INSIDE SCOOP
SANTA MONICA IS TOPS IN PRESERVATION PAGE 3 | COMMENTARY
REELING IN HER YEARS PAGE 5 | STATE
A THIRD KILLER? PAGE 13

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 341



Santa Monica Daily Press

PLAYING WITH FOOD
SEE PAGE 6

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE HAVE YOU ANY PULL? ISSUE

SM cops come to the rescue

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CIVIC CENTER Despite what people see in the movies and on television, police officers rarely have the opportunity to save someone's life.

That's exactly what a handful of Santa Monica police officers did recently, reviving a 3-year-old found floating in the family pool, as well as a father of four young children whose heart stopped while conducting business at City Hall.

And just last week, officers talked a man off the ledge of a Downtown parking structure. He was apparently going to take his life before officers reached him.

That incident occurred Dec. 12 on the seventh level of Parking Structure No. 5, in the 1400 block of Third Street. Two officers responded to a report of a 63-year-old man perched on a ledge, threatening to jump after losing his wife and his home of 30 years.

"In a situation like this, you want to find out why the person is up there, if they want to hurt themselves and just basically build a rapport with them and let them know you are empathetic with what they are going through," said Santa Monica Police Department's Sgt. Renaldi Thruston, who is a crisis negotiations team leader with experience in hostage situations as well as potential suicides.

The officers worked as a team to gain the man's trust and ended up having to help him climb over the railing to safety.

On Nov. 30, officers received a report of a child found lifeless in a pool in the 1700 block of Pine Street. Officer Brian Spencer, a member of the SMPD for three years, responded and found the young child with no pulse.

"When I got there, the child's mother was holding him," Spencer said. "She was crying histerically and I could see that the child looked blue and purple."

Spencer administered CPR with the help of the child's grandfather.

"I was mainly focused on getitng this kid to breathe," Spencer said. "Obviously being so close to the holidays, no parent wants to

SEE RESCUE PAGE 12



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

MAKING THE SWITCH: **Shoppers pass by the reusable tote bags on sale at Ralphs on Cloverfield and Olympic boulevards Wednesday afternoon. Today is 'Day Without a Bag,' a day when shoppers are encouraged to do away with plastic and paper bags and instead use reusable bags.**

Just say no to plastic

BY ROB LAWRENCE
Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE Paper or plastic? Next year you may not have that option as Santa Monica moves closer to a ban on disposable plastic bags.

So, to make sure you're prepared — and don't end up carrying your groceries in your arms — Heal the Bay and local businesses will be celebrating "A Day Without a Bag" today by giving away reusable bags.

Santa Monica High School sophomore Zachary Gold, son of Heal the Bay Executive Director Mark Gold, and 50 other Samohi students will be marching throughout the city handing out reusable bags in honor of the day.

"Our students are the next generation and were going to be leading and spearheading to get these non-reusable single-use bags banned so we can help prevent the killing of animals and make our Earth a better place to live," Zachary Gold said.

The goal of the day is to eradicate single-use plastic and paper bag usage across Los Angeles County. Zachary Gold and other marchers will be handing out around 400 reusable bags donated in part by Heal the Bay.

Heal the Bay has worked with cities across Los Angeles and many of them, along with Santa Monica, officially recognize the third Thursday in December as "A Day Without a Bag."

"It's just a great day. Cities are realizing that plastic bags are really a problem and a blight," said Kirsten James, water quality director for Heal the Bay. "People realize a change needs to happen, and a part of that change is educating the community members as to the problems that plastic bags create."

On average, 6 billion plastic bags are used each year in the county. According to Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment Santa Monica retail stores distribute approximately 45 to 52 million paper and plastic bags each year.

Heal the Bay estimates that of the 6 billion plastic bags, only 5 percent are recycled.

SEE BAGS PAGE 11

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Samohi for the holidays
Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall
601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Students will sing from all corners of Barnum Hall during this winter concert of perpetual motion. Tickets are $5 for students and seniors; $10 for adults.

Staying out late
Montana Avenue
10 a.m. — 8 p.m.
The cool shops and boutiques located in this hip shopping district will be keeping their doors open for holiday shoppers until 8 p.m.

Time for stories
Montana Avenue Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 11:15 a.m. — 11:45 p.m.
Calling all preschoolers for story time.

In the news ...
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Join this weekly discussion of the week's key news stories. The discussion covers everything from politics to culture. Jack Nordhaus, a former college history professor, moderates. For more information, call (310) 450-0443.

Friday, Dec. 19, 2008

Carol sing-along
10th and California
1015 California Ave., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Tenth and California presents a casual evening of Christmas music, cookies, carols and some featured performances from members of the Trinity Choir. 10th and California is a live music and performance space located in the basement of the Risen Church. For more information, call (310) 395-9961.

'YuleDance: A Celtic Christmas Celebration'
Unitarian Universalist Community Church
1260 18th St., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
International Celtic touring band Molly's Revenge with their special guests, vocalist Moira Smiley and Irish dancer Marie Clerkin, present an evening of music for the Christmas season. The performance will include Christmas songs both old and new from many lands, all played with a Celtic twist on bagpipes, whistle and other Celtic instruments.

'It's a Pretty Good Life'
Miles Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
This "play with songs" stars a ramshackle group of performers that give in to the pressure all theater groups feel during the holiday season. To scratch the itch, the group stages a performance of the Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol." There's just one problem, they don't know much about the play. For more information, call (323) 655-2410.

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.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

PROPS TO THE PAST: **The Charmont, on California Avenue, has been designated a landmark by Santa Monica's Landmarks Commission.**

Preserving Santa Monica

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK The building wasn't much to look at from the outside — boxy, plain and somewhat unnoticeable to the average passer-by.

When the structure, known as the place where modern skateboarding was born, faced the threat of demolition in 2006, it was ironically a permit filed to take the building down that ultimately saved its life.

Since the building at 2001-2011 Main St. — once the home of Zephyr and Jeff Ho Productions — was more than 40 years old, the demolition permit automatically sparked a Landmarks Commission review to determine if it would qualify for protection status, ultimately ruling that at least the surf and skate shop portion of the structure did.

It's City Hall regulations such as mandatory Landmarks Commission review of older buildings that earned Santa Monica an A grade in the Los Angeles Conservancy's second Preservation Report Card, which was released last week.

Santa Monica was one of seven cities in Los Angeles County that earned an A or A-minus, recognized for programs designed to protect architectural and cultural heritage.

"They have one of the top preservation (programs) in the county, if not the state," Mike Buhler, the director of advocacy for the L.A. Conservancy, said.

The report card was first launched in 2003 to coincide with the conservancy's 25th anniversary, rating how city governments performed in its efforts to ensure preservation of structures that are privately-owned, whether they be through policies or programs designed to encourage property owners to protect historical and cultural resources. Santa Monica also received an A in the inaugural report card.

While much hasn't changed in Santa Monica five years later, other cities have shown improvements in their historic preservation efforts, according to the report card. One city is Huntington Park, which has established a preservation program since the last report card.

"I'm sure the initial report card was a huge motivator in getting that underway," Buhler said.

Santa Monica was credited for a landmarks ordinance that temporarily protects possible historic structures from demolition, as well as a commission that reviews all design changes to designated historic resources. City Hall also participates in the Mills Act program, which gives property tax breaks to owners of historic structures in

SEE PRESERVATION PAGE 11

Cold storm snarls California travel

BY ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Heavy snow snarled major mountain highways as another winterlike storm chilled the area on Wednesday. One person was killed in a wind-related helicopter crash and numerous traffic accidents occurred.

Snow shut Interstate 15 over 4,190-foot Cajon Pass east of Los Angeles and roads through the San Gabriel Mountains connecting metropolitan Los Angeles to the commuter suburbs of Palmdale and Lancaster in the high desert to the north.

Interstate 5, a major trucking and travel route connecting Southern California with the Central Valley and Northern California, stayed open over 4,144-foot Tejon Pass most of the day, with on-and-off Highway Patrol escorts, then finally was shut down in the afternoon as conditions deteriorated. Massive backups developed below all the passes.

Calen Weiss, 19, of Tarzana, his brother and two friends wanted to go to snowboarding at Big Bear in the San Bernardino Mountains but instead got stuck on I-15 in Cajon Pass for an hour as visibility fell to about 40 yards.

"It looks like Whoville, all snowy, but with less joy and more extreme misery," he said by phone from the Summit Inn.

Blowing snow, slush and ice prompted the Antelope Valley Transit Authority to cancel all its local buses, along with 18 commuter runs that usually carry some 650 people from the Palmdale-Lancaster area down to Los Angeles and back home.

"The danger is the handling of the buses and the building up of the snow," spokeswoman Pam Holland said.

