



HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Story by
Melody Hanatani
Page 12



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Calendar

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Happy Holidays



Christmas Day Open 7:30a.m. – 2p.m.
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New Year's Day Open 7:30a.m. – 10:00p.m.

Hours: 6:30am - 10:00pm Daily
(Corner of 20th & Santa Monica Blvd.)

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Polar Plunge Beach Party

North of SM Pier, 11 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Jump into the ocean as part of the largest global warming action nationwide. There will be free hot chocolate and treats. Prizes will be awarded to those who bring the most friends with them.

It's a small world at the library

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1:30 p.m. — 3 p.m.

The Main Branch will host the Los Angeles Clarinet Choir as they perform songs and dances from around the world.

St. Monica's open house

1030 Lincoln Blvd., 1 p.m. — 4 p.m.

St. Monica Catholic High School will be open to prospective students and their families during their annual Open House event. For information, contact Mrs. Rice at (310) 394-3701, ext. 405.

Holiday Family Film: "Elf"

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Kick off the holiday season with this Yuletide comedy starring Will Ferrell and James Caan. Seating is first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium. Event is free.

McKinley Elementary Silent Auction

2401 Santa Monica Blvd., 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.

McKinley Elementary School and the PTA will host the 9th Annual Silent Auction to raise funds for the school's arts programs. Food and entertainment will be included along with the live and silent auctions. For more information, call (310) 828-5011.

L.A. Derby Dolls Championship Bout

1910 Temple St., L.A., 6 p.m. — 11 p.m.

The L.A. Derby Dolls are rolling into the 2007 Championship with a battle between Fight Crew and the Sirens. Tickets start at \$15. For pre-sale tickets, visit www.derbydolls.com/la.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007

Grand Chanukah Carnival

1428 17th St., 12:30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Chabad of Santa Monica's Chanukah Carnival will include game booths, a moon bounce, a raffle, food and a grand Menorah lighting. Admission is \$6 per person (includes food).

'The Marriage of Figaro'

1855 Main St., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Symphony performance featuring a flute program with Mozart's Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro." For more information, call (310) 395-6330. No charge for admission. Visit www.smsymphony.org for details.

Messiah Sing-a-long

3400 Sawtelle Blvd., L.A., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is hosting a Messiah sing-a-long. This holiday event is open to the public.

Santa Monica Nativity display

Palisades Park, 3 p.m.

The annual Santa Monica Nativity Scenes display will open with narration of the Christmas story and Christmas music. A procession of carolers (all ages are welcome to join) will form at Broadway on the Third Street Promenade and will sing its way to Palisades Park. After the ceremony, 14 lit scenes with life-size figures will remain on display through the end of the year for free viewing.

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.



Train may travel new direction

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY The construction authority overseeing the Exposition Light Rail Line will look at the possibility of having trains travel down Colorado Avenue rather than the median of Olympic Boulevard after the City Council raised concerns about that alignment, which would result in a downtown station being elevated 35 feet above Fourth Street.

The council also wants to protect the landscaped median and dozens of coral trees on Olympic and will contribute \$300,000 to pay for Metro to study the Colorado route as well as an alternate Olympic alignment, which city officials believe will be less intrusive to the pedestrian-friendly environment residents are trying to create in Mid-City.

"Running at grade, more like a street car, would work better and the hope is that it will create better places and spaces in Santa Monica," said Councilmember Pam O'Connor, who is also on the board of directors for the Expo Construction Authority, which voted Thursday to study alternatives when the rail line comes to Santa Monica.

"We also believe that having it go down Colorado would be better because of the median and the street trees," O'Connor said. "That is a very significant attribute to that street and it's important that we preserve that. If the light rail does end up going down Colorado, we can make significant improvements to green that street."

The proposed alignment in Santa Monica utilizes the Exposition Right-of-Way (ROW) until just west of Cloverfield Boulevard, where the light rail alignment diverges from Exposition and would follow Olympic into downtown Santa Monica. That rail alignment would require the removal of the center median with its landscaping and coral trees.

The Expo Authority has stated that it intends to add landscaping in the corridor wherever possible.

The downtown station being proposed would be located just north of Olympic Drive and the Santa Monica Freeway and parallel to Fourth Street.

SEE TRAIN PAGE 7

Let the fires burn

Conservancy to ask Coastal Commission to allow camping

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM MOUNTAINS The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will ask the California Coastal Commission to allow overnight camping in the hills around Malibu, despite a move by elected officials there to

prohibit such activity out of fear that it may spark more wildfires.

Joseph Edmiston, executive director of the conservancy, said the Malibu City Council's decision earlier this week to prohibit overnight camping was an attempt to keep people out of the area, saying a "group of affluent homeowners" used threats of a recall to pressure city officials into voting in their favor.

"The clear intention of the Coastal Act is to protect the interests of all citizens of California and provide access to these unique public resources," Edmiston said. "Obviously, the city wants the open space and trails purchased with taxpayer dollars, but they won't

allow us to provide the parking and amenities that will permit anyone but local residents to use them."

Both Malibu officials and its residents contend the ban on camping is not about NIMBYism (not in my backyard), but rather about protecting people and their property from harm posed by wildfires. The city has been struck by three wildfires in the last year, including one on Nov. 24 that consumed more than 4,900 acres and destroyed 53 homes. It was Malibu's worst fire since 1993.

"People are really afraid," said Councilman Ken Kearsley, whose home was nearly burned

SEE CAMPING PAGE 7



LIP SERVICE

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

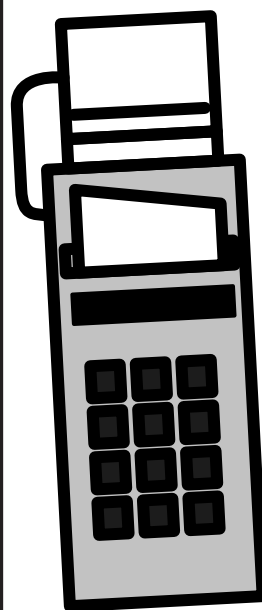
Renowned trumpet master Malcolm McNab hosted a free trumpet clinic Thursday afternoon for Santa Monica High School students at Barnum Hall. The Los Angeles native has played with the likes of the Pasadena Symphony, New York Philharmonic and Los Angeles Philharmonic, and performed with pop stars such as Frank Zappa, Dionne Warwick, the late Peggy Lee and Chicago.

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

City iced plans for pier attraction
Editor:

The skating rink in Santa Monica is a wonderful addition to this great city, but why is not on our fabulous Santa Monica Pier? It seems a no-brainer – plenty of parking and existing food concessions without the need to bring in a Santa Barbara- based food concession. Why can't the rink help local business? In addition, this is the time of year when the pier needs promotion. What a great venue and attraction that would be!

The Santa Monica Pier tried for several years to get a skating rink up there and rumor has it that the city was the stumbling block because of excessive rent, for a corner of the pier parking lot, required of the promoters. Now again, rumor has it, the city donated this current parking lot rent-free to accommodate the skating rink.

G. Woods
Santa Monica

Reader didn't hear the news
Editor:

I'd been trying to catch up on the archive editions because I could not find the paper version by the main post office. I noticed the boxes were gone seemingly overnight. Thank you for the story about the boxes ("News you can lose," Dec. 5). I did have a hard time finding alternate boxes for the SMDP.

I sure hope we are not subjected to condo mania in the Mid-City area. So now, instead of walking to the movies and to a store to pick up some healthy food, we have to get in our car and drive to the already overcrowded downtown area and fight for parking with the thousands of commuters. We know you can't ride a bike either, because you will get crucified as a heretic if you try to ride an bike in this city anymore.

Something is really wrong with this picture.

R. Jones
Santa Monica

Park it right here ... please!
Editor:

Regarding that new many-storied parking structure with the funny colored lights along Fourth Street, by the freeway, next to the new police station: It used to let us know, via light-emitting-diode, like the other Fourth Street lots further downtown, the number of spaces that remained available – "700 ... 679 ... etc."

