12:00, 1:15, 4:20, 5:10, 7:30, 10:45

For Your Consideration (PG-13)

10:30 am, 12:45, 3:00, 5:00, 7:20, 8:15, 9:45

The Fountain (PG-13)

10:00 am, 12:25, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15

Let's Go to Prison (R)

3:05, 10:30

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA

1310 3rd Street

(310) 289-4262

Deck the Halls (PG)

11:50am, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 11:50

Deja Vu (PG-13)

11:30am, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 9:55, 11:30

The Departed (R)

11:00am, 2:05, 5:10, 8:20, 11:25

Flushed Away (PG)

10:30am, 11:10am, 12:50, 1:30, 3:35, 6:30

Marie Antoinette (PG-13)

8:35, 11:20

Stranger Than Fiction (PG-13)

11:55am, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40

Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny (R)

11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30, 11:40

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd

(310) 281-8228

Bobby (R)

11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

The Last King of Scotland (R)

12:45, 3:40, 7:00, 10:00

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Fast Food Nation (R)

1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45

The History Boys (R)

1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50

Little Children (R)

1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15

The Queen (PG-13)

1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

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Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (R)

12:00, 2:20, 4:00, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40, 10:10

Casino Royale (PG-13)

12:30, 1:20, 3:50, 4:40, 7:10, 8:00, 10:30, 11:15

Happy Feet (PG)

11:00 am, 12:50, 1:30, 3:40, 4:10, 6:30, 7:00, 9:20

The Prestige (PG-13)

1:00, 6:40, 9:50

More information email [news@smdp.com](#)

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

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

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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 LAST PUZZLE

3	5	9	2	7	6	8	4	1
2	8	6	3	4	1	9	5	7
1	4	7	8	9	5	2	3	6
8	2	1	6	5	9	3	7	4
4	6	5	7	3	2	1	8	9
9	7	3	1	8	4	5	6	2
5	1	2	4	6	3	7	9	8
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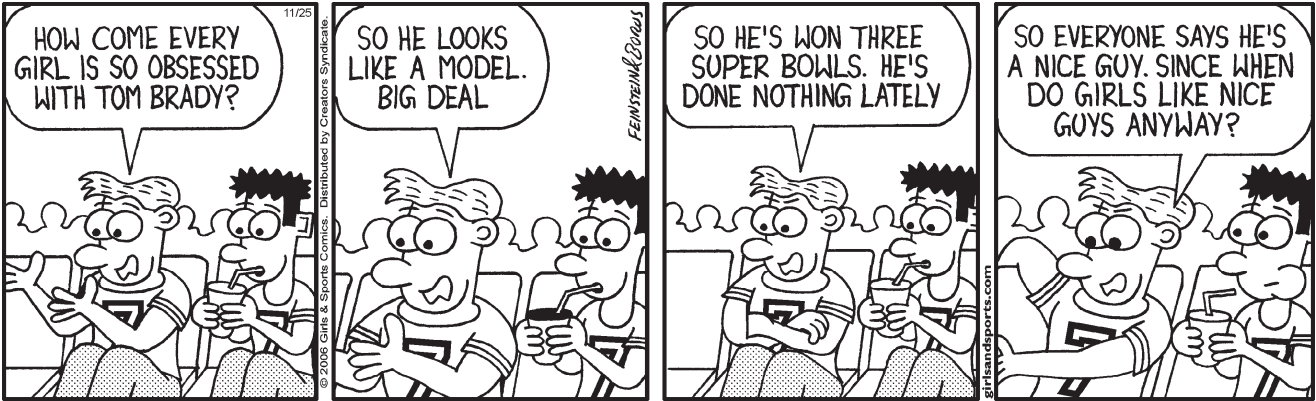
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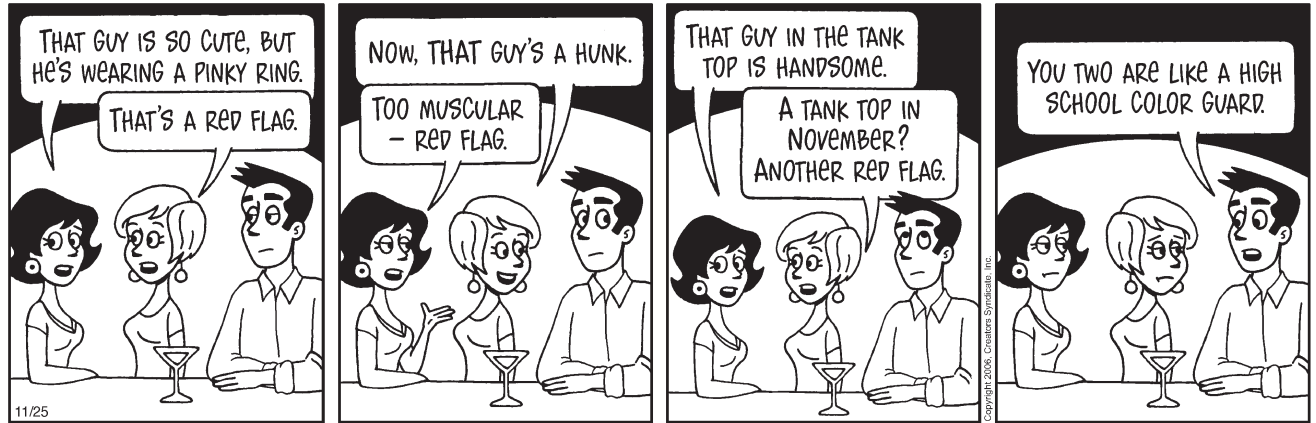
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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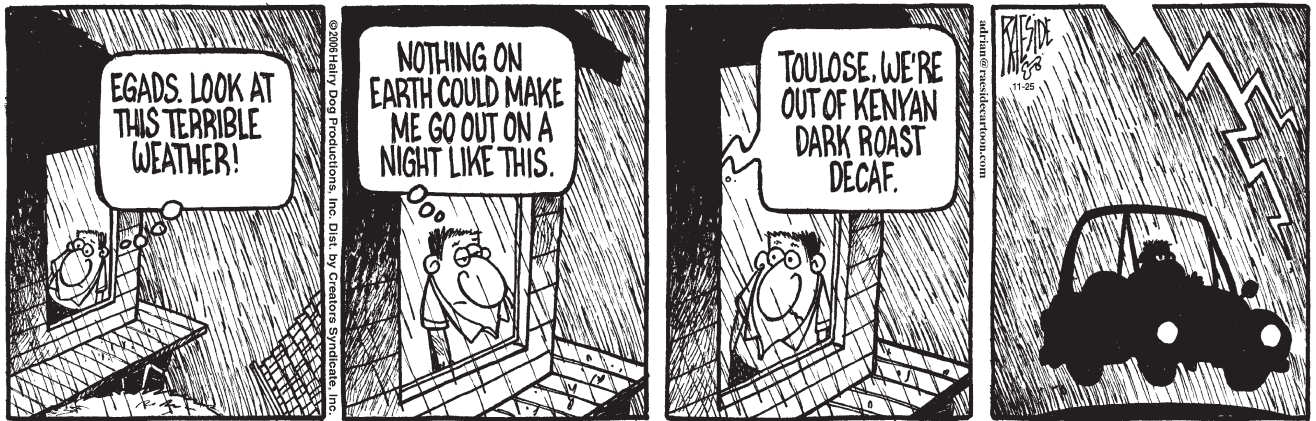
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