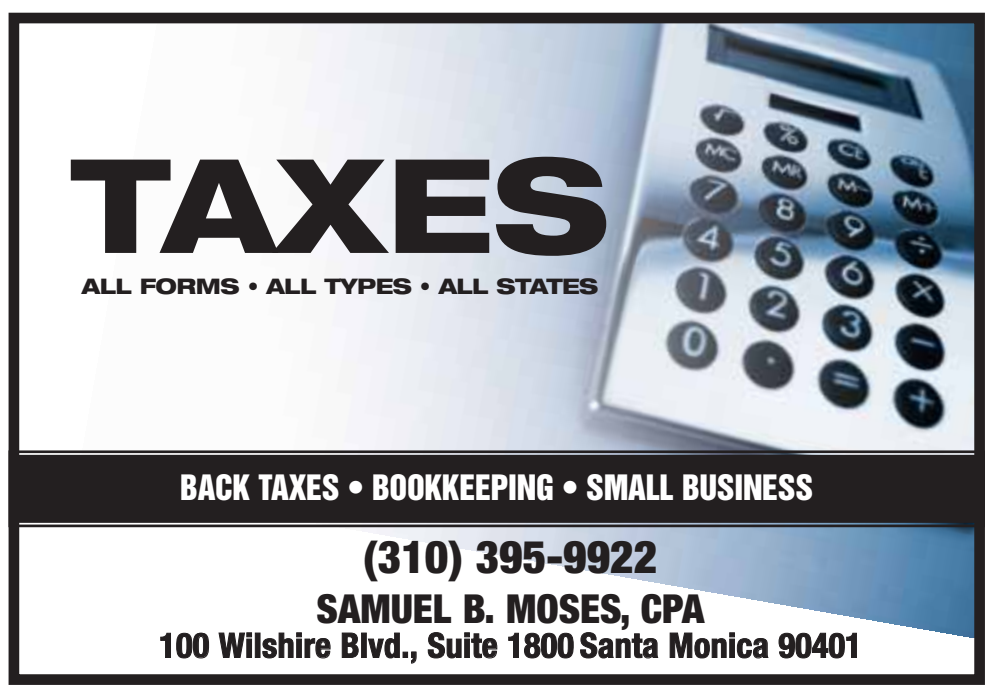
The regional Metrolink rail system agreed to carry bus commuters who had already reached Los Angeles back home, spokesman Francisco Oaxaca said.

However, trains were ordered to proceed slowly because of the snow. Two trains also were delayed around 45 minutes at midday because engineers could not see the red, green and yellow track signals.

It was the first time in his 15 years with Metrolink that snow had caused such problems, Oaxaca said.

Transit agencies in the East have special equipment to clear tracks and otherwise handle snow but "we're not equipped for this kind of weather on a consistent basis in this part of the world," Oaxaca said.





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Downtown is the new Manhattan

Editor:

I enjoy walking to our wonderful new library, taking Sixth or Seventh streets from Colorado [Avenue] and Broadway up to Santa Monica [Boulevard] and seeing all the incredible development going on, the tear-downs and the high-rises, the newly tree-lined lanes, people walking their apartment dogs and restaurants on the ground floors and lots of workers busily bustling. You know how there's Little Italy in New York City and San Diego and Little Armenia in Hollywood? Well, how about a name for this dense new futureville area of our Downtown: "Little Manhattan." Do you love it?

Henry Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

Look in the good book

Editor:

Poor David Pisarra (whose writing I usually enjoy), his mind addled by Ayn Rand (the Soviet Union's single most successful weapon against capitalism), has started taking life lessons from a movie ("Becoming victims of our own indulgence," page 4, Dec. 16). The childishness of "when we want something, and work hard to get it, we can achieve anything" sent ice tea up my nose! Life being so fair, why do we need lawyers such as himself? Grateful, indeed, for the gift and wonder that is life. But let us never think we know how it works. In this season I find it good to turn to another reference for this kind of advice. In Ecclesiastics you can find:

"I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all."

Peter Kaye
Santa Monica

LOL: laughing out loud
BRB: be right back
MUSM: miss you so much
A/S/L: age, sex, location
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
LULAS: love you like a sister
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life

HDOP: help delete online predators

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Your column here

Richard E. Parr — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Economic plan to end the war

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." — Albert Einstein

AFTER THE UNITED STATES DEPOSED Saddam Hussein, the Sunni Arabs lost control of the government, the military, and the economy. Majority rule put a Shiite-Kurd coalition in charge, relegating Sunni Arabs to a third-tier cultural, economic and political status. From the Sunni Arab point of view, the situation has only worsened since Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, a strict Shiite sectarian, has further increased his power as a result of the "surge."

Stability and a lessening of violence cannot be fostered under sectarian rule that ignores the economic and political aspirations of Sunni Arabs. Many Sunnis resist a regional solution because most of the developed sources of oil and gas revenue come from lands occupied by Shiites and Kurds in the south and north.

What is too often overlooked is that significant sources of untapped oil and gas wealth, some 100 billion barrels of oil, according to the U.S. energy consultancy IHS Inc., exist in Iraq's western desert in the Sunni Arab province of al-Anbar. Extraction cost for the oil is estimated as low as $1.50/barrel, among the lowest in the world.

A recent book, "The Geology of Iraq," written by 16 geologists with firsthand knowledge of the geology of Iraq, is more conservative but still estimates substantial resources in the region. The book's chief author is the internationally known geologist, Dr. Saad Z. Jassim.

Both the Shiites in the south and the Kurds in the north have viable oil economies, a source of wealth which the Sunni Arabs currently lack.

Development of oil and gas along with self rule and the prospect of significant revenue from their own oil and gas fields could well be the enticement for the majority of Sunni Arabs to cease their efforts to destabilize an Iraq in which they feel they no longer have a stake.

Such a plan could well receive the support of a majority of Kurds and Shiites, who are attempting to focus on their own prosperity and development after years of upheaval and violence.

Indeed, a majority of Kurds, as well as the prominent Shiite group, the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI), have long supported a federal solution.

Success, however, requires an economic rationale. For Sunni Arabs the carrot is the development of oil and gas projects pursued under the ownership of the Sunni Arab Tribal Confederation, the principal Sunni political alliance in Iraq. Such a project also provides Sunni insurgent groups with a major incentive to cease violent attacks against oil and gas pipelines and other targets which are seen as only enriching Shiites and Kurds.

Oil wealth has transformed the quality of life for Kurds, who already enjoy de facto autonomy. They currently negotiate contracts with foreign firms who develop and operate their oil fields and are in negotiation with the Maliki government to sell their oil independently.

STABILITY AND A LESSENING OF VIOLENCE CANNOT BE FOSTERED UNDER SECTARIAN RULE THAT IGNORES THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF SUNNI ARABS.

In the interest of promoting stability in the region, the U.S. and other nations must pressure Maliki to allow the Sunnis to benefit from revenues generated by such development. Start up funds could come from agencies such as the United Nations Capital Development Fund, or development could be opened to competitive bidding by international or Mideast oil companies.

The benefits of developing oil and gas for the benefit of Sunni Arabs in their own lands would be felt throughout the world.

The symbolism of the Sunni Arab Tribal Confederation negotiating oil and gas contracts would stamp out a major piece of anti-American propaganda — that the U.S. is only in Iraq to secure oil. In the short run, the fledgling Sunni Arab economy would be buoyed by investment and jobs. Transportation of the oil and gas — which could easily tap into an extensive Turkish energy grid — could increase energy supplies to Europe, which is suffering under Russia's energy chokehold.

Success of such a plan will only be achieved when Arab Sunnis witness that oil and gas revenues are benefiting the lives of the native Sunni population. Local development in Sunni lands would be a major blow to al-Qaeda in Iraq, whose best recruiting tool has been unemployment, dislocation, despair and resentment.

There is less violence and a greater willingness to coexist among people who see the possibility of a better and more prosperous future.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Raising age-old doubts

THE SALESMAN AT THE JEWELRY STORE in Manhattan where my husband and I browsed the day before Thanksgiving turned up his nose like he had been forced to drink a glass of expired milk as he inexplicably removed each ring from my finger only seconds after I slipped each one on.

"It's because of our age," I told my dad the next day. "He probably figured we couldn't be serious about making a significant purchase."

"You're 35 and Rick is 40," was my dad's not-so-gentle reply. "It had nothing to do with your age."

That's when it dawned on me that I've been assuming incorrectly for way too long that most famous and/or successful people must be older than me.

Take Rebecca Kirshner, for example. I don't know her and had never heard of her until a few Sundays ago when I was reading the Weddings/Celebrations page in the Style Section of The New York Times (otherwise known as the single woman's sports page or the married woman's excuse to put off washing the breakfast dishes page).

According to her wedding announcement, Rebecca was previously married and works for Paramount Studios as an executive producer of the CW series "90210." And she's 34. Honestly, though, her picture makes her looks 54. I can say that because I don't know her and, apparently, I'm catty.

I put the paper down and wondered how a woman a year younger than me could possibly have managed to marry, divorce, take the reigns of a major (albeit lousy) TV show and then marry again, especially when I'm 35 years old and I had to have my mom sew a torn zipper on a sweatshirt during my visit last month.

Giants receiver Plaxico Burress spent the night after Thanksgiving stealing turkey leftovers from employees at a strip club, shooting himself in the thigh with the pistol he had tucked into the waistband of his sweatpants at another nightclub and then getting charged with criminal possession of a handgun.