Now, no numbers emit from any diodes. Zip. Nada. Not a digit is stirring. I was wondering if that's because nobody is parking in this new lot, and the parking folk are just too embarrassed to let us know that.

Henry Rosenfeld
Santa Monica



Modern Times
Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dogs and cats go undercover

We Americans are crazy about our pets. We spend \$41 billion a year on them. The late Leona Helmsley left her dog, Trouble, \$12 million. We've all seen dogs and cats wearing hand-made sweaters, despite their having natural fur coats. And my family entered this arena of the overly involved pet owner. We had our dog's DNA tested to determine his ancestry.

DNA testing did not really embed itself in the American psyche until the O.J. Simpson trial. Since then, hundreds of people who have been wrongly convicted of crimes have been freed after DNA testing. And then, of course, DNA was back in the headlines during the tragically lurid search for the biological father of Anna Nicole Smith's daughter. Just to refresh your memory, the possible fathers in that case ranged from Anna Nicole's lawyer/companion to Zsa Zsa Gabor's ninth husband.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE
STILL DON'T REALLY
KNOW WHAT KIND OF DOG
HE IS. THE GOOD NEWS
WAS THAT THE TEST
PROVED THAT HIS FATHER
WAS NOT ZSA ZSA
GABOR'S HUSBAND.

But I never thought DNA testing would be a part of my life. When my wife took our dog to the vet recently, she told him that she had heard about DNA testing for pets. Since we had rescued our dog from the pound, she told the vet that we really had no information about what kind of dog he was. Without DNA testing, I knew exactly what kind of dog he was: A little, white, fluffy dog. But my wife wanted more information. It wasn't as if she was going to return him if she got surprising test results about Marmaduke (not his real name since the dog would like his privacy protected). And she wasn't hoping that he was descended from Queen Victoria's Olde English Sheepdog or anything snobby like that. She was just curious.

I was curious, too. I was curious how

much this DNA testing cost, but I was smart enough not to ask. If I had, my feelings about the testing may have gone from, "That may be interesting" to "Are you crazy? What's the difference?" But I understood her curiosity. And I was tired of answering, "We really don't know" every time someone came up to me and asked, "What breed of dog is he?"

While waiting for the test results to arrive, I admit that I wondered about them just as much as my wife did. I knew that no DNA test could explain why Marmaduke sometimes forgets that he is housebroken, or why he doesn't like to eat alone, or why he has the ability to make us smile no matter what mood we're in. But now that some lab technicians were going to be looking at his DNA — presumably in between solving crimes — I wanted to know what his canine genome had told them.

The results finally arrived. It turns out that Marmaduke is part Italian Greyhound, part Miniature Poodle and part Toy Fox Terrier. But this fancy DNA test also concluded that Marmaduke is part what they technically call "mixed breed." Apparently, he is descended from many breeds, but their "signals" are not "strong enough to identify." In other words, we still don't really know what kind of dog he is. The good news was that the test proved that his father was not Zsa Zsa Gabor's husband.

The pet paternity people are listed at some typical characteristics of each breed that they said Marmaduke was descended from. Some of these were words that most people use to describe their dogs — like "intelligent" and "playful." When I first read them, I started to think that the report was much like what psychic charlatans tell their suckers — just what the paying customers want to hear. But then something caught my attention. One of the traits listed under Miniature Poodle was "seems to enjoy dog sports such as ... musical canine freestyle."

I had no idea what "musical canine freestyle" was, but I was pretty sure that Marmaduke had never participated in it. I went online and learned that it is a musical program performed by handlers and their dogs in which the duos dance and "interpret the theme of the music." I smiled immediately. I no longer felt that we were being silly for checking out our dog's DNA.

LLOYD GARVER writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

"John and I have to hire a baby-sitter just to get some."
— TV chef Rachel Ray on her dog ruining her sex life

"She knew that I enjoyed serving on the council so much that she told me, 'If it's what you like doing then you should get back to doing it.' So that's what I did."

— Newly elected mayor of Santa Monica, Herb Katz, on leaving the City Council in 1992 to spend more time with his first wife, who was losing a battle with cancer. It was she who encouraged him to run again for the council before she passed.

I THINK WE'LL BE SKEWERED IF WE DON'T DO IT AGAIN.'

— Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp., on the likelihood of bringing back the popular Santa Monica ice skating rink next year

"I'll be the cool one when my head is protected (in an accident)."

— Samohi senior Austin Draper, on wearing a helmet while riding his bike to school

"To all girls with butts, boobs, hips and a waist, put on a bikini — put it on and stay strong."

— Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt, who was criticized this week for how she looked in a bikini

"That's been a lot of complaints we've gotten from residents: 'I came to Duncanville to have a family. I didn't come here to live next to a sex club.'"

— Duncanville City Spokeswoman Tonya Lewis, on a large sex club currently operating in a Texas residential area where people come for "Naked Twister" nights

"I'm so camp! I'm such a gay man trying to get out."

— Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham

"You've got to have your head on a swivel and your eyes peeled for what's going on around you."

— SMPD Sgt. Larry Horn, on the need for pedestrians to be responsible for their own safety when crossing the street

"I'm a scamp. I don't deny it. I like myself."

— Actor Jack Nicholson, on his infamous romantic history

Quotations captured and compiled with care by Cynthia Vazquez.

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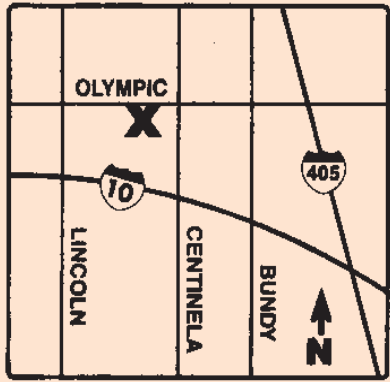
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The QLine

MALIBU SCHOOLS CAN STAND ON THEIR OWN

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you think dividing the school district in two – Santa Monica and Malibu – is a good idea?

Here are your responses:

YES, I THINK DIVIDING THE DISTRICT
in two is a very good idea for all concerned."

"THERE IS ONLY ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT
– the Los Angeles County School District. Based on school budget, the county monetarily subsidizes all school districts in the Los Angeles County area. Those monetary funds are derived from various forms of taxation. Based on budget, it would not be difficult for the county finance administration to forward checks directly to Malibu. Santa Monica compounds what they grab from the county by having their own form of apartment building/tenant rip-off taxation. As a tenant, I will expect to pay much less the Santa Monica tax window, if and when the Malibu school district becomes a separate entity."

"THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU
Unified should definitely be split. I think that some of Santa Monica is corrupt and that they should split off into their own districts."

"THE BEST THING FOR MALIBU RESIDENTS
and their children is to have their own district. There's no reason for Malibu schools to be governed by the Santa Monica-dominated school board and have their tax money going to support the Santa Monican schools. The school district would obviously fight it, but if I were a resident of Malibu, I would fight for independence from Santa Monica."

"IT'S NOT ONLY A GOOD IDEA, IT'S THE
right idea and long overdue. This arrangement stems from a time when Malibu was an unincorporated area, whose few students were bused into schools in Santa Monica. It should have been terminated when Malibu High was established in 1992. California law mandates that a school district must be composed of adjacent communities. So this arrangement is clearly illegal. And it is unconscionable that Santa Monicans through the highly regressive parcel tax are paying for Malibu schools."

"IF THEY DIVIDE THE DISTRICT INTO
two districts it probably won't save money. Even with one district, they'll spend more money than they need to. But with two districts, you have two sets of idiots messing things up, instead of just one set of idiots."

"HOW MUCH MONEY DOES MALIBU
contribute in yearly taxes to the school district? We have roughly four times the taxpaying population and about four times the student population. Malibu can split when they reimburse us for the many millions we've spent to upgrade an unneeded high school for rich kids. Plus our supporting their low student population per school, compared to Santa Monica, leads to higher GPAs. Samohi's test scores are lower because of the absence of Malibu students' peer

pressure. Our school district is one of the most incompetent organizations mismanaging our money. For the half a billion dollars spent in the last 20 years, we now have a polarized school community with the most money spent to achieve higher GPA per student ratio for any school in the country – and failing."