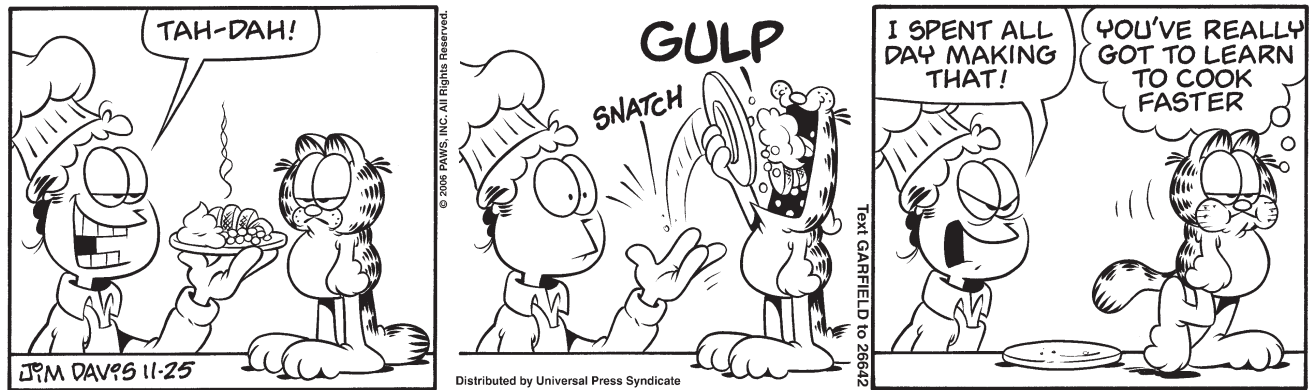
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