He's four years younger than me. And, for some unintelligible reason, that surprises me. I would have thought he was older.

Tyra Banks, sometime film and TV actress, host of daytime and primetime TV shows, published author (although only in the loosest possible sense of the word) and former model, is a few months younger than me and evidently has an extensive wig collection. Who, besides our grandmas (circa 1958) and married Orthodox Jewish women, wears wigs when it's not Halloween?

Thirty-two-year-old Angelina Jolie feeds more children in a day than a school cafeteria. And all of the kids are hers, too. If I met her I would undoubtedly be tempted to call her "Ma'am," but who calls someone younger than her "Ma'am?"

Madonna's current boyfriend, Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez, and current ex-husband, film director Guy Ritchie, both have a divorce, a couple of kids and, like, seriously real professional careers under their belts. And they're 33 and 40, respectively. OK, so Guy is older than me. But considering what they have going on, both he and A-Rod seem much older than their ages (and mine) to me.

Same thing goes for President-elect Barack Obama. I sort of feel like our next president should be more than 12 years older than me. Or Alaska governor Sarah Palin, who's 44. Someone who could have been vice-president should be more than nine years older than me (and at least just a little bit smarter than me). I don't have a crystal ball, but I feel fairly confident that I will hold neither the highest nor second highest job in the land anytime in the next nine to 12 years (you're welcome).

Then there are those with whom I am actually acquainted and are my age but seem older. Like everyone I know who became a doctor.

Or the camp friend from seventh grade who's the editor in chief of Town and Country Travel magazine and before that was a senior editor at Travel and Leisure magazine. Over the past several years I've seen her from time to time on the "Today" show or CNN talking about sophisticated, exotic vacation destinations. You know, when I'm channel surfing from more esoteric programming, like a "Friends" rerun.

But then again, I do take some comfort in knowing there are at least a few people my age or younger who actually do seem younger. Like a former school mate who's been asking around if anyone has any "hookups" in Spain (I'm not even sure what that means) and says things like "Check it" (not sure about that one, either).

Regardless, I'm guessing even he wouldn't have had rings taken off his fingers at any jewelry store anywhere, unless the salesman was simply wrapping them for him.

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

The Q Line

Big Blue question

Big Blue Bus officials are currently seeking the public's input on a number of issues. Should schedules change? How about where the bus lines run?

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What advice would you have for BBB officials?

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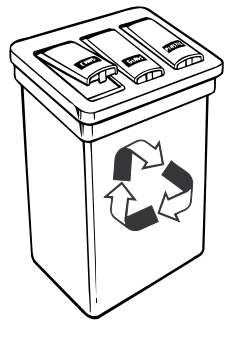
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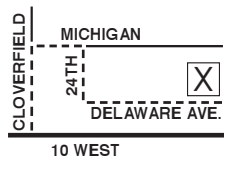

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for the:

Bicknell Avenue street Green Project, SP2051

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, not later than 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **December 30, 2008**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents.

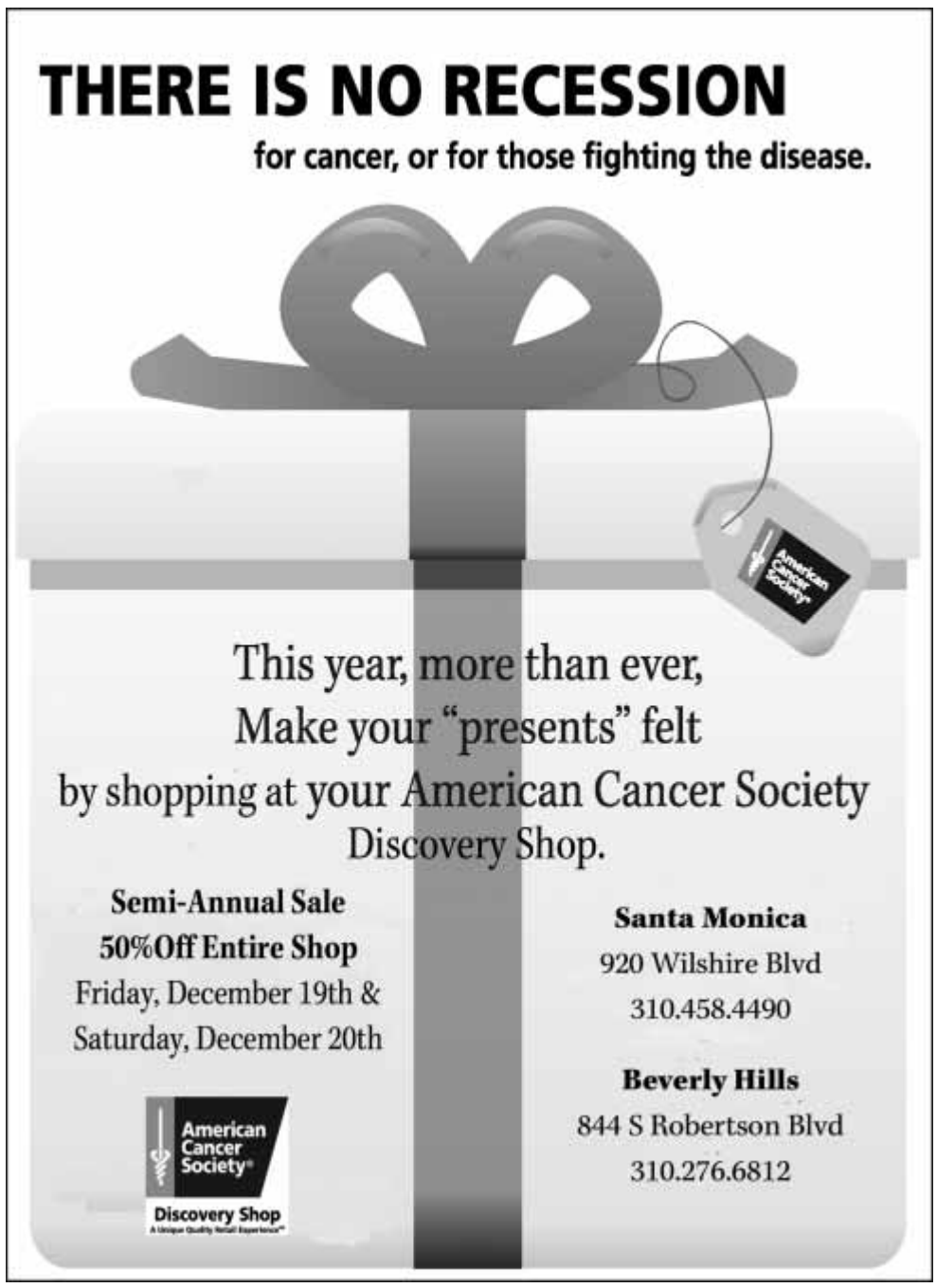
No Job Walk is Scheduled.

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: $720,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 50
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,450.00 PER DAY
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500 PER DAY

City of Santa Monica

Contract Documents may be obtained by logging onto the CE&A website at: http://www.smgov.net/engineering/projects/online_bidding.htm. Contract Documents may also be purchased in City Hall, at the Civil Engineering and Architecture counter, for $160.61. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.santa-monica.org/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a Class A license at the time of bid submission.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.



Playing with your food

BY LOU KESTEN
Associated Press Writer

Cooking and video games have more in common than you might think.

They both require a mix of mental and physical dexterity. It takes a lot of practice to get good at either. And champion gamers, like world-class chefs, have instinctual and improvisational talents that are hard for mere mortals to fathom.

Contrary to stereotype, video-game addicts don't just survive on Cheetos and Red Bull. We like a good meal, and we're willing to put down the joystick long enough to prepare one. And a few of the game industry's most prominent publishers are encouraging just that.

• Nintendo's first foray into the kitchen is the blandly titled "Personal Trainer: Cooking" (for the DS, $19.99). This digital cookbook includes 245 recipes that you can sort by ingredient, calorie count, preparation time or even country of origin.

Each recipe includes extremely detailed, illustrated instructions. Even a relatively simple production like guacamole has 15 steps; beef bourguignon has 49. So even if you don't know how to boil pasta, you can whip up a fairly decent meal. And voice controls, using the DS' built-in microphone, mean you don't have to touch the device with oily fingers (though I had to repeat my commands a little too frequently).

• Atari's "What's Cooking? Jamie Oliver" (for the DS, $29.99) offers about 100 recipes from the erstwhile Naked Chef, and its appeal rests largely on how charming you find the spiky-haired Brit. Its instructions aren't as detailed as those in "Personal Trainer," and kitchen neophytes will wonder why certain steps are glossed over. An old-fashioned cookbook is probably a wiser purchase.

• Majesco pioneered the cooking game, and "Cooking Mama World Kitchen" (for the Wii, $49.99) is another worthy installment of its addictive franchise. The endearing Mama guides you through the virtual creation of a variety of global delights, from chocolate chip cookies to ratatouille. You use the Wii remote to simulate a range of kitchen chores, from chopping vegetables to stirring soup to rolling dough. It's easy to pick up and very entertaining, and may just inspire a new generation of master chefs.