"I THINK IT'S PROBABLY LONG OVERDUE
for many different reasons. The ad hoc committee will probably come up with something that we will all understand. We do know that we support each other in many different ways, but I'm personally in favor that Malibu has theirs and we have ours."

"I'm a resident of Santa Monica and I think dividing the school district is a good idea. It complies with Education Code 4200 (I know I sound like a computer now), but there won't be any significant impact – the schools already exist and the students won't be sent to other schools. It doesn't make sense. It seems like an end run on Proposition 13 to raise taxes with the parcel tax."

"I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE A GOOD
idea to split the district because Malibu is a much wealthier district than most parts of LA. I think the LA Unified would suffer and Malibu would benefit from the split. Also, Malibu has much better fundraising abilities."

"I HAVE TWO KIDS IN SAMOHI AND
I do agree Malibu should break off and create their own district. I guess they're really happy with the success of their high school right now, and I think they deserve a private school district of their own. Since taxpayer money built the Malibu school district, Malibu should reimburse the Santa Monica families for helping to build those schools. Otherwise, we don't need Malibu schools."

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Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

A POSSIBLE NEW PATH: Exposition Light Rail Line will look at the possibility of having trains travel down Colorado Avenue rather than the median of Olympic Boulevard.

Expo Line could take a new route

FROM TRAIN PAGE 3

However, the alignment is assumed to be in an aerial configuration some 35 feet in the air — about three stories — to clear Lincoln Boulevard and the Fourth Street on-ramp. The elevated section would extend approximately half a mile and, depending on the location, would range in height from 23 to 35 feet. The proposed station along Fourth at Colorado is also shown to be 35 feet above the sidewalk.

City staff fears the elevated stations, which are supported by concrete columns, would detract significantly from the character and scale of downtown and are not in line with the desired pedestrian environment.

There may be a way to have the trains go down Olympic and still preserve the median and the trees. To do so, a traffic

lane in each direction would have to be removed and that could have a significant impact on automobile traffic, which needs to be studied.

As for Colorado Avenue, city planners believe an at-grade alignment would have the potential for stimulating and revitalizing the traditional industrial neighborhood between 17th and Fourth Streets, since street-level light rail corridors have shown they can provide great opportunities over time for retail businesses and walkable connections to neighborhoods.

“We need to study these next steps, but I do believe it has a lot of potential,” O’Connor said of the Colorado alignment. “The key is to make sure there is a placemaking component or else, frankly, it becomes just another transit parkway.”

kevinh@smdp.com

Conservancy supports camping

FROM CAMPING PAGE 3

down in the Corral Fire last month, the flames coming “right to our doorstep.”

“Some of this was fear-mongering and became political, but the bottom line is I was elected to represent the people and this is what they wanted,” said Kearsley, who was in favor of allowing some overnight camping as a way to appease the conservancy, which is planning to go directly to the Coastal Commission, where Kearsley believes it will be victorious.

“I think it’s only a matter of time, perhaps a year or more, before the commission gives (the conservancy) what (they) want,” Kearsley said.

The conservancy and the council had reached a compromise that is now lost. The compromise would have created more trails and allowed overnight camping at Corral Canyon and Charmlee Wilderness Park, a city-owned park near the Ventura County border, and would have allowed the conservancy to hold events such as weddings and conferences at its Ramirez Canyon Park headquarters.

Now, Kearsley and other members of the council fear that the conservancy will push for more than 40 campsites instead of the 24 the council was willing to give. As a condition of

I THINK IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, PERHAPS A YEAR OR MORE, BEFORE THE COMMISSION GIVES (THE CONSERVANCY) WHAT (THEY) WANT."

Ken Kearsley
Councilman

allowing those campsites, the conservancy had agreed to have rangers patrol them 24 hours a day. Campfires would have also been prohibited during “red flag” days, when the chance of a fire igniting is high.

Without the compromise, it is unclear if the conservancy will make those concessions.

“The ball is in the Santa Monica Conservancy’s court,” Kearsley said.

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City of Santa Monica Ordinance Number 2244 (CCS) (City Council Series)

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2244 prepared by the City Attorney.

Ordinance Number 2244 (CCS) (“the Ordinance”) adopts the California Building Standards Code with local amendments based upon local climatic, geological and topographical conditions. Among other things, the Ordinance would: (1) add requirements for special inspection for one and two-family dwellings based upon the use of specialty construction items; (2) limit construction of footings without special inspections; (3) add various provisions enhancing seismic safety; (5) add provisions to increase structural stability for essential facilities; (6) add provisions governing separations between buildings and between buildings and property lines; (7) add provisions regulating construction of stepped footings on sloped lots; (8) restrict use of hollow steel tubes as bracing members; and (9) readopt and thereby continue numerous provisions of existing law relating to construction quality control, geotechnical reports, fire retardant roofing, seismic requirements, fireplace design and wood construction, electrical work, plumbing, fire safety, green building and window guardrail safety.

The ordinance was adopted on November 27, 2007 and will become effective 30 days later.

The full text of the ordinance is available upon request from the Office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica; phone: (310)458-8211.

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Carmine's II Caffè 10463 Santa Monica Blvd.
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Portland is amongst the greenest of cities

BY CAROLE ORLIN
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY PRESS

What city do you think sees itself as “greener” than Santa Monica? If you answered Portland, Ore., you would be correct! In all fairness, they were green long before being green was cool. I decided I would be remiss if I did not include Portland and the northern Oregon coast on my list of magnificent destinations in the Pacific Northwest.

A smooth two-hour plane ride from LAX landed us at PDX airport, just a 20-minute ride to downtown Portland.

We checked into the chic Hotel Monaco in the heart of downtown Portland. This landmark building is newly revived, attractive, dog friendly (they have their own four-legged Director of Pet Relations, named Art) and is within walking distance to the famous Pearl District. The décor is best described as Anglo-Chinois influenced. I have to give the designer credit as the effect is somehow whimsical, yet calming and restful. The rooms have all the important amenities, but what really stands out is the quality of service. People are coming to expect the 32” plasma TVs and the Internet access, etc. What makes a hotel stand out nowadays is the service — this hotel’s strongest attribute.

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There is a definite urban vibe in Portland, yet the people were uncommonly friendly. On two occasions as I was trying to read my Portland map, strangers came up and asked if they could help me!

Both the Pearl District and Nob Hill are musts for visitors to Portland. The Pearl District covers more than 100 blocks of dining, shopping, galleries and boutiques. Best of all, we discovered a treasure called Powell’s, the world-renowned city block-long bookstore. What a way to spend a day if you’re a book lover like me! There is so much to do and see in downtown Portland that I cannot possibly cover it all in one article. However, on top of most everyone’s list is the Japanese Garden. These tranquil gardens sit on five and a half acres and feature five different styles of Japanese gardens right in the city. They also offer a spectacular view of Mount Hood. Saturday (and Sunday) Markets in Old Town are another major attraction, with the offerings of more than 300 artisans! This is open from March through Christmas. It’s fun, food, music and



Photo courtesy

KEEPING IT NATURAL: Portland, Oregon strives to be as environmentally friendly as possible.

local handcrafted works. A great way to spend a weekend afternoon!

Of course, fine dining is an important part of the Portland experience. We dined at the lovely Red Star Restaurant, which just happens to be located next to the Hotel Monaco. We met the exceedingly talented and tattooed chef, Tom Dunklin, who created the sumptuous menu. It was so intriguing that I admit I had a difficult time choosing a dish. How do you decide between wood oven-baked oysters, fennel sabayon, caviar and citrus cracker or halibut sashimi, citrus “sponge” puffed rice, jalapeño, and bourbon vinaigrette? Being the trooper I am, I did decide and was not disappointed! A wonderful meal, atmosphere and creative menu made for a great evening.

