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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009
Volume 9 Issue 23

Santa Monica Daily Press

HIGH-TECH SPOTTING
SEE PAGE 8

We have you covered
THE BRRRRR ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

IN THE ACT: **Rent Control Board Commissioner Robert Kronovet's attempt to ban smoking inside apartments failed to garner support from board.**

Smoking ban advocates stay committed

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Rent Control Board Commissioner Robert Kronovet may have faltered in his first attempt to ban smoking inside Santa Monica apartments, but that doesn't mean he's giving up.

Despite a lack of support for the idea from his colleagues and a legal opinion from the Rent Control Board's general counsel that the board has no authority to pass a ban, Kronovet said he plans to keep pushing the issue and could bring it back before the Rent Control Board.

"I certainly have that right," he said. "I think it's a crucial issue."

At last Thursday's Rent Control Board meeting Kronovet made a motion asking his colleagues to draft a letter urging the City Council to pass an outright ban on smoking in apartment buildings but failed to win support from any of the other four commissioners.

The vote came after a lengthy public comment period that featured speakers for and against the ban.

Beth Miller, who has asthma, said she moved to Santa Monica because she believed it had the cleanest air in the Los Angeles area. But with neighbors who smoke, she said her apartment has become so unlivable she's had to temporarily move in with a friend.

"I can't open my windows and I don't have AC in there and I can't breathe," she said in an interview.

Miller, who is part of Santa Monicans for Non-Smoking Renters Rights, said her group is planning to meet next week to decide its next move. She said she supports lobbying the City Council to first take the "incremental step" of banning smoking on apartment balconies and patios.

"That's what we were going to do before Kronovet had proposed this total ban," she said.

Marilyn Korade-Wilson, who chairs the Rent Control Board, said some of the proponents of a smoking ban who spoke at last week's meeting had compelling stories, but emphasized the board could not act on its own to limit smoking in apartments.

"So many people came out and had their say, but the fact of the matter is that it's not something that's within our purview," she said. "It would not be legal for us to mandate that smoking be banned in apartments."

While she acknowledged Kronovet could place the issue on a future agenda, she said she hoped the board would avoid the issue at least until city staff has conducted a review of the effectiveness of City Hall's common-area smoking ban, which took effect in January.

"It seems appropriate to have an evaluation of how it's been perceived prior to any other action," she said.

Kronovet said he continues to disagree that the Rent Control Board lacks jurisdiction to pass its own ban on smoking in apartments.

"I don't see it that way. I believe deeply in my heart that every elected official's first responsibility is public health and safety," he said.

SEE **SMOKING** PAGE 10

Arrest sheds light on baby shaking

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN A Santa Monica man is expected to be arraigned today on murder charges in connection with the death of his 2-month-old stepdaughter, the possible victim of a form of child abuse known as "shaken baby syndrome," police said.

Donald Hillman, 33, was arrested Monday in North Hollywood by Santa Monica detectives and transferred to the Santa Monica Jail, where he was held on $1 million bail. Hillman was placed under arrest after a Los Angeles County Coroner's

SEE **ARRAIGNMENT** PAGE 11

Councilman appointed to coastal commission

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Santa Monica City Councilman Richard Bloom has been appointed to the California Coastal Commission, a 12-member panel charged with regulating the use of land and water in the state's coastal zone, including promoting access to public beaches.

Bloom learned of the appointment on Tuesday after traveling to Sacramento last week to interview for the position with state Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg. Steinberg chairs the Senate Rules Committee, which appoints four members of the commission. The rest of the commission is appointed equally by the governor and the speaker of the state Assembly.

At least 11 candidates were considered for the position as the commission's South Coast representative, Bloom said.

"I'm especially honored to have been chosen from among a great group of advocates for the environment," he said.

Bloom was nominated for the position by Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tem Pam O'Connor also was nominated for the seat.

SEE **BLOOM** PAGE 10


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Dec. 9. 2009

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Come for a lesson and dance after on a 3,000-square-foot floor. Learn the waltz, foxtrot, swing, hustle, various Latin dances and other dances by request. No partner is required. Parking is available next door.
Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

Kicking it with Kiwanis
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.
Join the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club weekly luncheon with guest speakers.
Call (310) 613-1249 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009

Road work
AK Gallery
2323 Main St., Suite 106,
7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Enjoy a new, exciting and colorful photography exhibit by Rob Kalmbach. "Custom" is a series of photographs concerned with the simple beauty of parked cars, local roads and backgrounds bathed with light. Food, drink, and music will be provided. The event is free to the public. For more information contact Rob Kalmbach at (213) 952-4059.

Author talk
Main Library: Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Listen to Frank Gruber, a local Santa Monica columnist, discuss his book, "Urban Worrier: Making Politics Personal." Gruber has written about the local politics of Santa Monica since 2000 in his weekly columns for the Santa Monica Lookout News, a news Web site established over a a decade ago. His book is a collection of these columns from just before the 2000 presidential election to just before the election of 2004.
Call (310) 458-8600 for more information.

Friday, Dec. 11, 2009

Dancing with the star fifth-graders
Barnum Hall, Santa Monica High School
601 Pico Blvd., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.
Sit back and watch 30 talented fifth graders from three elementary schools in the SMMUSD compete in a riveting ballroom dance competition. A team of 10 students represents each school, and a panel of judges will determine which team goes home with a much coveted trophy. Dances will include meringue, foxtrot, rumba, tango, swing, and waltz. The event is free.
For more information, contact Jane Dorian at (310) 922-6464

Classical holiday sounds
The Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Listen to holiday music, classical works, and opera arias from acclaimed baritone Nathan Gunn. His wife, Julie Jordan Gunn will provide accompaniment.
Call (310) 434-3412

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.

PREP SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi girls soccer piecing it together

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Nobody likes to use the term "rebuilding year" around the girls soccer team, but it's looking more that way everyday.

With three starters slated to return from last year's team that made it to the second round of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section playoffs, Santa Monica High School's new Head Coach Jimmy Chapman and Director of Coaching Serafin Rodriguez had reason to think that this season would be at least as fruitful.

But, knee injuries to two of those starters (Brittany Garcia and Shannon Rock) and the decision of another projected starter to skip the season has the team assessing its roster and adjusting expectations accordingly.

"So far, it is a little touch and go," Chapman said of his roster woes. "We're trying to adjust to everybody's different styles."

Fortunately for Chapman, he isn't starting from scratch. Until last year, he was an assistant on the boys team helping lead them to a state title two years ago. Chapman said that familiarity has served him well as he makes the team his own.

Rodriguez is confident that Chapman is the man for the job, but realizes that the fortunes of the team depend on the health of the players as much as the performance of the new coach.

"He has a lot of losses this year," Rodriguez said of players missing due to injury and graduation. "We're going to be struggling a little bit."

The shorthanded Vikings have begun the season 1-2 as they have struggled to find chemistry. Samohi will get another chance to see where they stand as a team today against a San Pedro team that Chapman called physically tough. The game will take place at John Adams Middle School at 3:30 p.m.

Chapman will look to sophomores Kristen Vasquez and Sara Khodakarami to shore up Samohi's midfield in relief of Garcia and Rock. While Garcia will miss the entire season, Rock's injury may allow her to play at some point later this season.

"While I want and expect the most out of the players," Chapman said, "I don't want to categorize any year as a rebuilding year.

"This year will be a spring board to what we can do in the future."

SEE ROUNDUP PAGE 10



BETTER WEATHER

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Clear skies were spotted over the Santa Monica Pier on Tuesday. Weather forecasters expect the rain to return later this week.

Swine flu virus takes toll on family pets

SUE MANNING
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A handful of pets have been sickened with swine flu in recent weeks, but here are doctors' orders: Wash your hands and don't panic.

The virus, also known as H1N1, has been diagnosed in only a few cats and ferrets since it emerged in April. Veterinarians say they don't know if that is because so few animals have been tested or because so few have the disease.

"I think we're probably going to be seeing more (pet) cases in the future. There is more focus on it so people are looking harder," said Dr. Kristy Pabilonia of the Colorado State University Department of Veterinary Medicine, which confirmed two new cases in cats on Friday.

A lethargic 13-year-old tabby in Iowa that was having trouble breathing was the first house cat to be diagnosed. In the last two months, other cats have tested positive in Iowa, Utah and Pennsylvania. All have recovered or are expected to recover, Pabilonia said.

Swine flu appears to be the latest disease spread between animals and humans, said Dr. Miranda Spindel, Director of Veterinary Outreach for the ASPCA and based in Fort Collins, Colo. Other examples include ringworm, salmonella, plague and rabies.

"There are lots of diseases that are transmitted from people to pets and vice versa and people tend to forget that," Spindel said.

However, it is rare for flu viruses to jump between species, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. And there is no evidence that humans can get the swine flu infection from pets.

Still, the few confirmed pet cases have people keeping a closer eye on their animals, Spindel said. "There are a lot of questions coming in. People are anticipating, worried about ways they can limit transmission or prevent exposure," she said.

Whether doctors are treating humans or pets, they give the same advice: Wash your hands, cover your mouth when you sneeze and limit contact with others if you are ill.

Symptoms in pets may include lethargy, decreased appetite, fever, runny nose and eyes, sneezing, coughing and changes in breathing patterns. Because there have been only a few cases, Pabilonia said vets have limited information about the severity of the disease in house pets.

Patrice deAvila of Portland, Ore., worries her four rescue cats are more vulnerable to the swine flu than she is, because of both her job and her age, which she calls middle.

"I am very careful when I come home. I take my shoes off. I wash my hands very diligently. I try not to expose them because of the potential exposure I have," said deAvila, a patient advocate at a Portland hospital. "We are aware of the swine flu and we watch them closely."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Health over money

Editor:

I am a local North Westdale resident and what shocks me is that the FAA doesn't care about the safety of the residents that live around the airport. Their own policies indicate that Santa Monica Airport's (SMO) runways cannot be made long enough for the high-power polluting jets. Where is the EPA when it comes to this pollution coming from the jets? You don't need a good olfactory sense to know that you have to hold your breath and run away from the smell.

Nowhere else in this country is there an airport like SMO, in such close proximity to homes and schools. Only when the laws were overturned in the mid 1990s, when SMO decibel levels were forcefully raised by the FAA from 85 decibels to 95 decibels, was the way paved for these offensive and dangerous jets. The increase of jets has been exponential over the past decade and the small community airport has been turned into something it was never designed to be. Big money, big names and big business sacrifice the safety, health and lives of thousands of men, women and children, all for their convenience.

Where is the oversight of the FAA and the EPA? Where is the press? The alarm is ringing. It is time for the city of Santa Monica to wake up. While I work in Santa Monica, I live in North Westdale, we residents put our faith and trust in our city officials to protect us from health and safety hazards. We hope they put special interests and money aside and to do what is right.

Charles Blum
West Los Angeles

People of faith at the forefront

Editor:

Brent Forrester writes in his letter to the editor on Dec. 6 ("Don't blame atheism") that John Whitehead's column (That Rutherford Guy), entitled "Have we forgotten God?" is poorly reasoned. But, how well reasoned is his response?

Mr. Forrester states that "religion is the enemy of reason." Apparently he is unaware that 106 out of the first 108 colleges in America were founded by Christian denominations or people with an avowed religious purpose. Yale University: started by congregational ministers in 1701. Princeton: founded by Presbyterians in 1746. Harvard: named after a minister, John Harvard. Brown: founded by Baptists in 1764. Rutgers: founded by the Dutch Reform Church in 1766. William and Mary: founded by The Rev. James Blair in 1691. Obviously, rather than an "enemy of reason," religious people have been its greatest benefactor. Some of the greatest scientific breakthroughs have also been made in hospitals founded or funded by religious Jews such as Mount Sinai in New York.

