



A NEW LOVE FOR SIR PAUL?
SEE PAGE 15

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE LEAVING JAPAN ISSUE

Santa Monica Daily Press

TRANSPORTATION



RESTRICTED AIRSPACE

City Council is expected to make the airport off-limits to larger jet aircraft

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 12

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

Council mulls landmarks designation

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The fate of a 71-year-old ocean-front apartment complex — its survival the source of contention between tenants and the property's owner — lies in the hands of the City Council tonight.

After more than a year of delays, the council is finally expected to hear a petition to appeal the landmarking designation of a 1930s era courtyard apartment north of Montana

Avenue, located at 423-431 Ocean Ave. The Landmarks Commission designated the apartment complex a historic landmark in October 2006 in the face of opposition from the property owner, Harry Wu, who argued the building does not possess any significance that would cause it to be eligible for designation, adding that it does not meet any of the six criteria required for landmarking. The commission based its designation on four of the six criteria, finding most notably that the building was designed by

well-known Santa Monica architect William E. Foster — who created the Shangri-La Hotel — and the complex exemplifies the city's architectural history, constructed during the second wave of residential development along Ocean Avenue from the 1930s to the 1950s, a time when the street was taken over by multi-family apartments.

"It had numerous high quality details that were still intact like leaded glass windows and Georgian Colonial detailing," said commission Chairwoman Nina Fresco, explaining

some of the reasons why the commission decided to landmark the building.

City staff is recommending the council uphold the landmark designation and deny Wu's appeal.

Wu challenged the landmark designation and filed an appeal on Oct. 18, 2006. A public hearing before the City Council was postponed repeatedly until today. Attorney Toy Fields, who is representing Wu, did not

SEE APARTMENT PAGE 13



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Calendar

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Maybe You Missed It Screening: '300'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:45 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Free screening of Frank Miller's "300," which focuses on the battle between the Spartans and Persians at Thermopylae. Seating is first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Story Time for Twos

2601 Main St., 10 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
The Ocean Park Branch Library brings back their music and story program for toddlers aged 24 — 36 months. Registration and an accompanying adult are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call (310) 392-3804.

Story time Tuesdays

11360 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.
The West L.A. Library offers stories and crafts for kids every Tuesday morning.

Ice, ice, baby

1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Bring back childhood memories — or create new ones — as you slice through the ice at the city's new public rink. Admission is \$10; including skate rental.

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2007

Venice sells itself cheap

1611 Electric Ave., Venice, 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Over \$70,000 worth of artwork is currently on display at Ravenswork Studios in Venice. The artwork will be raffled off during the Cool School — Hot Art party on Dec. 1. Raffle tickets are \$10. To view the art pieces or to purchase a raffle ticket, visit www.venicetrust.com.

Winterlit 'Best Gift Ever' Challenge for PAL

Drop off an unwrapped gift for a kid, ages 6 — 17, who's enrolled with the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL). Donations will be accepted at the Winterlit Gift Wrap Station on the 1300 block of the Promenade, at Santa Monica Place Guest Services, or at a local Starbucks. For more information, visit www.downtownsm.com.

Griffith Park Light Festival

4730 Crystal Springs Dr., L.A., times vary
Walk or drive through this annual festival, which turns the north side of Griffith Park into a monument of light displays created by Department of Water and Power employees. Local attractions like the Hollywood sign, the L.A. Zoo and Staples Center are celebrated, along with traditional seasonal imagery. For more information, visit www.dwplightfestival.com.

Nativo Wednesdays

1301 Fifth St., 9 p.m.
Zanzibar offers a night for the paisanos with dance-driven Latin beats featuring resident DJs. Tickets are \$5. For more information visit www.zanzibarlive.com.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



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City begins long road to full recovery

Weather, planning helped at Malibu fire

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES After getting caught short-handed a month ago, state officials positioned hundreds of firefighters, trucks and planes at strategic staging areas in a bigger-than-usual mobilization that probably saved homes and lives when a wildfire broke out in Malibu over Thanksgiving weekend.

Fifty-three homes were lost, but officials said it could have been worse if not for the preparations and a lucky break in the weather.

Fire officials routinely position crews in advance when hot, dry Santa Ana winds are forecast. But with memories of last months' devastating Southern California fires still fresh, this mobilization this time was even larger.

"All the elements were there for something really bad and catastrophic to happen. We wanted to be better safe than sorry," said Michael Richwine, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The planning for the Thanksgiving winds began more than a week ahead of time, with state, local and federal fire officials meeting to review maps and computer models of the projected winds and the moisture levels of vegetation.



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

PUTTING OUT THE HOT SPOTS: An L.A. County firefighter douses the charred remains of a Malibu home on Saturday, following the eruption of another wildfire over Thanksgiving weekend. Fifty-three homes were lost during the blaze that took days to bring under control.

FROM FIRE PAGE 10

Parking problem potentially solved for time being

(Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Parking can be pretty expensive in Santa Monica, but nearly \$4 million?

That's the price the City Council will pay a private company to manage parking operations for one year at nearly all city-owned structures, as well as lots on Main Street, Ocean Avenue and at the beach.

The contract with Parking Concepts, Inc., which will include extra staffing during the

holidays and for the Sunday Farmers' Market bike valet, is just one of a host of expenditures totaling more than \$7 million that the council is expected to make tonight when it meets at City Hall.

Other items up for consideration include extra security for Big Blue Bus employees, landscaping at Woodlawn Cemetery, security cameras at City Hall and a redesign of the city's Web site.

PARK IT

Parking Concepts (PCI) has been managing parking for City Hall since June 2004. The original contract was for three years with two one-year renewals. That contract ended in June 2007, and ever since, City Hall has been paying Parking Concepts on a

month-to-month basis.

By extending the contract for another year, city staff will have the time to hire a consultant to review parking operations and make recommendations on how City Hall can improve. Those recommendations would then be incorporated into a new contract. Some of those recommendations include allowing credit card payments in exit lines and at pay stations located throughout the structures, according to a city staff report.

In addition to extending the contract with Parking Concepts, the council is being asked to set aside \$9,000 for improved elevator maintenance, another \$9,000 for armored transport from beach facilities and \$116,000 for additional staffing to handle peak hours at the beach and downtown.

If city staff moves fast and is able to find a new company to manage parking operations before the contract with PCI ends, City Hall can terminate the contract with 30 days notice.

There were approximately 3.8 million visitors to the parking structures in 2006-07, up almost 200,000 from 2004-05 and more than 300,000 since the year before PCI began operating the facilities.

THE MUSCLE BEHIND THE BUS

With construction of a new Big Blue Bus maintenance facility underway, parking for employees has been reduced, forcing them to park at off-site locations.

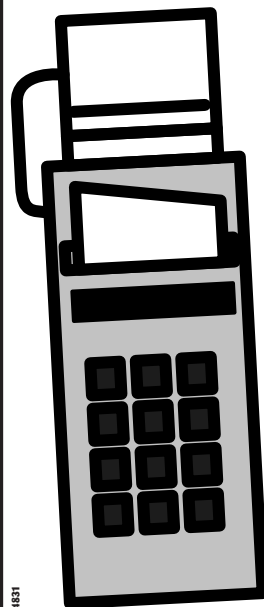
SEE CONSENT PAGE 12

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

Your column here

Mayor Richard Bloom

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A time for action at the SM Airport

THIS EVENING, THE SANTA MONICA CITY

Council will be asked to amend its laws in order to improve the safety of those who live adjacent to Santa Monica Airport. Built in 1919, our airport was once surrounded by only a few residences and was utilized for decades by small, propeller-driven aircraft and the occasional larger aircraft built by neighboring Douglas Aircraft.

Close to a century later, the airport abuts dense residential and bustling commercial zones in every direction and will see close to 25,000 annual operations. Of those, nearly 9,000 flights will be by so-called Class C and Class D aircraft. By the Federal government's own safety guidelines, these aircraft do not belong at our airport because the runway is too short and is lacking in what are known as "runway safety zones." These zones are best thought of as places that rapidly accelerating or decelerating planes in distress can safely stop without crashing into the surrounding neighborhood.

Class C and D aircraft also account for much of the rapidly increasing number of overall operations. With every additional flight, the safety risk to Santa Monica and Los Angeles residents increases.

Ironically, the same federal government that tells us our airport is too small for these aircraft also asserts that it retains sole and final decision-making authority on the issue. But the responsible federal agency, the FAA, by its own admission, serves two unrelated masters: Airport safety and maintaining access for as many aircraft as possible. Using this strange bureaucratic logic, the FAA, for all intents and purposes, has told the city of Santa Monica that the airport is "safe enough." The city's position on this issue is, and will remain, unambiguous: Safety comes first and the possibility of an aviation disaster is a clear and present danger.

