

FREE

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Marketing campaign targets local buy



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Santa Claus spent some 'alone time' at the mall Sunday, where there were virtually no children waiting to sit on the old man's lap.

The message: 'Shop Santa Monica'

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The success of the \$100,000 "Shop Santa Monica" campaign now underway may rest on how well residents take up the call to promote Santa Monica hotels and businesses to their friends.

It isn't just the main campaign that business leaders hope will do the job. The money, spread from mid-November through the end of the year also will highlight deals to which locals can turn on their friends and family.

The campaign, the first of its type here, will ask consumers to spend their hard-earned cash locally. Then comes the subtle part: getting locals to bring friends to town by turning them, in effect, into travel and booking agents. Some discounts, particularly at hotels, require local residency.

As part of the program, 400,000 letters will be sent out to local residents in two separate direct mail campaigns. They'll be timed to "keep the buzz alive with local flyer distribution to schools, parking structures, retail outlets, the visitor center kiosk, police sub stations, libraries and gas stations."

The key to the campaign's success is the call for local residents to invite friends and family to shop and stay in Santa Monica. The bureau has added a special "locals only" icon to its Web site, www.santamonica.com, which links residents, friends and family to up-to-date information on the program's special promotions, open house events, hotel discounts and free shopping bus shuttle information. New links to each business district indicate which merchants and hotels are participating in the program.

It's too early to tell if the two-pronged campaign is working.

The effort to boost occupancy at local hotels recognizes that \$100,000 can hardly target visitors. Instead,

See DEALS, page 3

Local retailers report 'OK' sales over weekend

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The biggest shopping weekend of the year attracted an average crowd along the Third Street Promenade the past few days.

Store managers weren't surprised at the turnout since the holiday shopping season is expected to be slow. Most local retailers say business was steady over the holiday weekend, but it could have been better. Torrential rains Saturday may have kept many shoppers at home.

And if wasn't the weather, perhaps it was the lack of deals in many of the Promenade shops that kept people away. Several stores, including the chain retailers, weren't offering many sales.

Pottery Barn sales representative Ivory Gutierrez said there has been a lot of traffic in her store, but you wouldn't know it from the sales receipts.

"Friday was a lot slower than expected," she

See SHOPPING, page 3

Santa Monica group wants pot distribution to be legal

By the Associated Press

The group that promoted California's medical marijuana initiative in 1996 wants to set up a showdown with the federal government with a ballot measure that would set up a state-controlled network to distribute the drug to patients.

Santa Monica-based Americans for Medical Rights wants the initiative on the November 2002 ballot in Arizona, Oregon or Washington, three states that also have medical marijuana laws.

California has been ruled out because it would be too expensive to conduct a campaign there, said Bill Zimmerman, leader of the group.

The measure, which would formalize a state government-controlled network to distribute medical marijuana, would set up an almost certain U.S. Supreme Court battle over states' rights.

Eight states including California have legalized marijuana for medical use, but

the narcotic remains illegal for cultivation, sales and use of any sort under federal law.

In California, home of the nation's first medical marijuana law, an uneasy detente had reigned between federal officials and cannabis clubs until a Supreme Court ruling in May rolled back provisions of Proposition 215 that addressed the distribution of the marijuana that patients use.

Recently federal agents have shut down a West Hollywood cannabis club endorsed by city officials, raided a Ventura County garden operated by patients and seized medical records from a prominent medical marijuana doctor in Northern California.

Sue North, chief of staff for state Sen. John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara, said the actions of federal officials are hurting patients who use marijuana to ease pain or to help with nausea caused by chemotherapy or AIDS.

"The target here isn't dope dealers on

the school grounds," North said. "This is about stopping people with serious medical conditions from getting access to something that helps them."

U.S. Justice Department officials did not respond to requests for comment, but DEA spokesman Richard Meyer said

agents are required to enforce drug laws.

Americans for Medical Rights has pushed medical marijuana initiatives in several states over the last decade. It is financed largely by George Soros, a billionaire New York financier, and several other wealthy benefactors.

Memorial to be held today for slain high school student

By Daily Press Staff

A memorial will be held today at Santa Monica High School for 15-year-old Deanna Maran, the sophomore who was stabbed to death at a party Nov. 17.

Maran was allegedly killed by a 17-year-old Brentwood girl, Katrina Sarkissian, who died Sunday of an apparent suicide while she was in police custody. Sarkissian's sister, an unidenti-

fied 15-year-old, reportedly fought with Maran. She then left the party and returned with her sister, Katrina, who allegedly stabbed Maran with an unknown object.