Mr. Forrester states that he values "free thinking" and states that "religion must suppress (free thinking) since it causes people to question authority." So, let's examine the biggest authority-questioning moment in our country's history. Slavery. Wikipedia states, "The slave system aroused little protest until the 18th century when rationalist thinkers of the Enlightenment (objected) and Quakers and other evangelical religious groups condemned it as un-Christian."

We all know the movement culminated with yet another "free thinker" and man of faith, the Rev. Martin Luther King. Rather than suppress free thinking and authority questioning, religious values can in fact convict us to action. Wherever you see people being oppressed and in need you will see religious organizations on the front lines helping them to question authority and seek justice. They are often there well ahead of anyone else.

Eric Cooper
Santa Monica



Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tiger's strategy lands him in a sand bunker

I CAN'T SAY I'VE NEVER CHEATED ON A girlfriend, though I have stayed faithful in my three serious adult relationships. My fidelity isn't about morality as much as it's about self-preservation because I like women with a little psycho behind their eyes and there is just no telling what a crazy woman will do when she finds out her man has been humping around. I've also been known to flirt a little too much with hostesses and waitresses when I'm out on the town. In short, I am Tiger Woods.

We all know the story by now and two weeks later, nobody looks good. Tiger is wrong for publicly humiliating his wife and Elin is wrong for reportedly accepting millions of dollars to continue in the role of Mrs. Woods if that's not who she wants to be (if it is, she shouldn't take any money). More importantly, after Tiger starts playing golf again, anyone who reports on this story is wrong for not giving the Woods family a chance to put this episode behind them — and for increasing the likelihood that Sam Alexis Woods (age 2) and Charlie Woods (age 10 months) will read something horrible about their mom or dad before Tiger and Elin have had a chance to explain it to them.

All week I wondered about Tiger's agent, Mark Steinberg, and why he hasn't killed this story. I'm no math whiz, but when you earn $100 million in a year, your agent's 10 percent comes to about $10 million or so. For that, IMG should have set up a situation room tasked with making this thing go away within 72 hours. The initial strategy (buy, lie and deny) did nothing but help establish a going rate for the "My Text With Tiger" stories and the current strategy (come clean, then hide out) isn't going to work now that a gossip market exists. Mark Steinberg needs to get to work on behalf of his biggest client because you know Leigh Steinberg and Scott Boras are licking their chops.

The first thing Mark Steinberg has to do is destroy this newly created cottage industry for nightclub VIP room staff. IMG can use its leverage in sports and entertainment to keep stories about Tiger off of TV and out of a mainstream press that doesn't really care about him when he's off the golf course. The people who cover him regularly are golf writers who are all terrified of losing access to Tiger — and tabloid journalists won't get press passes to cover any tournament he enters for the rest of his life — so there won't be anyone to write or buy these stories except gossip Web sites with limited budgets. If it then became known at the exclusive resorts and clubs their clients visit that IMG expects a certain level of discretion from staff, there would be far fewer professional party girls willing to risk their jobs and their lifestyles for a few grand from TMZ.

Drying up the market for Tiger-related gossip isn't going to be enough. The Woods' are going to have to do an hour with either Oprah or Barbara Walters (I vote for Oprah). Tiger will have to admit what he did, publicly sacrifice his perfect image, and ask for forgiveness — which will instantly be granted — from his wife and his fans. He will then move into the third act of his public life: Act I — young phenom becomes the first black golfer to win the Masters; Act II — he dominates the PGA tour while quintupling prize money for all players; Act III — he becomes a family man, balances golf and life while breaking Jack Nicklaus' record for major championships.

Elin has the tougher job because she will have to forgive Tiger for everything — and mean it. She'll have to seem like a normal girl who happens to be married to a man who can give her a $20 million yacht called "Privacy" as a wedding gift. Most importantly, she'll need to get people to empathize with the fact that the father of her children is a target for all those "Anita Richmans" out there who don't care that they could be breaking up a family, they just need a rich man … or any man. It's something a lot of women can identify with. From that point on, any girl who comes forward with a Tiger tale will be seen as the home-wrecker she is. Mission accomplished.

We are all Tiger or Elin Woods in one way or another. No man can say he's never been distracted by an attentive manner and a welcoming smile that leads his eye and his thoughts downward; and no woman can say she's never chosen to continue to love a man who has done her dirty (thank God). Tiger needs to come out and fess up, then go out and play golf so this story can have a chance to die. Otherwise, he'll keep being the butt of jokes that his kids are not going to find funny.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who has to credit Guy Torry for coming up with "Anita Richman." Kenny's past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

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A newspaper with issues

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Making a list and checking it twice

STANDING OUTSIDE OF J. CREW OVER AT the Third Street Promenade, I accosted 25 people who were heavily ladened with their Christmas swag to ask three questions: 1. How much did you spend? 2. Do you have more shopping to do? 3. Do you have health care?

Those lucky shoppers averaged $337 for their collective purchases. All respondents indicated that they had more shopping to do. Four people politely refused to answer my health care question while seven out of the remaining 21 admitted having no health care at all.

Wow. One third of the shoppers at Michelle Obama's favorite rag palace lacks health care?

Is it an inconvenient truth that all seven of those same uninsured also felt that it was vital for the U.S. Senate to pass the KevorkianCare bill currently languishing on life support yet were oblivious to their own egregiously ethical disconnect vis-à-vis their current and future Christmas purchases? Hey folks, instead of buying overpriced Third World-produced clothing with money that you supposedly don't possess, why not consider the possibility of providing your own health coverage so taxpayers don't have to support your poor choices on the whimsy of your Obamanomical sense of entitlement?

Other gift oddities this year include Mattel's ubiquitous Barbie doll line. To commemorate Barbie's 50th anniversary, Mattel had a harem girl auction at Sotheby's consisting of 500 "Burkha Barbies" by Italian designer Eliana Lorena. You know, nothing argues "feminism" like offering up for sale a girl tied up in a fashionable gunny sack.

Now picture your daughter in one.

It's rumored that Mattel will probably offer a "Jihad Ken" accessorized with an all-pink suicide vest, matching AK-47 and radio-controlled Tonka truck bomb (napalm not included). It'll be marketed as the "Napoleon Blownapart Play Set." Hopefully Hasbro will re-launch a surge of full-size G.I. Joe's to kick Jihad Ken's skinny, metrosexual butt.

No worries though, as the relative-scale, 5-foot-9 Barbie is still an anorexic hotty at a svelte 110 pounds and a va-va-voom 36-18-33 chassis, which is what every smart girl endeavors to be if she wants to snag a rich golfer for a husband.

Speaking of "PutterGate," will Elin Nordegren acquire a Nike endorsement on the Husband Shopping Network for her new line of all-titanium golf clubs? Tiger can testify that he and the little missus have a swinging good time when they go out for a little late-night clubbing and combat driver's training. And ladies, if you act now and purchase Elin's custom "Whack-a-Mole" 7 iron you will also receive a vintage Lorena Bobbitt carrot peeler to keep as a your free gift!

And for the soap-challenged retrograde hippie in your life, the Palmview, Texas police have seized a cache of the club drug, Ecstasy, that feature the face of our 44th president much like the Obama embossed blotter style LSD that Democrats dropped just before they hit the voting booth in November 2008.

What a long strange trip it's been.

Obama has pressed the reset button on the new and improved AFPAK video war game complete with 30,000 grunts and Joe Biden's super-ninja predator drone package. After months of gazing at his navel lint over his own Bush-lite surge, I am chagrined to say, if I may paraphrase our war chief's lovely queen, "… that for the first time in my life, I'm proud of my [president]." Is it an inconvenient truth that anti-war quackmeisters squawked for war crimes tribunals against Dubya yet are now silent because of a mouthful of their own rhetoric now that their titular war president is henceforth a willing accessory after the fact to those same alleged war crimes? I'm sure that the International Criminal Court would agree. Maybe Vincent Bugliosi can be the lead prosecutor. After all, he did bag Charlie Manson.

How's that Nobel Peace Prize hangin', Mr. War President?

And Christmas came early for our Congressional employees. In this new era of Obamanian responsibility, Democrats overwhelmingly swept the Republicans on a vote (245-178) to keep their congressional pay raises intact, adding an extra $10,000 per annum to their salaries for 2010 and 2011. Meanwhile, seniors' $660 per annum COLA's were suspended while the cost of their Medicare premiums will go up $285.60 per year during that same period. Sixteen Republicans voted for this act of grinchitude and I hope my conservative brethren in their districts put boots to glutes when these RINOs come up for reelection. If they want to vote like Democrats then let them tattoo a jackass on their collective foreheads and be Democrats.

Me? I'm heading over to Puzzle Zoo on Main to see if they have the new G.I. Jane doll.

STEVE BREEN acts like an unmedicated 5 year old at Christmas and is still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Raising future couch potatoes

A recent state report on the physical fitness of fifth, seventh and ninth grade students throughout the state found that not even half of Santa Monica's students could pass all six requirements of the test.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

What do you think about the state of physical education in schools? What role should parents be playing?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.

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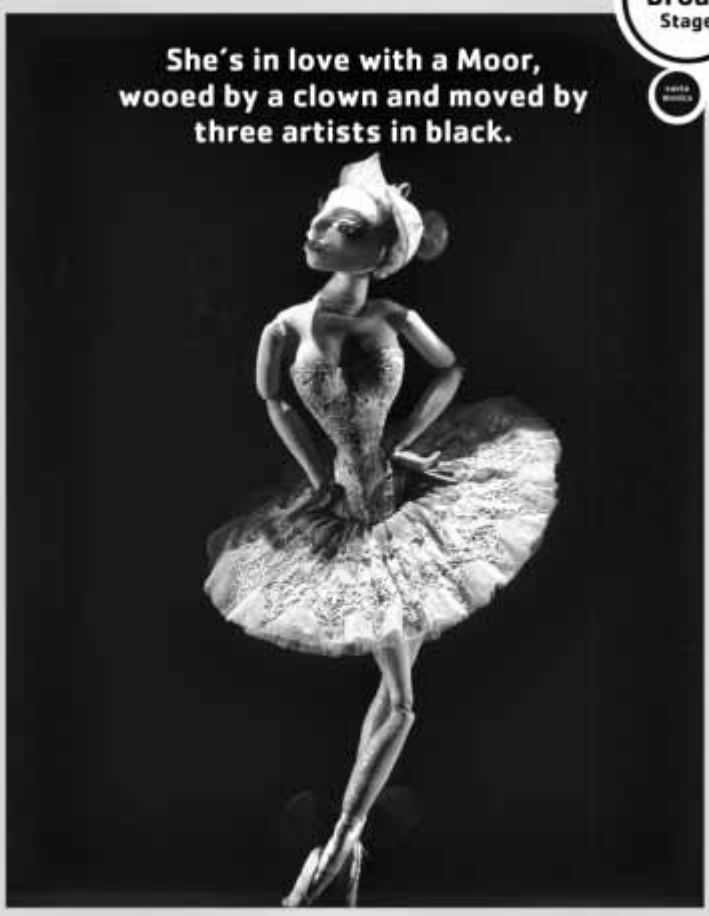

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WALL STREET

Stock market drops as dollar strengthens

SARA LEPRO & TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Investors rushed to safety Tuesday as concerns about spiraling debt loads and disappointing corporate reports tarnished hopes for an economic recovery.

Stocks tumbled as investors favored safe-haven assets like the dollar and Treasurys. Most major stock indexes fell 1 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which lost 104 points but ended off the day's lows.

An earnings forecast from 3M Co. and a sales report from McDonald's Corp. disappointed investors. The reports weighed on the Dow and overshadowed an increased profit forecast from FedEx Corp., whose results are seen as a gauge for the health of the economy.