If you want a break from the city, you have many choices. One is a drive on the historic Columbia River Highway to the Columbia Gorge. This is a very popular place to hike or picnic or just sightsee. There are five water-

falls cascading over the Gorge. Another option, the one we chose, was to head west/northwest to the coast and the beaches. We had time to only visit two: Cannon Beach and Manzanita Beach. To say Cannon beach is breathtaking does not even come close to describing its dramatic beauty. There are nine miles of beach with huge seastacks close to shore. The largest one is called Haystack Rock, which rises 235 feet above the shoreline. This is a haven for everyone from hikers and bikers to birdwatchers. But be aware, according to the locals, it gets very busy and crowded in the summer. I have been to beaches all over the world, but never to a beach that compares to this. Well, possibly Rio; but this one is much closer!

As you see, the Portland area is yet another example of the natural wonders we have so close to home; really, no need to roam!

Carole Orlin can be reached at Caroleorlin@yahoo.com.



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City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2245 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2245 prepared by the City Attorney

Ordinance Number 2245 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") adds Section 8.32.070 to the Municipal Code requiring the installation of approved gas shutoff devices in structures and mobilehome parks, prior to sale or exchange, if they are newly constructed or have undergone additions or alterations exceeding \$10,000 in cost.

The ordinance was adopted on November 27, 2007 and will become effective 30 days later.

The full text of the ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Sana Monica; phone: (310) 458-8211.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA
CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hearby given that a public hearing will be held by the Santa Monica City Council at the Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 8, 2008 for patrons of the Big Blue Bus. The hearing will be held as an agendized part of the City Council meeting, which starts at 6:45 p.m.

The City Council will consider cancellation of the Downtown Market Ride and Pico Market Ride services as of February 2008.

Anyone may comment in person at the hearing, or prior to the meeting by:

- attending the community meeting hosted by the Big Blue Bus on Thursday, January 3, 2008 at the Santa Monica Fairview Library, located at 2101 Ocean Park Blvd.
- submitting written comments to: Big Blue Bus, 1660 7th St., Santa Monica, CA 90401, Attn: Dan Dawson
- emailing comments to Bus-Info@BigBlueBus.com

For additional information, contact Dan Dawson, Customer Relations Manager, at (310) 458-1975 ext. 5831.

City Hall is wheelchair accessible. Disability-related accommodation requests should be made at least 3 days prior to the hearing by calling (310) 458-1975 ext. 5831 or TTY (310) 395-6024, or email: Bus-Info@BigBlueBus.

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CLICK & DATE

Sparking relationships
may be just a quick
download away

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CYBERSPACE It's not just children who write letters to Santa Claus.

"Santa, I'm in search of a new girlfriend," a Santa Monica man recently wrote to St. Nick. "I know you're going to hear from quite a few girls saying they want a new boyfriend for Christmas so I wanted you to know I'm available and would be open to your putting an absolutely adorable girl in my stocking."

The simple Christmas request came from the 54-year-old owner of a recruitment firm who in seeking some companionship for the holidays. He cleverly posted a short 257-word letter to Santa on the personals section of Craigslist, including within it his specifications for the perfect woman. "Please make sure she doesn't smoke and please send someone who likes to exercise, Santa," stated the author of the letter, who in choosing to remain anonymous for this article referred to himself as Coolsurver.

With the winter holiday season well under way — invitations to office and family parties arriving in the mail and jewelry store commercials advertising in full force that Christmas and New Year's is the perfect time to pop the question — the more than 80 million American singles are feeling the pressure to seek some romance.

The Internet has emerged as the premier date-finding destination for singles in the past decade with the widespread success of sites like eHarmony and Match.com, supplanting the newspaper personal ads and the grocery store aisles as the best places to find Mr. or Ms. Right.

Such sites can see a spike in registered users in the crunch time between Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day. "We attribute a lot to the New Year's resolution where people are saying 'next year, I'm going to find somebody,'" said Gail Laguna, spokeswoman for JDate, a dating site for the Jewish community.

The Beverly Hills-based dating site was founded Joe Shapira and Alon Carmel, two Israeli entrepreneurs, in 1997 at a time when the Internet dating boom was taking off. The site has steadily grown over the past 10 years and now has more than 400,000 registered clients.

Once a stigmatized way to find romance, Internet dating is now widely perceived as an acceptable and common way to meet new people, especially among the younger generations that grew up surfing the Web and chatting online.

"Everyone does it," said Marcia Miller, a Santa Monica business owner. "I would think there's something wrong if you weren't doing it."

Miller, a jewelry consultant who owns the Marcia Miler Collection, has been dating via the Internet for the past 10 years and has met her last three boyfriends through sites like PlentyofFish, Match.com and Yahoo Personals. Once married for 10 years, Miller said she enjoys the convenience of meeting a man without going through the hassle of dressing up, being able to sit and relax in front of her computer and browse through the seemingly endless database of eligible bachelors. Though she believes the Internet is an excellent way to meet men, Miller said that online dating only comprises 3 percent of her social life.

Perhaps the success of Internet dating can be attributed to strong marketing campaigns by various sites, posting stories of their clients finding love through their services and living happily ever after. One of the more notable advertising campaigns belongs to eHarmony.com, whose commercials include a series of testimonials by smiling couples telling their stories to the tune of "This Will Be."

"There is a history of more and more people meeting online and a lot of people think if it worked for Suzy and Tom, maybe I can do it, too," said Los Angeles dating and relationship expert Lisa Shield.

Shields, whose business is based in the Fairfax District, said she is shocked by the number of people who still seem to be resistant to the idea of dating online.

"Their fear causes them to make up irrational excuses or reasons why they can't do it," she said. "The truth is it's a brilliant way of bringing more single available people to your life."

The dating expert is speaking from experience, having met her husband through Jdate.

It was 2002 and the couple was meeting face-to-face for the first time over dinner. At that point, Shields had gone on nearly 100 dates she had met through the Internet while her future husband had only been on two.

He ran 30 minutes late but that didn't matter. "I remember I was sitting at a table and he leaned over to shake my hand ... and I looked into the kindest eyes I had ever seen," Shields said.

THE PROFILE GUESSING GAME

The greatest appeal of Internet dating is it allows the user to filter the pool of candidates by preference, checking the box for the desirable age range, height, weight, race and religion.

For Miller, the profile and self-written description gives her a glimpse into the user's intelligence level, whether he's using correct spelling and grammar.

She has found that many men typically lie about their height if they're shorter than 5'9" and have heard many men complain that women will always lie about their age and weight.

It's a reason why some people have been turned off to Internet dating.

A 46-year-old marketing consultant in Santa Monica, David, who chose to keep his last name anonymous, recently canceled all of his online dating memberships last week, fed up with the increasing number of occurrences where he would meet a woman who was less than honest about her description.

"I'm an honorable person — my statistics are current, my photos are current," David said. "I would say 95 percent of the people have been less than honest. I understand it's marketing and you want to put your best foot forward."

Divorced more than a year and a half ago, David decided to try Internet dating about six months ago and ultimately went on 25-30 dates, only a few of which have been with women who were physically attractive, he said. The women in that small pool had personality issues that ended the relationship within the first couple of dates.

Instead of online dating, David said he has seen better results in speed dating — a series of five-minute dates that rotate from table to table — and attending social networking parties hosted by Rapid Dating, owned by Santa Monica resident Renee Piane.

"Those are actually really good because you get to meet people for five minutes at a time and see what they look like and can tell if they have any nervous ticks or quirks or crazy eyes," he said.

STILL SEARCHING

A 39-year-old construction worker who goes by the name SeekingSusan has been seeking love on the Internet for the past four years with varying results.

It started with a chatroom in Yahoo where SeekingSusan met a woman. The two dated for a year before parting ways after their cultural issues — she was Korean and he is Caucasian — interfered.

Since then, SeekingSusan has browsed for romance through sites like PlentyofFish and Craigslist, but with little success.