The memorial service is scheduled to begin at 3:45 p.m. in the school's Greek theatre. For more information, call Santa Monica High School at (310) 395-3204.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Seek out unconventional resources when you run into an obstacle. A friend certainly wants to be constructive, but he might add to the problem. Discuss objectives calmly. Bring this person over to your camp and your way of thinking. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Soon a partner or financial associate will verbalize what he has been mulling over. Let this person know that it is always easier to deal with others directly and openly. His response to your support puts a smile on your face. Talk responsibility. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your ruler, Mercury, moves into your opposite sign this afternoon. You will hear plenty from others, whether you want to or not! News puts yet another slant on information received. What you hear as hush-hush might not be exactly right. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Working with another helps you get the monetary results you desire. You might not always be as in sync with this person as you are now. You're full of ideas that could simplify both your life and the lives of others. Encouraging people to agree takes skill and time. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out for a loved one at a distance. Together you come up with an interesting concept that could be worth pursuing. If you follow your impulsive nature, you naturally flow into positive situations. Understand another's peculiarities. Tonight: Let your mind escape the here and now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ A family member suddenly becomes more verbal, and you hear all about what they want and expect. Rather than be taken aback, listen and share your thoughts. A change on the home front or perhaps an important personal purchase lies on the horizon. Tonight: Direct your energy into a project.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Speak your mind. Give feedback to someone who obviously depends on you a lot. This person shares his feelings for you, which could be quite unusual. If single, your high energy will magnetize a new friend. If attached, watch out! Another will praise you. Tonight: Say Yes!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Although you might want to bulldoze through work, you could cause yourself a problem. Slow down! Return messages and proceed as methodically as possible. Impatience could be your undoing, especially concerning any financial matters. Tonight: Exercise some of your Thanksgiving bulge away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Curbing your playfulness might be difficult, especially as Mercury, the planet of communication, moves into your sign today. Some might consider buying you a muzzle to hush you up. Unfortunately not everyone thinks your jokes are funny. Tonight: Do what you want, as usual.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Someone offers you the world, to which your reaction could easily be worry. You want to understand this person's motives. You'll find answers if you explore what you would do if you were in this person's place. Be careful with spending, even if you are within your budget. Tonight: Shop for a special Christmas item on the way home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Speak your mind, even if you aren't sure about something. Others give you speedy feedback. Your quick and direct response tosses many into shock. Explain where you are coming from. Greet success with a smile. Tonight: At a favorite hangout.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Finances respond to your professional efforts. A boss just might surprise you if you ask for a pay raise. You know how to present your case. You understand that timing is everything. Use these skills to create more of what you want. Keep to a tight budget. Tonight: Pay bills.



WEATHER

Today ... Partly Cloudy with a High of 59°F. Winds from the Northwest at 7mph.
Tonight... Partly Cloudy with a Low of 47°F. Winds from the Southwest at 5mph.
Tuesday ... Partly Cloudy. High—63°F Low—44°F



QUOTE of the DAY

“There are risks and costs to a programme of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks of comfortable inaction”
 — John F. Kennedy

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LOCAL



Hotel rates slashed for winter season

DEALS, from page 1

it targets friends and family of Santa Monicans who may come here if there's a deal to be had. The hotels have seen steep booking declines since Sept. 11 and an estimated \$10.9 million loss in room revenues in the fourth quarter.

Called "I wish I had an extra bedroom," 17 Santa Monica hotels are offering "deep discounts" and "package upgrades" for visiting friends and family. Residents can get the bargain rates for their friends by showing a valid California driver's license as proof of Santa Monica residency when their guests check in. The "locals rate" is available through Feb. 19, 2002. The "deep discounts" include rates like \$89 a night at Hotel Carmel (from \$139-\$169); \$250 a night at the Hotel Oceana (from \$360), and \$150 a night at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel (from \$329).

The citywide promotion to bolster Santa Monica's economy is a response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks which has left many merchants uncertain about the future. Business leaders aren't the only ones fearful that people are curbing their spending. City officials are too — which is why they are backing the marketing campaign.

"I generally believe in buying locally so monies stay circulating locally," said Santa Monica Mayor Mike Feinstein. "You can remind people that by buying locally, it ensures people stay in business and stay employed."

City officials are hoping the campaign softens the blow to the city budget. It's fac-

ing a shortfall estimated at between \$8-\$17 million. Much of that is in lost sales tax revenue projections.

"The recession was already worse than expected and that started hurting the city," Feinstein said, adding Sept. 11 only exacerbated a bleak situation. "The tourist dollar is a big hit for us."

With the downturn in tourism and the holiday season here, the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, the city of Santa Monica, the Big Blue Bus Company, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and local business improvement districts hoped to offset the slowdown by kicking off the marketing campaign dubbed "There's no place like home for the holidays. Shop Santa Monica."

Set to run through Dec. 31, the campaign has teamed up local merchants, attractions, restaurants, hotels and theaters to entice residents to spend their money in Santa Monica.

"We have a viable tourism market right in our backyard and now is the time to unite residents to support merchants, employees and our local community economically," said Misti Kerns, executive director of the convention and visitors bureau.