Questions about debt levels in places from Greece to the Middle Eastern city-state of Dubai added to investors' concerns. Meanwhile, reports in Britain and Germany signaled that manufacturing remains weak.

The unease drove the dollar and Treasury prices higher. The advancing dollar hit commodities prices, which, in turn, hurt energy and materials producers. A stronger dollar makes commodities more expensive for buyers overseas.

After the huge rally in stocks and commodities this year, investors are looking for clues about where the economy is headed and how best to position their portfolios for next year. Investors are uncertain of how long the environment of low interest rates and a weak dollar that helped fuel the market's rally will last.

Philip S. Dow, managing director of equity strategy at RBC Wealth Management in Minneapolis, said 3M's forecast drew attention from FedEx and that the day's retreat is in order after the steep gains in stocks over all.

"People were so enthused with FedEx then got a little disappointed with 3M," he said. "I just think it's a rest."

At the same time, there are still plenty of doubts about the economic recovery to drive cautious investors to pad their portfolios with safe havens. With the Standard & Poor's 500 index up 20.9 percent so far in 2009, many investors are looking to protect their gains.

The Dow ended down 104.14, or 1 percent, to 10,285.97 after being down as much as 140 points. It was the steepest point and percentage loss for the Dow since Nov. 27 and erased the indexes' gain for December. Only Verizon Communications rose among the 30 stocks that make up the index.

The broader S&P 500 index fell 11.31, or 1 percent, to 1,091.94, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 16.62, or 0.8 percent, to 2,172.99.

Stocks finished little changed on Monday after reassurance from Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke that interest rates will remain low to support a recovery failed to galvanize investors.

Bond prices rose, sending yields lower. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.39 percent from 3.43 percent late Monday.

The slump in stocks and gains in Treasurys came as credit rating agencies pointed to what they saw as ominous debt loads around the world.

Fitch Ratings lowered Greece's credit rating Tuesday because of growing debt. Meanwhile, one agency cut its ratings on six Dubai state-linked companies due to worries about their growing debts. Two weeks ago debt problems in Dubai pushed world markets down sharply as investors worried that the troubles would unleash a wave of failing debt.

Moody's Investors Services also said the state of public finances in the U.S. and Britain are troubling.

The drop in stocks underscored the challenges investors face. With interest rates low, investors seeking stronger returns have been forced into stocks.

"If you get defensive today and head for the hills the question you have to ask yourself is where do you invest," said Rob Lutts, chief investment officer at Cabot Money Management in Salem, Mass.

The ICE Futures US dollar index, which tracks the dollar against other major currencies, rose 0.6 percent.

Gold prices fell for a third straight day. Crude oil fell $1.31 to settle at $72.62 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Analysts said the rising dollar was a big force behind the slide in stocks, as it has been for months.

Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at the brokerage Avalon Partners Inc. in New York, predicts the dollar will resume its slide and remove pressure from stocks.

"This is a short-term correction in the dollar and the same with the other markets and I don't think it's going to be long-lasting," he said.

Shares of 3M fell after the consumer products maker's earnings fell short of forecasts. The stock fell 80 cents, or 1 percent, to $77.11.

McDonald's fell $1.32, or 2.1 percent, to $60.61 after the world's largest fast-food chain said monthly sales in the U.S. fell in November.

FedEx raised its earnings forecast for the November quarter late Monday. The package delivery company rose $2.36, or 2.7 percent, to $89.88. Investors watch FedEx because the volume of its business is seen as an indicator of the overall strength of the economy.

Two stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.2 billion shares compared with 1.1 billion shares Monday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 5.86, or 1 percent, to 597.70.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1.7 percent, Germany's DAX index slid 1.7 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 1.4 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 0.3 percent.

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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's all in the terms

I WAS HELPING A FRIEND SEARCH FOR an apartment when she asked what the difference between a studio, single, bachelor, efficiency and junior one bedroom were, along with a loft and loft style apartment. I realized it was important to explain the differences, but told her that some apartment owners and management companies do not know, which means some for rent ads may not reflect the correct type of apartment for rent. Regardless, this is a guide to apartment unit terminology:

STUDIO APARTMENT

Just as it sounds, a studio apartment is one room. Usually there is no separation between the kitchen and the living/sleeping space. The kitchen is usually located on one of the walls and has a compact oven/stove top and full size fridge — if a refrigerator is included with the unit. Typically, a studio apartment is small, anywhere from 300-600 square feet. The bathroom is also separate from the room.

SINGLE APARTMENT

Some owners do not know the difference between a single and studio apartment. Many times, the two are used interchangeably. However, by definition, a single is an apartment that has a separate space for living/sleeping and the kitchen. If there is a wall with an entrance to the kitchen, the unit is a single. A single may have compact or full size appliances. A separate bathroom is included in a single apartment. Usually singles have the same square footage as studios, approximately 300-600 square feet.

BACHELOR

The main difference between a studio and single is a wall between the kitchen, but if a lack of a wall defines a studio, what makes a bachelor, a bachelor? A bachelor, also known as an efficiency, is a room with a kitchenette appliance located along a wall. A kitchenette appliance is a compact unit that normally has a sink, stove top with one or two burners, mini-fridge and possibly a microwave. Think of a bachelor apartment as a hotel room, but with a kitchenette appliance attached to a wall. There is a separate bathroom. A bachelor is usually the smallest of apartments most of the time under 500 square feet.

JUNIOR ONE BEDROOM

When I first moved to Los Angeles, I came across an apartment term I was unfamiliar with — a junior one bedroom. I could not figure out how a one bedroom apartment was junior, until I saw one with my own eyes. A junior one bedroom is an apartment that has a half or full wall separating the sleeping area from the living area. The bedroom is small, usually only large enough to fit a bed and possibly a small dresser. A junior one bedroom was probably a single or studio apartment at one time. The unit most likely had an alcove that the apartment owner decided to separate the living and sleeping space with a wall. A junior one bedroom has a separate wall and normally has full size appliances.

LOFT

A popular type of apartment in Downtown Los Angeles is the loft. A loft has usually been converted from an industrial space, has high ceilings and has a large living space. A true loft usually has ceilings that are over 15 feet and sometimes contain a separate sleeping area, lofted above the living/work space. A 2,000-square-foot loft will feel much larger than a 2,000-square-foot apartment because it has no walls separating the space, except for the bathroom.

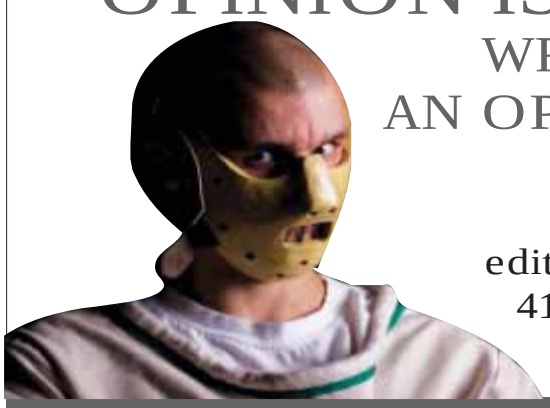
LOFT STYLE

Many developers began building loft style apartments in Downtown Los Angeles and Marina del Rey, which meant the apartments had higher ceilings than conventional apartments, usually 11 plus feet high and open living areas. However, loft style apartments are sometimes no different than large studio apartments with high ceilings.

Searching for an apartment is not easy, however, understanding the different terminology can help save you time. If you know what you want, you can limit your search to that type of apartment. Keep in mind that not all owners or management companies know the difference between the types of apartments, so ask questions when you are on the phone for clarification, which will save you a lot of time and frustration.

MIKE HEAYN is a Real Estate Investor and Commercial Loan Consultant, specializing in Multi-Family Lending. He can be emailed at maheayn@yahoo.com.

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Dec 9	Var	Chadwick		3pm
Dec 10-12	Var	Villa Park Tournament		TBA
GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER				
Dec 9	Var	San Pedro	JAMS	3:30pm
Dec 10	Var	Marymount	Marymount	3:15pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Dec 10	Var	Wilson	JAMS	3:30pm
Dec 10	JV	Wilson	JAMS	5pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Dec 14	JV	Millikan Tournament		TBA

Saint Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS SOCCER				
Dec 10	Var	Buckley	Airport Park	3:15pm
Dec 11&12	Var	El Segundo Tour	El Segundo	TBA
BOYS SOCCER				
Dec 10	JV/Var	Beverly Hills	Beverly Hills	4:30/6pm
Dec 17	Var/JV	Morningside	Morningside	2:30/4pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Dec 8-12	JV	Salesian Tour	Salesian	TBA
Dec 8-12	Fr	Salesian Tour	Salesian	TBA
Dec 21-23	JV/Fr	El Segundo Tour	El Segundo	TBA
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Dec 17-23	Var	Nike Tour of Champions	Phoenix Az.	TBA
Dec 26-31	Var	BHHS/H-W Tour	BHHS/HW	TBA

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TECHNOLOGY

Application helps bird watchers scan the skies

MARY ESCH
Associated Press Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. When Jory Langner finds time for a field trip during an upcoming visit to Washington, he won't have to ask local birders where to find candidates to add to his life list of birds sighted.

All he'll have to do to is pull out his iPhone and fire up BirdsEye, a new bird-finding application that gives users instant access to recent reports of birds spotted near their location, tells them where to look for specific birds, and keeps track of their lists of all the birds they've ever seen.

The application makes its debut just ahead of the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count, an effort that enlists as many as 55,000 bird watchers around the country — from the kitchen window crowd to slog-through-the-woods diehards — who report back the kinds and numbers of birds they spot.

The count, which runs from Dec. 14 through Jan. 5, collects data used to track the health of bird populations, identify trends and guide conservation.

"If you don't know the area, whether you're new or traveling through, it's a really good way of finding birding hotspots nearby," said Langner, 60, a software designer. "I'm really looking forward to using it during my upcoming trips around the country."

BirdsEye, recently released for iPhone and iPod Touch at a cost of $19.99, was developed through a collaboration of some of the top ornithologists in the country, using content from the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology, the Academy of Natural Sciences and field guide author Kenn Kaufman.

"This application has pieced together a network of experts to make possible something no one has done before," said Pete Myers, CEO of Environmental Health Sciences, an environmental journalism organization based in Charlottesville, Va.

Myers got involved in the BirdsEye project when Todd Koym, a programmer who works for him, hatched the idea two years ago. Myers contacted prominent birders he knew when he was senior vice president of the National Audubon Society, and they were eager to help.

It's not an electronic field guide to help identify birds. There are plenty of those around. This is new: a bird finder. It taps into eBird, the massive, constantly updated database of bird sightings maintained by the Cornell lab and the National Audubon Society.

Here's how it works.

Suppose you're a bird watcher on a business trip or visiting relatives across the country and you have some spare time to take in the local fauna. Where's a good place to go?

You start BirdsEye and poke "Find Nearby Birds." Using the iPhone's built-in GPS, it calculates your location and gives you a list of all the birds ever recorded in the area or just the ones reported recently. If you've entered your lifetime bird-sighting list, the application can show you just the birds not on your list.

Users of the iPod Touch can enter their location manually if there's no Wi-Fi access.

If the list includes a bird you've never seen, you can tap on it for a map showing where the bird was reported — say, a nearby park. You head over there and find woods, fields, and a pond. Where to look? The application has a brief narrative by Kaufman telling whether the bird is likely to be in treetops or grassland, alone or in a flock. It also has photos and recordings of the bird.

About 40,000 birders enter up to 2 million sightings a month into eBird, said Brian Sullivan at the Cornell lab.

