



Santa Monica Daily Press

A FEAST FOR THE EYES
SEE PAGE 9

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE MERRY CHRISTMAS ISSUE

HOLIDAY SEASON

DECKING THE HALLS

Local homes get all dressed up

PHOTO ESSAY BY BRANDON WISE PAGE 8



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

Old-fashioned school mediating

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

JAMS Rodney Johnson sat back in his seat, listening as the two junior high school students sitting before him bickered about a fight that had occurred earlier, a tiff sparked by name calling.

One of the students turned to Johnson, annoyed, remarking "I don't like this side of you."

It was the first dispute that the eighth-grader had resolved as a peer mediator at John Adams Middle School, an awkward first experience considering the altercation involved two of his good friends.

"I'm at work right now," he responded at the time. "I'm a professional."

The aspiring professional basketball player is among the more than 25 students that participate in the Peer Mediation and Conflict Resolution Program at John Adams

Middle School, an extra-curricular activity where students, not teachers, resolve the variety of conflicts that can arise among adolescents during a volatile developmental time, from relationship and friendship break-ups to even something as seemingly minor as looking at another student in the "wrong way."

Erica Zacharie of the Los Angeles County Bar Association operates the program at both Lincoln and John Adams middle

schools, training and working with more than 60 students between the two locations.

The program aims to eliminate the instances of fighting between students, teaching at a young age that discourse is a better way to resolve conflict rather than resorting to physical violence. Students are selected to serve as arbitrators rather than teachers, expanding the comfort level for the

SEE PEER PAGE 8

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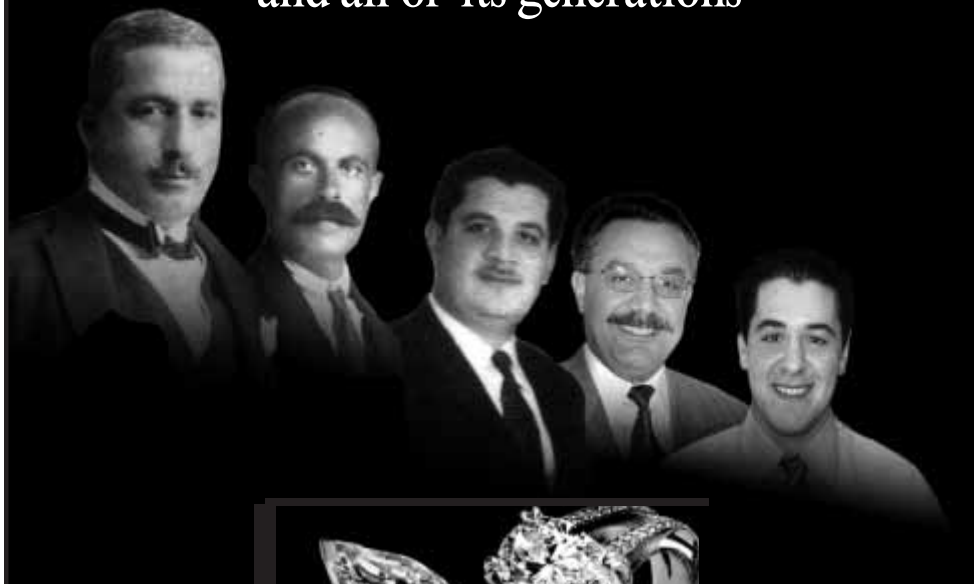
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EDDIE GUERBOIAN
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Calendar

2

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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Happy Holidays



Christmas Day Open 7:30a.m. – 2p.m.
New Year's Eve Open 7:30a.m. – 6:00p.m.
New Year's Day Open 7:30a.m. – 10:00p.m.

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

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Merry Christmas!

Griffith Park Light Festival

4730 Crystal Springs Dr., L.A., times vary

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

Ice, ice, baby

1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.

Bring back childhood memories — or create new ones — as you slice through the city's new public ice rink. Admission is \$10; including skate rental.

Candid Claus

1300 block of Third Street Promenade, 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Take a moment out of the Black Weekend massacre to visit with Santa Claus who will sit still for some candid moments with the kiddies.

Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007

Jewish story hour

1428 17th St., 3:15 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Story time at Chabad is for children ages 3 — 7. It is recommended that participants RSVP to this free event to ensure there are enough materials for all children. For questions or to RSVP, call (310) 393-7379 or e-mail srljs@juno.com.

Nativo!

1301 Fifth St., to be declared

Groove to dance-driven soulful and eclectic Latin beats featuring resident DJs Mexican Dubweiser, Sloe Poke, Mando Fever and D*Gomez at Zanzibar's Nativo Wednesdays. Door is \$5.

Ice, ice, baby

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



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THEY SAW, THEY CONQUERED

City crews weathered the rain on Tuesday morning as they cut down a series of trees slated for removal at the intersection of 27th and Pearl streets.

Photos by Brandon Wise news@smdp.com



Producers scramble to explain Spears' pregnancy raises ethical issues

BY JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Just a week ago, the producers of Jamie Lynn Spears' hit TV show "Zoey 101" were wondering how fans might react to a plotline that had her character thinking of leaving her fantasy-land boarding school.

Now that Spears has disclosed that she's pregnant, the network has an even bigger, real-life plot twist to wrestle with.

The news came at an awkward time. The fourth season of the show has already been shot and is set to begin airing in February on Nickelodeon.

Executives must now figure out how to promote a program aimed at preteen girls whose 16-year-old role-model has tumbled from her pedestal.