GOT OP-ED?

Say it loud, say it proud, but keep your guest commentary to 800 words or less. Send submissions to EDITOR@SMDP.COM.



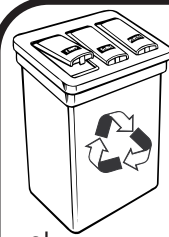
Photo courtesy of

Fed up with the Fed's lack of focus and action, the city of Santa Monica, in 2002, proposed to the FAA that it approve a runway safety plan. Since the plan would conform the airport to the FAA's own guidelines, it seemed like a logical step that could be implemented immediately. Regrettably, the FAA has dragged its feet for the last five years, refusing to approve a plan that would protect the safety of residents in addition to many aircraft pilots and passengers.

Under these circumstances, the city has no alternative but to protect its residents by acting locally and decisively. No doubt, this step risks expensive and complicated litigation with the federal government. The outcome of this battle is hard to predict.

Like myself, virtually every member of the Santa Monica City Council has voiced his or her opinion that the time has come for defining action on this critical local issue. We must be resolute and dedicated in our decision and in the legal battles to come.

RICHARD BLOOM is the mayor of Santa Monica. He can be reached at richard@bloomlaw.net.



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The Q-Line

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The gift buying season is upon us and with it comes the annual dilemma: How much is too much when it comes to holiday spending?

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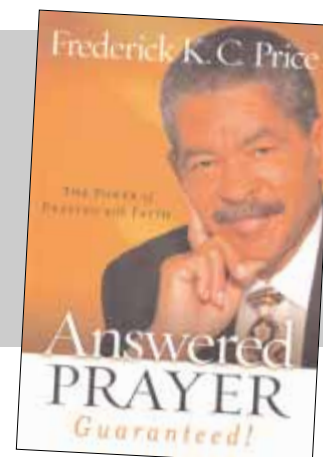
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Skiing Colorado could be a dry run

BY ROBERT WELLER
Associated Press Writer

DENVER Balmy and dry fall weather could put the Colorado ski industry's two-year string of record snowrider numbers in danger, and most of the West isn't in any better shape.

Last year, despite getting less snow than the season before, Colorado numbers were still up 6.7 percent in the first half of the season.

But this year it is even warmer and some major resorts weren't open for Thanksgiving, usually the first big revenue producer of the season. Telluride and Steamboat still aren't open. Hundreds of millions of dollars spent on snowmaking has made it possible for some resorts to open, but if they use the water now they might not have it if they need it later in the year.

Veteran skiers will bring out their rock skis.

Late this week, after four straight weeks of temperatures in the 50s and 60s, Telluride got 11 inches, the Telluride Daily Planet reported. "This is a great kickoff to the season. With Mother Nature helping out and the extensive mountain improvements, we're looking forward to a great year," said Telluride CEO Dave Riley. However, the resort will not open until Nov. 30.

Also unlike last year, some of the state's biggest competitors have plenty of snow. Whistler-Blackcomb, which contends with Vail frequently for the No. 1 rank of ski magazines, has 37 inches. Vail has 18. Stowe, in Vermont, has 49 inches on its upper mountain.

"... for the best and earliest snowfall of the season, head north to Whistler-Blackcomb in British Columbia," says Outside Online.

"We've had lots of early snowfall, 110 centimeters (44

inches). It has been great up here. Sunny but cold so the snow stayed and it is light and fluffy," said Ryan Proctor, public relations coordinator Whistler-Blackcomb. Thirteen lifts are open.

Two exceptions in the Rockies were Big Sky in Montana and Grand Targhee near Jackson, Wyo.

"We got pisted with a perfect storm early in the week, followed by days of ideal snowmaking temperatures for the lower mountain," said sales and marketing director, Meg O'Leary. "Black diamond powder skiing in November, what else can go right."

Big Sky opened Saturday with the second most skiable acreage in the Rockies with 854 acres of advanced, expert, intermediate and beginner terrain. Only Grand Targhee down the road to the south has more terrain open in the Rocky Mountain range from New Mexico to Montana, said O'Leary.

Couple lose a third of their land over ancient legal doctrine

BY CATHERINE TSAI
Associated Press Writer

DENVER Don and Susie Kirlin had lived in Boulder for four years when they bought a nearby lot with mountain views in hopes of one day building a dream home there.

"It's one of the prettiest lots in Boulder," Susie Kirlin said.

Twenty-three years later, the dream is slipping away: Their neighbors have added a third of the land, or more than 1,400 square feet, to their own property using the centuries-old doctrine of adverse possession.

The Kirlins say a judge's decision to grant Richard McLean, a former Boulder mayor and

former judge, and Edith Stevens nearly a third of their lot has made it impractical to build the 3,000-square-foot home they envisioned.

Bloggers, newspaper editorials and radio commentators are criticizing McLean and Stevens for filing the lawsuit that eventually gave them control of the land. Bloggers rallied more than 200 people to protest outside their home last weekend. One protester carried a sign with the couple's names and the phrase, "World's Worst Neighbors."

Stevens declined to comment, since the Kirlins plan to appeal the judge's decision. "We don't feel it's appropriate to talk about the issues that will be in litigation," she said.

The empty lot is about 200 yards from the

Kirlins' current home. The couple said they visited it every week when they and their three dogs walked to nearby trails.

Last year, when the Kirlins tried to put up a fence on the property line, McLean and his wife filed for a temporary restraining order. Then they filed a lawsuit under the doctrine of adverse possession, which says a person can gain possession of property after using it without a challenge by the owner for a certain period. In Colorado, the time frame is 18 years.

McLean and Stevens said they used part of the land for 25 years to get to their back patio.

The Kirlins said they didn't know the other couple was trespassing on their property.

The Kirlins said they have paid taxes on

the 55-foot-by-80-foot lot for 23 years, sprayed for noxious weeds on it and paid homeowners dues. They say their neighbors, whom they never met until the legal dispute began, can access their patio through their own back door or by walking on the other side of their own property.

Don Kirlin said McLean rejected his offer for Kirlin to give up five feet of his property so he would have access to the patio. "Then it became obvious he wanted to get a piece large enough to make it unbuildable," Kirlin said.

The couple were interviewing lawyers to pursue an appeal and did not say what the main argument for a reversal would be.

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Dilemma

A tourism campaign featuring ugly, chatty aliens draws critics

BY MARK EVANS
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. For a place that bills itself as “The Land of Enchantment,” a recent effort to tinker with New Mexico’s image is stirring up lots of angst.

For weeks now, a contentious debate has raged among tourism officials here over a new state-financed advertising campaign aimed at attracting vacationers. Instead of highlighting New Mexico’s picturesque desert landscapes, art galleries or centuries-old culture, the ads feature drooling, grotesque office workers from outer space chatting about their personal lives.

To some, the 30-second TV spots — which lead in roundabout fashion to the tag line that New Mexico may be “the best place in the Universe” — are provocative, funny and bold.

But to increasingly vocal critics, the ad campaign is strategically clumsy and a possible threat to the well-being of the state’s \$5.1 billion tourism industry. In other words, while the ads may yield a chuckle or two, the joke is on New Mexico.

Among the critics’ main targets is the appearance of the less-than-cuddly, reptilian spacemen, who they claim are more apt to baffle or frighten away a tourist than reel one in.

“New Mexico has a lot to offer — we don’t need to bring our standards down,” said Ken Mompellier, head of the convention and visitors bureau in Las Cruces, the state’s fast-growing second-largest city, which has refused to use the alien ads to bolster its own local tourism pitches, as it normally would.

“My first question would be: What does this campaign show of the things that we are known for?” Mompellier asked. “I look at this campaign and I don’t see the fit. And the things I’m hearing from people, some of it is very negative.”

Dale Lockett, president of the state’s largest convention and visitors bureau in Albuquerque, addressed the issue at a statewide conference last month.

At a keynote luncheon, Lockett told the creators of the ads, Santa Monica, Calif.-based M&C Saatchi, that their handiwork, while innovative, appeals to the wrong audience. Why, Lockett wondered, was the state targeting its centerpiece ad campaign to a younger crowd at the precise moment when the bulk of baby boomers nationwide are reaching the age when they have time and money to travel?

Rival neighboring states like Utah (with its “Life Elevated” campaign) and Colorado (“Let’s Talk Colorado”), for example, make far more direct appeals to the older, richer baby boomers in their tourism campaigns.

“What I was hoping to see (is) that we get the lifestyle values of the ‘Land of Enchantment’ — and what New Mexico offers — front and center, instead of trying so much to communicate to a certain (younger) demographic,” Lockett said in a phone interview.