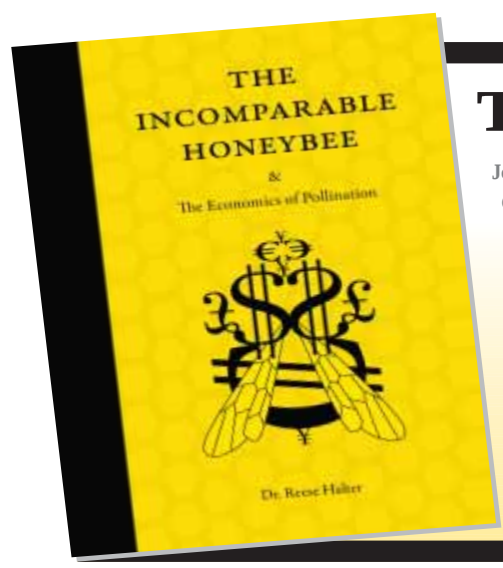
"We've been contacted by lots of other application developers," Sullivan said. "This is the first that uses eBird data. The database is open source for any developer to use."

The biggest limitation to the eBird database is that it has many observations from heavily populated areas and fewer from more remote locales. An application that makes it easy for birders to log sightings from the field would likely improve the database, Sullivan said. BirdsEye doesn't allow users to upload data to eBird now, but it will in the future, Koym said.

"You might think of bird watchers sitting in the woods eating granola and writing with lead pencils," Kaufman said. "But most of the birders I know are eager to go high tech and use whatever is available to find birds."

Myers, who travels extensively in his work, found the application proved its worth the first time he tried it.

"I have a pretty decent life list, with 571 birds, so it usually takes some work to find something new," Myers said. But during a trip to San Francisco, he turned on BirdsEye and it told him there had been sightings of red-masked parakeets nearby the previous day. "I had never seen one. So I followed the map it gave me and found about 60 of them within a half hour."



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Santa Monica Daily Press

Obama proposes tax incentive to hire workers

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama on Tuesday proposed a tax incentive for small businesses that add workers, even as Congress struggles to figure out how such an idea would work.

Lawmakers have been working for several months to develop a tax credit for businesses that hire workers, but they have been unable to figure out how to do it in a way that won't be abused.

Neither Obama nor his top advisers offered details Tuesday. They didn't say how big the tax break would be nor how it would be administered. Obama pledged to work on the issue with Congress.

"I believe it's worthwhile to create a tax incentive to encourage small businesses to add and keep employees and I'm going to work with Congress to pass one," Obama said.

Congress is running out of time to pass a jobs package this year, and the process will be even more complicated if the administration doesn't come up with details. Moreover, the Senate is preoccupied with the health care debate, making any action less likely.

Obama's other tax proposals were more familiar to lawmakers. He proposed extensions and enhancements of several tax breaks that were part of the economic stimulus package passed in February, including enhanced tax write-offs for companies that buy new equipment.

Obama also proposed eliminating capital gains taxes on small business stock, if it is purchased in 2010 and held for at least five years, expanding a tax break enacted in the stimulus package.

Majority Democrats in Congress, wary of an unemployment rate that stands at 10 percent as they enter an election year, said they would work with Obama to pass a jobs bill.

Republicans said Democratic efforts to pass a new jobs bill shows the last stimulus package was ineffective.

"We need to give the private sector confidence with permanent, long-term tax relief and immediate steps to rein in our skyrocketing deficits," said Rep. Tom Price of Georgia, chairman of the Republican Study Committee. "Temporary tax relief won't overshadow the long-term concerns of anxious employers."

Some tax experts said it would be difficult to fashion a tax credit that efficiently provides an incentive to small businesses to add workers. Do you offer a tax break for simply increasing payroll, or do companies have to hire more workers? How long must companies keep the workers? How would the requirements be enforced?

"You're trying to subsidize people for doing things they wouldn't otherwise do, but we don't know what they would otherwise do," said Eugene Steuerle, a Treasury Department official in the Reagan administration who is now co-director of the Tax Policy Center, a Washington think tank.

John H. Bishop, an economist and a professor at Cornell University, has helped develop a proposal for a tax credit for companies that increase the amount of their payroll subject to Social Security taxes. Since only the first $108,600 of a worker's pay is subject to Social Security taxes, executives couldn't get the credit by giving themselves big bonuses, he said.

Some companies could get credits simply by raising the pay of existing workers, but that would help the economy, too, Bishop said. Bishop's proposal, modeled after a similar tax credit enacted in the 1970s, has been circulating on Capitol Hill for several months.

"It does exactly what we want," Bishop said. "It focuses on hiring Americans to work now."

MEDIA

Publishers plan rival to Kindle format

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Five of the nation's largest publishers of newspapers and magazines are teaming up to challenge Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle electronic-book reader with their own technology that would display in color and work on a variety of devices.

Time Inc., News Corp., Conde Nast, Hearst Corp., and Meredith Corp., whose magazines include Time, Cosmopolitan and Better Homes and Gardens, announced a joint venture on Tuesday to develop new ways of presenting publications digitally to rival Kindle's gray "electronic ink" technique.

The publishers' answer to the text-oriented Kindle promises to emphasize visuals, retaining the distinctive look of each publication. It also aims to incorporate videos, games and social networking along with a classic magazine layout that can be flipped through with the touch of a finger.

The new standards the publishers are jointly developing would let consumers read the digital publications on some tablet computers, portable electronic readers and smart phones that render color images.

"The genesis of this idea is to build a fully featured kind of immersive e-reading application that can render our content beautifully on those devices that come to market," said John Squires, the venture's interim managing director.

The Kindle has been available since 2007. Electronic books, newspapers and other publications that Amazon sells for the Kindle will only work with that device.

Companies in the joint venture are hoping to break that lock and sell content starting in 2010 using the new standards. Publishers outside the joint venture would be able to adopt them, too.

News Corp. Chief Executive Rupert Murdoch has made no secret of his dissatisfaction with the Kindle.

News Corp. receives a little more than a third of the $14.99 monthly subscription fee Amazon.com charges for The Wall Street Journal, but it has limited access to subscriber data, Murdoch said last month, describing why the relationship was "not a great deal."

"Kindle is a fantastic invention for reading books. It is not much of an experience for newspapers," he said.

Analysts said the publishers' joint venture to develop their own e-reader technology was a bold attempt to reassert control over their content before becoming prey to terms dictated by Amazon.com, Sony Corp. or Barnes & Noble Inc. on their electronic readers.









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Councilman Bloom vows to respect property rights

FROM **BLOOM** PAGE 1

In announcing the appointment on Tuesday, Steinberg's office released a statement that read in part, "Mr. Bloom is a committed advocate for our environment. He will contribute greatly to the commission's efforts to protect and preserve our precious coast."

Bloom was first elected to the Santa Monica City Council in 1999 and served as mayor from 2002 until 2004 and again in 2007. He is an attorney who since 2003 has served on the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission.

"Philosophically, I am very much an environmentalist, but at the same time I want to make sure during my tenure that we're respecting property rights and bearing in mind the full impact of the decisions that we make on the commission," he said. "We are the guardians and protectors of an extraordinary asset that we need to preserve and enhance for future generations."

The California Coastal Commission was established by a voter initiative in 1972 and four years later was made permanent by the Legislature. The commission, in partnership with local jurisdictions, is responsible for regulating development activities that affect the intensity of coastal land use or the public's access to the coastline.

The coastal zone covers an area larger than Rhode Island that spans the state. The zone includes a 3-mile wide swath of ocean; on land it varies from a few hundred feet wide in urban areas to five miles wide in some rural areas.

nickt@smdp.com

Seawolves boys basketball begins season with momentum

FROM **ROUNDUP** PAGE 3

PACIFICA CHRISTIAN STARTS STRONG

Despite losing its three top scorers from last season, Pacifica Christian's boys basketball team continues to defy the odds, sprinting out to a 4-1 start.

With the most recent victory coming against Los Angeles Adventist last weekend, it appears as if the Seawolves may be on its way to a return engagement in the CIF-SS playoffs.

"We are kind of starting over with what a lot of people thought of as a rebuilding year," Head Coach Kevin Kelsey said. "But, we want to do well now."

Kelsey, who coached the Seawolves to the semifinals last season, said that the team's lone returning starter, Zach McMillan, has picked up the slack left behind by last year's graduating seniors.

He has averaged 22 points a game while averaging 15 rebounds.

Joining McMillan in the starting lineup are a pair of varsity baseball players. Sophomores Kevin Hammer and Keenan Perrandozzi-Howe have left the spikes and gloves behind to take to the hardwood. Hammer, who has been starting at point guard in place of the injured JR Walker. Kelsey said that he will insert Walker back into the lineup the second he's able to lace up his sneakers.

Next up for the Seawolves is a road game against Eastside Christian today at 7 p.m.

daniela@smdp.com

Kronovet still committed to extending smoking ban in apartments

FROM **SMOKING** PAGE 1

Kronovet, who owns a real estate company and describes himself as a private property rights advocate, has meanwhile insisted that he supports a smoking ban simply as a way to protect tenants from the ill effects of secondhand smoke. He has denied that a ban on smoking would lead to evictions, pointing out that under the outright ban smoking wouldn't be illegal but rather would make transgressors subject to a fine.

He dismissed criticism that he could be pushing the issue because of an ulterior motive, like running for City Council.

"It seems that any proposal advanced by a housing provider is viewed as inherently bad," he said. "The reality is that I happen to be a true tenant advocate."

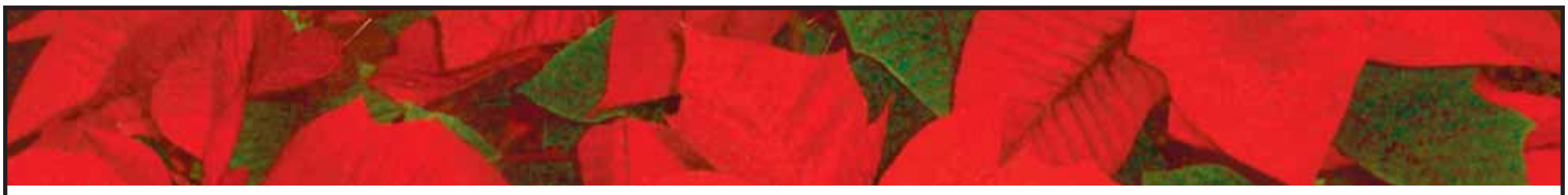
Kronovet said he plans to continue advocating for the ban with the non-smokers group and could bring the issue up with the City Council, though he has not yet met with any councilmember.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us. This issue is not over. We have just begun to fight," he said.

Reached on Tuesday, Mayor Pro Tem Pam O'Connor, though, said if the issue comes before the council, it won't be her doing. O'Connor currently sets the council agendas since Mayor Ken Genser has been absent for several meetings due to health issues.

"I'm not initiating it," she said.

nickt@smdp.com



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This year **Woodlawn Cemetery & Mausoleum** located at **1847 14th Street (Corner of 14th Street and Pico Blvd.)** in Santa Monica located across the street from Santa Monica College is participating in the toy drive as an official toy drop off location. **Donations of new unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the cemetery business office beginning November 23 and continuing through December 18.** Toys may be dropped off Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. Please call (310) 458-8717 for additional information.

City of Santa Monica

Baby shaking cases underreported

FROM **ARRAIGNMENT** PAGE 1

report found that his stepdaughter was the victim of a homicide.

Hillman brought the baby girl to a local hospital in the early morning hours of Oct. 4. The girl was in full cardiac arrest and was not breathing, police said. Emergency room staff was able to resuscitate her twice and placed her on a ventilator. She was taken off life support per a court order on Nov. 22.