It doesn't help either that Spears is the younger sister of tabloid wild child Britney Spears, the one-time Disney Mousketeer who has been locked in a bitter court battle for months with ex-husband Kevin Federline over custody of her two young children.

"The whole Spears family seems to be a disaster scenario," said media consultant Jonathan Taplin, who is not connected to the show.

For now, Nickelodeon is standing behind Jamie Lynn Spears and the show.

Her picture is still featured prominently on the Nick.com Web site, and the "Zoey 101" message board is still open, although there is no mention of her pregnancy or her relationship with Casey Aldridge, her baby's teen father.

"Nickelodeon hasn't announced any schedule changes," network spokeswoman Marianne Romano said when asked if the show's fourth season would go ahead as planned.

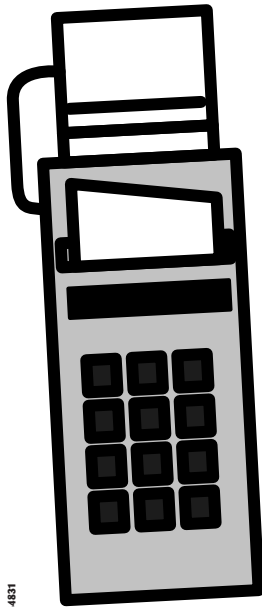
Nickelodeon officials declined to say whether Spears would continue to promote the show with personal appearances and taped announcements. Spears' spokeswoman, Holly Shakoor, did not respond to phone and e-mail requests for comment.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rest in peace, Bob

Editor:

I just learned of the death of Bob Gabriel, owner of Santa Monica's Bob Gabriel Co. Insurance Agency, whose advertisement appeared regularly in the Santa Monica Daily Press. He passed away on Dec. 13, 2007 at the age of 84. He will be sorely missed, I think, in the community due to his outstanding good works and general goodness as a human being. I had business dealings with him for more than 25 years, and he was always most kind to me. I was deeply saddened to learn the news, and I want to extend my sympathies to his staff as well as to his family, who will carry on despite their great loss.

We will miss you, Bob!

Julia Reeves

Santa Monica

Why worry about skin color?

Editor:

Kenny Mack can see no other reasons than racism ("Let's Stop Fooling ourselves on Race," Opinion, Dec. 21) for the difference in the way Barry Bonds has been treated this year compared to Roger Clemens. So, let's give him some.

Reason No.1 it's not racism: Barry Bonds has been connected with BALCO, the steroid source, for years and has admitted to at least taking some of their products. Roger Clemens has never been publicly associated with BALCO, until now. The Mitchell Report listing his name last week was the first time fans heard about it.

Reason No. 2 it's not racism: In the mere days since the Mitchell Report, pitcher Curt Schilling, a future Hall of Famer, white peer of Clemens, has challenged Clemens to prove he did not take steroids or else give back four of his Cy Young Awards. In the years since Bonds has been associated with steroid use not one of his peers, Manny, Ortiz or A- Rod, has asked Barry to prove himself or give back four Most Valuable Player Awards.

Reason No. 3 it's not racism: When Bonds passed Mark McGwire for the all time single-season home run record "White America" yawned. But when Bonds approached and passed Hank Aaron for the all time home run record, "White America" was outraged. Let's recap: Bonds breaks a white guy's record and white people don't care. Bonds breaks a black guy's record and white people are furious! How can that be in Kenny Mack's racist world?

Reason No. 4 it's not racism: Baseball fans bleed team colors, not racial ones. You won't get a beer spilled on your head for being black or white at a game. But you most definitely will get drenched if you wear a Giant's uniform to a Dodger game or a Yankee uniform to a Red Sox game.

As baseball fans we don't care about skin color, Kenny. Sorry you still do.

Eric Cooper

Santa Monica



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The Rand Stand

By Dr. Leonard Peikoff

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bah humbug, or just reality?

CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA IS AN exuberant display of human ingenuity, capitalist productivity, and the enjoyment of life. Yet all of these are castigated as “materialistic.” The real meaning of the holiday, we are told, is assorted nativity tales and altruist injunctions (e.g., love thy neighbor) that no one takes seriously.

In fact, Christmas today is a 19th century American invention. The freedom and prosperity of post Civil War America created the happiest nation in history. The result was the desire to celebrate, to revel in the goods and pleasures of life on earth. Christmas became the leading American outlet for this feeling.

Historically, people have always celebrated the winter solstice as the time when the days begin to lengthen, indicating the earth's return to life. Ancient Romans feasted and reveled during the festival of Saturnalia. Early Christians condemned these Roman celebrations — they were waiting for the end of the world and had only scorn for earthly pleasures. By the fourth century the pagans were worshipping the god of the sun on Dec. 25, and the Christians came to a decision: If you can't stop 'em, join 'em. They claimed (contrary to known fact) that the date was Jesus' birthday, and usurped the solstice holiday for their church.

Even after the Christians stole Christmas, they were ambivalent about it. The holiday was inherently a pro-life festival of earthly renewal, but the Christians preached renunciation, sacrifice, and concern for the next world, not this one. As Cotton Mather, an 18th century clergyman, put it: “Can you in your consciences think that our Holy Savior is honored by mirth? ... Shall it be said that at the birth of our Savior ... we take time ... to do actions that have much more of hell than of heaven in them?”