Ten city partners are sponsoring advertising buys in local newspapers and outdoor media, including vehicle magnetic signs, street and lightpole banners and bus panels. The campaign message also can be seen on local television interviews and Website links, as well as 10,000 Santa Monica shopping bags being distributed throughout town.

Department stores quiet

SHOPPING, from page 1

said. "Mostly on Friday they were looking, not buying."

National news reports confirmed the trend. Retailers in many cities reported crowds massing before stores opened, intent on picking up whatever sale items they could find.

"This is the biggest shopping weekend? So we did bad."

— JANETTE NEIBLAS
Culture Planet sales representative

Santa Monica's Brookstone outlet had a steady flow of traffic of people who were buying.

"People are buying because they already had an idea of what they wanted," said the store manager, who added that no major deals are being offered yet.

But smaller, specialty shops appeared to fare better than their corporate competitors.

"If you came here on Friday, it was jammed in here," said Puzzle Zoo store manager Linda Tsukamoto. "We are on target and thankful for it."

On Sunday afternoon, the Promenade was buzzing with activity but the only area hopping at Santa Monica Place was the food court. Even Santa Claus felt lonely — the line waiting to see him usually is dozens deep — but on Sunday, there was no line at all.

One shopper, who declined to give his name, finished his holiday shopping in Santa Monica at Robinsons May even though he lives in Culver City. He spent Friday in the malls near his neighborhood and came to the Westside on Sunday to spread his money around.

"It seems busy, especially in electronics," he said, adding that the economic slowdown isn't deterring him from spending about the same as he did last year.

The department stores were relatively quiet Sunday, but sales representatives say Friday was a big day in sales. Many shoppers were attracted to Robinsons May because of holiday coupons they found in area newspapers and magazines.

At Culture Planet in Santa Monica Place, business was so-so, according sales representative Janette Neiblas. She said she was surprised to learn that the weekend after Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season.

"This is the biggest shopping weekend? So we did bad," she said while looking over the weekend's cash register receipts. "On Saturday, they did OK, not really good, but for a Friday in this store, it was acceptable."

Bill Chrisley, a sales representative at the Discovery Channel store on the Promenade, said business has been steady and people are willing to spend their money, despite reports that Sept. 11 and a slowing economy are keeping people on tighter budgets this holiday season.

"I think it was temporary," he said of the gloom and doom economic scenario being played out in the media.



Dan Dunn/Daily Press

As this sign says, it's illegal to hurt any bird in California. But the next person who has to clean up after it may not care about the hefty penalties, which could be up to \$20,000 and jail time.

Free gift wrapping offered for locals as a 'thank you'

By Daily Press Staff

Bayside District Corporation is providing a gift wrap cart during the holiday season as a "thank you" to downtown Santa Monica and Third Street shoppers. Gift wrapping is free to the public.

Volunteers from various Santa Monica charities including Project ECHO, Night Light Youth Outreach, the Westside Special Olympics and Turning Point will be merrily wrapping gifts. The cart will be located on Third Street Promenade at Broadway every Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. beginning Nov. 24 through Dec. 23.

Project ECHO's mission is to provide an opportunity for high school students (especially those who struggle in the traditional academic setting) to learn essential career and life skills, boost their self esteem, and elevate their expectations through hands-on training in entrepreneurship and small business management.

Night Light Youth Outreach Services serves the needs of runaway and homeless youth in the Santa Monica area. The project reaches out to runaway and homeless youth on the Westside to provide

basic needs and resources to assist them in getting off the streets.

Turning Point Transitional Housing provides a rehabilitative program for homeless adults who are motivated to define their goals, assess both their strengths and the barriers to achieving their goals, and to move toward self-sufficiency. It seeks to break the cycle of homelessness and to integrate homeless individuals back into the larger society by providing comprehensive, individualized services designed to address their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. The shelter is also dedicated to educating the public on the causes of and solutions to homelessness, as well as advocating on behalf of homeless people through community networking and political activism.

Westside Special Olympics is a community-based non-profit organization supported by private donations and the spirit of volunteerism. As a branch of Southern California Special Olympics, an accredited chapter of the International Special Olympics, Westside Special Olympics promotes and implements year-round athletic training and competition for children and adults with mental retardation.