A coroner's report three days later found evidence that was consistent with a previous medical finding that the baby was the victim of shaken baby syndrome.

The arrest of Hillman is shedding some light on a form of child abuse that is little known, experts in the field said. The abuse usually occurs in the home with few if any witnesses, and involves an infant that cannot properly communicate to officials about their injuries.

Child advocates hope the arrest raises awareness and leads to more accurate reporting of future incidents.

"I think it is pretty much common knowledge that you do not shake a baby because you can cause harm to a child, but I don't know how well parents are equipped to handle some of the frustrating behaviors that may cause them to lose control and shake a child," said Amy Wicks, information and research specialist for the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome (www.dontshake.org).

Shaken baby syndrome is a term used to describe the signs and symptoms resulting from violent shaking and impacting of the head of an infant or small child.

An infant's brain is not fully developed and they have relatively weak neck muscles to support their relatively large heads, which can account for 25 percent of a baby's weight, Wicks said. Because the neck muscles are weak, they cannot control movement when a child is shaken, causing the brain to move violently back and forth. Brain tissue is damaged, leading to severe physical and mental disabilities, even death.

It is estimated that 25 percent of children abused die immediately while the rest live with varying degrees of injury.

The first articles to address the syndrome were published in the early 1970s, Wicks said. As medical technology advanced, physicians were better equipped to make a proper diagnosis, leading to more reports of the abuse.

Today, there are somewhere between 1,200 and 1,400 reported cases per year, "but that is probably low because there are quite a few cases where the child doesn't suffer a loss of consciousness or seizure activity and may not be taken in for medical attention," Wicks said.

Because the victims are most likely infants, county officials must rely on medical experts before classifying cases as shaken baby syndrome. Sometimes there is not enough evidence to lead to that conclusion.

In the case involving Hillman, a medical professional at a local hospital felt there were signs of abuse. The SMPD was notified along with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

Susan Jakubowski, the public affairs manager for family services, would not comment on the Hillman case but said in general when there is a report of an abuse child welfare officers immediately remove the child from the home and do their best to place them with family members. If siblings may be in danger, they are also removed.

Wicks said there is no concrete data on the outcomes of baby shaking cases so it is hard to tell if it is more difficult to get a conviction when compared to other murder or abuse cases.

"It does seem like it is somewhat harder for people to believe that a parent would do that to a child," she said. "That, combined with the fact that often times there are not witnesses, makes it difficult."

While it is pretty much common knowledge to not shake a baby, some do not have the tools necessary to deal with stress and frustration that leads to abuse.

"It seems like parents are more and more frustrated and may have more outside stressors at work or finances and everything else going on in the world," Wicks said. "And when a baby is crying inconsolably, that may be just enough to trigger someone to lose control."

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Stress tips

To help parents cope, the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome offers 20 tips to control stress and frustration.

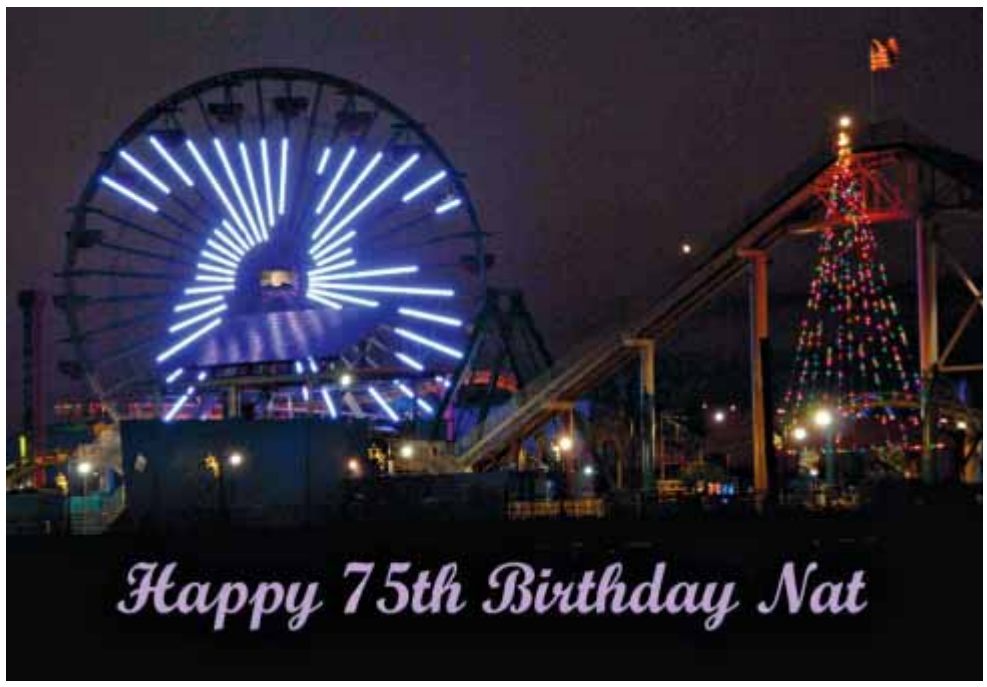
THEY ARE:

- Feed your baby. Hunger is the main reason a baby will cry.
- Burp your baby. Babies do not have a natural ability to get rid of air built up in their stomach.
- Swaddle your baby. Learn more about swaddling by clicking here
- Give your baby a lukewarm bath. A great soothing technique, but remember to never leave your baby unattended.
- Massage your baby. A gentle massage on a baby back, arms, or legs can be very comforting.
- Give your baby a pacifier. Use sparingly, because if used when your baby isn't crying, it may prove to be ineffective.
- Make eye contact with your baby and smile. Eye-to-eye contact with your baby when they are crying can distract and comfort them.
- Kiss your baby. This can help lessen the tension during fierce crying episodes.
- Kiss the bottom of your baby's feet. A baby's feet are one of the most sensitive spots on their body, light kisses on their feet can help turn a challenging situation into a happy one.
- Sing Softly. Lullabies were created because of their effectiveness at calming crying babies.
- Reassure your baby with soft words like "it's OK." This can help comfort you and your baby during a difficult crying episode.
- Hum in a low tone against your babies head. Dad's usually do this soothing feature best.
- Run a vacuum cleaner. The noise from a vacuum is referred to as white noise which is any sound produces a loud, neutral, masking sound. Babies find these noises hypnotizing.
- Run a dishwasher. Dishwashers have different cycles of white noise which some infants find soothing.
- Take your baby for a ride in the car. The vibrations from a car have a sleep inducing effect on babies. Always make sure your baby is secure in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat.
- Rock your baby in a rocker. Rocking your baby in a chair can be very relaxing for you and your baby.
- Push your baby in a stroller. A stroller ride is the next best thing to a ride in a car.
- Place your baby in a car seat on top of a running dryer. This is a classic soothing technique, but use caution. Never leave your baby unattended.
- Put your baby underneath a lighted mobile. The sounds, lights and movements of a mobile can be very amusing and entertaining for a baby.
- Dance Slowly. Dancing can be fun for both you and your baby and allows for a variety of soothing movements.



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U.N.: Current decade could be hottest ever

CHARLES J. HANLEY & JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press Writers

COPENHAGEN A leaked Danish document at the U.N. climate conference provoked angry criticism Tuesday from developing countries who feared it would shift more of the burden to curb greenhouse gases on poorer countries.

The issue gained new impetus, meanwhile, when negotiators displayed charts of data that said the current decade is on track to be the hottest on record for planet Earth.

At the heart of the clash of ideas — stemming from draft texts attributed to Denmark and China — is the determination by the more impoverished states to bear a lesser burden than wealthy, more industrialized countries in the effort to slow global warming.

Diplomats from developing countries and climate activists also complained the Danish hosts had pre-empted the negotiations with their draft proposal, prepared before the two-week conference began.

"The behind-the-scenes negotiation tactics under the Danish presidency have been focusing on pleasing the rich and powerful countries rather than serving the majority of states who are demanding a fair and ambitious solution," said Kim Carstensen, head of the climate initiative for the environmental group WWF.

The Danish draft proposal circulating at the 192-nation conference chips away at the wall between what developed and developing nations can be expected to do to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

A sketchy counterproposal attributed to China would extend the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which required 37 industrial nations to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases blamed for global warming by an average 5 percent by 2012, compared with 1990 levels.

The Chinese text would incorporate specific new, deeper targets for the industrialized world for a further five to eight years. Developing countries, on the other hand, would be covered by a separate agreement that envisions their taking actions to control emissions, but not in the same legally binding way. No targets would be specified for them.

Poorer nations believe the two-track approach would best preserve the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" recognized by the Kyoto Protocol.

Such draft ideas are usual grist early in such long, difficult international talks. These two proposals were not yet even recorded as official conference documents.

"It has no validity," key European Union negotiator Artur Runge-Metzger said, speaking specifically of the Danish proposal. "It's only a piece of paper. The only texts that have validity here are those which people negotiated."

Earlier Tuesday, the U.N.'s weather agency boosted the sense of urgency surrounding the conference with data showing this decade is on track to be the hottest since records began in 1850, with 2009 the fifth-warmest year ever. The second warmest decade was the 1990s.

Only the United States and Canada experienced cooler conditions than average, the World Meteorological Organization said, though Alaska had the second-warmest July on record. In central Africa and southern Asia, this will probably be the warmest year, but overall, 2009 will "be about the fifth-warmest year on record," said Michel Jarraud, secretary-general of the Swiss-based agency.

The last few decades are the warmest period in at least 400 years and probably 1,000 years, based on evidence from tree rings, retreating glaciers and other scientific methods to track climate before record-keeping, according to a 2006 report by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

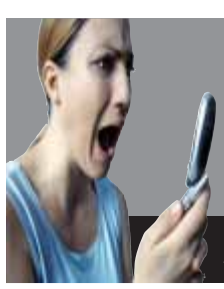
Although temperatures have fluctuated, the causes were natural. The difference now is that they are being driven up by human activity, that modern civilization has many more coastal cities and needs to feed far more people, and that scientists believe humans can head off such dangerous warming.

Without a global deal stopping climate change, the planet's average temperatures will rise by more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees F) "well before the end of the century," Jarraud said.

"What we want is to provide the best possible data for negotiators," said Jarraud, who called the WMO data evidence "this is indeed globally the warmest period for more than 2,000 years."

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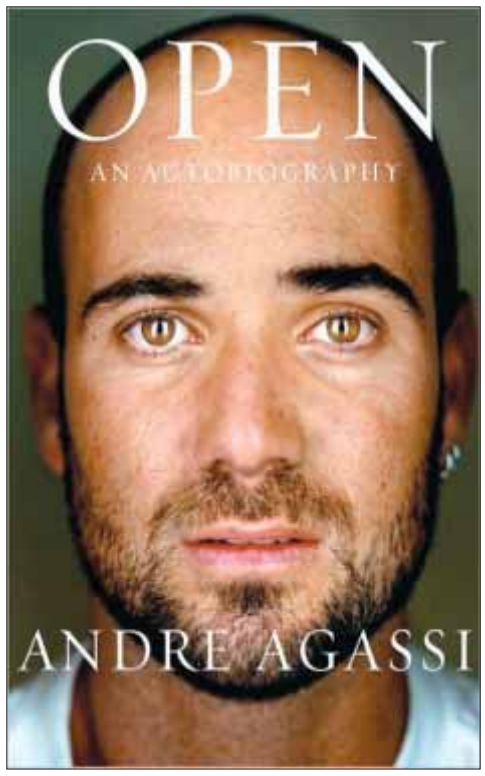
BOOKREVIEW

BY JACK NEWORTH



'Open: An Autobiography'

By Andre Agassi • Alfred A. Knopf



The cover photo of Andre Agassi's best-selling book "Open: An Autobiography" sets the tone. Agassi's face is photographed so starkly that it's reminiscent of a mug shot. If his goal in "Open" was to be brutally honest about his life for the entire world to see, then I'd say he aced it.