• Majesco's "Cake Mania: In the Mix!" (for the Wii, $29.99) is more of a storefront simulator than a cooking game. You have a succession of demanding customers, and for each one you take an order, bake a cake, decorate it and then take their money. And you have to do it all quickly enough to keep the folks in line from losing patience. You won't learn anything about baking, but it's a zippy diversion.

• Destineer's "Iron Chef America: Supreme Cuisine" (for the Wii, $39.99; for the DS, $29.99) turns the "Cooking Mama" template into a competition. It does a decent job of simulating kitchen tasks, but it's difficult to tell what you're supposed to be preparing in each round.

• Finally, Ubisoft's "Hell's Kitchen" (for the Wii, $39.99; for the DS, $29.99) combines kitchen work with restaurant management, and neither sim is very entertaining.

Wrapping up Greece and Germany

BY J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

If you can boil water you can get this ridiculously simple, yet impressively flavorful, wrap on the table in under 30 minutes.

The recipe combines elements of two cuisines not often paired — Greek and German. Brat sausages, onions and peppers are braised in beer, then wrapped in a pita pocket and topped with crumbled feta cheese.

To make this a one-pot meal, the sausages are browned in a Dutch oven. Then beer and various seasonings are added. Once the brats are cooked, the liquid is boiled down to a thick sauce.

These wraps are made in pita pockets, but any flatbread would work fine. Also, if you'd prefer to use chicken sausages, those can be substituted for the bratwursts. Be sure to select a variety with tons of flavor, such as feta and sun-dried tomato.

Serve this with a simple salad made by tossing shredded carrots, golden raisins and apple slices with vinaigrette.

Beer Braised Brat Wraps
Start to finish: 30 minutes
Servings: 5
1 tablespoon canola or vegetable oil
5 bratwursts (about 1 1/4 pounds)
2 large yellow onions, sliced
12-ounce jar roasted red peppers, drained and sliced
12-ounce bottle ale or other beer
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon cumin
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
Pinch cloves
Five 6 1/2-inch pita pockets
1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
In a Dutch oven over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the bratwursts and brown on all sides.
Add the onions, roasted red peppers, beer, mustard, cumin, cinnamon and cloves. Bring to a simmer, then cover, reduce heat to medium, and simmer for 10 minutes.
Uncover the pot and continue simmering until the liquid is thick, about another 5 minutes.
Meanwhile, arrange the pita pockets on serving plates. When the sausages are done, remove them from the pot and slice each into long chunks. Arrange the slices on top of each pita pocket.
Use tongs to cover each sausage with some of the onion and red pepper mixture, then top with crumbled feta cheese. Wrap the bread around the sausage and secure with a toothpick.
Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 627 calories; 319 calories from fat; 35 g fat (8 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 95 mg cholesterol; 48 g carbohydrate; 22 g protein; 3 g fiber; 1,762 mg sodium.!



The Re-View
Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A traditional sushi sensation

WHEN IT'S TIME TO GO OUT FOR LUNCH or dinner, I usually think that anything I would want I can find in Santa Monica. So when the PR people from Sashi invited me to their restaurant in Manhattan Beach, I was skeptical. And then they mentioned their selection of 60 different types of sake, so that was enough to encourage me to go.

Our number two son Dr. Spencer (with his doctorate in medieval Japanese literature) was visiting from his home in Tokyo, so it was the perfect place to take him. Since he is our resident expert in Japanese food, here is his report:

Going into the bar and lounge area as we first arrived, I was impressed with the spacious, comfortable atmosphere, including the two big TVs showing sports. They offer excellent beer on tap. I ordered a Stella Artois, one of my favorites, as it is the custom in Japan to start with a beer.

Although it was a Thursday night, every seat at the sushi bar was occupied for some time before two seats became available. In general, the restaurant was almost full, so it's clear that reservations would always be required on a weekend, and probably most nights. When we sat down, the sushi chef Makoto Okuwa greeted us, and was very professional from the start.

The first piece of sushi — an excellent, high-quality Atlantic honmaguro akami (red) tuna — was followed by something quite unique, in that instead of the traditional toro, or chu-toro (medium fatty) tuna often accompanying the akami tuna in the beginning of a sushi meal, the chef produced sushi made of baby tuna from Mexico, which was only slightly fatty, without the same heavy, forceful richness of true toro.

After that came some very well-marinated saba (mackerel) that was better than most in terms of its tenderness, freshness and flavor.

Next the Aji (Spanish mackerel) from Japan, that was also excellent because it was extremely fresh and clean tasting. It was also very well-seasoned in the traditional Japanese way, with a hint of ginger and negi (green onion) on top. The tai (red snapper), also from Japan, was the same: high-quality, very fresh and clean.

Then a long and thin razor clam from the East Coast arrived at the table. It's very reminiscent of mirugai (horse clam, which I love). Also fresh, it was a bit different than the fish you normally eat in a sushi bar. Unfortunately, a little East Coast sand also got into the dish, so that wasn't perfect.

The uni from Santa Barbara, on the other hand, was perfect. It was extremely fresh and tasty, and the chef gave us a pretty big portion. We also had a nice piece of Japanese hamachi from Kyushu, cut from the belly, that was rich and delicious.

Finally, we had a piece of anago which was good, but not as good as one eats at Kiriko (on Olympic and Sawtelle). It was not served with the sweet sauce many associate with eel dishes, but rather seasoned with yuzu (a special Japanese citrus) and salt.

For those who can afford it (up to $100 per platter) there are big platters of sashimi available. The ones we saw going by looked beautiful, and included lots of tuna and uni in attractive settings.

From the kitchen we also ate a great dish of kurobuta (black Japanese pork belly). It was rich and well-simmered for an extended time, rendering the meat very tender and delicious. It came on a bed of rice porridge (okayu), making it a pretty filling dish, even though the portion was quite small by American standards.

GOING INTO THE BAR AND LOUNGE AREA AS WE FIRST ARRIVED, I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE SPACIOUS, COMFORTABLE ATMOSPHERE, INCLUDING THE TWO BIG TVS SHOWING SPORTS.

Finally I must mention the rice: the sushi rice (shari), the chef told us, was of paramount importance to his philosophy of sushi in general. He uses a grain somewhere in-between brown and white rice, so the shari is a bit harder than usual, and he also blends it with super-premium special Japanese sugar and vinegar, to create an unusual sushi rice. It is not well-suited to the normal Japanese palate, but I think it could go over well with the local Manhattan Beach crowd and California health enthusiasts.

Although we didn't have dessert, the list was intriguing, and the people next to us at the bar ordered a chocolate soufflé that looked as good as any I've ever seen, in France or in the states.

That's Spencer's report. My report is simpler: I looked eagerly at the sake list, and then a lovely young Japanese lady, Yuno Hayashi-Swanson, appeared and offered to answer any questions about it. After some discussion with Spencer in Japanese that went over my head, she offered to bring me a sake sampler of four very different types of sake. When they came, she came over again and gave me an excellent description of each one, with some history. One was very dry, one was fruitier, one was milky colored, with a banana taste, and one was pretty bland. The variety made for a very enjoyable tasting.

Overall the evening was wonderful. I learned a lot about fish, and a lot about sake. The restaurant was full of very attractive people, and everyone, including us, had a good time and ate and drank extremely well. Well, it's not cheap, but top quality product never is. There's nothing like it in Santa Monica.

Sashi: 451 Manhattan Beach Blvd., (310) 545-0400, www.sashimb.com.

Merv Hecht, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com

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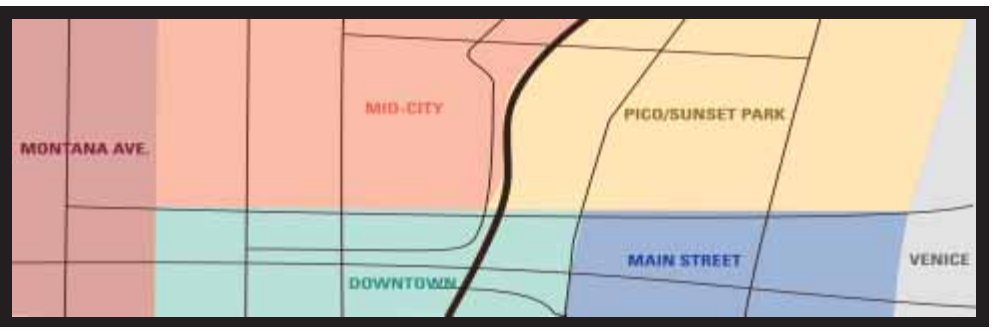
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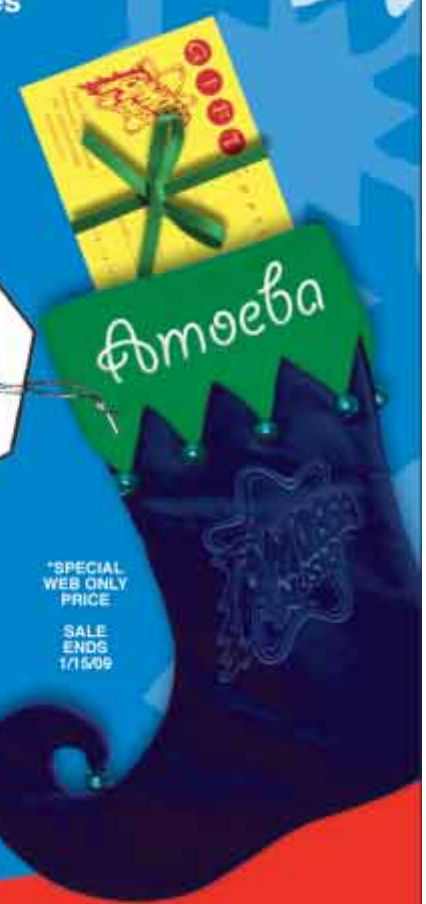


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Paper, plastic or reusable?