Then came the major developments of 19th century capitalism: Industrialization, urbanization, the triumph of science, all of it leading to easy transportation, efficient mail delivery, the widespread publishing of books and magazines, new inventions making life comfortable and exciting, and the rise of entrepreneurs who understood that to make a profit was to produce something good and sell it to a mass market.

For the first time, the giving of gifts became a major feature of Christmas. Early Christians denounced gift-giving as a Roman practice, and Puritans called it diabolical. But Americans were not to be deterred. Thanks to capitalism, there was enough wealth to make gifts possible, a great productive apparatus to advertise them and make them available cheaply, and a country so content that men wanted to reach out to their friends and express their enjoyment of life. The whole country took with glee to giving gifts on an unprecedented scale.

Santa Claus is a thoroughly American invention. There was a St. Nicholas long

ago and a feeble holiday connected with him (on Dec. 5). In 1822, an American named Clement Clarke Moore wrote a poem about a visit from St. Nick. It was Moore who invented St. Nick's physical appearance and personality, came up with the idea that Santa travels on Christmas Eve in a sleigh pulled by reindeer, comes down the chimney, stuffs toys in the kids' stockings, then goes back to the North Pole.

Of course, the Puritans denounced Santa as the Antichrist, because he pushed Jesus to the background. Furthermore, Santa implicitly rejected the whole Christian ethics. He did not denounce the rich and demand that they give everything to the poor. On the contrary, he gave gifts to rich and poor children alike. Nor is Santa a champion of Christian mercy or unconditional love. On the contrary, he is for justice.

AMERICA'S TRAGEDY IS THAT ITS INTELLECTUAL LEADERS HAVE TRIED TO REPLACE HAPPINESS WITH GUILT, INSISTING THAT THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS IS RELIGION AND SELF-SACRIFICE FOR TINY TIM OR HIS EQUIVALENT.

All the best customs of Christmas, from carols to trees to spectacular decorations, have their root in pagan ideas and practices. These customs were greatly amplified by American culture, as the product of reason, science, business, worldliness, and egoism, i.e., the pursuit of happiness.

America's tragedy is that its intellectual leaders have tried to replace happiness with guilt, insisting that the spiritual meaning of Christmas is religion and self-sacrifice for Tiny Tim or his equivalent. But the spiritual must start with recognizing reality. Life requires reason, selfishness, capitalism; that is what Christmas should celebrate — and really, underneath all the pretense, that is what it does celebrate. It is time to take the Christ out of Christmas, and turn the holiday into a guiltlessly egoistic, pro-reason, this-worldly, commercial celebration.

DR. LEONARD PEIKOFF, founded the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine.

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Michael Tittinger
editor@smdp.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS

Kevin Herrera
kevinh@smdp.com

Melody Hanatani

melodyh@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Bill Bauer, David Pizarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Seth Barnes, Taylor van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Mark Marchillo, Ken Tarr, Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp and Mariel Howsepian

NEWS INTERNS

Gabrielle Harradine
news@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brandon Wise
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Morgan Genser
Brandon Wise
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Liam Blume

Liamb@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

Cynthia Vazquez
advertising@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Tessa Vergara
tessav@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Frances Casareno
production@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER

Annie Kotok
anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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410 Broadway, Suite B

Santa Monica, CA 90401

OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)

FAX (310) 576-9913

Visit us online at smdp.com



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That Rutherford Guy

John H. Whitehead

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

All I want for X-Mas is an improved planet

*A very Merry Xmas
And a happy New Year.
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear.*

-John Lennon

A recent advertising circular from one of the major retailers in the country invited kids to put together a wish list of things they want for Christmas. There were toys galore, board games, bikes, video games, action figures — the kinds of things I wished for as a child. Although I haven't made out a Christmas list in a long time, there are still things I wish for. But these things cannot be bought in any store or wrapped and placed under the tree.

The idealist in me wishes for peace and an end to poverty, hunger and disease. However, the realist in me recognizes that wishing is not enough. We need to be doing. The following five suggestions might help you consider what needs to be added to your own list this Christmas.

Increase education and schooling. Education is so vital because with it comes both knowledge and a sense of understanding that is necessary in today's world of miscommunication and misunderstanding. We don't need an education in the three R's but in how to work together to solve the problems we face as a world community. A well-balanced education for all people would not only help fight issues such as poverty, AIDS and pollution, it would also enable us to curb the hatred and animosity that have spurred global terrorism over the past few decades. For this to be a reality, America must lead the way.

Eradicate the concept of "us" versus "them" and focus more on the fact that we share many similarities as members of the human race. The root of much of the recent terrorist activity (and expansion of presidential power in the United States) is the idea that "we" (the pure and good) must wage a war of morality against "them" (the dangerous and evil). This rhetoric has been used by various leaders as a propaganda tool to justify further violence and destruction. By eliminating this divisive rhetoric and ideology, we could move toward strengthening the global community and the ties that ultimately hold it together.

Improve the treatment of women. While American women enjoy a status of legal equality with their male counterparts, women in other countries (particularly those in the Middle East) are denied the very

rights they should be granted as human beings. For example, just last month, a Saudi Arabian woman was sentenced to six months in jail and 200 lashes, despite being gang-raped by seven men who had kidnapped her. Incredibly, the judge sentenced her for being in a car with a man who was not her relative, a taboo in this misogynistic desert kingdom. By fighting for the rights of women, we can make the world a better place for the generations of children who will follow. Of course, this means that the president and Congress will have to take a stand against the ill-treatment of women by our so-called allies such as Saudi Arabia.