But going out and meeting women in clubs or the supermarket or mall just doesn't seem like a viable



Finding Mr. and Mrs. Right in the right places

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Finding "the one" during the holidays can happen in the most unexpected places.

The holidays are the time of year when more than 80 million single Americans tend to yearn for the warmth of companionship.

"It you look on television, you see the Zales commercials and diamond commercials and romance commercials where (couples) are walking together," said Renee Piane, a Santa Monica romance expert and owner of Rapid Dating, which hosts speed dating and social networking parties. "It's media-driven to buy a lover something for the holidays and makes people get that feeling."

"In reality, it's no different than any other time of year."

For the single people seeking a date for the holidays, community service might be the best way to find a mate.

"A lot of people feel alone and get depressed and it's better for them to take

action, and that includes giving back," Piane said. "I suggested to people to do something for people less fortunate."

Piane advises her male clients volunteer during the holidays because a lot of single women take part in community service with their local churches and non-profit organizations.

Parties are often a good place to meet someone, but instead of just going as a guest, volunteer and help the host, serve cocktails and take photos, Piane suggested.

"It's an indirect way to find if people are available or not," she said.

But it all comes down to attitude. With the right attitude, the perfect person can be found anywhere, from the local 7-11 to printing stores.

"People need to have a positive attitude about being single all times of the year," Piane said. "You can't just think about meeting people at an event. You can meet someone anywhere you are, depending on how open you are."

melodyh@smdp.com

option, he said.

Recently, the Santa Monica resident said he met an attractive woman at the gas station. The two exchanged smiles and SeekingSusan decided to be bold and gave her his number. She never called.

"How do you approach a girl without a girl thinking you're a total creep?" he asked. "It's much more easier getting to know someone over the Internet — you get the exchange of brain waves of what your belief systems are and what attracts you."

Some avid Internet daters wish the service existed long ago.

Coolsurver has been finding his dates through the Internet for the past 11 years and has been in a few relationships as a

result during that time.

Never married, Coolsurver said he didn't enjoy the singles' bar scene, unable to determine which woman was sincere and who was just in it for fun.

Currently, the Santa Monica resident is seeing a woman in Santa Barbara.

While he posted the letter to Santa in late November, which resulted in a number of e-mails from women, Coolsurver said one of his resolutions is to take a break from the Internet dating scene.

"Sometimes it becomes a job," he said. "It becomes addicting that I find myself at work clicking on Jdate."

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CHANNELSURFING

BY JACK NEWORTH

Talk show host has big dreams

During the political season, which seems longer each election cycle, we are often reminded of the "American dream." How true the dream was, or still is, is debatable, but America is still regarded as a place where a person, with character, skills and hard work, could become whatever he or she can dream of. For New York-born John Kerwin that dream was to be a talk show host. For the past six years of "The John Kerwin Show," he's done just that. Now he's trying to take it to the next level. Take it to the next 10 levels.

The "John Kerwin Show" is a half-hour late-night talk show, which films at Santa Monica's Time-Warner Studio. Despite a shoestring budget the show has a surprisingly rich look and the dapper Kerwin, 34, is witty and congenial. When the camera is on him and his celebrity guest it could be any talk show in America.

Relaxed and confident, Kerwin is a skilled interviewer, which is a rare commodity. He actually listens to his guests, seems genuinely interested and clearly loves what he's doing. Celebrities like director Henry Jaglom, actress Sean Young or actors Eric Roberts and David Carradine, who may have reputations for being difficult, are put at ease and seemingly able to present their best self. As it occurs over and over I have

to give the credit to the easy-going Kerwin who's part therapist, part host and part fan.

When the camera pulls back, however, to reveal an audience of 25 (at full capacity) or, that instead of a band, there is only a drummer (youthful and talented Nick Burns) we are aware, and even intrigued, at how low budget this operation is. Any lower and it'd be in an alley. But if you're in the right mood, this can only add to the charm of the show. (Kerwin originally funded the show with his winnings from "Hollywood Squares!")

This Wednesday evening, Dec. 12, the Kerwin show will celebrate its sixth anniversary. He's even receiving a letter of commendation from L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Kerwin hopes that in 2009, when Jay Leno leaves the Tonight Show and is replaced by Conan O'Brien, that he might fill Conan's slot. To that end he's already had meetings with NBC brass.

To a realist, in this era of big name stars, his chance of replacing Conan might seem a long shot. To someone chasing a life-long dream, realism can be overrated. As Kerwin notes when Conan first took over David Letterman's slot he was grilled about being "relatively unknown." Conan quickly corrected the journalists, noting that he was "completely unknown."

In the name of full disclosure Kerwin's Ed McMahon-like announcer, Don Margolin, is a childhood friend of mine. Don was a pilot with Delta Airlines for 30 years but secretly longed to be a performer. (Not so secret anymore.) Don has a deep voice, loves to dance and sing. Kerwin takes full advantage as he playfully explores his announcer's willingness to be part of any gag. I thought Don and I worked well together in Hebrew school (we ditched classes more than we attended) but he and Kerwin have improved on style. And I would hope so.

Even though they only film monthly, the show requires a team of 20 volunteers. With producer Rob Baker and director Mark Katz, the crew does a remarkable job. The graphics, the set, the camera work, the lighting, and yes, the announcing, are very professional. Kerwin opens with five jokes, then moves to the desk and a few prepared bits, and then on to an interview. He honed his stand-up skills at Catch a Rising Star and the Comic Strip in New York and when he moved to Los Angeles he became the house emcee at the famed Hollywood Improv, all of which provided a great training ground.

In 2004, John was signed to host "The Yesterday Show with John Kerwin." Dick

Cavett was his first guest and became something of a mentor as the two have maintained a friendship. Unfortunately "The Yesterday Show" was not picked up, but it provided Kerwin with valuable experience and helps to explain his unusual ease.

Kerwin eats, breathes and sleeps being a talk show host. Until the day of the show the set actually sits in his studio apartment. (Sounds a tad crowded.) By next May, Kerwin hopes to hear about Conan's spot. He wonders if it would help or hurt his chances if he finally acknowledged that he's dating Lindsay Lohan. Of course then he'd have to admit they met in rehab. "If only it were true," he adds with a sigh.

"The John Kerwin Show" airs on Time-Warner, Saturdays at 8 p.m. (Check local listings.) Past shows can be seen on YouTube.

JACK NEWORTH also writes the "Laughing Matters" column, which appears every Friday. He can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.

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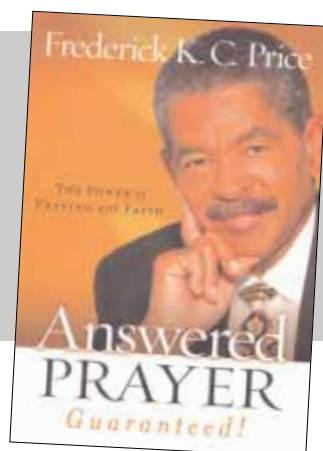
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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 58°

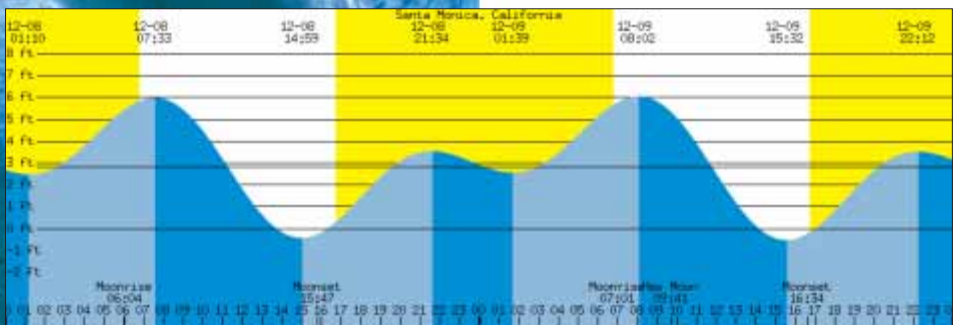
SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)