The book takes us on the remarkable, nearly tragic journey of one of America's most beloved athletes. Agassi is the only American of the six men to ever win all four Grand Slam tournaments. He's the only one to also win an Olympic Gold medal. But all the achievements and enormous wealth came at a terrible price.

The story begins with Andre's overbearing father. Mike Agassi, a hard-working Iranian immigrant and former Olympic boxer, was obsessed with achieving the American dream for his family. To that end, he was determined that Andre would become the no. 1 tennis player in the world.

Mike drove his son mercilessly. At age 7, Andre would often spend five hours a day in the hot Las Vegas sun returning hundreds of tennis balls shot at high speed from a frightening contraption that Andre called "The Dragon."

Robbed of a childhood, Agassi reveals for the first time how much he hated tennis. He played not to win matches but to win his father's love. But his early success only added fuel to Mike's fiery ambition.

At age 13, Andre was shipped to a famous tennis camp in Florida, which seems more like a child labor camp. School was such an afterthought that Andre dropped out in the ninth grade. Agassi secretly hoped that if he outplayed the other kids he would finally be allowed to come home. It was just the opposite.

The most poignant of his friendships was that with trainer, Gil Reyes. A Goliath-like figure, Reyes helped Agassi achieve the conditioning to outlast younger opponents and also gave him the supportive father figure so missing from Andre's childhood.

"Open" is ultimately a love story. Andre's courtship of tennis legend, Steffi Graf, reads like an innocent teenager's diary. Sending flowers and leaving voice mails, he was as determined in affairs of the heart as he was in tennis. His reward was the love of his life.

Agassi has been harshly criticized for the revelation in "Open" that, in 1997, he often used crystal meth, failed a drug test, and lied to the ATP to escape punishment. It should be noted that crystal meth is a performance inhibiting, not enhancing drug. Regardless, Agassi was clearly in an emotional free-fall that ended in a divorce from Brooke Shields, and saw his top tennis-ranking plummet to no. 141. In openly accepting the criticism, Agassi asks for compassion for others in such desperate straits.

Deeply depressed in '97, Agassi shocked and disappointed his millions of fans by leaving the tour. To find his passion and rebuild his game, he went on the Challenger Tour and the minor leagues of the sport. And yet, it was the first time that he was the one making the choice to play tennis. Somehow it worked. Slowly he climbed the rankings and, remarkably, became no. 1 in the world once again. . A few years later, at 33, Agassi would become the oldest no. 1 in history.

Perhaps even more remarkable, Andre Agassi the 9th grade dropout, became Andre Agassi the educator. He raised tens of millions of dollars, and contributed millions of his own, to build the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy, a charter school in the most disadvantaged section of Las Vegas. This past June was the first senior class with 100 percent graduating and all going on to college. Hard to beat that.

In "Open," we follow Andre from brash, rebellious teenager to husband, father and humanitarian. Indicative of his evolution was a moment at school.

One day, a shy, 15-year-old boy, whom he had never met, flagged him down. The boy nervously revealed that a year earlier his father had been murdered. Understandably lost, he wanted to thank Agassi for giving him a second chance in life. Overwhelmed, Andre hugged the boy. "I told him that it was I who needed to thank him."

To help with the book Agassi hired J.R. Moehringer, a Pulitzer Prize winning writer. Andre had read "The Tender Bar," Moehringer's touching memoir as the only child of an impoverished single mother, and his lifelong struggle to become a man. In coaches, trainers and writers, Agassi always found the best. But, in the end, he was the one who had to do the hard work, to stare down fear and rise to the challenge.

In his career Andre Agassi won eight Grand Slam championships. Given the candor with which he shared the pain and joy of his life, one could say this book was number nine.

JACK NEWORTH can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.

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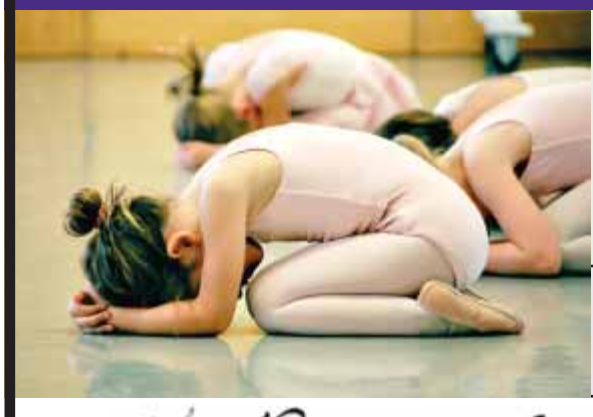
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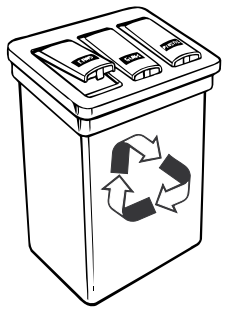


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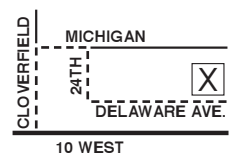


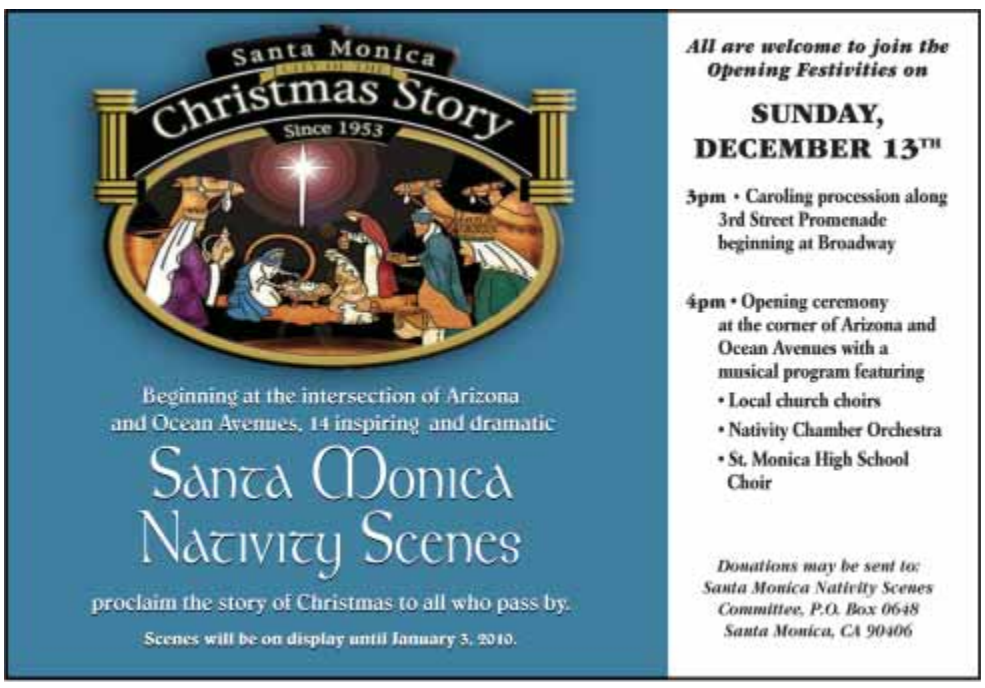
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Fake sites rank high on Web searches

JORDAN ROBERTSON
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Even search engines can get suckered by Internet scams.

With a little sleight of hand, con artists can dupe them into giving top billing to fraudulent Web sites that prey on consumers, making unwitting accomplices of companies such as Google, Yahoo and Microsoft.

Online charlatans typically try to lure people into giving away their personal or financial information by posing as legitimate companies in "phishing" e-mails or through messages in forums such as Twitter and Facebook. But a new study by security researcher Jim Stickley shows how search engines also can turn into funnels for shady schemes.

Stickley created a Web site purporting to belong to the Credit Union of Southern California, a real business that agreed to be part of the experiment. He then used his knowledge of how search engines rank Web sites to achieve something that shocked him: His phony site got a No. 2 ranking on Yahoo Inc.'s search engine and landed in the top slot on Microsoft Corp.'s Bing, ahead of even the credit union's real site.

Google Inc., which handles two-thirds of U.S. search requests, didn't fall into Stickley's trap. His fake site never got higher than Google's sixth page of results, too far back to be seen by most people. The company also places a warning alongside sites that its system suspects might be malicious.

But even Google acknowledges it isn't foolproof.

Some recession-driven scams have been slipping into Google's search results, although that number is "very, very few," said Jason Morrison, a Google search quality engineer.

On one kind of fraudulent site, phony articles claim that participants can make thousands of dollars a month simply for posting links to certain Web sites. Often, the victims are asked to pay money for startup materials that never arrive, or bank account information is requested for payment purposes.

"As soon as we notice anything like it, we'll adapt, but it's kind of like a game of Whac-A-Mole," he said. "We can't remove every single scam from the Internet. It's just impossible."

In fact, Google said Tuesday it is suing a company for promising "work at home" programs through Web sites that look legitimate and pretend to be affiliated with Google.

Stickley's site wasn't malicious, but easily could have been. In the year and a half it was up, the 10,568 visitors were automatically redirected to the real credit union, and likely never knew they had passed through a fraudulent site.

"When you're using search engines, you've got to be diligent," said Stickley, cofounder of TraceSecurity Inc. "You can't trust that just because it's No. 2 or No. 1 that it really is. A phone book is actually probably a safer bet than a search engine."

A Yahoo spokeswoman didn't respond to requests for comment. Microsoft said in a statement that Stickley's experiment showed that search results can be cluttered with junk, but the company insists Bing "is equipped to address" the problem. Stickley's link no longer appears in Bing.

To fool people into thinking they were following the right link, Stickley established a domain (creditunionofsc.org) that sounded plausible. (The credit union's real site is cusocal.org.) After that, Stickley's site wasn't designed with humans in mind; it was programmed to make the search engines believe they were scanning a legitimate site. Stickley said he pulled it off by having link after link inside the site to create the appearance of "depth," even though those links only led to the same picture of the credit union's front page.

The experiment convinced Credit Union of Southern California that it should protect itself by being more aggressive about buying domain names similar to its own. Domains generally cost a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars each — a pittance compared with a financial institution's potential liability or loss of goodwill if its customers are ripped off by a fake site.

"The test was hugely successful," said Ray Rounds, the credit union's senior vice president of information services.

Stickley's manipulation illuminates the dark side of so-called search engine optimization. It's a legitimate tactic used by sites striving to boost their rankings — by designing them so search engines can capture information on them better.

But criminals can turn the tables to pump up fraudulent sites.

"You can do this on a very, very broad scale and have a ton of success," Stickley said. "This shows there's a major, major risk out there."

Robert Hansen, a Web security expert who wasn't involved in Stickley's research, said ranking high in search engine results gets easier as the topic gets more obscure. An extremely well-trafficked site such as Bank of America's would always outrank a phony one, he notes.

Still, Hansen said, criminals have been able to game Google's system well enough to carve out profitable niches. He says one trick is to hack into trusted sites, such as those run by universities, and stuff them with links to scam sites, which makes search engines interpret the fraudulent sites as legitimate.

"I don't think we're anywhere near winning" the fight against such frauds, said Hansen, chief executive of the SecTheory consulting firm.

Roger Thompson, chief research officer for AVG Technologies, who also wasn't involved in the research, said search results can be trusted, for the most part.

"But the rule is, if you're looking for something topical or newsworthy, you should be very cautious about clicking the link," he said. That's because criminals load their scam sites with hot topics in the news, to trap victims before the search engines have a chance to pull their sites out of the rankings.