End world hunger. Approximately 854 million people around the world are chronically undernourished and thoroughly incapable of obtaining sufficient sustenance. In addition, nearly 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes every day — a fact that translates into one child perishing from hunger every five seconds. While the average individual may feel overwhelmed by the extent of world hunger, much can be done to make a difference, regardless of how small the efforts may be. The starting point is realizing that we have to place the interests of others before ourselves. Donating funds and time to trustworthy organizations is one way to make a difference. Raising global awareness regarding the subject is critical in the battle against hunger. It is only when individuals are aware of the true extent and nature of the problem that they will be adequately equipped with the knowledge and passion it takes to make a difference.

A world without war. The Iraq war has both economically and emotionally drained America. In fact, so far the war has cost the American taxpayers over \$472 billion. Just think how many people could be fed with even a small percentage of this money. And unfortunately, much of the world now views America as a warring empire. It's time for America to show the world a different way — a time for peace and understanding. Indeed, it is only through true understanding that we will be able to make well-informed, rational decisions that ultimately affect the lives of human beings around the world. Otherwise, we will continue to face an uncertain and chaotic future.

Constitutional attorney **JOHN W. WHITEHEAD** is founder of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.

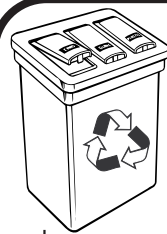


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The Q-Line

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News that mattered most

Drinking fluoride ... chopping trees ... biking en masse ... building up and tearing down. The year 2007 is drawing to a close, giving us time to both look ahead with hope, as well as ponder the past. Take this time to assess the top stories in Santa Monica over the past year and how they affected our lives.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What were the top stories of 2007 and how did they shape life in Santa Monica?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



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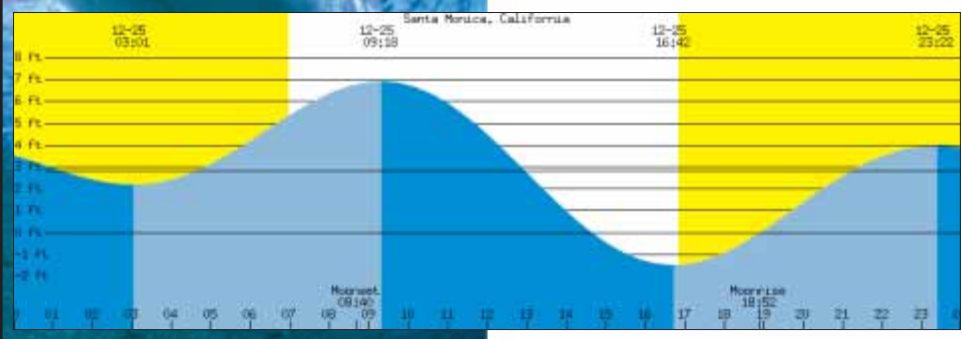
SURF CONDITIONS**WATER TEMP: 56°**

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

Today we should see NW swell increase further with bigger size on Wednesday the 26th. Tuesday also has some SW due from that system that spun up south of Easter Island last week. Most west facing breaks are looking at surf running waist to chest with standouts seeing chest to shoulder high set waves at times. South facing breaks are looking at waist to chest high waves from 180-190 degrees.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW INCREASES DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

Santa Monica, California

12-25 03:00L 12-25 09:15H 12-25 16:14L 12-25 23:02H

8 Ft. 7 Ft. 6 Ft. 5 Ft. 4 Ft. 3 Ft. 2 Ft. 1 Ft. 0 Ft. -1 Ft. -2 Ft.

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.7 1.8 1.9 2.0 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4

Lowest: 08:14S Highest: 18:52S



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 11, 2007**

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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills — 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0

Number of wet days — 8

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 36 / 18

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 11 / 15

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (beacarrilla)	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Palga Canyon storm drain	C	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	A+
Escalante Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsaugas)	F	F
Bread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	F	D
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Venice storm drain	F	F
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A+	F
Ladiga Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	B	F
Saltine Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Panero State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Panero Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	ns
Sunridge Beach at Malibu Canyon fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	C
Sunridge Beach (beach location) - daily	F	F	Venice Beach - projection of Tapsall St.	A+	C
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	A	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	D
Carlson Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zone)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Torres County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	C	Dockweiler Beach- adjacent Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Cardenock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17280 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+			

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken



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

Heal the Bay

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 indicator of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

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Iraqi Assyrians cling to history

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

MODESTO Isaac Samow's ancestors have occupied Mesopotamia for millennia, surviving innumerable conquests and massacres.

The headstones in the cemetery of his hometown near Mosul, Iraq, document centuries of his family's history there, and the ancient ruins that dot the arid plain near the Tigris and Euphrates rivers tell of his people's role in building humanity's first cities.

Yet another war is now threatening the survival of Assyrian culture and language — a derivation of the tongue spoken by Jesus — in its native land.

Among the first converts to Christianity, thousands of Assyrians have fled since the U.S. invasion. Samow's relatives are scattered through Canada, Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, Greece, Holland, England, Sweden and Germany.

Others are refugees in Syria, Jordan, and inside Iraq, not knowing whether they can return to cities and towns carved into Sunni or Shiite enclaves. In such a climate, minorities like Assyrians Christians face an uncertain future.

"My children speak my language, but what about my grandchildren?" Samow said from his home in Modesto. "If there are no Assyrians left in Mesopotamia, how will our culture live?"

Successive waves of Assyrians have landed here in California's Central Valley, beginning with those who fled a massacre by Turks

near the end of World War I.