Saturday the 8th should see an increase in west-erly swell from the passing storm as it kicks up fetch offshore. Angled from 270 with 12-second periods, it looks like direct west facing breaks could see surf running a couple feet overhead, but conditions will likely be trashed once again with winds likely blowing 15 mph early on. Tide will also be extremely high in the early

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WIND SWELL FOR THE NEXT COUPLE DAYS...
SMALLER SURF BUT CLEANER CONDITIONS NEXT WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



12-08 01:30 7 Ft
12-08 07:33 8 Ft
12-08 14:59 7 Ft
12-08 21:34 6 Ft
12-09 01:39 5 Ft
12-09 08:02 4 Ft
12-09 15:32 3 Ft
12-09 22:12 2 Ft

BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

December 4, 2007

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 1
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 4
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / 19
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 14

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
Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (beacerrilla)	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Del Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Palga Canyon storm drain	A	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Los Altos creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	A+
Escorial Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsaqua)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montano Ave. drain	F	D
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	D
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	C	F
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A+	F
Ladiga Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	C
Saltine Canyon at San Blasco County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Reno Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puente Beach, at 24572 Mulliba Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	F	ns
Surfside Beach at Mulliba Canyon fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	C
Surfside Beach (beach location) - daily	A	F	Venice Beach - projection of Topsoil St.	A+	C
Mulliba Pier - 50 yards east	A	A	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Decoweller State Beach at Bellina Creek mouth	A	F
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns	Decoweller State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Decoweller State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunes County Beach	A+	ns	Decoweller State Beach at World Way (south of DAW jetty)	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A	A+	Decoweller State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	A+	Decoweller Beach - opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F	Decoweller State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+			

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken



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. This report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins 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.



Notes from the film scoundrel

Kenn Tarr

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Award races taking shape

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW released its top 10 list and best picture of the year. They are often the ground-hog harbinger of things to come in the awards season.

"Into The Wild" starring Emile Hirsch was also acknowledged, making this film a legitimate contender. "Michael Clayton" made the top 10 list as well, and its star George Clooney shockingly took home the top acting prize. Clooney and many other actors will benefit from this year's NBOR list.

THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE IS IRATE AT NETFLIX. THEIR RED ENVELOPES CONTAINING DVDS HAVE BEEN CLOGGING UP MAIL SORTERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. NOW EACH ENVELOPE WILL BE LEVIED A 17 CENT SUR-CHARGE, LIKELY A \$100 MILLION ADDED EXPENSE TO THEIR CORPORATE BUDGET.

AND THE ENVELOPE PLEASE ... The U.S. Postal Service is irate at Netflix. Their red envelopes containing DVDs have been clogging up mail sorters all over the country. Now each envelope will be levied a 17 cent sur-charge, likely a \$100 million added expense to their corporate budget. I love Netflix and I am fond of their envelopes. Maybe the mail sorters are out-dated, who knows? Stock prices have dropped and the chances of me going to a video store might have risen just a bit. I am really rooting for Netflix to change their mail-sorter-clogging ways so that I can continue being among their customers. We are shut-ins and proud, fight for us, Netflix!

AND IN THIS CORNER ... As boxing has become entertain-ment rather than sports, I figured I would preview this weekend's title bout between Welterweight Champion Floyd Mayweather and the Pride of Manchester, Ricky Hatton. Both are undefeated, both talk a lot of trash and both will be watched by millions as they duke it out in Las Vegas. Hatton is better than a 2-1 underdog. Floyd "Dancing With the Stars" Mayweather is an American hero that is anything but an American hero. A long list of Olympic victories make Mayweather pound for pound the best fighter if his generation. Hatton, a white boxer from the UK will have his work cut out for his Saturday night. Oscar De La Hoya and Mayweather set the pay per view record when they boxed in May. This fight may surpass the May fight or like-ly be a close second. I would like to see Mayweather lose, and I may as well predict it here. Who knows, maybe boxing would become more mainstream if a "Great White Hope" can win the crown.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS



Giving with Vladi

During his day job as a basketball star, Vladi Radmanovic is prone to shoot from beyond the arc with the best of them. During his off time, apparently he enjoys giving back to the community. The Lakers' sharpshooter will be hosting his annual "Giving Tree" event at the Westside Pavilion, benefiting Five Acres, a child and family services agency that strengthens families and prevents child abuse through treatment and education programs.

To participate in this worthy cause, all you have to do is sponsor a gift from underneath the event's "Giving Tree." The gift will be given to an underprivileged family for the holiday season. For your donation, Vladi will be signing pictures of himself and handing out tickets to Lakers games. Not a bad deal no matter how you look at it.

The event takes place today from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Westside Pavilion, located at 10800 Pico Boulevard in West Los Angeles.

DA

Slaying the ladies – old school style

"Don Giovanni" is Mozart's interpretation of the Don Juan legend with libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte.

The opera catalogs the dashing young lothario's 2,065 conquests and their aftermath, as he is pursued by those he seduced and abandoned and who now seek revenge. When he disdainfully invites a vengeful ghost to dinner, all hell breaks loose – literally – with the horrifying appearance of the statue of the murdered victims. The statue drags the murderer to hell, but Don Giovanni remains defiant and unrepenting even in the face of eternal damnation.

The opera is a product of the counterreformation, as it shows how Don Giovanni's sins have placed him on an irreversible path to eternal damnation from which there is no rescue and in its warning of the divine retribution that visits those who cross the limits of morals.

Despite Mozart classified his

masterpiece as a jovial drama, the opera is in fact schizophrenic. Part of it does play out as a fast action comedy, but along with it comes a dark morality tale of philandering, betrayal, and murder. The central character too is part dashing hero, part callous user and murderer. And there's certainly nothing comic about the somber and chilling trombones in the graveyard scene.

The L.A. Opera presentation is conducted by Hartmut Haenchen and directed by Mariusz Trelinski, with Uruguayan bass Erwin Schrott playing the title role. The opera is sung in Italian with English supertitles, and there is a pre-performance lecture by Alan Champman one hour prior to each performance.

"Don Giovanni" continues through Saturday, Dec. 15.

For more information and tickets, visit online.losangelesopera.com or call (213) 972-8001.

MONA DAY



Photo courtesy Robert Millard

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

Happy Birthday!

Follow your instincts this year and allow your personality to bloom. Others cannot help but respond. If you use your innate gifts well, you will add to your many assets, emotionally, financially and intellectually. If you are single, you draw many people and have quite your pick of suitors. If you are attached, sit on your charisma some if you don't want a jealous mate. Either way, you call the shots this year. A fellow SAG understands much more than you think.



Born Today
Comedian Flip Wilson (1933)
Artist Diego Rivera (1886)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
(c) 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Where there is music, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Reach for the stars, but don't be disappointed if you don't achieve your goals immediately. Start a discussion eyeing another path to the same goals. Innovative and original thoughts need to come out. Tonight: Where there is music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Go with a partner's original thought. Sometimes you feel more comfortable with the tried-and-true, but just the same, you are encouraged to try something different and new. Tonight: Others express their strong personality.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Let others go with the moment. You will see what happens if you just go with the flow and don't fight a pattern. Let yourself enjoy every moment of free time. You too deserve to let your hair down. Tonight: Go along with someone else's choices.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ "Easy" is the style that helps you get past a problem. Investigate new beginnings with an eye to changing your patterns. Communication will flourish if you just let go and relax. A romantic bond heats up. Tonight: Do what you need to do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your fiery side will take you to a new level if you just let go. You have strong instincts. If you follow them, you will love the end results. Chip in, and you'll get way ahead. Know your limits, but don't restrict yourself. Tonight: Ever playful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ The best intentions fall to the wayside. You might not know what to do in order to change what is happening. Pull back and wait. Timing is working in your favor. Think positively, and you'll gain. Tonight: Let another's opinion seep in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your words are falling on the ears of others. You see your impact when you energize someone in a new direction, though he or she could be a touch vocal. Listen but don't personalize what is being said. Tonight: Out and about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Be careful with your finances, which are a touch out of control. Use your sixth sense with a communication that involves someone at a distance. Make plans and think about taking off soon. A visit would make you both smile. Tonight: Treat yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You smile, and others respond. There could be a conflict with a partner where you least expect it. Pressure from the holidays might be building with a need to spend less. Investigate with an eye to positive interaction. Tonight: All smiles, despite it all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ How you deal with a changing situation defines who you are. Investigate and ask questions. When you get a strong reaction, know that you might have hit close to home. Gather information rather than react. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You have a way with people that helps draw many. Deal with someone directly in order to get results. Your actions have the impact of a bowling ball heading toward 10 pins. As you claim your power, you'll get results. Tonight: Only where the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Others seek you out for answers. You could be bewildered. Still, by creatively sleuthing and with a sense of openness, all ends well. Let others relax as you take responsibility, even if it is just for the party! Tonight: In the limelight.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
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3:10 to Yuma (R)
6:30