At a recent meeting of the state’s tourism commission, M&C Saatchi representatives were urged to “soften up” the aliens.

“I’m willing to give the agency the benefit

of the doubt,” said Chris Stagg, a marketing executive at Taos Ski Valley who serves on the commission. But he said he’d be surprised if the Saatchi’s creative team doesn’t come back to the panel at its next meeting with a “less harsh” version of the campaign.

Aliens are fine, he said, but do they need to be creatures “that look like they’re going to suck your brains out?”

Creators and supporters of the campaign, which includes magazine print ads as well as the TV spots, got a boost last week when they learned the ads had won an Adrian Award honoring excellence in advertising and marketing.

The ads are the “envy of other tourism departments,” said Stephen McCall, group account director for M&C Saatchi, referring to the honor.

Defending the oddity of the campaign, McCall noted that New Mexico has unique challenges in competing in the hyper-competitive tourism market. New Mexico’s main rivals — Arizona, in addition to Utah and Colorado — all have their own charms and significantly more funding from their state legislatures; the ad budgets of each of those states ranks in the top 10 nationally while New Mexico’s budget (\$2.9 million this fiscal year) lingers in the lower third.

THE THINKING IS THAT YOU CAN HAVE ADVERTISING THAT LOOKS LIKE THE COMPETITION, BUT ONLY IF YOU CAN OUTSPEND THEM. WE CAN'T DO THAT."

Martin Leger
The state Department of Tourism's advertising manager

“The thinking is that you can have advertising that looks like the competition, but only if you can outspend them. We can’t do that,” said Martin Leger, the state Department of Tourism’s advertising manager, who has worked closely with M&C Saatchi on the campaign.

Jonah Bloom, editor of Advertising Age, an industry magazine based in New York, said he sympathized with a state trying to get as big a bang as possible from a relatively tiny ad budget.

“I can see why people in New Mexico might feel like this is hardly the best showcase of the state’s greatest assets,” he said after the reviewing the alien ads online. “But I think what they have to bear in mind is that in this day and age there is an incredible amount of clutter ...

“If I’m a target here in New York ... I’m going to sit on a subway car, which frankly this time of year is blanketed with ads for various different places that offer sunnier climes and have nice landscape shots and which say, “Why don’t you come here?” They’re not going to particularly stand out and I’m not going to notice.”

“In a cluttered world you have to try to do something different. When an alien pops up on your screen, you tend to be engaged.”

So far, the TV ads have been tried only in San Diego and Minneapolis.

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Santa gets liability for Christmas

BY MEGHAN BARR
Associated Press Writer

Life is not so jolly for the 21st century Santa Claus.

He keeps his white gloved hands where parents can see them and buys liability insurance, just in case. He doesn't ask for names or where children live — that might arouse suspicion. He's given up the pipe, and the jelly belly might be next.

And while he may bring tidings of joy, the man in the red suit endures criminal background checks like everybody else.

"A lot of people think all you gotta be is a nice old man," says Timothy Connaghan, professional Santa instructor and president of The Kringle Group, LLC, a conglomeration of North Pole-centric businesses. "Put a suit on, sit in a chair. But you have to be politically correct."

Today's Kris Kringle is poked, prodded and tailored to fit our times. It's no longer enough to show up at the mall, laugh merrily and hoist children on his lap. In fact, that job is now considered better left to parents, to avoid inappropriate touching.

In mistletoed shopping malls across America, Santa Claus is watching his back.

"Santa should not be involved in politics. Santa should not curse," says Nicholas Trolli, president of the Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas. "Santa should be jolly at all times."

WHO'S THAT MAN IN THE RED SUIT?

The Santa Claus background-screening requests started rolling in three years ago,

says Les Rosen, president of Employment Screening Resources in Novato, Calif.

"You would hope if there's anyone in this world you can trust, it's Santa," Rosen says. "We're in a world now where you can trust but you need to verify as well."

The firm scours national databases and court records for arrest warrants, sexual offenses and any other black marks that might soil a Santa's reputation. Nearly 500 prospective Santas will filter through the system this year.

Rosen recently struck up a partnership with RealSantas.com, a booking agency owned by The Kringle Group.

"I am pleased to say at this point, my faith in Santa Claus remains steadfast," Rosen says. "Everyone who comes through our system so far has passed and qualified to go forth and spread Christmas joy."

While such assurances may comfort anxious parents, liability insurance spares Santa from unwarranted grief.

"If a child is walking by and trips — not even near you — and gets hurt, someone might say it's your fault," says Connaghan. "Because you are an attractive nuisance."

SANTA 101

Everything is choreographed in the land of Santa, down to each word and hand movement. The tricks of the trade are passed down at various Santa schools scattered across the country. Connaghan takes his academy — The International University of Santa Claus — on the road, making pit stops in different cities.

Major topics of study include how to hold

children correctly, managing sticky conversations and proper care of hair and beard.

Santa's hands should be visible in all photos, Connaghan says. And he must never make promises he can't keep.

"What if something happens and they don't get that present?" says Trolli. "Then that child is disillusioned and disappointed. We don't want to see that happen."

And what if a little girl or boy confides in Santa, revealing physical abuse at home? Though it may surprise some, Santa can't just leap off his chair and tell the police. Instead he must enlist the help of a teacher or principal, who are protected from libel in case of false accusations, according to Trolli.

As Santa strives to fit modern standards, he is increasingly expected to maintain a real, snow-white beard.

"Gentlemen who have real beards, they work real hard at what they do," Connaghan says. "It's not just the 30-day holiday season. Some of them spend months getting ready to look right."

Yet some Santa Claus powerhouses deny any pre-holiday preparation. "Macy's has always maintained that we have the one and only real Santa Claus. There is no process," says spokesman Orlando Veras. "There is nothing to go through since he is the real guy."

GOING GREEN AND SLIMMING DOWN

In keeping with the anti-smoking times, the man from the North Pole put down his pipe a long time ago. Now, defying his rotund image, Santa is trying to lose weight.

"People expect Santa to be big, big, big, big," says Ron Levine, a Santa from

Wappingers Falls, N.Y., who is, in fact, Jewish. "I'm 225 to 250 pounds, so my belly shakes like a bowl full of jelly. Am I trying to lose some weight? Oh yes, every day. Because it's necessary for my health."

The AORBS, that alliance of bearded Santas, will stage a weigh-in this summer at its annual convention in Overland Park, Kan. Each Santa who fails to meet his weight-loss goal will pay a fee toward a charity.

"The problem is the children don't care if Santa's fat," says Trolli. "It's the parents who want Santa fat."

Santa has recognized the importance of being eco-conscious, too. Levine, billed as the "Green Santa," is donning a suit of that color and promoting the environment at FAO Schwarz this Christmas season while promoting a new children's book: "When Santa Turned Green."

In the story, Santa notices a leak in his ceiling, climbs onto the roof to investigate and discovers the North Pole is melting.

"There's wind and solar power for his factory now and energy efficient lighting," says author Victoria Perla. "He even asks Mrs. Claus to sew him green Santa suits. Except on Christmas Eve — then he wears his red suit."

SANTA, RE-IMAGINED

An evolving Santa Claus should come as no surprise, as the mythic figure has metamorphosed often since entering the American cultural landscape in 1820, says Stephen Nissenbaum, author of the Pulitzer prize-nominated "The Battle for Christmas."

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Tales from the crib

Angie Wagner

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Making a holiday tradition is tough

NOW THAT I HAVE MY OWN CHILDREN, I really want to pass along the excitement of Christmas that I loved so much as a child.

So I was thrilled to hear about the Polar Express train in Williams, Ariz. This would be perfect to start some holiday traditions of our own.

When I called six months ago, there were only a couple of weekends available. Some families book their trips to the North Pole a year in advance, and I am reminded by others that this trip is a BIG DEAL.

I thought it would be fun for the girls to watch the animated movie before the big trip. Maybe not such a good idea.

Addie kept saying, "Mommy, is it going to be just like that?"

She is pointing to dancing waiters on the train, then later the sea of elves at the North Pole.

A week before our nonrefundable trip, Addie comes down with a stomach bug, which is promptly passed to my 2-year-old, then my husband. I escape for now, but come down with a nasty cold two days before.

Not a good start.

Still, we head out on our first road trip without any help. No relatives. Just the four of us.

The three-hour ride goes remarkably well thanks to the entertainment of the DVD player.

We check into our non-smoking room and discover it reeks like an ashtray. But the hotel is completely booked, so this will have to do.

After meeting Mrs. "Clock," as Addie calls Mrs. Claus, it's time to get in their jammies and line up for the one-hour train ride.

I'm a bit surprised by how many moms are in matching jammies, too. But I love that Addie thinks we really are going to the North Pole and that it is "very far away."