They were joined by families who escaped Iran when an Islamic revolution overthrew the monarchy in 1979, then by new arrivals escaping the first Gulf War, when Samow came here with his family. A similar Assyrian community also thrives in Chicago.

But with their numbers now dangerously low in the region where Iran, Iraq and Turkey meet, Assyrians here fear the current wave of migration could mark their end. Community leaders in the United States are working to support Assyrians back home.

The Assyrian American Civic Club of Turlock is housed in a fortress-like hall decorated with winged bulls that have human heads — a traditional Assyrian protective figure known as a lamassus. An old map on the wall shows population centers that no longer exist.

"Once, most villages in that area were Assyrian," said the club's president, Fred Betmaleck, who is Iranian-Assyrian. "Now there are very few left."

The club works to keep Assyrian culture alive by hosting a radio station that plays Assyrian music and carries community news, and holds festivals, such as the Assyrian New Year's celebration known as Kha-b-Nissan, in the spring.

Members also raised money through dances and raffles to help Assyrians who remain in Iraq.

"We try to help them stay there as much as possible, because when you leave, you never go back," said Betmaleck.

Dems to investigate EPA decision on emissions law

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The Bush administration's rejection of state efforts to tighten rules on greenhouse gas emissions touched off a flurry of counterattacks Thursday. Democrats in Congress launched an investigation. Governors led by California's Arnold Schwarzenegger vowed to sue, and environmental groups demanded to see the government's rationale for its decision.

Those were the opening moves in what is shaping up to be a fierce legal and political battle over the Environmental Protection Agency's decision to block California and at least 16 other states from regulating greenhouse gases that come from new cars and trucks.

Environmental lawyers and congressional aides were focusing on whether EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson denied California's waiver request without relying on the legal and technical documentation they said should accompany such a decision. His statement that his position was based on a legal analysis of the Clean Air Act appeared at odds with the way other government officials characterized the process.

Johnson's decision overruled a consensus among EPA's legal and technical staff that denying the waiver was unlikely to stand up in court, according to government officials

familiar with the decision. Johnson's advisers told him that granting California the waiver would put the agency in a much more defensible legal position should automakers take EPA to court.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter, confirmed a report in The Washington Post that a Power Point presentation prepared for Johnson included the prediction, "EPA likely to lose suit," if taken to court for denying the waiver.

Critics also pointed to a sentence in a letter Johnson sent Schwarzenegger on Wednesday: "I have decided that EPA will be denying the waiver and have instructed my staff to draft appropriate documents setting forth the rationale for this denial."

Environmental lawyers said such after-the-fact reasoning was unusual and predicted it would not stand in court. "Here they've decided to deny without figuring out what the proper reason for denial should be," said Dan Galpern, an attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center in Oregon who is representing a coalition of environmental groups in the case.

EPA spokeswoman Jennifer Wood said it wasn't unusual for the EPA chief to make a decision on a Clean Air Act waiver request and then ask staff to draft technical documentation to back it up.

Young and violent teens

Watching for 10 signs of trouble

BY MEGAN K. SCOTT
Associated Press Writer

One young man had a history of depression and drug abuse. Another was said to closely follow the Columbine case and reject help from counselors. And a fight at school appears to have provoked a third.

Three shooting rampages in a one-week span have refocused attention on troubled youth: a 19-year-old man opened fire at a Nebraska mall, killing eight people and himself; a 24-year-old man killed four people at a megachurch and a missionary training school in Colorado and then killed himself; and now police are searching for gunmen who wounded six students at a school bus stop in Nevada, following a fight about a girl.

“There is this copycat phenomenon with highly publicized homicides, multiple shootings and other suicides,” says Kathryn Seifert, a forensics psychologist and author of “How Children Become Violent.” She says people who are already troubled or considering violence might say, “Well see somebody does it and gets a lot of publicity. I’m going to do the same thing.”

But Seifert says she believes the common denominator is that these men had troubled pasts.

The mall shooter was reported to be a

drug user with a history of depression. He was a ward of the state after spending time in a treatment facility for threatening to kill his stepmother. He was a high school dropout who had recently lost his job at a fast-food restaurant and broken up with his girlfriend.

The church gunman had apparently sent hate mail to the mission center and posted online threats in between his two deadly shooting spree about killing Christians. Police said they believed Tuesday’s shooting at a school bus stop was linked to a fight at a high school earlier in the day.

While there is no single profile of a shooter, the warning signs of violence generally appear in childhood, says Seifert. It can be difficult for parents to determine what goes beyond normal child behavior, but experts say to look for a combination of the following over a period of time.

If the child is violent or suicidal, seek help immediately, says Seifert. Otherwise, seek help if the problems interfere with the child’s home or school life for more than a month and the parent is unable to resolve the issue.

POOR COPING MECHANISMS

A troubled child may be unable to cope with frustration, disappointment, or stress, manifesting into anger or severe depression, says Margaret Ross, President and Founder of the Kamaron Institute. “The reaction is larger than the situation and it’s regularly larger than the situation,” she says. “There are no small deals.

There’s only big deals.”

DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE

If your child becomes a substance abuser, that might not be his only problem.

UNSAFE ACCESS TO FIREARMS

“If your child has made a specific weapon-related threat and has unsafe access to a weapon, that is known to be a very dangerous combination,” says Dan Gross, co-founder and CEO of PAX, a nonprofit gun violence prevention organization. “The key ingredient is always the weapon. That’s what elevates an idle threat to one that poses much more serious risk.”

EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

Your child might be exposed to violence in the home or community. “Domestic violence is really a strong risk factor,” says Seifert. “That becomes the children’s model for problem solving.”

SETTING FIRES

If your child sets or attempts to set fire to his home, someone else’s home, or his school, that’s cause for concern about future acts, says Seifert. “There are theories that fire-setting is an indication that a child has been sexually abused,” she says. “Certainly sexual abuse is a risk factor for being violent, but not that by itself.”

VIOLENT ROLE MODELS

Pay attention if your child idolizes other shooters, or has a fascination with

violent behavior, says Lisa Pescara-Kovach, professor of educational psychology at the University of Toledo and author of “School Shootings and Suicides: Why We Must Stop the Bullies.”

ASSAULT

Be concerned if your child harms animals or assaults other people, particularly a small child or authority figure, says Seifert. “The more assaults a young person has committed in the past, the more predictive that is that they are going to assault someone in the future.” If a child has no remorse for hurting someone, that’s a warning sign.

FAMILY HISTORY OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

Criminals are generally unable to teach children right from wrong, says Seifert. An incarcerated parent can be a risk factor if that parent is sending the message that criminal behavior is OK, she says.

DEPRESSION

If your child is isolating himself, puts himself down, and talks about feeling hopeless, like the world is out to get him, these are all signs that he is depressed. Males are more likely to act out their depression in a violent way than females, says Ross.

BED-WETTING

This is a minor risk factor if your child is over the age of 5 or 6 and wets the bed, says Seifert, because bed-wetting has been associated with early childhood abuse, neglect and exposure to domestic violence.

Eagles coach, wife, break silence about sons

BY BOB LENTZ
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA Eagles coach Andy Reid and his wife have dealt with their sons’ drug addictions for years, through “Super Bowls and championships,” and the coach plans to remain with the team as long as he can do the job and the owner will have him.

The Reids broke their silence about their sons’ problems and vowed their support in an exclusive interview with Philadelphia Magazine for its January edition. They said

they decided to give the interview in hopes of helping others.

In excerpts of the interview posted on the magazine’s Web site Friday, Reid disclosed he and his wife have been dealing with their sons’ struggles since 2002.

Reid declined to discuss the interview during his news conference Friday, referring to the statement he made a day earlier.

“It was a way to share our story with others,” Reid said. “We’ve had tremendous support through this whole event. It was a way to reach out to those who are going through

similar situations.

“It was an opportunity to do this while the players were still in town and let them have an opportunity to, likewise, to read about it so there would be no gray areas as they left town.”

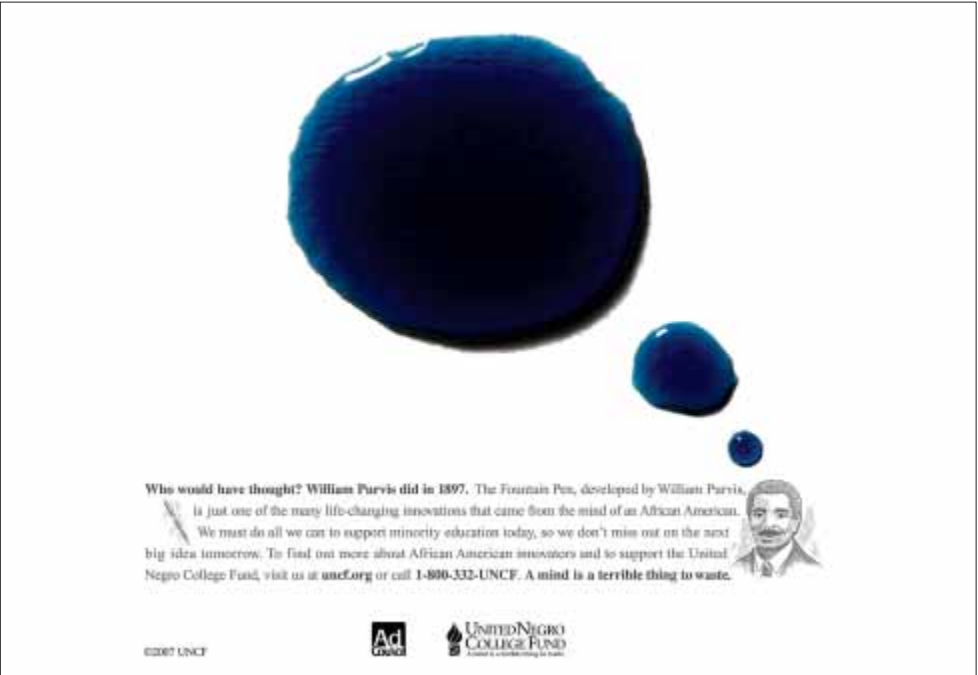
Reid encouraged everyone to read the interview, saying “it’s all explained in that.”

Both Garrett and Britt Reid have battled drug addiction and been sentenced to jail terms stemming from Britt’s road-rage case and Garrett’s heroin-fueled, high-speed crash in January.

“We’ve dealt with Garrett’s situation for a long time, and we’ve done it through Super Bowls and championships,” Andy Reid told the magazine. “And it’s new to a lot of people, but it’s not new to us.”

Tammy Reid said, “We raised these boys. We taught them to pray, taught them to ride their bikes — you see this potential in him, and you’re just not going to give up.”

In the interview, Andy Reid said that he wants to remain with the team “as long as I can do my job to the best of my ability.”