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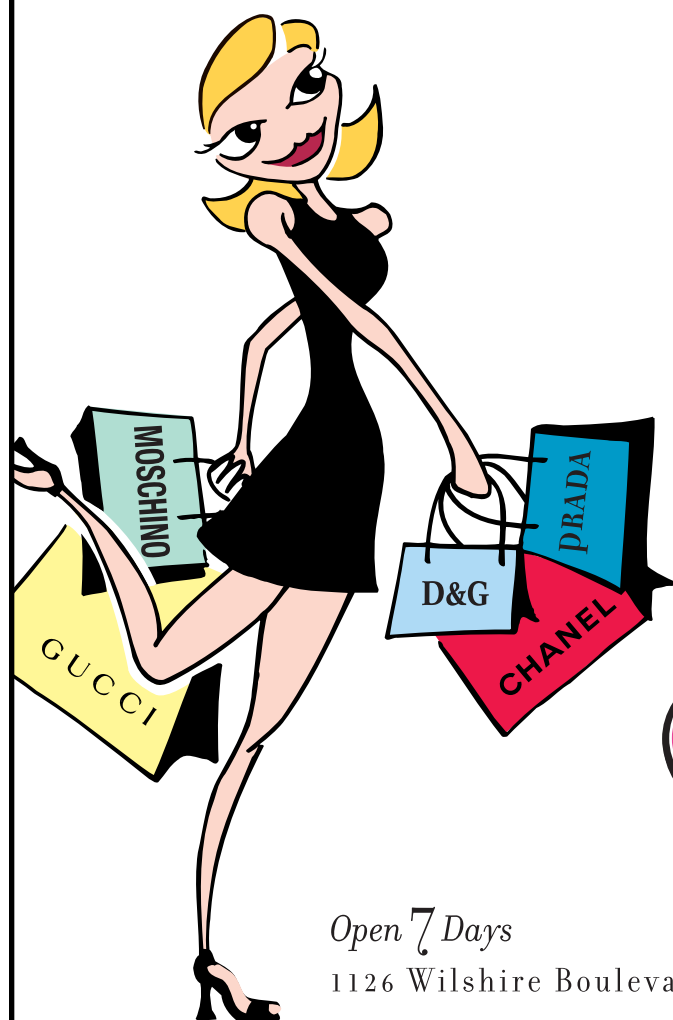
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STATE

Rodney Dangerfield in stable condition after heart attack

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Comedian Rodney Dangerfield remained hospitalized in stable condition Sunday after suffering a mild heart attack on his 80th birthday, his publicist said.

Dangerfield was scheduled to undergo an angiogram, an X-ray of the blood vessels, on Monday, Warren Cowan said. Doctors then will determine what treatment he requires.

Dangerfield, whose long-running gag is that he gets no respect, was hospitalized at Cedars-Sinai Hospital after the heart attack Thursday. The comedian's wife, Joan, expected him to be back home by midweek, Cowan said.

The heart attack came a day after "The Tonight Show" host Jay Leno dedicated a show to the comedian and taped birthday greetings from actors and fellow comics.

Dangerfield has appeared in movies including "Caddyshack," "Back to School," "Easy Money" and "Natural Born Killers."

Toll roads neccessary but evil

By the Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — It seemed like a good idea at the time, but critics say state guarantees designed to help toll roads survive are now hampering anti-gridlock efforts.

Toll road owners can veto public highway improvements such as new lanes if they would take away customers. They successfully blocked expansion of the Riverside Freeway, one of the most congested in the state. Potentially, they could prevent the widening of a third of the 222 miles of freeway in Orange County.

The county has 61 miles of toll road, more than anywhere else in California, operated by the \$3.7-billion Transportation Corridor Agencies.

"Toll roads are an evil necessity," said Tim Keenan, a board member of the

a deteriorating one for the rest of us," he said. "The toll road is just a polite form of highway robbery."

One success story is the privately owned 91 Express Lanes, which run on the Riverside County Freeway median for 10 miles from Anaheim to the Riverside County line. The four lanes opened in 1995 and are packed during rush hours. Commuters pay more than \$8 a day for a round trip.

Under an agreement with the California Department of Transportation, the toll road owners can veto highway improvements along 30 miles of the freeway if they would take away customers. The protection ends in 2030 when the lanes will become public.

In the meantime, tollway owners went to court in the late 1990s to prevent Caltrans from widening the freeway.

"What we now have is a two-tiered system: a road system for the wealthy and a deteriorating one for the rest of us. The toll road is just a polite form of highway robbery."

— GENERAL BILL LOCKYER
State attorney

Orange County Transportation Authority. "They were an innovative solution to build freeways, but the burden of their success should not fall on all the drivers in Orange County."

The "noncompete" clauses were deemed a good idea back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when California lacked money to build or expand freeways and the population of some regions was soaring.

Pay-as-you-go roads could handle some of the traffic. The agreements were designed to give investors and bond-buyers confidence that the roads would be a success.

"These highways would have never been built or never built in the time frame we built them in," said Walter D. Kreutzen, chief executive of the Transportation Corridor Agencies. "There is still a shortage of state funds for highways."

But state Attorney General Bill Lockyer argues restricting freeway construction to help the tollways was a mistake.

"What we now have is a two-tiered system: a road system for the wealthy and

Under a settlement, Caltrans can add new lanes only when volume increases 37 percent from the current figure, which could take as long as 15 years at current projections.