Then we have our first problem: the waiters don't dance. Our waiter tells Addie he was injured and can't perform. She has a blank look on her face.

Then come the cookies and hot chocolate, which Aubrey spills all over her new flannel pajamas — the same one my husband made fun of me for buying for the occasion.

Chris Van Allsburg's "Polar Express" book is read over the train's intercom. Some families are clearly repeaters because they brought their own books and are following along.

Aubrey falls off the seat and twice hits her head on the wooden window sill. The lady next to us seems concerned, maybe because

we seem so unconcerned. But this is Aubrey, who gets a new goose egg on her head about every hour. Now a nice red welt is forming on her forehead.

The train rolls on.

Finally, the conductor announces we are arriving at the North Pole. The kids clamor to one side of the train and gaze at Santa and an adult-sized elf amid the lights of the North Pole. There is no snow.

Thankfully, Addie doesn't question me about that or anything else about the North Pole.

Santa boards the train and hands each child a bell, the same gift the boy in the book received.

The children are told to ring their bells, and my girls are delighted. And so am I, at how something so simple makes them so happy. Despite the ashtray room and summer camp-style food at the restaurant, maybe we have a tradition-in-the-making here after all! As we head back as another elf leads the passengers in Christmas carols. Sigh.

But the holiday bliss is not to last.

After a horse-drawn carriage ride around this small Western town, it's meltdown time. Addie, our horse lover, doesn't want to get off. It's been a long day with no naps.

She declares "I hate horses!" as we grab her and hurry back to the room.

Tears. Speech near hysteria. Something about petting the white horse.

We are exhausted and asleep by 9:23 p.m., albeit with frequent wake-up episodes through the night.

The next day, I find the photographer who took our picture on the carriage ride, but he is having a bad day. He finally finds our picture, then says: "I just found out I have prostate cancer and diabetes, so I just don't care."

We wish him better days and purchase our souvenir picture.

On the way home, I start feeling sick. My turn I guess. So I ride for three hours with a trash bag on my lap, just in case.

But that bell from the Polar Express jingled all the way home from the bottom of my diaper bag.

ON THE NET

■ **Polar Express in Williams:**
www.thetrain.com

■ **Polar Express events across the country**
www.traintraveling.com/events/09-polarexpress.shtml

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation (PRC) invites sealed proposals for:

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Marketing/PR, Events, Programs and Sponsorship Services**

The PRC is requesting proposals from qualified candidates (individuals or agencies) to develop and execute a marketing/pr plan, events, programs and sponsorship for the Santa Monica Pier's 100th Anniversary program titled "100 Years in the Past, 100 Years in the Future." Candidates are invited to submit event concepts and their qualifications for the program to take place between January and September 2009.

The selected contractor will work with the 100th Anniversary Steering Committee and the Pier Restoration Corporation to produce a program of events, activities, partnerships and programs which celebrate the Pier's 100 years of history, its status as an international icon and the promise of its future.

The RFP is available for viewing/download at www.santamonicipier.org

Please submit proposals no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 18, 2008 in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format to info@santamonicipier.org or mail proposals to:

Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation
100th Anniversary RFP
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For more information, please contact the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation at 310-458-8901 or email info@santamonicipier.org

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INFERNO SUBDUED:
(From above clockwise)
A giant plume of smoke hangs over the Pacific Ocean on Saturday afternoon. Firefighters brought in helicopters to help battle the wildfire that raged in Malibu over the weekend. A car is reduced to molten metal by the blaze. A fireman douses flames. A home in Malibu is reduced to ashes.
Photos by Brandon Wise
news@smdp.com



Scores of homes reduced to ashes

FROM FIRE PAGE 3

Water content in shrubs and trees was below 40 percent — a critical level — and strong winds were forecast to last several days. Hundreds of firefighters were dispatched to locations across Southern California, with big concentrations in Los

Angeles and San Bernardino counties. By Thanksgiving Day, the forestry department had more than 3,000 additional firefighters in place on 400 engines, 89 hand crews and 28 bulldozer crews, Richwine said. “We do this quite frequently, but this one was just a little bigger than what we’ve done

in the past because of the fuels and the winds,” he said. More than 100 aircraft were also waiting around the region, and dozens of inmates were ready to help clear fire lines. The Los Angeles County Fire Department, which took the lead in Malibu, had 100 extra personnel on hand and eight aircraft — two 1,200-gallon SuperScoopers and six helicopters — at the ready, said Fire Inspector Sam Padilla.

A hand crew was on the scene within three minutes of the fire’s start, and within 15 minutes, the six helicopters were up, he said. By Monday, the Malibu fire was 90 percent contained, with full containment expected later in the day.

The fires in Southern California last month destroyed 2,196 homes and burned 800 square miles.

“The event in late October, we pre-positioned whatever we had and we moved it to Southern California,” said Mike Jarvis, a spokesman for the state forestry department. “But if you’ve got wind of the extreme nature that it was last month, that really restricts what you can do.”

The winds in those fires whipped at up to 100 mph — twice as fast as top speeds over Thanksgiving — and lasted days instead of hours.

Because of the lighter winds this time, pilots were able to get up and stomp the flames down early, authorities said.

On the first full day of last month’s Southern California wildfires, which stretched from Los Angeles to the Mexican border, 24 aircraft got off the ground, according to records. On Saturday, 30 aircraft dumped water and retardant on the Malibu blaze, which charred about eight square miles.

Fire crews last time were also spread thin by more than 250 small blazes that popped up around the region, which didn’t happen this time, Jarvis said.

“It’s no different than a war. When you have multiple fronts your resources get stretched,” said Mike Padilla, aviation chief for the state forestry department.

Nevertheless, the losses in Malibu were far greater this time than in October, when just six homes, two businesses and a church burned down in the city.

The Santa Anas are expected to kick up again later week, and fire officials are drawing up a new set of staging plans.

“It doesn’t take much for things to start ripping again,” Richwine said. “That’s what we were preparing for.”

Associated Press Writer Michael R. Blood contributed to this report.

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LIVINGPROOF

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
CHILDRENS HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES

Good-bye and good riddance

Large jets may not find haven in SM any longer

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM AIRPORT Despite objections from the Federal Aviation Administration and the airline industry, the City Council is expected on Tuesday to make the Santa Monica Airport off-limits to faster, larger jet aircraft, a move that should provide added safety to residents living as close as 300 feet from the runway.

Airport Manager Bob Trimborn will be asking the council to conform airport usage to the proper federal designation, which defines it as a facility suitable for aircraft with approach speeds of less than 121 knots, or 138 miles per hour.

The designation is consistent with the fact that the airport's sole runway is less than 5,000 feet in length and, therefore, is not suitable for faster aircraft, which have very little room for error during landing and take-off, Trimborn said.

Limiting the airport to what are classified as Category A and B aircraft is part of the Aircraft Conformance Program — passed by the council in 2002 — that has been challenged by the FAA and the airline industry, which have successfully fought for more than 20 years to protect jet access, which they believe is necessary given the large number of flights at LAX.

Officials with the FAA, who have labeled Santa Monica Airport a reliever for LAX, would not comment on the proposed ordinance, preferring to wait until the council makes its final decision. However, they did say that jets can continue to use the airport safely as is, feeling additional safety measures could be added without changing the mix of aircraft that currently use the airport.

City officials have asked the FAA to allow them to put additional safety measures in place, including a runway safety area and collapsible concrete that would slow down

out-of-control aircraft, but federal officials have balked at the idea, saying the changes would make the runway too short for some aircraft, forcing pilots to land elsewhere.

If the council bans jets, the FAA and the airline industry could bring legal action. City Hall is the operator of the airport, however, it is limited in what it can do because of a 1984 agreement with the FAA that arose out of litigation.

dards or limit the types of aircraft using the airport “leaves the city without the ability to create an adequate physical safety buffer for the runway.”

“Thus, the FAA is, in effect, attempting to force the city ... to take the unacceptable risk of continuing to permit the growing use of the airport (by faster jet aircraft),” Trimborn wrote in a report to the council.

Maintaining the airport safely is diffi-



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

IN A HOLDING PATTERN: City officials are moving to restrict larger, faster jets from landing at Santa Monica Airport, something that could open the city to litigation from the FAA and airline industry, who view the airport as a reliever for Los Angeles International Airport.

City attorneys believe the 1984 agreement and FAA orders allow City Hall to prohibit or limit any type of aircraft in the interest of public safety.

Trimborn said the FAA's “refusal” to allow City Hall to implement safety stan-

cult, Trimborn said, because the facility's circumstances are unique. It is situated on a plateau with hills on either side and surrounded by dense, residential neighborhoods, with the nearest homes situated less than 300 feet from the runway ends. There

are no buffers or runway safety areas to protect against the risk of a runway under-shoot or overrun.