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Students learn to use words, not fists

FROM PEER PAGE 1

parties involved in the dispute, and leaving the teachers more time to focus on actual instruction and student learning.

"The students know what the social structure is, they know the gossip and who is friends with whom," Zacharie said.

The handful of students selected every year go through a rigorous 30-hour, three-day training weekend in February with the LA County Bar Association, learning the ins and outs of dispute resolution, the different types of conflicts that could arise, such as ethnically driven altercations. Much like professional mediation training, the students draft settlement agreements and most importantly, learn the importance of staying neutral, which in these students' case can be



THE STUDENTS KNOW WHAT THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE IS, THEY KNOW THE GOSSIP AND WHO IS FRIENDS WITH WHOM."

Erica Zacharie, Coordinator of Peer Mediation and Conflict Resolution Program

difficult considering they know the interested parties.

"We're taught to communicate than take both sides," said Franky Garcés de la Torre, an eighth-grader at JAMS.

The peer mediators, many of whom have been in the program for more than a year, preside over at least one dispute every month. Mediation request forms, filled out by a student involved in the dispute or a

third-party, such as a teacher, are submitted in a drop-off box.

"We're there to help them solve the problem, not solve the problem for them," said Carlos Illamas, a JAMS eighth-grader who joined the program two years ago.

For the students, the most challenging aspect of mediating is to stay neutral, even if they might know the problem up close and personally because it involves their friends.

For Nick Kennerly, a seventh-grader at Lincoln Middle School, there's no point in picking sides, saying that "if you don't help them, the conflict won't be solved."

Apart from cutting down on the cases of fighting at the middle schools, the program also helps students develop leadership skills and builds on self-esteem. Many of the students that have been with the program for a few years have noted seeing an improvement in the way in which they manage their own problems.

Such has been the case for Paige Groenwild, a Lincoln eighth-grader who joined the program last year.

"I now try to put myself in their position," Groenwild said. "You learn that you might be messing up too because nobody's perfect."

melodyh@smdp.com



'TIS THE SEASON

Houses in Santa Monica really know how to pull out all the stops for the holidays. Decorations range from lights and Santas to candy canes and angels. Some homes even decorated palm trees surrounding their properties. Oh, how California.

Photos by Brandon Wise
news@smdp.com

A Christmas visual feast

One resident really went all out to show her holiday spirit

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILMONT There are Christmas decorations like simple colorful bulbs and cardboard snowmen cutouts, and then there are Christmas decorations.

For the past 10 years, a veritable winter wonderland has emerged in front of a townhouse on Washington Avenue belonging to Shannon Vukalcic, the long-time Santa Monican behind an elaborate holiday decoration set-up that catches passersby offguard, amazed at its unusual extravagance.

The Christmas ornamentation sits on the lawn in front of Vukalcic's house off Lincoln Boulevard and consists of individual statues and props, combined to form a wintry holiday scene. In one corner, Santa Claus sits in a propeller airplane, cheerfully dropping off gifts from high up above. Next to St. Nick, a polar bear performs a concert as some groupie penguins dance to the holiday music. A giant Ferris wheel entertains a couple of Santas, snowmen and penguins.

The Christmas scene changes each year, with this year's decorations headed for Vukalcic's mother's house in West Hills for display next year. Following that, they're moved into a storage unit in the San Fernando Valley, where bits and pieces will eventually be donated or reused in future festive scenes.

The elaborate settings have been a Wil-Mont favorite for years, attracting a loyal following of neighbors and even homeless people who have come to expect the familiar sight of the Christmas decorations. In the few instances when the Christmas decorations weren't up within a few weeks after Thanksgiving Day, some neighbors have knocked on Vukalcic's door, inquiring about when they could expect to see their favorite visual holiday feast.

Some families have been spotted taking their Christmas card pictures in front of the house, others, appreciative of the labor that goes into the set-up, have left presents and thank you notes for Vukalcic.

The decoration obsession began a decade ago when Vukalcic decided to dress up her lawn by placing a few wired reindeer out



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

GOING THE EXTRA MILE: Santa presides over the extravagant front lawn decor of Shannon Vukalcic's house in Wil-Mont.

front. The following year, she befriended a professional storefront window dresser who sold used props and decorations from old windows. Those ornaments made their way to become a part of Vukalcic's Christmas decorations.

The obsession grew as Vukalcic found unique ways to dress up her townhouse; one year, setting up seven reindeer — all painted lavender — with a sign reading, "please don't feed the lavender." Another year, the reindeer were painted in different colors and wore boas and wigs, dressed for a New Year's night out on the town.

"I just like to do things differently," she said.

The resulting increase of the Vukalcic's electricity bill varies with the amount of decorating every year, but the December bill easily doubles.

"One year, someone knocked on my door and said 'Do you realize how much electricity you're using?'" said Vukalcic, who works in clinical drugs studies.

The decorations don't stop with

Christmas. A similar elaborate scene is set up in front of Vukalcic's home every Halloween and Easter.

Planning for the decorations begin early and Vukalcic already has the following year's Christmas decorations in mind, a scene that will include trains. The Santa Monican esti-

"I enjoy doing it, but it's also a gift to my neighborhood," she said.