The settlement prompted burgeoning Riverside County to sue the tollway owners and Caltrans last year. The city of Corona sued the agency several months ago.

"The agreement has allowed a private company to put a stranglehold on the Riverside Freeway," said Jeffrey V. Dunn, an attorney for Riverside County. "You can't put a company's profit above public welfare."

In Irvine, transportation officials are trying to determine whether plans to widen offramps and bridges and otherwise ease congestion at five "choke-points" on the San Diego and Santa Ana freeways would violate a toll road agreement.

The San Joaquin Hills Tollway could lose motorists, said James D. Brown, director of engineering and environmental planning for the toll road operator.

"We are not here to stop projects," Brown said, "but we need a safety net."

NATIONAL



Research company lays claim to embryo cloning

BY JEFF DONN

Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — A research company reported Sunday it had cloned the first human embryo, a development it said was aimed at producing genetically matched replacement cells for patients with a wide range of diseases.

But the news from Advanced Cell Technology of Worcester, Mass., drew swift protests from religious and political leaders who saw it as a step toward cloning human beings.

Several states, including California, have banned human cloning, and Congress is considering such a ban. But company officials insisted their work is the first step in providing hope for people with spinal injuries, heart disease and other ailments.

"These are exciting preliminary results," said Dr. Robert P. Lanza, one of the researchers at Advanced Cell Technology. "This work sets the stage for human therapeutic cloning as a potentially limitless source of immune-compatible cells for tissue engineering and transplantation medicine."

Lanza and the company's top executive Michael West said they had no interest in transplanting such early embryos into a woman's womb to give birth to a cloned human being, nor was it clear that their embryo would be capable of that.

But the Washington D.C.-based National Right to Life Committee wasted little time Sunday attacking the announcement.

"This corporation is creating human

embryos for the sole purpose of killing them and harvesting their cells," said the group's legislative director Douglas Johnson. "Unless Congress acts quickly, this corporation and others will be opening human embryo farms."

And a critic of the company who used to sit on ACT's ethics board said Advanced Cell's announcement was premature and would serve only to encourage such harsh reaction against cloning.

Glenn McGee, a University of Pennsylvania bioethicist who resigned from Advanced Cell Technology's ethics advisory board, called the announcement "nothing but hype." He said the company's report lacks any significant details, including what cells company scientists actually grew from the cloned embryo.

"They are doing science by press release," he said.

A second company quickly claimed Sunday that it had also cloned human embryos, but in unpublished research. The company, Clonaid, said it hopes to eventually create fully-developed human clones.

"I'm very pleased that I'm not alone," company Director Brigitte Boisselier said in a phone interview. "We're doing embryos every day."

The company keeps its laboratory location secret, citing security concerns. Boisselier said that the embryos were created by injecting eggs with a variety of other cells, but she refused to give details.

In findings published Sunday by the online journal, e-biomed: The Journal of Regenerative Medicine, and also described online in Scientific American,

the ACT scientists said they had grown a six-cell human embryo.

They said they created the early embryo by injecting a very small cell with its genetic material into a woman's donated egg. In such cloning, the injected DNA often comes from a skin cell, but the researchers this time used a cumulus cell, which nurtures a developing egg.

This technique could produce replacement cells only for a woman of childbearing age, since the injected DNA comes from a woman's reproductive system. However, the scientists have been experimenting with injecting adult skin cells into the eggs as well.

In a separate experiment, the scientists showed they could push the development of human egg cells even further with a technique known as parthenogenesis. In that process, they said, six eggs reprogrammed themselves to develop into early embryos.

Such eggs would be largely compatible with the genetics of the egg donor.

The scientists described all the work as preliminary. Neither experiment has yet produced the coveted stems cells, master cells which grow into all kinds of body tissues.

Other research groups in this country and abroad have plunged into efforts for human "reproductive cloning," which aims to produce a new person, or "therapeutic cloning," which seeks only to create embryos that would yield stem cells for treating diseases.

And last September, a report from the National Academy of Sciences — an independent, congressionally chartered

organization — said therapeutic cloning should be pursued.

Dr. Norman Fost, director of the bioethics program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said he believes a "slippery slope" argument for banning therapeutic cloning is a poor approach.

One could have made such a case against test-tube fertilization, which has turned out to be beneficial, and which also can be seen as a step toward cloning humans, he said Sunday.

The announcement by the Massachusetts researchers, he said, is "a basic part of making stem cell research useful for human beings." That, he said is "a path which the huge majority of the American people favor."

The researchers described their work as an important step toward producing stem cells to generate replacement cells as treatments for diabetes, heart disease, spinal injuries, and many other ailments.

"We think we've shown that it's going to be possible, in the lifetime of many of us, to take a cell from our body and, by using cloning technology ... take a patient's cell back in time" to make embryonic stem cells, said Michael West, president of Advanced Cell Technology.