Councilmembers, city staff and residents have accused the FAA of putting commerce and convenience ahead of protecting the public.

Residents will almost certainly be pleased if the council moves to ban the jet aircraft, something which they have been calling for the last decade, becoming more vocal in recent years after watching the number of jets landing and taking off increase dramatically because of fractional ownership, which allows companies to purchase time on a plane, reducing travel costs.

“I think it's a great step in the right direction,” said Cathy Larson, who heads the airport committee for the neighborhood group Friends of Sunset Park, which represents residents living adjacent to the airport's western edge. “It's all about safety. The larger, faster jets are a serious threat to our community ... If an (accident) happened here, it would be disastrous.”

The number of jet aircraft operations has grown from approximately 1,500 annually in the mid-1980s to more than 9,000 annual operations in 2006, or about 25 operations per day.

Trimborn said the proposed ordinance would only affect 7 percent of operations at the airport. The vast majority of operations — 93 percent — would not be affected.

Those who would be affected have two options. They can use other private aircraft that meet the city's standards or they could use another airport in the region. Trimborn said with fractional ownership arrangements, business executives could easily trade their faster jet aircraft for slower aircraft.

kevinh@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Web site redesign on City Council's agenda

FROM CONSENT PAGE 3

To protect employees who might have to walk to and from their cars during the late evening and early morning hours, the bus company is asking the council to spend \$1.9 million on added security. The security officers will also be in charge of guarding the BBB facility and construction site — located at Colorado Avenue and Sixth Street — 24 hours a day, seven days a week, according to a city staff report.

The opening of the new Transit Store on Broadway in downtown this month also creates the need for added security. Roving patrols will cover temporary parking at the Civic Center structure as well as the new Transit Store.

The contract to provide security is with International Services, Inc. BBB has contracted with a security service to provide daily coverage at the bus yard since February 2002.

GROUNDSKEEPER

To ensure that the grounds at Woodlawn Cemetery are maintained for visitors, while freeing up staff to concentrate on mausoleum cleaning and maintenance, as well as burials, city staff is asking the council to enter into a one-year landscaping contract

with ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance, Inc. for \$431,143.

In September 2006, the council authorized the city manager to award a one-year contract to address ongoing staffing shortages which resulted in inconsistent maintenance of the cemetery grounds and less-than-acceptable appearance of the grounds and markers, according to a city staff report.

Since the contract work began in October 2006, the appearance of the cemetery has improved and city staff has been able to concentrate on other areas. Staff has examined the costs and benefits of adding additional city staff, in lieu of continuing to contract out, and concluded that the contract for landscaping provides the most effective service and saves money.

Services to be performed under the contract include mowing the grass daily, aeration, fertilization, pulling weeds, grave marker edging and trimming, planting flowers, collecting trash and trimming the perimeter fence hedge both inside and outside the cemetery.

By keeping the services in-house, City Hall would have to spend \$486,592 a year, plus purchase equipment at a cost of \$258,480.

OVER THE SHOULDER

To enhance security at City Hall and the offices of the finance department, which is located 1717 Fourth St., city staff is asking the council to spend \$184,394 to install and maintain security cameras at both locations.

The contract with Firstline Security, Inc. is for five years.

Following a recent burglary at the finance department and the repeated discovery of trespassers in City Hall after normal business hours, city staff evaluated security at both locations and it was determined that enhancements are needed. Police recommended security cameras and new locks for doors that can only be unlocked with special access cards during off hours.

UNTANGLE THIS WEB

Internet traffic has grown so much over the last two years that City Hall's Web site has become increasingly difficult to navigate and maintain, leading city staff to ask the council for \$125,300 to pay Content Management System to redesign the site to make it more flexible and accessible.

TAKING THE PULSE

To see if residents are willing to vote for a ballot measure that could protect between \$8 million and \$12 million a year in tax revenue, the council is expected to spend

\$35,000 on a survey.

The potential ballot measure would modernize the city's Utility Users Tax regarding telecommunications, a tax which constitutes 13 percent of the city's General Fund, which pays for essential services such as police and fire.

The 10 percent tax, which applies to all telecommunication services, including wireless communications, has been challenged in court and in the halls of Congress. The city's tax is valid, but it needs to be updated to address 21st Century modes of communication.

Such changes would require voter approval. City staff is looking at November 2008 as a possible time to place a potential measure on the ballot. Another option would be to hold a special election in the summer, but this would cost considerably more money than if City Hall waited until the already scheduled election in November of next year.

The city of Los Angeles, which has \$270 million at risk, is proceeding with a special election that will be held in February 2008 to coincide with the state's presidential primary election. City staff did not recommend that option because a special election would not draw the largest voter turnout and would be costly, anywhere from \$150,000 to \$170,000.

kevinh@smdp.com

Property owner appeals designation

FROM APARTMENT PAGE 1

return a call seeking comment on Monday.

The complex consists of three, two-story buildings on the east side of Ocean Avenue, located between Marguerita and Georgina avenues. Designed in the American Colonial Revival style, the apartment complex was first constructed in 1936 to be arranged in a "L" shaped orientation. The south wing wasn't added until 1950, creating the complex's current "U" shaped orientation. The south wing was also designed by Foster, who was also the architect responsible for the Pilgrim Lutheran Church on Wilshire Boulevard and another apartment building on the 200 block of San Vicente Boulevard.

IT'S FREE ENTERPRISE."

Ken Robbins,
A resident who lives nearby

Councilmember Herb Katz, who is also an architect, visited the site a few months ago and said his first reaction was that the building could possibly be a landmark, though he still remains undecided on the appeal.

"The fact that they later added a building in the 1950s is one I would question if I

questioned anything," Katz said on Monday, adding that the resulting courtyard from the addition was well done and the south building is already 56 years old.

The proposal to landmark the American Colonial structures first came up in early May 2006 when the Landmarks Commission reviewed a demolition permit application to take down the complex, deciding instead to consider it for landmark status. About a week after the hearing, several tenants seeking to save the building filed landmark nomination papers.

Several tenants and neighbors spoke at the October 2006 commission meeting in favor of preservation, touching on the fact that the complex is one of the few in the colonial revival style that remains in the area.

A few tenants still reside in the apartment today, including the core group of residents that decided to push the landmark nomination forward last year. The apartments, though in bad shape, includes unique features that aren't typically seen in some of the more modern apartment complexes in Santa Monica, including a brick fireplace, large kitchen and separate bathtub and shower.

Not all neighbors feel a designation is fair to the owner.

"It doesn't look structurally sound," said Ken Robbins, who has lived in a nearby apartment building for two years.

When Robbins decided to move into the



Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

PENDING: A runner passes a cluster of apartment buildings located at 417-421 Ocean Ave. on Monday. The property's owner wants the City Council to reverse a previous landmarks designation.

area, the American Colonial Revival complex was among the apartments in which he considered living, deciding against it because the bathrooms and kitchen were in bad shape. It would've taken a lot of repair work for a rental unit, Robbins explained.

Instead of a landmark designation to save the whole complex, Robbins believes the

owner should be allowed to construct a new structure that would incorporate design elements of the current buildings.

"It's free enterprise," Robbins said. "(The building) has character but it's not structurally sound."

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SURF REPORT

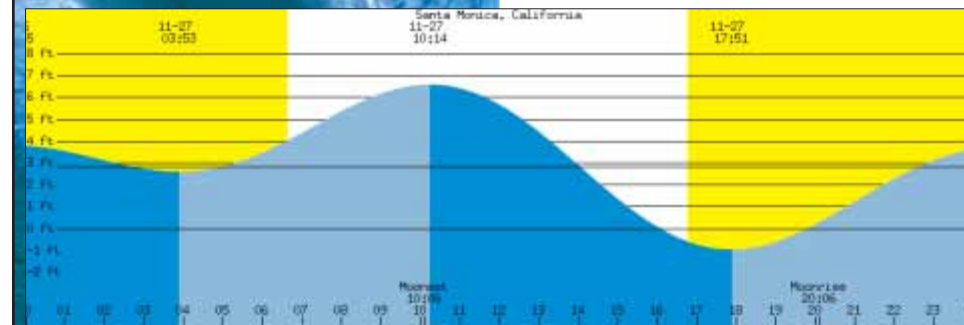


SURF CONDITIONS
WATER TEMP: 60°

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)
Today this NW ground swell should fade with just knee to waist high surf around west facing breaks, smaller at south facing spots. Winds should be lightly offshore in the morning, then moderately onshore in the afternoon. The tide is still an issue today, going well over 6 feet shortly after 10:00 AM.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
NW PICKS UP DURING SECOND HALF OF WEEK...
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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA





NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **November 19, 2007**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - hrc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 3
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 9
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 14
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 1

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	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Carillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (encastilla)	A+	as	Will Rogers State Beach at Red Air Way Club drain near fence	A+	as
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	as	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	D	as
Escorial Canyon at El Morizo State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chauliugua)	F	as
Breed Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	as	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	as
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	as	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	as
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	as
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	B	as	Santa Monica Beach at Pica/Kester storm drain	F	as
Escandida Creek, just east of Escandida State Beach	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	as
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A	as	Gosson Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	as
Selkirk Canyon at San Blazier County Beach	A	A+	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Puercio State Beach at creek mouth	A+	as	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	as
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puercio Beach, at 24572 Mulliken Rd.	A	A+	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	F
Sunbider Beach at Mulliken Canyon fence	A+	as	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	D	as
Sunbider Beach (beach location) - daily	B	as	Venice Beach- projection of Topical St.	A+	as
Mulliken Pier - 50 yards east	A	as	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	as
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	as
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	as	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunes County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	as
Tuna Canyon	A	as	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	as	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	as
Cocklerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	as	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	as
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	as			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	as			

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
as -- 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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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or debris found at local beaches. The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

MLB

Dodgers set to play game at Coliseum

Boston is scheduled for the exhibition

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The Dodgers will honor their 50th anniversary in Los Angeles with an exhibition game against the Boston Red Sox at the Coliseum next spring.

The game will be played March 29 and proceeds will go to the official Dodgers' charity, ThinkCure.

New manager Joe Torre was joined by owner Frank McCourt and Red Sox chairman Tom Werner on Monday outside the stadium's peristyle entrance along with Hall of Famer manager Tommy Lasorda and former Dodgers greats Don Newcombe and Maury Wills.

New Los Angeles manager Joe Torre, general manager Ned Colletti, owner Frank McCourt and Red Sox chairman Tom Werner gathered outside the stadium's peristyle entrance to announce the game.

"There are generations of Angelenos who have grown up as Dodger fans and never had the opportunity to experience a game at the Coliseum," McCourt said. "This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for fans to connect with the history of their beloved franchise and support an incredible cause."

The Dodgers played in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum for four years after moving from Brooklyn in 1958. They shared the stadium with football tenants Southern California, UCLA and the Los Angeles Rams. The baseball team moved to Chavez Ravine when Dodger Stadium opened in 1962.

On May 7, 1959, the Dodgers and Yankees drew 93,103 for an exhibition in honor of Roy Campanella.

The Coliseum, used for football, has a strange baseball configuration. When the Dodgers played there, they installed a 42-foot screen in left field to compensate for the foul pole being only 250 feet from home plate.

Wally Moon, a left-handed hitting outfielder for Los Angeles, developed a knack for hitting the ball high enough to clear the screen, and the drives became known as "Moon Shots."

"We always knew the Dodgers would return to the Coliseum before the NFL," Coliseum Commission vice president David Israel said jokingly.

MLB

Raines, Justice head new Hall of Fame candidates

By the Associated Press

NEW YORK Tim Raines and David Justice head 11 first-time candidates on the baseball writers' 2008 Hall of Fame ballot, joining Mark McGwire, Rich Gossage, Jim Rice and 11 other holdovers.

McGwire, his candidacy hurt by suspicions of steroids use, was selected on just 23.5 percent of ballots when he was eligible for the first time in 2007.

When Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn were elected in January, Gossage fell 21 votes shy of the necessary 75 percent and Rice was 63 votes short.

Rice is on the ballot for the 14th time and Gossage for the ninth. Players can be on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot for up to 15 years.

Gossage's percentage increased from 64.6 in 2006 to 71.2 in 2007, while Rice's declined from 64.6 to 63.5. The highest percentage for a player who wasn't elected in a later year was 63.4 by Gil Hodges in 1983, his final time on the ballot.

Raines was a seven-time All-Star who played 23 seasons and batted .294 with 2,605 hits and 808 steals, fifth on the career list. He was the 1986 NL batting champion.

Justice was the 1990 NL Rookie of the Year and a three-time All-Star. He had a .279 average, 305 homers and 1,017 RBIs in 14 seasons.

Brady Anderson, Rod Beck, Shawon Dunston, Chuck Finley, Travis Fryman, Chuck Knoblauch, Robb Nen, Jose Rijo and Todd Stottlemire also are first-time candidates. The five-year waiting rule was waived for Beck, who died June 23.

Other holdovers (with their 2007 vote percentages) include Andre Dawson (56.7), Bert Blyleven (47.7), Lee Smith (39.8), Jack Morris 202 (37.1), Tommy John (22.9), Dave Concepcion (13.6), Alan Trammell (13.4), Dave Parker (11.4), Don Mattingly (9.9), Dale Murphy (9.2) and Harold Baines (5.3).

Rijo retired after the 1995 season and appeared on the 2001 Hall ballot, when he received one vote. He then returned to the major leagues and pitched for Cincinnati in 2001 and 2002, making him eligible to go back on the ballot.

Reporters who have been in the BBWAA for 10 or more consecutive years are eligible to vote, and the totals will be announced Jan. 8.



life, leisure & the arts

Friday just got a whole lot more entertaining

Getting real ‘The Salt-N-Pepa Show’ details rappers rallying for the Jena Six

SALT-N-PEPA are still pushing it. Cheryl “Salt” James was determined to march for racial equality in Jena, La., last September, whether or not cameras from her VH1 reality series,

“The Salt-N-Pepa Show,” followed her. “I just felt like as a mom, I wanted to be there,” James told The Associated Press in a recent phone interview. “The Salt-N-Pepa

Show” documents the reunion of James and her former partner, Sandy “Pepa” Denton. James left the groundbreaking female rap group in 2002. James, Denton, their families and reality TV

crew journeyed for two days by tour bus to march alongside thousands of protesters and meet the families of the Jena Six, six black teens accused of beating a white high school student.

Their trip was to be featured in an episode airing Monday night (10 p.m. EST). Upcoming episodes feature James and Denton working out their differences.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL'S NEW LOVE?

Another day, another photographic flame for **PAUL MCCARTNEY?**

Rosanna Arquette is the latest woman to be photographed with the 65-year-old ex-Beatle. The News of the World published pictures of McCartney and the 48-year-old actress walking together outside of what it said was McCartney's north London home.

The encounter took place last week, the British tabloid said – only a month after McCartney was photographed embracing Nancy Shevell, a New Jersey trucking heiress and member of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority board.

AP

Seinfeld's trip to Israel gets buzz

JERRY SEINFELD'S trip to the Holy Land got so much hype it rivaled news of key upcoming Mideast talks. The Jewish comic visited Israel for the first time in decades to promote his new animated movie about bees, and he was treated like royalty – literally. Few entertainers get to meet both the Israeli prime minister and president. Seinfeld saw both, as well as touring the official Israeli Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem – the route taken by visiting world leaders. Newspapers devoted nearly full-pages to his trip. And references to his humor crept into serious items in the news. “Yada, yada, yada,” said TV political analyst Amnon Abramovitz Sunday about the Mideast meeting called by President Bush, quoting one of the best-known phrases from Seinfeld's TV show. Seinfeld, who arrived Friday and left Sunday, was in Israel as part of a world tour to promote his film, “Bee Movie,” his first major project since the end of his TV series. Seinfeld wrote the script and stars as a bee who is unhappy with his life manufacturing honey for humans. The comedian himself seemed awed by his reception. He said it was quite a contrast to his last trip to Israel in 1971 as a 15-year-old volunteer on a kibbutz collective farm. “I would be in the fields, and nobody wanted my autograph and nobody wanted to take their picture with me,” he told reporters in Tel Aviv.

AP



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

Happy among crowds, Virgo

Happy Birthday!

Your nurturing side emerges. How much you allow others to dominate in your life could evolve into a problem this year. Make sure it is OK to give this much of yourself; otherwise, hostility might start brewing. If you are single, it is not a question of admirers, but whom to choose. Be careful, as you are prone to giving way too much of yourself this year. If you are attached, the two of you can form an even tighter bond.