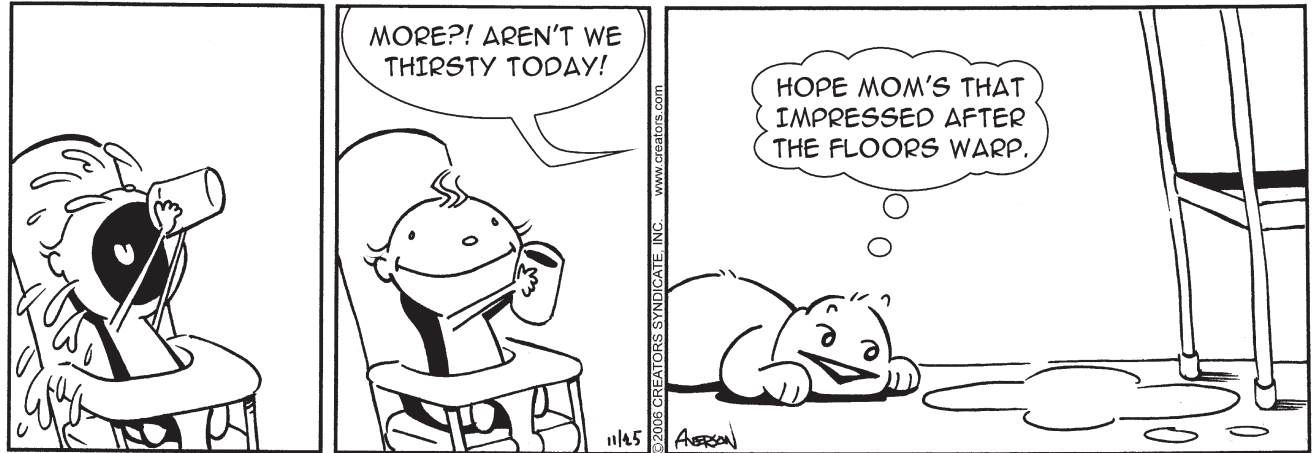
Garfield

By Jim Davis

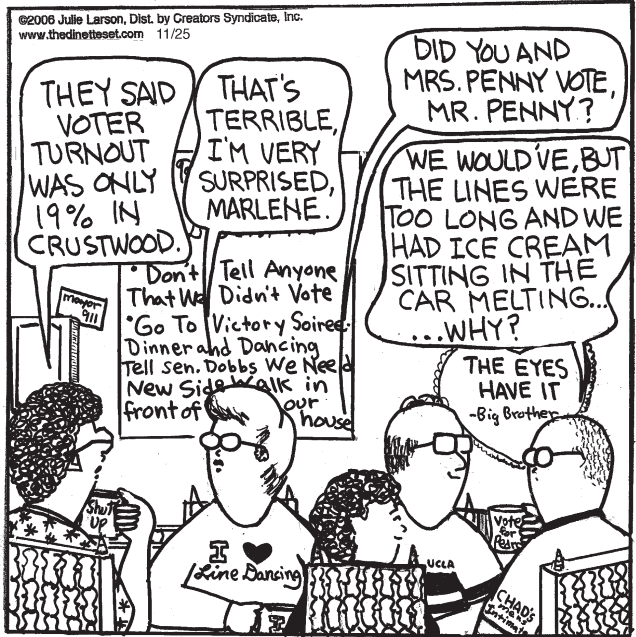


Dog eat Doug

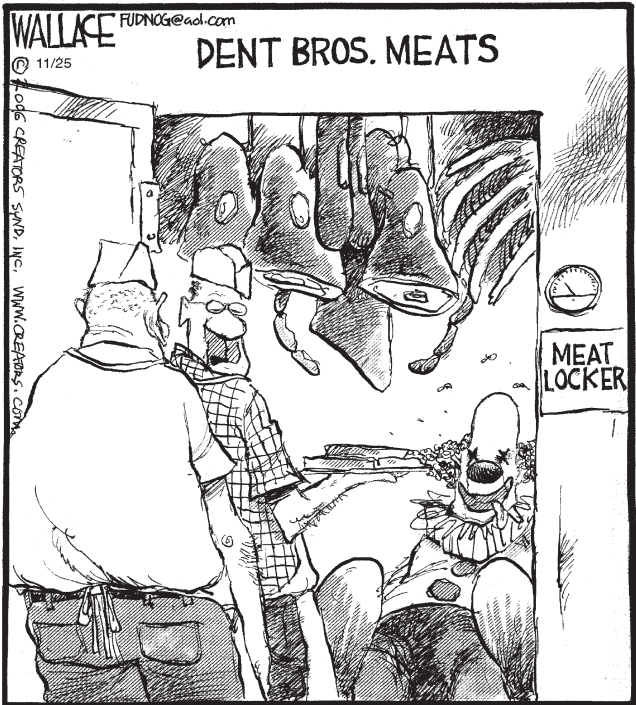
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14 Fuming
15 Yarn
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17 Move slowly
18 You can bet on them
19 Surgery souvenir
21 Kind of milk
22 Sher-lock's landlady
25 Tony winner Caldwell
26 Cruising
27 Author Leonard
29 Prepare potatoes
33 Corner pieces
34 See 7-Down
35 Gumbo veggie
36 Strand
37 Effortless
38 Lacking variety

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

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16 Mob
18 VCR button
20 Blackens
22 "The Friendly Island"
23 Contrite-ness
24 Eastern warrior
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32 Sugges-tions
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35					36					
37					38					
39					40					

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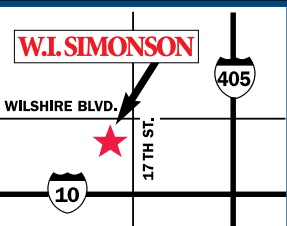
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