But using human embryos for such work faces huge hurdles in Washington.

"The president has made it clear that he is opposed to any type of human cloning," said White House spokeswoman Jennifer Millerwise. "He supported the House legislation to ban human cloning that passed overwhelmingly. The Senate has a busy calendar but this shows why it is important for the Senate to act."

U.S. tries to persuade Afghans not to grow opium

BY KEN GUGGENHEIM

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials are exploring ways to prevent a surge in opium cultivation in Afghanistan, once the world's leading producer, now that the Taliban's control is crumbling.

The challenge is persuading the factions likely to govern to fight opium production and trafficking, when these groups in the past have shown little inclination to do that.

U.S. counternarcotics officials want to make drug-fighting a condition for receiving international humanitarian aid. They expect some of the assistance will include programs to encourage Afghan farmers to give up opium, the raw material for heroin, in favor of wheat and other legal crops.

Representatives of U.S. anti-drug agencies have met to begin developing a counterdrug plan. With efforts under way to form a new multiethnic government in Afghanistan, the opium issue is attracting the attention of leading Bush administration officials.

U.S. policy-makers had limited interest in it before the Sept. 11 attacks. Afghan opium is sold mostly in Europe and Asia. It accounts for only a tiny fraction of the heroin sold in the United States, most of which is from Latin America.

After Sept. 11, Afghan opium was seen in a new light: as an important money-maker for the Taliban militia that har-

bored Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the attacks.

Afghan opium production surged after the Taliban took control of most of the country in 1996, and reached a peak of 4,030 U.S. tons last year, according to State Department statistics. That accounted for 72 percent of the world market.

Citing Islamic principles, the Taliban banned opium, virtually eliminating it from its territory this year. U.S. officials suspect the Taliban was trying to reduce the opium supply to boost the price of existing stockpiles.

The ban remains in effect, but farmers began ignoring it after Sept. 11.

"The farmers are poor people and they need money and the opium crop is a profitable crop for them, said Mohammad Amirkhizi, an official of the U.N. Drug Control Program in Vienna, Austria.

"If the conditions remain in a way that no one is enforcing the noncultivation of illicit drugs in Afghanistan, then the farmers will go back to cultivating," he said.

The Taliban's rivals have not tried to ban opium and some are believed to have profited from the drug trade. The northern alliance, which now controls more than half the country, "has taken no action of which we are aware against cultivation and trafficking in its area," the State Department said in March.

Asa Hutchinson, the head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, said it is too early to tell how cooperative the northern alliance will be in the future.

"Certainly we're not naive that the northern alliance does not have their own interest and history in poppy cultivation and trafficking," he said. "But it's certainly a new world in Afghanistan and we're just going to have to work hard to

encourage (an) anti-drug policy."

Hutchinson said the DEA has been working with Afghanistan's neighbors, including Pakistan, to help block the movement of Afghan opium through their territory.

Politicians out of their league at liar contest

BURLINGTON, Wis. — The annual World Champion Liar contest is soliciting entries from anyone who isn't a politician.

"They are considered professionals," says John Soeth, president of the Burlington Liar's Club, which holds the event. "The contest is for amateurs only."

Although the contest has attracted thousands of lies in the past, these days it typically draws only a few hundred entries.

Soeth says the number is especially low during election years. "We don't get as many lies because they're all used up."

There are rules: No lies about people. "Tall tales aren't meant to be believed — and they don't hurt anyone," Soeth says.

No fee is required, but an entrant can submit \$1 to become an honorary

member. Soeth said he gets letters all the time saying that dollars are enclosed, but they turn out to be lying.

Last year's winner was Gordon Zwicky, 72, of Oshkosh, who out-fibbed 299 other entries from 31 states and Canada.

Zwicky said he and his wife won the lottery and decided to drive to Florida, and a neighbor told them they would be fine as long as they paid attention to the road signs.

Thirty miles from home they saw a sign reading "Clean Restrooms Ahead."

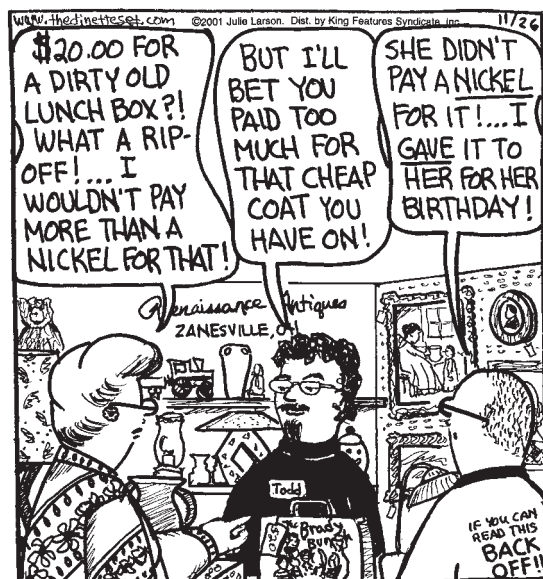
By the time they reached Florida two months later they had cleaned 450 restrooms using 267 rolls of paper towels, three cases of bowl cleaner and 86 bottles of Windex.