Born Today
Musician Jimi Hendrix (1942)
Attorney, author Caroline Kennedy (1957)

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

★★★★ To be blessed with high energy can be a gift, if used properly. If you relax and let go, you might be thrilled by events. The unexpected keeps appearing in your mind as you hit new realizations. Tonight: Discuss a theory.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might want to take another look at a situation that keeps recurring. You might not feel as if you are part of it, but you are the common denominator here – whether you like it or not. Communication flourishes. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You might find that it's time to handle the budget or change certain procedures. It's time to do something differently. How you approach a situation could change dramatically with some feedback. Stop, think and evaluate. Tonight: Take a hard look at your budget.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You smile, and others respond. You can also trust that if you are on the warpath, you'll find that others are too. Be careful what you put out into the universe; you just might get it back. Tonight: Smile your way into what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Sometimes you express anger without realizing what energy you are putting out there. Be careful to steer clear of others, as they do pick up on it and where you are coming from. Tonight: On the fence, watching rather than playing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Keep your eyes focused on the big picture. You easily could see something that others might miss. You understand the hows as well as the whys. It's time for you to start creating a wish or two and make them real. Tonight: Happy among crowds.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Take your time handling a problem that could impact your work and how you feel. Your smile softens a situation. New information heads in your direction. The unexpected impacts your work. Tonight: Keep the show rolling.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Think of many different ways of handling a situation. You might want to explore other options or do something very differently. Be willing to be spontaneous. The unexpected occurs. Tonight: Play Scrabble or surf the Net.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Someone feels strongly about a personal issue, and there is no way you can change his or her mind. Work with this person's thinking and walk in his or her shoes. You might be surprised by what you realize. Tonight: Be a duo.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others certainly want more say, and let you know it. Your creativity and ability to use situations to the max will emerge, putting you in an excellent position. You don't need to agree with someone. Tonight: Note all your options before deciding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You will discover there are many different ways of handling a problem. The issue might be which one is the most effective. You are goal-driven at the moment, and it might be difficult to stop you. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep, if possible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might want to slow down some, as difficult as it might be. You have a lot of ground to cover, and quickly at that. Detach and explore other viewpoints. You could be delighted by what you hear. Your feelings serve as a guide. Tonight: Let the kid in you out.

MOVIEGUIDE

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(310) 395-4990

Check theatre for showtimes

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Across the Universe (PG-13)

3:00, 6:05

Dan in Real Life (PG-13)

1:10, 3:55, 6:30

Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)

12:50, 3:30, 6:20

Michael Clayton (R)

12:15

The Mist (R)

12:20, 3:15, 6:10

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA

1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

American Gangster (R)

12:50, 4:05, 7:25, 10:45

Beowulf (PG-13)

2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:40

Beowulf: Digital 3D (PG-13)

1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

Enchanted (PG)

1:15, 2:20, 4:00, 5:00, 6:40,
7:40, 9:20, 10:20

Fred Claus (PG)

1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:30

Hitman (R)

2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15

LAEMMLE'S MONICA

FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)

1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

I'm Not There (R)

12:20, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10

No Country for Old Men (R)

1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00,
8:00, 9:55

MANN'S CRITERION
THEATRE

1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

August Rush (PG)

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

Bee Movie (PG)

11:50am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10,
9:30

Lions for Lambs (R)

12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

Love in the Time of Cholera (R)

12:30, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00

Mr. Magorium's Wonder
Emporium (G)

12:00, 2:30, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50

This Christmas (PG-13)

11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40,
10:20

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
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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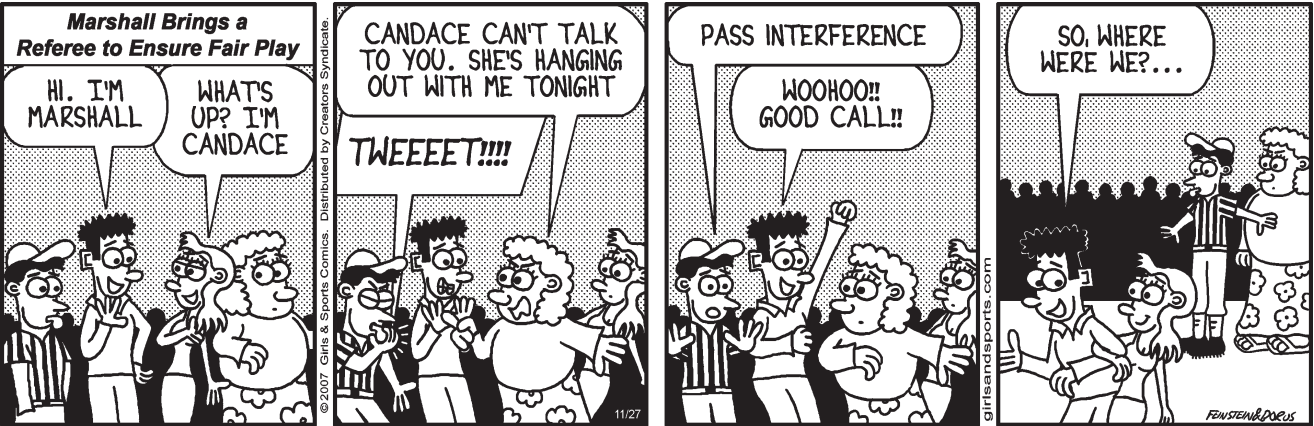
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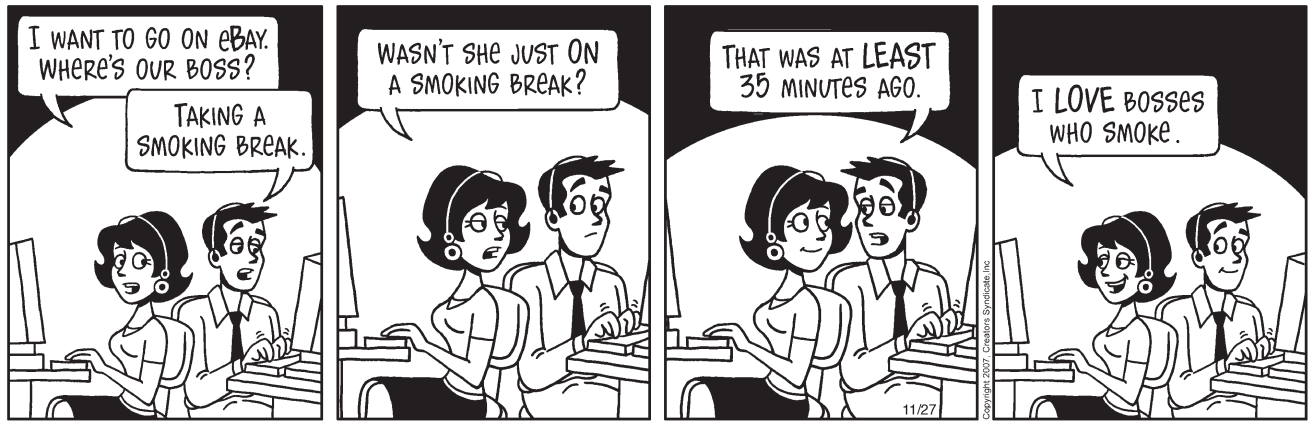
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



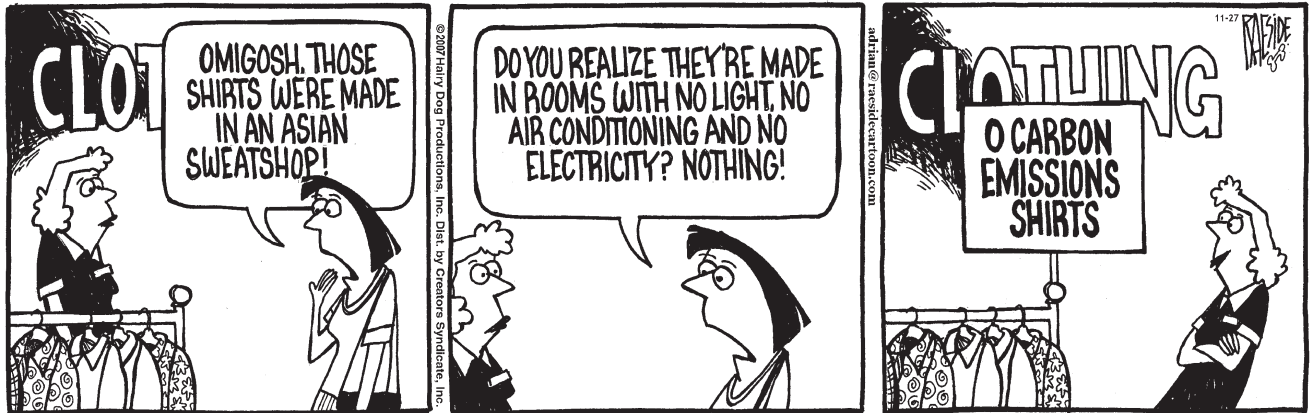
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