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

Dan in Real Life (PG-13)
11:10am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

Fred Claus (PG)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
11:25am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

Revolver (NR)
11:15am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

American Gangster (R)
12:05, 3:35, 7:10, 10:40

Beowulf: Digital 3D (PG-13)
11:15am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10

Enchanted (PG)
11:30am, 12:50, 2:10, 3:40, 4:50, 6:30, 7:30, 9:10, 10:15

The Golden Compass (PG-13)
10:45am, 11:35am, 1:30, 2:20, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45

Hitman (R)
10:50am, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:35

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
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Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)
1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
Hollywood Dreams (R)
11:00am

I'm Not There (R)
1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15

No Country for Old Men (R)
1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55

The Rape of Europa (NR)
11:00am

The Savages (R)
1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10

Yiddish Theater: A Love Story (NR)
11:00am

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

Across the Universe (PG-13)
10:00

August Rush (PG)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:10

Awake (PG)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:20, 9:50

Bee Movie (PG)
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30

Lions for Lambs (R)
7:00, 9:40

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G)
12:00, 2:30, 4:40

Strength and Honor (R)
12:10, 2:40, 5:30, 7:50, 10:30

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
GOLD

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

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

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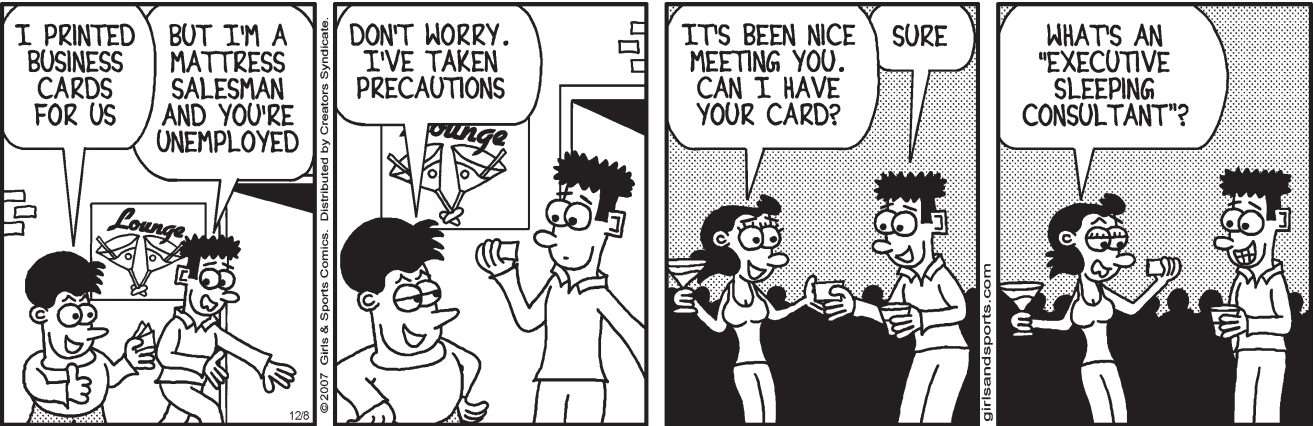
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Girls and Sports

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The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



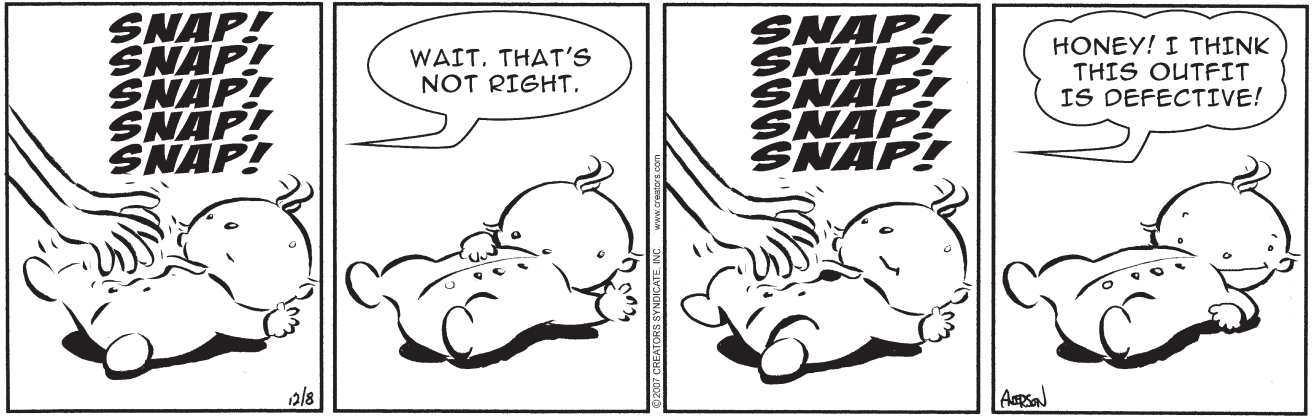
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

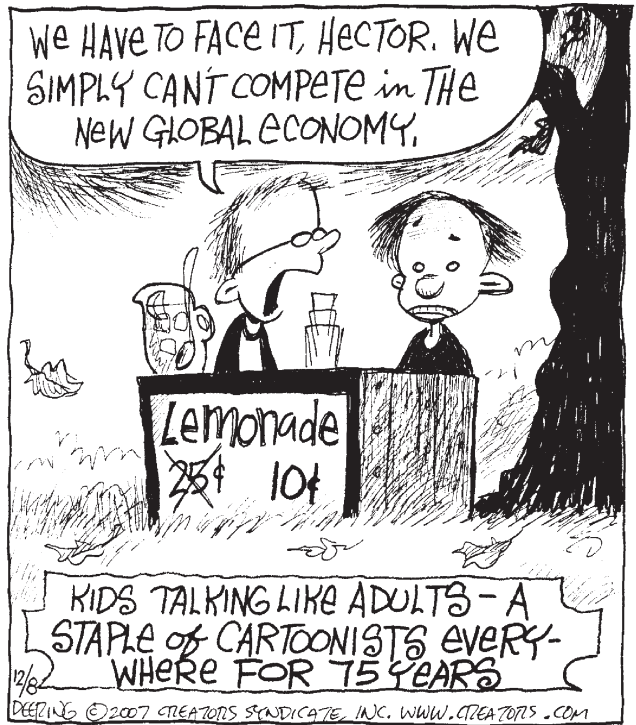
By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew By John Deering



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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Michael Tittinger miket@smdp.com

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Study all night
 - 5 Agitates
 - 10 Brass section members
 - 12 Holmes specialty
 - 13 Radiant
 - 14 Last letter
 - 15 Wish undone
 - 16 Mom's command
 - 18 Large amount
 - 19 Genetics pioneer
 - 21 Some ever-greens
 - 22 Auto parts
 - 24 Painter Rivera
 - 25 Fresh-man, e.g.
 - 29 Quarry
 - 30 Shred
 - 32 Simple start
 - 33 Mania
 - 34 Curved letter
 - 35 Home run, in slang
 - 37 Florida city
 - 39 Quite impressed
- DOWN**
- 40 Green Party candidate
 - 41 Did galley work
 - 42 Nap sacks