FROM **BAGS** PAGE 1

"When you do the math, you can figure there's quite a few that end up in the landfill or the streets," James said.

Heal the Bay is especially concerned about the threat plastic bags pose to marine wildlife in the Pacific Ocean. Plastic bags that are left in the streets often find their way into the ocean via storm drains. With this week's recent rain storms, there is no doubt that many bags have made their way into Santa Monica Bay.

"It can be very hazardous to marine life," James said. "They can cause choking hazards to marine animals. They look like a jelly fish and that's food for a lot of marine animals."

Santa Monica's Office of Sustainibility and the Environment is supporting the day of awareness but are not doing any promotions. They are preparing an ordinance that would ban plastic bag use and enforce a 25 cent cost on paper bags. The ordinance is expected to go before the City Council in January.

"The task force on the environment recommended, more than a year ago, that the city ban plastic bags," said Dean Kubani, manager of the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. "We came back to council in February, with a presentation, with a recommendation that we ban plastic bags. Council agreed with that and they asked us to prepare an ordinance."

Kubani expects the ban to pass without opposition. The ban would allow a six month grace period and will have fines that correlate to the similar ban of Styrofoam and non-recyclable plastic to-go containers products. The ordinance will not require Santa Monica businesses to sell reusable bags. It will be up to the consumer to purchase those.

Today is a good day to start building up a reusable collection. To find locations were free bags will be distributed, go to www.healthebay.org.

"[Plastic bags] are single-use products. That's why we are really gong to be pushing reusable bags," Kubani said. "Reusable bags can be used 100,000 times."

Local Sunfa Reneau has already made the transition to reusable bags because it is environmentally friendly.

"We should do what we can to go green," Reneau said.

news@smdp.com

Historic preservation laws earn Santa Monica A grade

FROM **PRESERVATION** PAGE 3

exchange for restoration.

"The city does have a variety of incentives for properties designated as a city landmark or are located within the adopted historic districts," said Roxanne Tanemori, a city planner who serves as the staff liaison to the Landmarks Commission. "We're certainly looking to incorporate more incentives for preservations in our upcoming rewriting of the zoning ordinance."

Among the other benefits that City Hall affords to property owners of historic structures are priority processing during plan check and waiving certain application fees.

The study also complimented City Hall on its historic resources inventory update, which looks at existing buildings on the inventory and evaluates any structure that is older than 40 years old, checking to see if any have gained significance since the previous update.

The results of the inventory update is scheduled to be reviewed at the commission meeting in February.

"We try to be proactive as opposed to reactive," Barbara Kaplan, the chair of the Landmarks Commission, said. "We've been able to identify buildings that we thought might be (significant), especially in the Downtown area."

Along with the landmarks ordinance, City Hall is guided by its Historic Preservation Element, which lays out its objectives in historic preservation, including raising awareness of Santa Monica's past.

There are currently 86 designated landmarks as of June 2008, including some that are on the National Register of Historic Places, such as the Looff Hippodrome. Among city landmarks are apartment buildings, hotels, private residences and even a tree.

While the city was named near the top of the class, there could be room for improvement.

Carol Lemlein, the president of the Santa Monica Conservancy, said there was concern over what she believes was insufficient integration between the proposed Land Use and Circulation Element and the Historic Preservation Element.

The Land Use and Circulation Element is the 20-year update of the general plan, outlining the developmental future of the city, including in districts and the boulevards. The document has yet to be adopted.

"We thought that while the presentations on the LUCE referred significantly to historic preservation, there were many missed opportunities to mention historic preservation in the description of the boulevards," Lemlein said.

Lemlein said that the city is rich with history, from its historic hotels like the Shangri-La and Georgian to the old commercial buildings in Downtown, including the oldest of them all — the Rapp Saloon.

"Our city makes a very significant effort in historic preservation and we like to think that the (Santa Monica) Conservancy plays a significant role in raising public awareness of those issues and advocating on specific issues when that's appropriate," she said.

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FLASHY MOVES

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica College's Robert Bush drives past a Compton College defender on his way to the hoop on Tuesday night. SMC won the non-league game, 85-79.

Cops point to their training as the key

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FROM **RESCUE** PAGE 1

see their child die, especially right in front of them."

After about seven minutes, the child began vomitting and Spencer could feel a slight pulse. Paramedics arrived and took over, transporting the child to a local hospital, where he later recovered.

"I got a little emotional because just moments before I was holding this 3-year-old who was lifeless, like a rag doll and to see him take a breath … it felt pretty good. You take this job to help people, but to actually save someone's life … to be honest, myself and the other officers and fire department personnel were just relieved that the kid will be OK."

Spencer gives credit to the training he recieved from the SMPD. Just a month before the incident, he attended a mandatory refresher course on CPR.

So did Officer David Alvarez, a four-year-veteran of the SMPD, who, along with two of his colleagues, Sgt. Hudson and Officer Perez, brought back to life Darren Laureano, a land use consultant who was in the Building and Safety Division at City Hall on Dec. 1 when his heart failed, causing him to collapse, smashing his head on a table before falling to the floor.

City employees hit a panic button that set off an alarm in the Public Safety Facility. Alvarez and his fellow officers raced to the scene. When they arrived, they saw several people standing, looking concerned.

"We thought maybe once of the customers was upset," Alvarez said. "That happens often in that department in City Hall."

What they saw was far more grave. Laureano was lying on the floor, his face covered in his own blood. Alvarez reached for a mouthpiece that had been hanging from his keychain for roughly four years, having never needed it before, and placed it over Laureano's mouth. He provided life-saving breaths to Laureano while Perez grabbed the automated external defribrillator (AED) and sent an electric shock to his heart, reestablishing an effective rhythm.

Laureano was transported to a local hospital, where he later recovered. Doctors aren't sure what caused the attack, Laureano's wife, Cathy, said.

She is grateful for the help the officers provided and went back to the police station several weeks later with her husband to thank them.

"Without them, our life would have been drastically changed forever," Cathy Laureano said. "Now we take nothing for granted. We are just thankful for what we have and forget about the silly, nit-picky things that seemed to matter before, because they don't.

"Now I have to be the perfect wife," she added with a laugh. "I promised God that if he gave my husband another chance that I would be the perfect wife, and I'm trying my darndest."

The officers involved in each incident will be nominated for a medal of honor, Thruston said.

SMPD Chief Tim Jackman praised his officers for their swift action and calm under pressure, calling Santa Monica officers some of the finest he has ever worked with in his 20-plus years in law enforcement.

"We train our officers constantly on how to deal with stressful situations," Jackman said. "One of the ways we do this is to help them understand that they need to take their time, quickly. When in a chaotic, expanding and high-tempo environment, the ability to clearly think and respond as trained is a key element. Santa Monica police officers are the best I have ever seen under such circumstances and I am extremely proud of their performance in these two lifesaving instances.

"At this time of the year, when people reflect on the things they have to be thankful and grateful for, I know there are two families who wish for nothing other than what they have already received — their family members present for the holidays."

kevinh@smdp.com

Charges suggest third serial killer stalked L.A. women

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES Four new murder charges filed against a previously convicted killer points to the likelihood that at least three serial killers were stalking women two decades ago in South Los Angeles, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

The notorious "Southside Slayer" killings claimed the lives of as many as 90 women on inner city streets at a time when many had turned to prostitution to support crack cocaine habits, authorities said.

"It's pretty mind-boggling that you would have multiple people raping and killing women," Deputy District Attorney Bobby Grace said after 52-year-old Michael Hughes, the latest suspect, pleaded not guilty to murder and sexual assault charges.

The charges were based on "cold case" hits on a DNA analysis computer in Sacramento.

"We weren't looking for him," Grace said. "That's the beauty of the new systems."

Two men were previously convicted in the string of killings in the 1980s and 1990s.

Chester Turner, a pizza deliveryman, was sentenced last year to death for killing 10 women and a fetus. Louis Craine died of natural causes on death row in 1989 after being convicted of strangling four prostitutes.

Police initially thought just one killer was behind the slayings and dubbed him the "Southside Slayer."

"It's been proven now there is no one 'Southside Slayer,'" Grace said.

The prosecutor suggested as many as five killers could have been behind the scores of killings.