They were so tired, Zwicky said, that they immediately returned home.

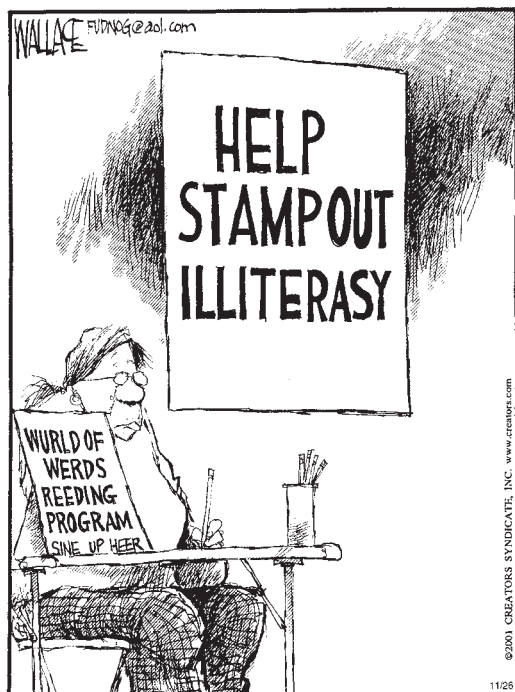


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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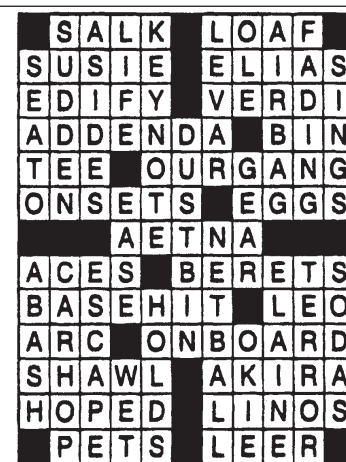
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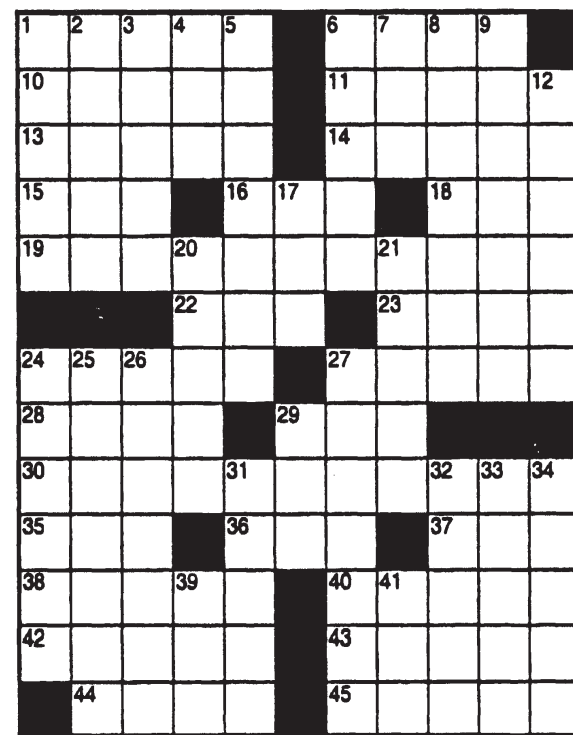
Saturday's answer

ACROSS

- 1 Fixes copy
- 6 Drunkards
- 10 Singer Shore
- 11 One with an axe
- 13 Reach
- 14 Kitchen come-on
- 15 Conceit
- 16 LP speed rating
- 18 Nervous spasm
- 19 Fully
- 22 Yale player
- 23 Actor Sharif
- 24 Thanks-giving staple
- 27 Fabric workers
- 28 Four-star review
- 29 Brewed drink
- 30 Beyond what's acceptable
- 35 Broadcast
- 36 Agent, for short
- 37 Young fellow
- 38 — Dame
- 40 Conjure
- 42 Glossy
- 43 Actor David

DOWN

- 44 Wedding vows
- 45 Title pages?
- 1 Moved sideways
- 2 Painter Rivera
- 3 Under guidance
- 4 Make lace
- 5 Before long
- 6 Ignominy
- 7 "— the ramparts ..."
- 8 Cheat on one's steady
- 9 Discussion class
- 12 Indy autos
- 17 Greek letter
- 20 At no time
- 21 True
- 24 Pun reactions
- 25 Trattoria dish
- 26 Turned aside
- 27 Pool part
- 29 Common article
- 31 Arduous journeys
- 32 "— Lucy"
- 33 Bare
- 34 Utopias
- 39 Old auto
- 41 Be a contender