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

Yesterday's answer

- 11 Honey neighbor
- 17 Montana
- 20 Pop
- 21 Plant life
- 23 Incited
- 25 Illinois city
- 26 Drink of the gods
- 27 Gaming spot
- 28 Emulated Burr and Hamilton
- 29 Cookout spot
- 31 Still life favorites
- 33 Wilma's husband
- 36 Lamb watcher
- 38 Airport sight

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35			36			37	38		
39						40			
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DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS	12 18 26 28 51 Meganumber: 35 Jackpot: \$96M
Super LOTTO	2 9 16 25 36 Meganumber: 11 Jackpot: \$13M
Fantasy 5	6 9 12 21 32
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 9 4 1 EVENING: 6 8 4
DAILY DERRY	1st: 08 Gorgeous George 2nd: 03 Hot Shot 3rd: 01 Gold Rush RACE TIME: 1:48.63

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Hawaiian Airlines is suing Mesa Air Group on a business matter and believes Mesa's chief financial officer, Peter Murnane, has, or had, documents relevant to the lawsuit on his office computer but that, recently, conveniently, the documents had been deleted. Mesa acknowledged in a September court filing that Murnane had indeed recently erased a huge number of files from his office computer, but said he was merely deleting his massive collection of pornography.

■ Anthony Azzopardi, 80, agreed in September in Bridgeport, Conn., to plead guilty in connection with a sexual encounter with a 5-year-old girl. Until recently, his story was that the girl had aggressively led him by the hand into the bedroom, pushed him down on the bed, and sexually assaulted him.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1776 During the Revolutionary War, George Washington's retreating army crossed the Delaware River from New Jersey into Pennsylvania.

1854 Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

1863 President Lincoln announced his plan for the reconstruction of the South.

1886 The American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

1907 Oscar II, king of Sweden and former king of Norway, died in Stockholm at age 78.

1941 The United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

1949 The Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

1980 Rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by Mark David Chapman.

1982 A man demanding an end to nuclear weapons held the Washington Monument hostage, threatening to blow it up with explosives he claimed were inside a van. After a 10-hour standoff, Norman D. Mayer was shot dead by police; it turned out there were no explosives.

1986 House Democrats selected Majority Leader Jim Wright to be the chamber's 48th speaker, succeeding Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill.

WORD UP!

surly \SUR-lee\, adjective: 1. Ill-humored; churlish in manner or mood; sullen and gruff. 2. Menacing or threatening in appearance, as of weather conditions; ominous.

Horse survives a brief plunge in frozen pool

By The Associated Press

DORSET, Vt. A horse was rescued after accidentally taking an icy plunge in a swimming pool. Jet, a 6-year-old quarterhorse, walked onto the frozen in-ground pool Thursday and broke through six inches of ice into about 3 1/2 feet of water, becoming trapped.

"It just looked like a meadow to him, and he stepped on the ice," said his owner, Janet Waite.

The animal shook uncontrollably and was losing strength as several rescue attempts failed, according to Vermont State Police Cpl. Gary Shuhart, who responded to the incident after being flagged down by a passerby.

Finally, rescuers broke the ice in a corner of the pool and got a rope around the horse's neck, pulling him to safety and wrapping him in a blanket. He was taken to a veterinarian and treated for a cut to his left hind leg.

IT JUST LOOKED LIKE A MEADOW TO HIM, AND HE STEPPED ON THE ICE."

Janet Waite
Owner

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Suburban sex

Adult-themed parties draw complaints from neighbors

BY PAUL J. WEBER | Associated Press Writer

DUNCANVILLE, Texas The most popular address on Cedar Ridge Drive is Jim Trulock's split-level home, which has a group sex room and attracts as many as 100 people to swinger parties featuring "Naked Twister" nights.

But the festivities could soon be over. In response to neighbors' complaints, the city has outlawed sex clubs in residential areas. Citations have been issued, and search warrants may be next.

"It's crazy that they want to force their morality down our throats," said Dawn Burton, 45, a regular guest at the parties. "We're all frustrated."

So are those who complain of the noise, traffic and parking problems that occur in their otherwise quiet, upscale neighborhood every Friday and Saturday, when Trulock's home is transformed into "The Cherry Pit."

Duncanville, which proclaims itself "The Perfect Blend of Family, Community and Business," is an unlikely venue for a neighborhood swinger club. The city of 36,000 just southwest of Dallas has about 50 places of worship and not a single registered sexually oriented business.

Duncanville officials insist they are not just another prudish Texas town giving the boot to spouse-swappers. They say it all boils down to a matter of law: Trulock is operating a business featuring live sex acts.

"It's not trying to judge anyone or pass judgment on someone's lifestyle," city spokeswoman Tonya Lewis said.

To support its claim, the city notes that the Cherry Pit accepts money from guests and promotes the parties on

its Web site.

"We're not about infringing on the rights of the Cherry Pit patrons or owners," Lewis said. "But now your right to have fun has infringed on everyone else's. And now you have to draw the line."

Other cities have wrestled with the same issue.

Phoenix, for example, prohibited live sexual performances in 1998, effectively outlawing swinger parties. An appeals court upheld the law in 2003, and Duncanville used it as a blueprint when passing a ban last month.

Retiree Jack Martin, who lives a block behind Trulock's home, said he's concerned that the parties will reduce the value of his property.

Others are annoyed by the procession of cars that crowd their street on weekend evenings, or the flood of strangers who descend on the neighborhood.

"If you're going to do that, you should open a business," Martin said. "Go somewhere where it's allowed."

Attorneys for Trulock, 59, say the Cherry Pit is nothing more than a private residence where a group of friends get together on weekends to socialize in whatever way they prefer.

While guests are encouraged to make "voluntary donations" to cover the cost of food and refreshments, organizers deny that anyone is being charged admission to his parties.

Ed Klein, an attorney for the Cherry Pit, said many guests give no money, but those who do often chip in \$10 or \$20. Klein said he plans to file a lawsuit next week that will challenge the constitutionality of the ordinance and seek a temporary restraining order against the city.

"I don't think it's persecution so much as an invasion of their privacy," Klein said.

Arthur Leonard, a New York Law School professor who studies sexuality law, said the size of the parties might be a legal obstacle.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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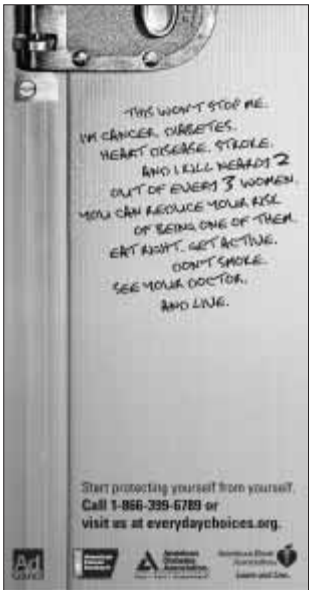
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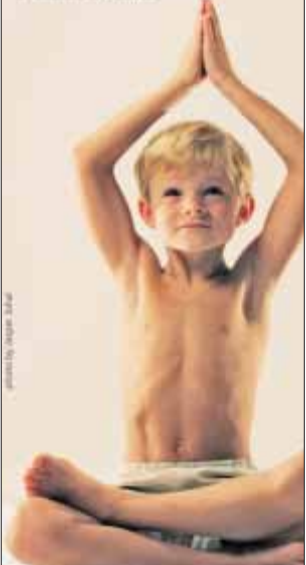
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		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
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North of Montana	=	\$ 3,980,148	\$ 1,820,172
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,017,800	\$ 1,005,070
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,062,250	\$ 686,293
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,358,545	\$ 720,429
Ocean Park	=	\$ 2,097,611	\$ 953,736

Statistics updated every Friday

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