"But due to destruction of evidence over the years, the vast majority of these cases will never be solved," he said.

The new case against Hughes involves three women and a teenager killed from 1986 to 1993. Autopsies concluded they were sexually assaulted and strangled.

Hughes was accused in the new complaint of murdering Yvonne Coleman, 15, and Verna Williams, 36, in 1986, Deborah Jackson, 32, in 1993. and Deanna Wilson, 30, in 1990.

Special circumstances are alleged, but prosecutors have not yet said if they will seek the death penalty.

In 1998, Hughes was convicted of murdering four other women in 1992 and 1993. Authorities did not connect those deaths to the "Southside Slayer" case at the time.

Coleman was a student, unlike the other victims who were women in their 30s with histories of drug use, Grace said.

Craine, a construction worker with a sixth-grade education and an IQ of 69, was sentenced to death one day after the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for executions of mentally disabled killers.

Superior Court Judge Janice Claire Croft rejected a defense plea that would have allowed a life term for Craine, saying his victims fought frantically for their lives, and he "strangled each of them to death and discarded their bodies in abandoned houses, vacant lots and an alley like so much trash."

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Officials to consider tightening gun, ammunition laws

Los Angeles officials have announced a series of new firearms and ammunition laws aimed at curbing gun and gang violence. The new laws, up for approval Wednesday by the City Council, would bring several changes. Among them: the banning of .50-caliber bullets, which are currently still available even though the state has banned the kind of assault weapons that fire them. Other changes include the mandatory licensing for ammunition vendors, requiring bullets to be purchased in person and not via the Internet or mail, and making gun stores keep inventories of their weapons. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa says 80 percent of the city's homicides are gun related. There have been 354 homicides so far this year. ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO

State's population tops 38 million

California's population has topped 38 million, according to a new report from the state Department of Finance. The department's demographics unit estimates that California's population grew by nearly 436,000, or 1.16 percent, in the 12 months between July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2008, reaching 38.1 million. That's an increase of nearly 4.3 million residents since the last national census in 2000. Los Angeles remains the state's most populous county with more than 10 million residents, but Placer County east of Sacramento had the biggest percentage increase in population in the 12-month period. It grew by 2.6 percent. Nineteen other counties also had higher growth rates than the state as a whole: Imperial, Riverside, Tulare, Kern, Sutter, Madera, Santa Clara, Yuba, Fresno, San Francisco, Merced, San Diego, Yolo, Kings, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Alameda, Napa and San Joaquin all grew by more than 1.16 percent. Twenty-seven counties had lower rates of growth and 11 of them — Mariposa, Nevada, Mono, Trinity, Sierra, Alpine, Tuolumne, Inyo, Plumas, Amador and Lassen — actually lost population during the 12-month period, the report said. AP

LOS ANGELES

Swedish hip-hop artist pleads not guilty to murder

Swedish hip-hop artist David Moses Jassy has pleaded not guilty to murder, assault and other charges for the death of a man who was run down after he slapped the singer's car in Hollywood.





Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

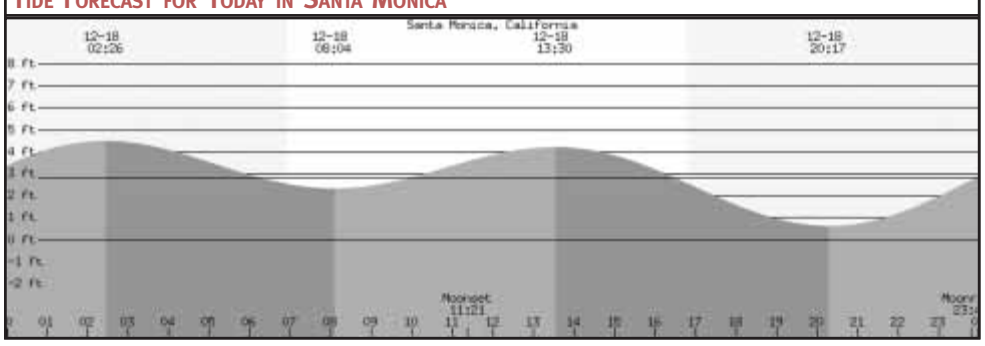
Swell Forecast (2-4 FT)

NW wind swell should back off to knee to waist around west facing breaks, smaller at south facing spots.

Long Range Synopsis

Friday the 19th is looking even smaller, ankle to knee high most everywhere. Conditions though should improve with weather clearing and temps warming up a couple of degrees.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



MLB

Sky-high salaries don't matter much to fans

BY TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

It may be strictly coincidental, but that doesn't make it any less interesting. About the same time the New York Mets were spending millions on the closer they so desperately need this week, the owner of the team was facing possible losses of millions of his own as the victim of a fraud scheme even more audacious than the one baseball pulls on its fans.

No one but Fred Wilpon knows how much he lost by investing with Bernard Madoff, and even he may not yet know the full hit in a scheme that may have taken investors for a mind-boggling $50 billion. The Mets, though, were concerned enough to put out a statement saying it will not affect the day-to-day operations and long-term plans of the team.

Just what those plans are, it's hard to say. The grand scheme of the Mets for years has been simply to throw money at the latest big free agent and hope he produces enough to get them into the playoffs.

That's why Carlos Beltran got more than market value to hit .275 and provide 30 home runs a year. It's why the Mets outbid everybody by giving up a ton of talent to the Minnesota Twins and $137.5 million to Johan Santana to land a premium pitcher.

In a way the Mets — much like their crosstown rivals in pinstripes — were funding a Ponzi scheme of their own, promising big payouts with the hope that fans keep investing in overpriced tickets to see them play. Those tickets will be even more expensive next season while the Mets collect their first $20 million in naming rights for their new stadium from a bank that taxpayers are now bailing out.

Francisco Rodriguez was the latest benefactor of the team's largesse, getting $37 million guaranteed to do what no one seemed able to do last season — close games for the Mets. That's good money for a guy who works only every few nights or so, but it almost went unnoticed in the spending frenzy uncorked in Las Vegas by the other New York baseball team.

Even at a time when banks are collapsing and the amount spent in bailouts is unfathomable, what the Yankees did in the space of a few days is staggering. First came the biggest contract ever for a pitcher, $161 million for CC Sabathia, followed soon after by $82.5 million for A.J. Burnett.

One left-handed arm. One righty. Total cost $243.5 million, or just a few million short of a quarter-billion dollars.

In ordinary times we might simply shrug, declare that's the cost of doing business in baseball, and look at next season's schedule to see if tickets might be available when Sabathia pitches. That's pretty much the way fans have reacted every year even as salaries rise to unimaginable levels.

But these aren't ordinary times. The nation's unemployment rate is headed toward double digits, those who still have jobs are worried they'll lose them, and one out of every 10 U.S. homeowners are either late with their payments or have a house in foreclosure.

Yet Sabathia will make some $700,000 every time he takes the mound just because he was born with a talented left arm. Burnett will get a half-million for each of his starts just because he can throw a fastball in the mid-90s.

Those kind of numbers are troubling when things are good, obscene when they're bad. Right now things are very bad, and we should be as outraged with the salaries as we are with the bank executives who gambled away billions like drunk sailors or the managers who ran the U.S. auto industry into the ground.

What does it say about our country when millions of children don't have even basic health care and schools don't have enough teachers, but grown men who play a game for a living make more money in one day than some of us will in our entire lives?

The greed on the other side is just as bad, if not worse. The Yankees and Mets scammed taxpayers to build them new stadiums when the old ones were perfectly serviceable just so they could sell more suites and raise ticket prices to unconscionable levels to afford their superstars. And while Los Angeles Dodgers president Jamie McCourt wondered aloud the other day whether teams should spend millions on ballplayers when they could use the money instead to build new fields for kids to play on, the cost of bringing the family to see a game at Dodger Stadium has gone up 57 percent since she and husband, Frank, bought the team five years ago.

Maybe we're numb to it all now and the numbers are so big they have become meaningless. Maybe all our anger was used up on the financial geniuses who have brought the country to the brink of economic collapse.

We should be outraged, but somehow most baseball fans don't seem to be.

They're too busy counting the number of days until spring training begins.