"The bad guys don't have to get every search," he said. "They just have to get a percentage."

Consumers can protect themselves from scam sites by looking up the domain at www.whois.com, which details when a site was registered and by whom. That can be helpful if the Web address of a phony site is similar to the real one.

Plan for wild horse round-up riles advocates

MARTIN GRIFFITH
Associated Press Writer

SPARKS, Nev. A government plan to round up and relocate thousands of wild horses in the West faces opposition from advocates who say the proposal is inhumane and unnecessary.

At a hearing near Reno, two dozen advocates pressed the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's National Horse and Burro Advisory Board Monday for a moratorium on roundups until an independent audit of mustang numbers can be conducted.

The government wants to carry out Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's plan to relocate as many as 25,000 wild horses from Western rangelands to pastures in the Midwest and East out of fear that the mustangs' fast-multiplying numbers will lead to mass starvation.

While the panel adjourned late Monday without taking any formal action, at least two members, Gary Zakotnik and Vern Dooley, said afterward they support Salazar's proposal.

"It's the best and most cost-effective alternative I've seen to deal with the horse problem in my 10 years on the board," Zakotnik said.

"Considering the reality of exploding horse numbers, it's a reasonable solution," Dooley said.

Board Chairwoman Robin Lohse said she expects the panel to make a recommendation sometime next year after it learns more about the plan.

If the government moves forward with its plan, it would carry out what is believed to be the biggest wild horse round-up on federal land.

Among those opposed to the round-up are celebrities Sheryl Crow, Bill Maher and Lily Tomlin, who contend the situation is not as dire as the government describes, and the roundups are inhumane and unnecessary.

At the hearing, advocates urged the government to remove cattle to free up public land for one of the most stirring symbols of the American West — mustangs thundering freely across the range. They noted non-native cows far outnumber mustangs on the range.

"Why are cows staying and horses have to go?" asked Carla Bowers of Volcano, Calif. "This is insanity. This is not right."

Demar Dahl, a rancher and commissioner in Nevada's Elko County, was one of only two people who supported Salazar's plan at the hearing. Two dozen others expressed opposition.

"I've learned as a rancher that they have to be managed for their own good and for the good of other resources on the range," Dahl said. "You have to control them or damage to the range is incredible."

Ginger Kathrens, executive director of the horse advocacy group Cloud Foundation based in Colorado Springs, Colo., called for the firing of BLM officials who oversee the wild horse program.

"The current schedule of roundups would result in a nail in the coffin for many small herds," she said.

Terri Farley, author of the popular "Phantom Stallion" series of children's books, presented the board with more than 200 letters from children who oppose Salazar's plan, which she says could cause horses to become extinct in the wild.

"Children will grow up to believe wild horses were like unicorns, existing in only stories," Farley said. "We want to protect the American wild horse and ensure a lasting legacy for our children and grandchildren."

Jeremy Drew of the northern Nevada chapter of Safari Club International said his hunting group supports Salazar's plan because mustangs adversely affect wildlife.

The government argues that the mustang population in 10 Western states is growing so rapidly that the horses are quickly running out of food and damaging the range, in part because of drought ravaging the region.

The BLM says the number of wild horses and burros on public lands in the West stands at nearly 37,000, about half of them in Nevada. An additional 34,000 wild horses already live away from the range in federal-run corrals and pastures, and those are nearly full.

"We are concerned about the numbers," Lohse said during the hearing. "Time is not on our side."

BLM officials feel the appropriate number of wild horses and burros that can be supported on the range is about 26,600.

The agency said last year it would have to consider destroying wild horses because of their escalating numbers and the costs of caring for them. But earlier this year, Salazar said the BLM, a part of the Interior Department, would instead ship 11,500 to 25,000 horses from the range to pastures and corrals in the Midwest and East.

The exact destinations have not been decided, but Salazar believes Plains states would make the most sense in terms of water and forage, said Don Glenn, chief of the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program. He said Salazar also wants at least one site in the East.

Horse advocates accuse the government of grossly inflating mustang numbers, saying they believe the count is more like 15,000 horses in the wild. They're seeking an independent analysis of the population.

The relocation plan is part of a long-running feud over wild horses in the West, where mustangs have roamed ever since they arrived with Spanish settlers centuries ago.

Ranchers view wild horses as a menace to their grazing land, and the killing of them was allowed until 1971.

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Numbers 2301 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following is a summary, by the City Attorney, of Ordinance Number 2301, which was adopted by the city Council on November 24, 2009.

Ordinance Number 2301 (CCS) revises Municipal Code provisions governing operation of the Woodlawn Cemetery, which is owned and operated by the City. Among other things, the ordinance eliminates the City residency requirement for burial at the Cemetery, allows the Cemetery Administrator to adopt rules and regulations governing cemetery operations, and authorizes sales agreements that will allow pre-need customers to make financing agreements with the Cemetery.

This ordinance will become effective thirty days after adoption 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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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

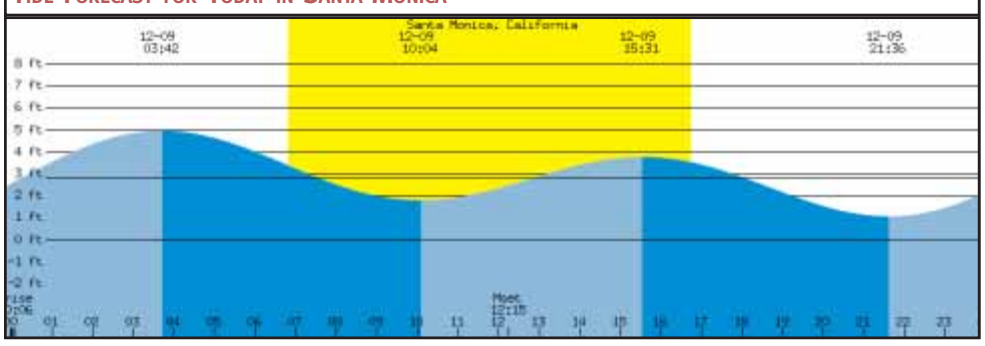
Swell Forecast

Today is expected to be a swell building day. Current ETA on the significant WNW'er is for SB/VC to see this shortly after sunrise, LA mid morning, and OC/SD by late morning.

Long Range Synopsis

Surf running well overhead at west facing breaks is still expected.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 2, 2009**

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 -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; simplehuman; SIMA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	C	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	C	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	F	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	C	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	C	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	B	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	D	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	C	ns

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay'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 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.

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.

Heal the Bay

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Gerhart powers his way to Heisman finalist list

JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

STANFORD, Calif. As a 12-year-old tourist, Toby Gerhart walked into the Downtown Athletic Club and gazed in awe at all the portraits and trophies of past Heisman Trophy winners.

"I didn't think I could be one of these guys," Gerhart said. "It was like, 'Wow, it would be awesome to be included here.' I was not projecting myself to do it but just thinking this is a special place and to be included in this would be a dream."

That dream still seemed farfetched when Gerhart was recruited to play fullback and linebacker at Southern California despite setting a California high school record for yards rushing. It didn't appear any closer as he struggled through his first two years at Stanford. And it still seemed like a long shot early in his senior year.

After a remarkable closing stretch to the season that Heisman dream is coming close to being a reality. Gerhart was picked Monday as one of five finalists for college football's most coveted individual award.

"It's the greatest honor I've ever received," Gerhart said. "It's like a dream come true. Once you get to this level you dream of getting nominated as a potential Heisman candidate. To be mentioned like that is an honor and I'm thrilled to death."

Gerhart earned the honor by rushing for more yards (1,736) and more touchdowns (26) than any other player in the country, while leading No. 19 Stanford (8-4) to a second-place finish in the Pac-10 and its first bowl bid in eight years.

Barely on the national radar when the season began, Gerhart will join 2007 winner Tim Tebow, 2008 runner-up Colt McCoy, Alabama running back Mark Ingram and Nebraska defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh as finalists when the award is handed out Saturday.

"The Heisman Trophy is one of those awards that has evolved to 50 percent of it is about preseason hype, 25 percent is about giving it to somebody on the undefeated team and 25 percent is about what the player is accomplishing," coach Jim Harbaugh said.

Gerhart may be lacking in the first two categories, but his accomplishments this season match up with just about anyone's in college football. He scored touchdowns in all but one game, topped 100 yards 10 times and 200 yards three times, and averaged at least 4.4 yards per carry in every game this season.

And it's those accomplishments that may finally help Gerhart shed some of the stereotypes he has had to overcome in his career as a white tailback. When Gerhart tells strangers he's a running back, he said they automatically assume he plays fullback.

That's in part because of his solid build but also because of his race. There are currently no white running backs starting in the NFL and even now Gerhart hears the questions about whether he will be moved to fullback at the next level.

"I don't really have all the flash," Gerhart said. "I just go out and produce. I'm a big running back. I don't want to say race has anything to do with it but that was definitely a question coming out of high school. A lot of people were saying I was going to be a fullback not a tailback."

Gerhart will likely join 1982 runner-up John Elway and 1970 winner Jim Plunkett as the only Stanford players to finish in the top five in Heisman voting in the last half-century. Fittingly, the news came as Gerhart was rushing off to take an Investment Sciences final on Monday, part of his 21-credit quarter that he has balanced along with football.

"It put me in a good mood for my test," he said. "Actually I think I did pretty well on that one."

Gerhart does well in just about everything he tries, from academics to the baseball diamond where he helped lead the Cardinal to the 2008 College World Series to the football field.

Gerhart burst onto the national scene by rushing for 334 yards and four touchdowns in back-to-back early season wins over Washington and UCLA. But it was his performance in November in the toughest stretch of the season for the Cardinal that made him a legitimate contender.

He started it off by running for 223 yards and three TDs in a 51-42 victory over No. 7 Oregon. He followed that with 178 yards rushing and three more scores in a 55-21 win over then No. 11 USC that left the Trojans wondering why they didn't think Gerhart could play tailback.

He had 136 yards and four TDs in a 34-28 loss to California, before finishing his season off with 205 yards, three touchdowns rushing and a TD pass in a 45-38 victory against Notre Dame.

That performance rocketed him up Heisman lists around the country, even as he discouraged Stanford from doing any marketing gimmicks to help his campaign.

"I let the production and play speak for itself," he said. "There wasn't a lot of preseason hype, or no preseason hype to be exact. To be recognized for what you do on the field and not as a media baby, that makes it that much more special."

Gerhart is also quick to credit his teammates, especially his blockers and quarterback Andrew Luck. While the Heisman is an individual award, Gerhart views it as an honor that shows off the turnaround made by the entire program.

The Cardinal won just one game his freshman year when he said football was no longer fun and he felt embarrassed to walk around campus. The only time Stanford got mentioned nationally was when people wondered if they should still bother to compete at college football's highest level.

There was steady improvement each year, capped by this year's performance. Led by their Heisman finalist, the Cardinal are nationally ranked and headed to the Sun Bowl to take on Oklahoma.

"That's something I'll always take pride in," Gerhart said, "leaving Stanford as a member of the class that helped turn the program around and got it recognized on a national stage."