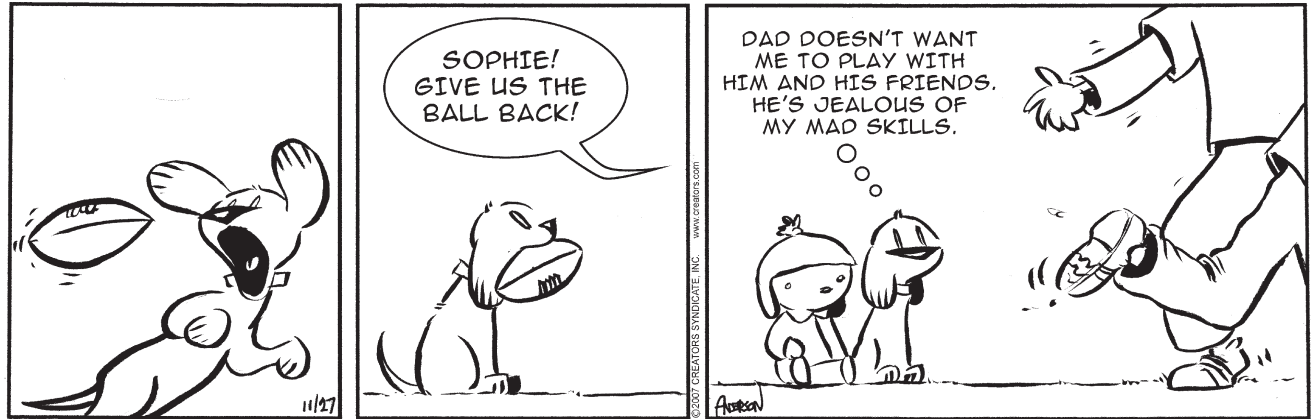
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

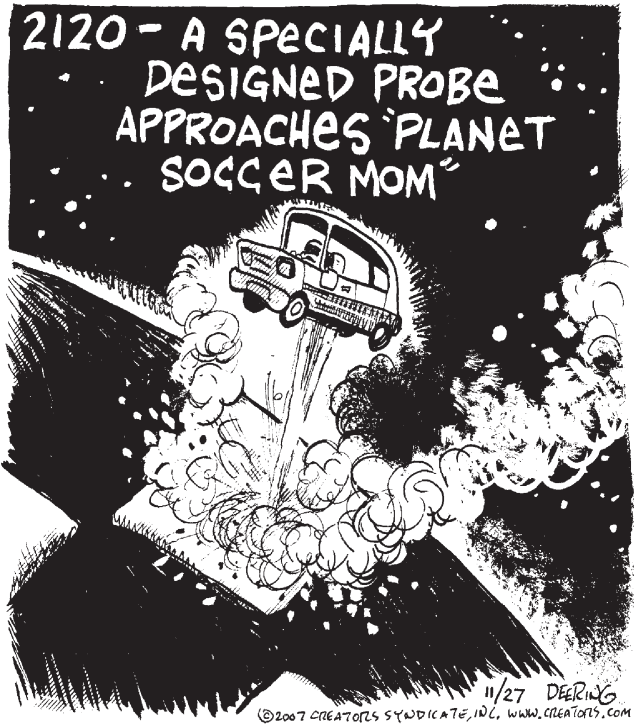


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Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Gabrielle Harradine news@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Jury
1 Snare makeup
5 Fruits 43 Smaller
from amount
10 Composer
Copland
12 Cream of
the crop
13 Sleepover
battle
15 Jargon
ending
16 Week part
17 Maze
runner
18 Randy
Quaid's
brother
20 Trig
function
21 Attain
22 Manual
reader
23 Plow
pioneer
John
25 Do some
modeling
28 Squat
31 Stench
32 2.5 miles
at Indy
34 Sulky
state
35 Twosome
36 High card
37 Gang
rumble
40 Driver's
180
41 Cham-
pagne
glass

DOWN
1 Not live
2 Curtain —
(opening
act)
3 Dahl or
Francis
4 Vote
seeker
5 Stand up
to
6 Ring
legend
7 River of
Mesopo-
tamia
8 Fuel gas
9 Hunter's
dog

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

Yesterday's answer

11 "Forget
it!" 26 "Swan
Lake"
14 Faded character
19 Green
Party
candidate
20 "Guys
and Dolls"
song
24 Second
election
25 Appears
unexpected-
ly 39 Suffering

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

Comics & Stuff

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS	18 21 33 42 56 Meganumber: 11 Jackpot: \$60M
Super LOTTO	8 12 21 31 39 Meganumber: 25 Jackpot: \$7M
Fantasy 5	25 30 36 37 39
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 9 6 7 EVENING: 8 8 4
DAILY DERRY	1st: 10 Solid Gold 2nd: 12 Lucky Charms 3rd: 04 Big Ben RACE TIME: 1:47:38

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Terry Cheatham, a criminal defense lawyer and adviser to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, has developed a line of greeting cards for a Hallmark-ignored demographic: the recently incarcerated. Among her selections are cards reading "Sorry to hear about your arrest," and "Honestly, I never knew anyone who was arrested before," and, simply, "Not You!" A remorseful correspondent could choose: "I know that I have not visited you. But I still care about you ... When are you getting out, anyway?"
■ Card sales are slow, according to an October Los Angeles Times story, and Cheatham acknowledges that people might prefer to ignore their connections to criminals.
■ Three aldermen in Dover, N.J., seem exceptionally apprehensive that the town's gumball machines are easy targets for terrorists to poison their community and have been studying the issue zealously since April. The aldermen have checked all 800 gumball machines in the town of 18,000, gotten rid of the 100 that were unlicensed, and will report to the mayor by Jan. 1 on the town's vulnerability. (The mayor has been mildly supportive of the project, as contrasted with the police chief, who said, "You'd probably win the lottery first" before being victimized by terrorists' gumballs.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1978 San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights activist, were shot to death inside City Hall by former supervisor Dan White.
1701 astronomer Anders Celsius, inventor of the Celsius temperature scale, was born in Uppsala, Sweden.
1901 the U.S. Army War College was established in Washington, D.C.
1910 the Pennsylvania Railroad began service at New York's Pennsylvania Station.
1942 during World War II, the French navy at Toulon scuttled its ships and submarines to keep them out of the hands of the Nazis.
1945 General George C. Marshall was named special U.S. envoy to China to try to end hostilities between the Nationalists and the Communists.
1953 playwright Eugene O'Neill died in Boston at age 65.
1970 Pope Paul VI, visiting the Philippines, was slightly wounded at the Manila airport by a dagger-wielding Bolivian painter disguised as a priest.

WORD UP!

foundling \FOWND-ling\, *noun*: A deserted or abandoned infant; a child found without a parent or caretaker.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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GIVE OF YOURSELF volunteers wanted at the discovery shop. Help us contribute to the American cancer society by spending 4 hours per week assisting in our resale shop in Santa Monica. Contact Terry or Shaunna at (310)458-4490

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT
Looking for ideal candidate to complete work orders and prep apartments for move in of a senior apartment building. Competitive wage and benefits. Must have clear criminal background and be drug free. Please apply at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405.

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SANTA MONICA \$800+
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SANTA MONICA, \$1595, 2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, NO Pets. Stove, Refrigerator, Parking. 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #16, Open Daily for viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in Unit. Manager in #19

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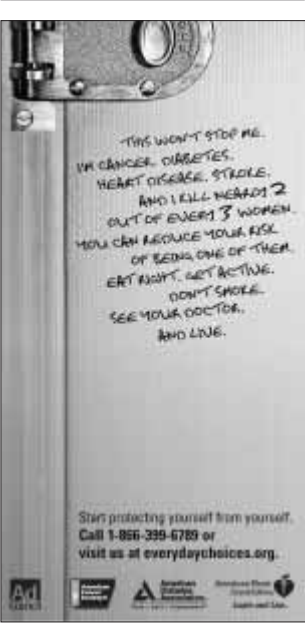
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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072411516 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PARADISO PRODUCTIONS, 1330 N. HARPER AVE. APT. 107, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA. 90046. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : ASHLEY WOODS, 1330 N. HARPER AVE, APT. 107, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA. 90046, SOREL CARRADINE, 1330 N. HARPER AVE, APT. 107, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA. 90046 This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: ASHLEY WOODS, SOREL CARRADINE
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/24/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq. Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/20/2007, 11/27/2007, 12/4/2007, 12/11/2007

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072442944 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MAMA'S LITTLE KITCHEN, 11852 ROSE ST. NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA. 91605. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : SARAH SCHULZ, 853 NOWITA PL. VENICE, CA. 90291 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: SARAH SCHULZ This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/29/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq. Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/27/2007, 12/4/2007, 12/11/2007, 12/18/2007

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Single Family Homes Condos & Townhomes

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North of Montana	=	\$ 3,962,464	\$ 1,754,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,160,571	\$ 986,275
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,038,167	\$ 680,431
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