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **December 9, 2008**

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 -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 29 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 15 / 11

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

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
Los Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	F	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	F	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	B	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	C	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	C	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
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	C	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	B	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	D	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	C	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	C
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	D	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	B	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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



MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

White Christmas (NR) 2hrs
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-1506

Day the Earth Stood Still, The (PG-13) 1hr 50min
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Nothing Like the Holidays (PG-13) 1hr 39min
2:15, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40

Milk (R) 2hrs 08min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

Transporter 3 (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:45, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Quantum of Solace (PG-13) 1 hr 46min
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Role Models (R) 1hr 35min
1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45

Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:15

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:30, 2:20, 4:50, 6:30, 7:30, 10:00

Punisher: War Zone (R) 1hr 47min
4:00

Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min
1:15, 2:10, 4:20, 5:00, 7:10, 8:00, 9:55

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55

I've Loved You So Long (Il y a longtemps que je t'aime) (PG-13) 1hr 55min
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00

Slumdog Millionaire (R) 2hr 1min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Australia (PG-13) 2hr 45min
11:30am, 3:10, 6:40, 10:10

Gran Torino (R)
11:20am, 1:30, 2:30, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40

Cadillac Records (R) 1hr 48min
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:20

Twilight (PG-13) 2hrs
1:20, 4:30, 7:20, 10:30

Four Christmases (PG-13) 1hr 22min Digital Projection
11:50am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30

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

Fun and games, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ The unexpected could put quite a dent in your plans. Be ready to flex. You also might be disappointed. Someone at a distance leaks facts. Make sure it is not hearsay or gossip before acting on these tidbits. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Handle a situation carefully. Your creativity emerges often, but you might want to rein in any risks that could be damaging. A partner could come raging out of the blue. Understand you cannot calm him or her down. Relax. Tonight: Why not go for fun?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Stay anchored and know what you want. Evaluate and consider your priorities. A family or domestic issue could weigh heavily on your soul. Associates let you know quite clearly that they are out of sorts. Tonight: Mosey on home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Keep conversations moving. Still, there could be a speechless moment. Question what is going on with a neighbor or associate. Your biggest problem will be listening to and understanding different views. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Deal with finances, gift-giving and last-minute costs. You could be overwhelmed by everything that lands on your plate. A child or loved one could be more fiery and direct than you might like. This person feels left out. Tonight: Remind yourself what the holiday season does to people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You are in your own element. Understand what others might be saying behind the scenes, especially if you continue to be withdrawn. A family member could be tough to deal with. Tonight: What would make you smile?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Take time and think before you make a decision. You could be tired and not understand how much this fatigue is impacting you. Others are very fiery and upset. Listen to what is being said without taking it personally. Tonight: Get as much sleep as possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Knowing what you want is the first step in getting it. A child or loved one lets everyone know how unpredictable and easily dissatisfied he or she is. You cannot stop this person. Tonight: Fun and games.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Take a stand if possible. You will find that others see you as severe or authoritarian. You will accomplish a lot. Harness your energy and use it constructively. The unpredictable could affect your schedule. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Reach out to others. Think about those at a distance. In order to understand where someone is coming from, you need to read between the lines. Let go of previous thoughts or decisions involving this person. Tonight: Put on some music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Deal with individuals and get to the bottom of a problem. A caring relationship is enhanced because of your focus and attention. This person could shut down and/or be difficult. A friendship plays a role in your day. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ If you have hopes of getting something done, do close your door. People keep popping in and out. Someone might be pushing his or her luck dealing with you. A boss or older relative could be tough to deal with. Tonight: Let others run the show -- as if you could change them.

Happy birthday

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

Most of this year has a theme of the unexpected running through it. You might wonder what it will take to calm down your personal life. Perhaps if you center yourself and get to know the real you, making choices from the authentic self, less will occur. Work might be demanding or hard. Don't take others or your work for granted. If you are single, meeting someone could be easy, though this might not be the best relationship year. Take your time. If you are attached, you could find a lot to squabble about. Instead, find common topics of agreement. Add in more romance. VIRGO can be challenging.

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Notice of AB 987 – Database of Affordable Units

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Health & Safety Code Sections 33418(c)(1)- (3), the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Santa Monica has established and is making available to the public on the internet a database listing existing new and substantially rehabilitated housing units developed or otherwise assisted with Low and Moderate Income Housing Funds.

The DATABASE provides the following information for each restricted property:

- The address and parcel number of the property.
- The number of units broken out by the number of bedrooms.
- The year the project was completed.
- The date when the affordability covenant or restriction was recorded.
- The document number of the recording.
- The expiration date of the covenant or restriction.
- The date and document number of any covenants or notices that may be recorded when an ownership unit is resold.

The DATABASE is available at www.smgov.net/housing

Publication Dates: 12/11/08 and 12/18/08

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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 ★★★

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

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/17

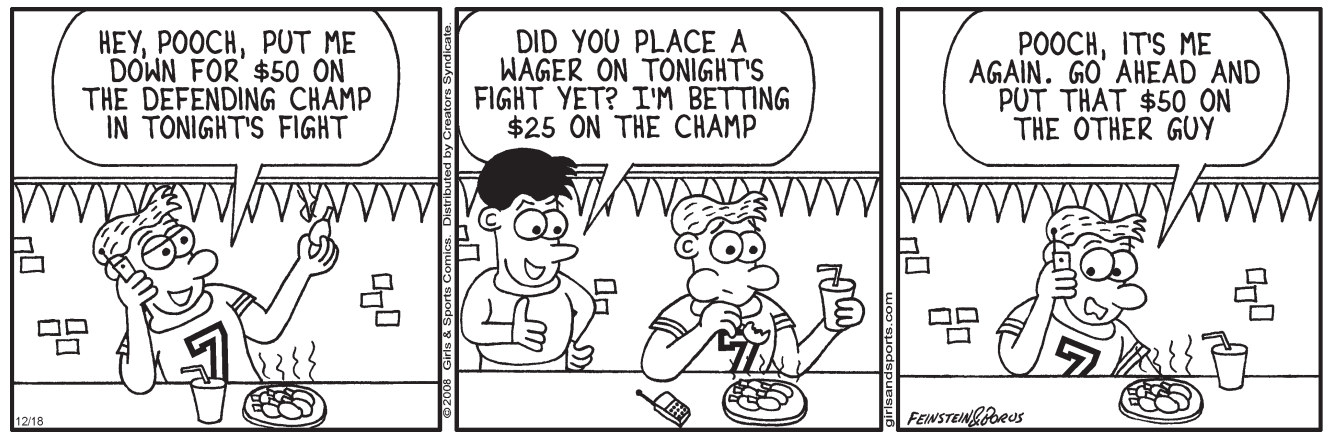
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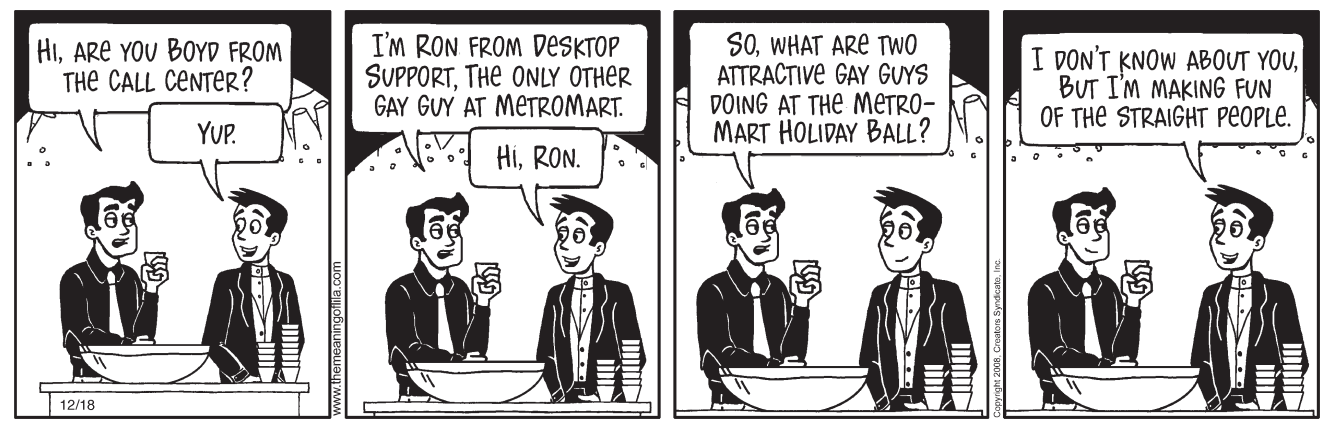
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



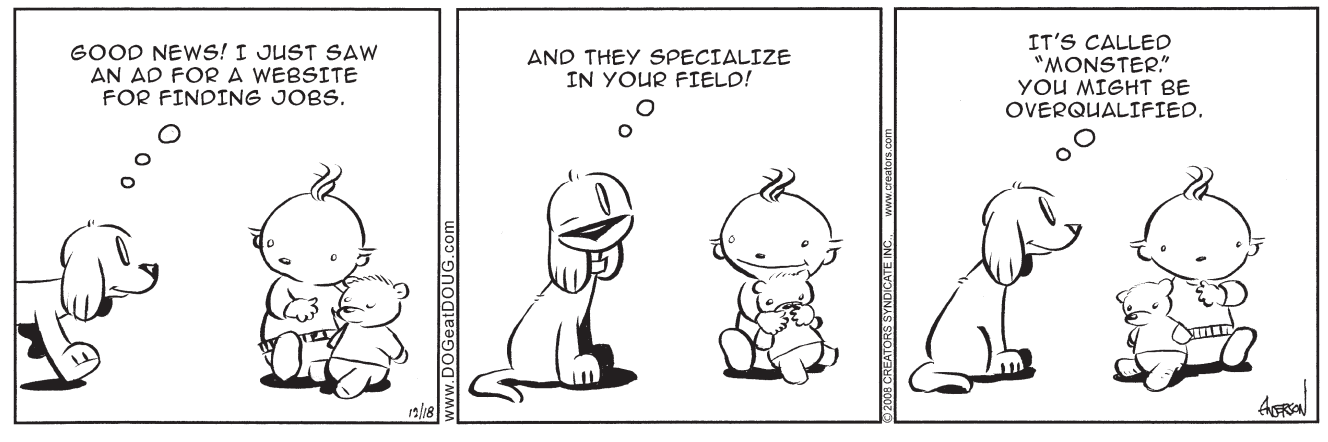
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