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

On the Beach (NR) 2hr 14min
Call theater for showtimes

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (R) 2hr 1min
1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min
2:45, 6:15, 9:35

Pirate Radio (R) 1hr 55min
2:05, 5:00, 7:40, 10:25

The Men Who Stare at Goats (R) 1hr 33min
1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min
12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20

Disney's A Christmas Carol in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

Ninja Assassin (R) 1hr 39min
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00

Old Dogs (PG) 1hr 28min
2:10, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00

Brothers (R) 1hr 50min
12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hrs 10min
1:30, 4:25, 7:20, 10:25

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Coco Before Chanel (PG-13) 2hr 5min
1:10, 4:00, 7:00

The Messenger (R) 2hr 7min
4:10, 9:55

Precious (R) 1hr 59min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

The End of Poverty? (NR) 1hr 59min
1:30, 7:00

Everybody's Fine (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 9:55

Inglourious Basterds (R) 2hrs 48min
9:40

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
11:20 am, 1:20, 2:20, 4:20, 5:20, 7:10, 8:15, 10:10

Planet 51 (PG) 1hr 31min
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:30, 9:40

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
11:10 am, 1:00, 2:00, 4:05, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00

Armored (PG-13) 1hr 28min
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Trust yourself, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You are looking at a mixed balance sheet. The commotion between pulling a situation apart and eliminating it could dominate your plans. Certainly you would prefer that someone else deal with it. The issue remains: Will you be that lucky? Tonight: In the middle of living.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to a friend. A meeting could take a perverse turn or two. By late afternoon, you could use some downtime to look over a new piece of work or something very different. Tonight: Trust yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Getting going happens naturally. News heads in your direction and might have you levitating. Just land and then act. Your creativity pitches in, making nearly anything a possibility. Don't get involved in the blame game. Rather, assume responsibility. Tonight: Deep into an issue.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ What you hear could have you shaking your head for a substantial period. You might wonder how and why when dealing with another person. Investigate. You'll come up with a new type of approach. Tonight: Yipping up a storm.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your ability to move on is colored by sudden developments. You might ask yourself if you want to keep hammering on the same issue. Giving the issue space might help resolve the problem. Tonight: With favorite people you can relax with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You can fuss and fume all you want, but finding an answer will take time and talent. Understand your limitations and ask for another person's expertise. Your ability to move to another level opens doors. Tonight: Doing some holiday shopping.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Assume a quiet profile and understand what needs to happen. If you want to talk through a problem, stop. Wait awhile, as you are likely to see more information float in. Focus on the job at hand and getting it done. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Are your goals in sync with what is happening? You might want to reconsider what is happening more openly. Consider a change, and question if you should continue on that same path. Tonight: How about getting some extra sleep?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Assume your place in the limelight. No matter what goes on, you need to be present. Your mind could be on getting out of work or the situation. Hang in there. Consistency brings good results. Tonight: Where the gang is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Your understanding grows when dealing with someone at a distance. You want to try another style or do something differently. Creativity floats up when you eliminate rigid thinking. You make nearly anything possible. Tonight: A must show.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Investigate opportunities openly. Listen to what someone shares. You know much more than you realize. Be clear about the present dynamics. Know that others really do understand you well. Tonight: Think big.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Defer to others and listen to their opinions. You are on top of your game, but others still want to lead. The smart Fish will allow this to happen, as you cannot beat the present trend. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

Happy birthday

This year, you often feel like you need to take charge. Be aware of what is going on right now. Much might appear to happen out of the blue. If you observe more carefully, you will see the signposts and be less startled. Know that there isn't a right or wrong way. You will ultimately do a juggling act, honoring your feelings and responsibilities. If you are single, you draw many people toward you, though they might not always be suitable. Your love life, no matter what your status, takes a wild turn around June or July 2010. You won't be able to complain about boredom. If you are attached, you find that your sweetie is also an excellent friend. LIBRA is your friend.

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

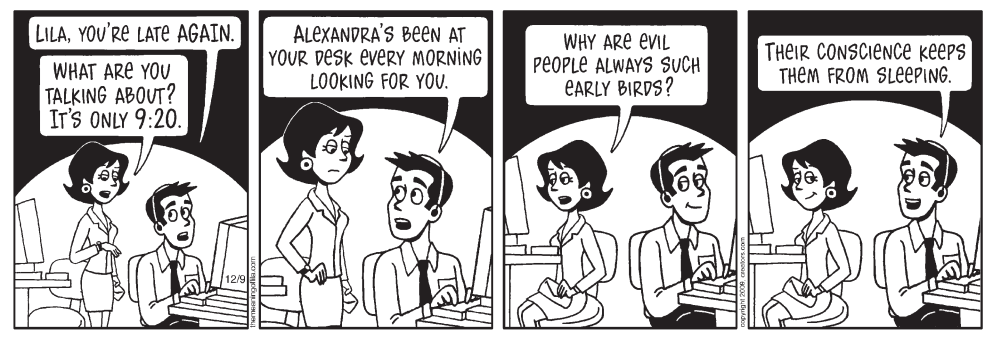
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



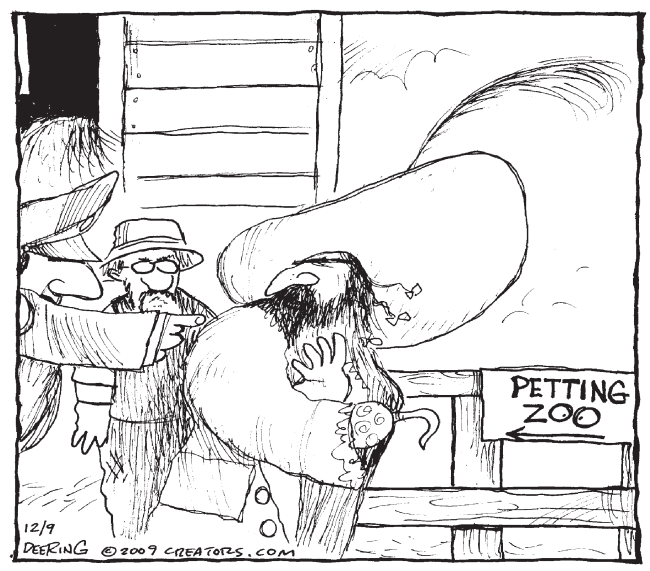
Garfield

By Jim Davis



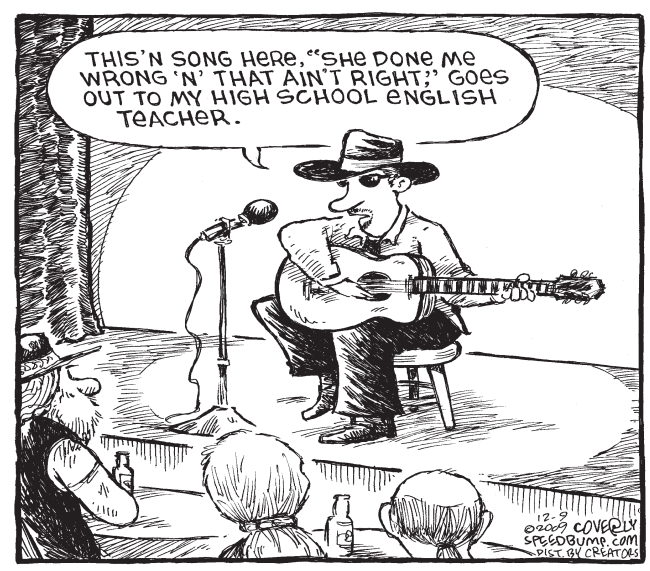
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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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 ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Leslie Thomas *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

1 Takes a breather
7 Skunk's defense
11 Burning
12 Llama's land
13 Modest
14 Clickable picture
15 Not formal
17 Disney dog
20 Flag features
23 Refiner's supply
24 Ridicule
26 Pendulum path
27 Lot sight
28 Bank offering
29 Whipped-cream servings
31 Badminton need
32 Boyfriend
33 Storybook monster
34 Gardener, at times
37 Forked over
39 Campfire bits
43 Color
44 Designer Pucci
45 Jason's ship
46 Cookout sites

DOWN

1 Spot to jot
2 Honest —
3 Einstein's birthplace
4 Impudent
5 Poet Pound
6 Spots
7 Morphine, for one
8 Proclaiming
9 Gold, to Coronado
10 Campaign
16 Manual readers
17 Laundry units
18 Quiver item
19 Making less threatening
21 Less common
22 Map division
24 Teatime treat
25 Siesta
30 Deceived
33 Space circle
35 Like an abyss
36 Jane Austen novel
37 School org.
38 Balloon fill
40 Quarterback Manning
41 2016 Olympics setting
42 Mayday call

C	O	P	A	Y	■	C	A	T	C	H
O	B	A	M	A	■	A	D	O	R	E
D	E	V	I	L	S	T	O	W	E	R
E	Y	E	■	I	A	N	■	S	E	A
■	■	■	P	E	D	A	L	■	■	■
G	A	L	E	S	■	P	O	K	E	R
E	X	I	T	■	■	■	P	I	N	E
M	E	D	I	C	■	C	E	D	E	D
■	■	■	T	O	P	A	Z	■	■	■
F	L	U	■	M	A	N	■	S	P	A
E	I	F	F	E	L	T	O	W	E	R
A	V	O	I	D	■	E	R	A	S	E
T	E	S	T	Y	■	R	E	N	T	S

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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				■	44					
45				■	46					

12-9

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 33 41 51 56
Meganumber: 38
Jackpot: $83M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 5 29 30 42 44
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $36M

FANTASY 5: 3 6 14 21 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 2 4
EVENING: 5 0 3

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 07Eureka
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1.42.48

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

■ Lisa Blair and her six sisters were enjoying a Thanksgiving meal in Hamilton, Ontario (in Canada, Thanksgiving was Oct. 12), when they began noticing suspicious flecks in the food and realized that their necklace lockets, containing the ashes of their mother (who had passed away two weeks earlier) were leaking. A local funeral services store restocked and sealed the lockets.

■ In November, researchers roaming the depths of Scotland's Loch Ness in a submarine, looking for the legendary monster, reported finding mainly "hundreds of thousands" of golf balls at the bottom, from popular use of the lake as a driving range. A recent Danish Golf Association report lamented the slow decomposition of golf balls (taking 100 to 1,000 years), and one U.K. legislator has called golf balls "humanity's signature litter."

■ The October "Miss Asia" beauty pageant in Hong Kong mostly followed a traditional script, but special bonus competitions were added, according to a report in The Straits Times. Contestants appeared behind boards with only certain body parts exposed so that judges could comment without knowing which woman they were observing. Breast-judging turned out well for each of the three finalists, as did waist-judging. However, the judges had harsh words for two contestants' hair. Wang Zhi Fei was criticized for "lots of dandruff and oily scalp," and Wang Chen learned the hard way that she had significant "signs of hair loss."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1979 The eradication of the smallpox virus is certified, making smallpox the first and to date only human disease driven to extinction.

1987 Israeli-Palestinian conflict: The First Intifada begins in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

1988 The Michael Hughes Bridge in Sligo, Ireland is officially opened.

1990 Lech Wa⌖´sa becomes the first directly elected president of Poland.

WORD UP!

solicitous \suh-LIS-uh-tuhs\ , adjective; 1. Manifesting or expressing care or concern. 2. Full of anxiety or concern; apprehensive.

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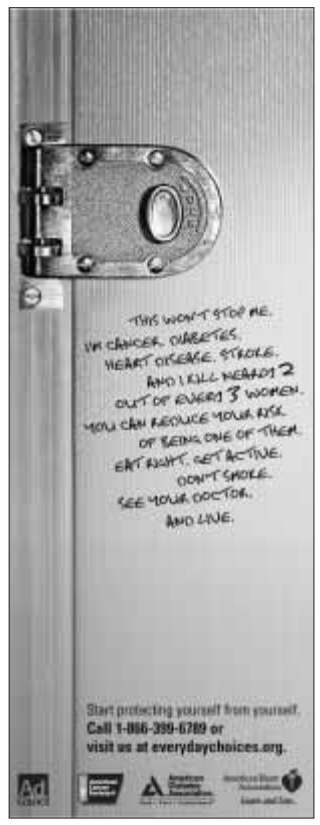
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