11-26

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

A gene pool problem in Ohio

• William Stewart finally died of his injuries in November, three weeks after hanging himself in his jail cell, the latest tragedy to befall his Parma, Ohio, family. His wife, Joyce Stewart, died a month before William, allegedly murdered by him. William had been stopped on suspicion of DUI but then invited arrest by snapping gratuitously at the officer, "You can't get into my car without a warrant." The garbage bags in his back seat contained pieces of Joyce. Her son, Mark DiMarco, was serving 94 years for rape and murder before he hanged himself in his cell in 1999. Joyce had served time for obstructing justice in his case after having become sort of a house mother to Mark's gang of delinquents, and after Mark's death, Joyce treated Mark's bedroom as a shrine.

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BACK PAGE

Art professor gains acclaim with 'genius grant'

By the Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — In nine years teaching art theory and criticism at UNLV, Dave Hickey gained international recognition for his writing, creativity and unconventional insight.

Now, he's getting attention closer to home, as the winner of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship — a so-called "genius grant."

Has Hickey's life changed in the month since receiving the award and the \$500,000 grant that goes with it?

"It hasn't changed at all, actually," he told the Las Vegas Review-Journal, sitting down with \$1,000 in fresh casino winnings for an interview on a bench outside the Guggenheim Hermitage Museum at The Venetian hotel-casino.

Hickey is still teaching, writing, lectur-

ing, curating art shows, helping former students get their work noticed in New

**"(Art is) more like cocaine.
It's a drug. It gets you
excited and makes you
want more."**

DAVE HICKEY
UNLV art professor

York, gambling, smoking, making strangers laugh and checking his mobile phone for incoming calls he can't miss.

His philosophy also remains the same. "Art is not good for you," he said. "It's not necessarily therapeutic. It's supposed to be exciting. It's not penicillin. It's more like cocaine. It's a drug. It gets you excit-

ed and makes you want more."

Hickey, 62, was the oldest of 12 men and 11 women to win this year's annual no-strings-attached award from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in Chicago. Others are writers, artists and scientists.

Hickey is an author, teacher and traveler — quoted regularly as an art critic and able to draw overflow crowds for lectures in New York and Los Angeles.

His books are used by art criticism professors across the country. He has contributed for more than 20 years to publications including Art in America, The Village Voice, Rolling Stone, Art News, Artforum, Interview, Harper's Magazine and Vanity Fair.

Sporting white hair, cowboy boots and a Dale Earnhardt jacket, Hickey told the Review-Journal he intends to use his

award grant to take a one-year break from teaching and traveling.

He plans to finish two new books — one about Los Angeles-based artists and another about American aesthetics — and work on an expansion of his 1997 book "Air Guitar: Essays in Art and Democracy."

Hickey called Las Vegas a good place to teach art.

"When you're teaching art students, in a sense, you're better off with no established authority," he said, "... without a lot of rich white people who are going to tell you what to think and what to do."

He said Las Vegas, based on visual culture, challenges artists to become visible.

"The differences between the high art world and the high casino world are more apparent than real," he said. "They're all selling magic of one sort or other."

California man buys pre-statehood Wyoming \$5 bill

By the Associated Press

A California sports agent has bought a \$5 bill that was issued in Wyoming before it became a state.

Dwight Manley, managing partner of the California Gold Marketing Group of Newport Beach, Calif., said he bought the only known surviving Territory of Wyoming bank note for \$50,000.

He bought it from the great-granddaughter of George Montgomery "Monte" Blue, a film actor whose pictures

included the silent film, "Birth of a Nation" in 1915.

Dated Sept. 13, 1886, the bill was issued by First National Bank of Douglas, in the year the town was founded, Manley said in a statement Sunday.

The bill, with a serial number of 1, features a portrait of President James Garfield, who was assassinated five years before the bill was issued.

One of the two authorization signatures on the bill is that of the bank's president DeForest Richards, who later served as

governor of Wyoming from 1899-1903.

"I've always been intrigued by the Gold Rush era and the Old West," Manley said. "This \$5 bill is Old West history you can hold in your hands. It is serial number 1, it was previously unknown, and it has a fascinating pedigree."

Federal banking records indicate the bank issued 3,820 pieces of paper money in \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills before Wyoming became a state in 1890, Manley said.

Manley said he bought the only known

surviving example from the bank. Also, the note is one of only 14 bills known to survive out of 97,848 pieces of paper money issued by various Wyoming territory banks, he said.

"It's a major discovery. Before this, only 13 other Wyoming territory notes were known to exist and they came from Laramie, Cheyenne and Rawlins," he said.

Manley is president of United Sports Agency and the agent of Karl Malone and other NBA players.

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