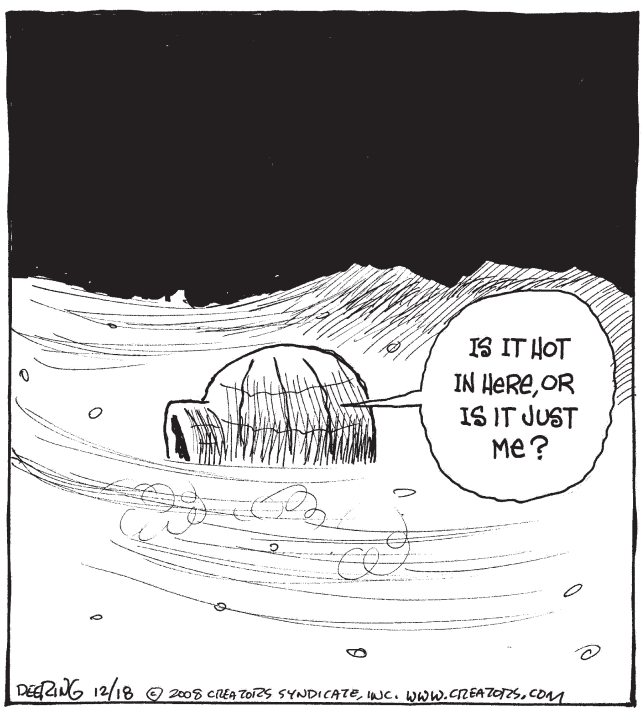


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured gets a pat on the back from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Suspect's story
6 Garnet unit
11 Chopped into cubes
12 Daisy variety
13 Run-down
14 Puzzled
15 Got a pinochle score
17 — loss
19 Writer Deighton
20 Ceremony words
23 Succeed
25 Read over
26 Windshield clearers
28 Letter opener
29 Answer source
30 Blvds. cousins
31 Triangular sail
32 Derby, e.g.
33 Spot
35 Downloadable read
38 Puccini opera
41 Poem part
42 Computer key
43 Raring to go
44 Stopwatch button

DOWN

1 Plugs
2 Golf position
3 Refrigerator parts
4 "Adam —"
5 Charmingly simple
6 Witch group
7 Fired
8 Writer Stout
9 Yeoman's "yes"
10 Slugger Williams
16 Pistons' place
17 Wrong
18 Implied
20 Coolers
21 "Little Rascals" girl
22 Commencement
24 Road curve
25 Hotel amenity
27 Strike mediator
31 Wild card
33 Snowman's carrot
34 Scoop holder
35 December 24, e.g.
36 Arthur of TV
37 Assn.
39 Bee follower
40 Cunning

A	B	A	S	H			C	R	A	G
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E	G	R	E	T		O	R	N	O	T
R	O	O	K			P	E	G	G	Y

Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
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41						42				
43						44				

12-18

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 10 16 19 27 48 Meganumber: 25 Jackpot: $16M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 20 22 25 32 45 Meganumber: 12 Jackpot: $31M

Fantasy 5: 6 7 14 23 28

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 9 0 EVENING: 6 5 4

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 11 Money Bags 2nd: 05 California Classic 3rd: 02 Lucky Star RACE TIME: 1.46.37

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

■ It seemed like an obviously good decision by the Toronto Transit Commission in 2006 to curb counterfeiting of its aluminum coins and paper tickets by phasing in larger metal-alloy tokens as substitutes. By earlier this year, when the tokens had completely replaced the lighter coins and paper, the commission realized that its fare-sorting room was beginning to crack at the foundations because the tokens to be counted weigh about 60 tons more than pre-2006 aluminum and paper. A commission spokesman told the Toronto Sun in November that engineers were working on a solution.

■ In September, Atlanta-area educator Phillippia Faust, working on a $455,000 annual federal sex education grant, offered a $10,000 contest prize for an engaged local couple who had so far abstained from sex and would continue to do so until the wedding. (Any sex would be "risky behavior," said Faust, but worst of all would be living together before marriage, which is a "set up for the kill.") However, despite the large population of the area, she had no takers, and as the deadline approached, she told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that she even considered opening the contest to engaged couples who had had sex but regretted it. Faust eventually had to scrap the contest altogether because of conflicting federal grant rules.

■ In November, a judge in Dublin, Ga., sentenced Rico Todriquez Wright, 25, to at least 20 years in prison for the 2006 shooting of Chad Blue, who had told police initially that he didn't know who had shot him. Blue later heard a thug-life song on CD, "Hitting Licks for a Living," in which rap singer Wright brags, "Chad Blue knows how I shoot" and realized Wright was the one who shot him that night.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1865 the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

1972 the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 11 days later.)

WORD UP!

gaffe \gaf\, *noun*: a blunder; faux pas

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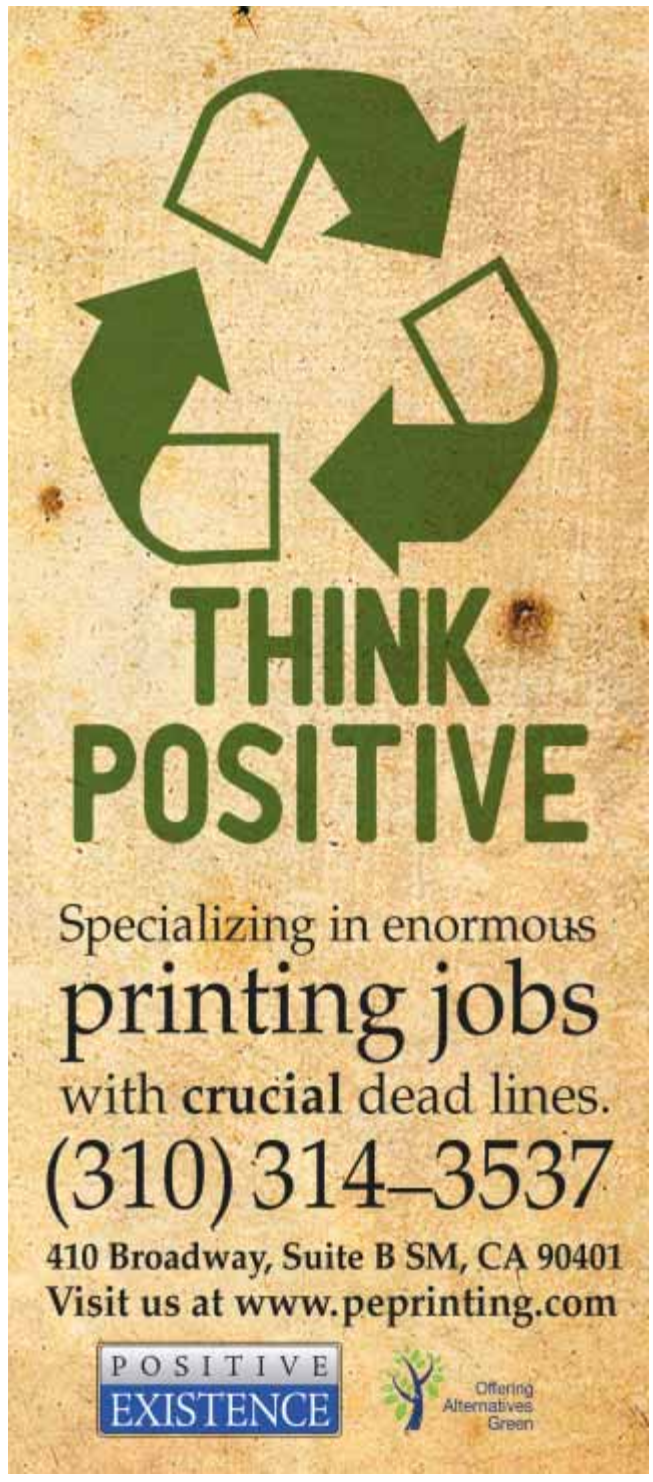
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20081959697 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as AXIA IT CONSULTING, 1450 MIDVALE AVE, #109, LOS ANGELES, CA 90024, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : SOL EUN, 1450 MIDVALE AVE, #109, LOS ANGELES, CA 90024 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: SOL EUN
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/5/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/4/2008, 12/11/2008, 12/18/2008, 12/25/2008

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Ask for Connie
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$3,475,000

Detached Guest House w/ Full Bath & Washer/Dryer

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Craftsman

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$1,425,000

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Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Mid December 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$2,474,000	No Listings
North of Montana	=	$3,355,912	$1,510,632
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,085,200	$873,104
South of Wilshire	=	$927,333	$704,004
Sunset Park	=	$857,625	$599,165
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