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■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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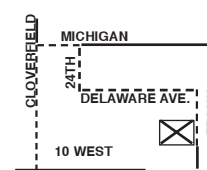
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Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

5	2	7	3	1	8	9	4	6
4	3	1	6	9	5	7	2	8
8	9	6	7	2	4	3	1	5
3	5	4	2	8	9	6	7	1
6	1	9	4	3	7	8	5	2
7	8	2	5	6	1	4	3	9
9	4	3	8	5	2	1	6	7
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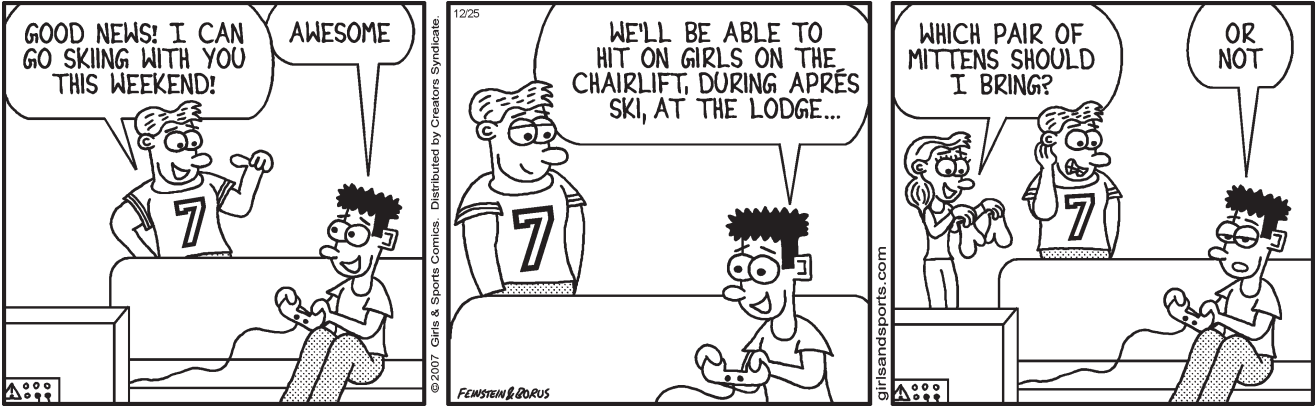
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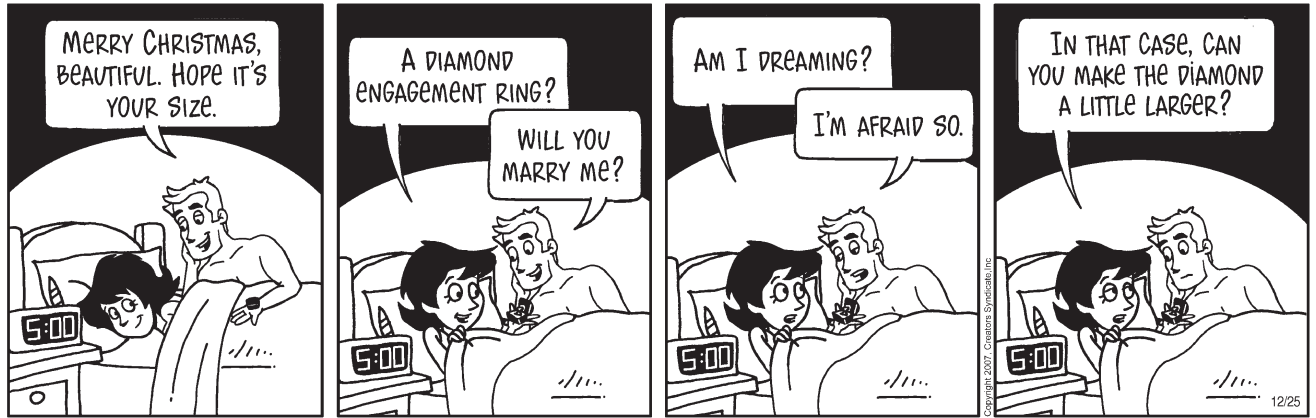
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



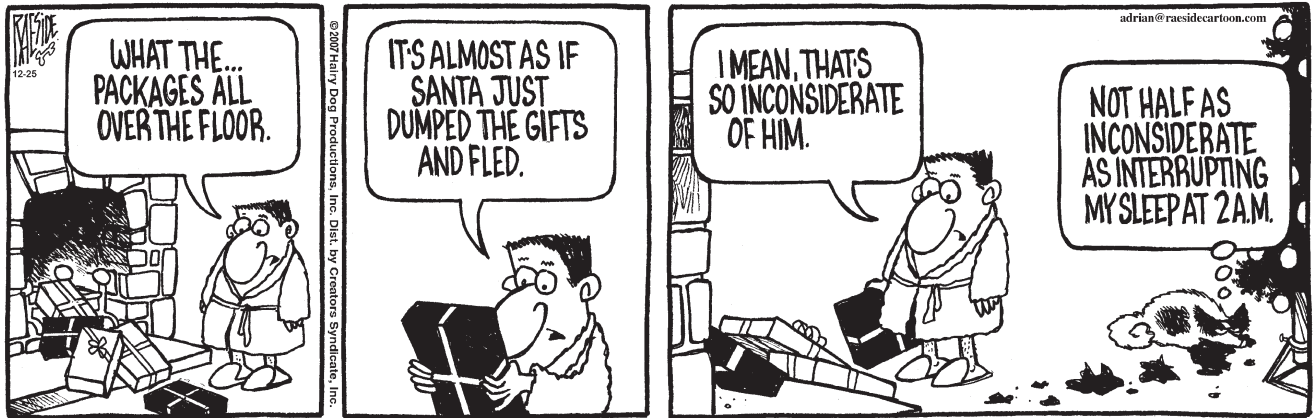
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



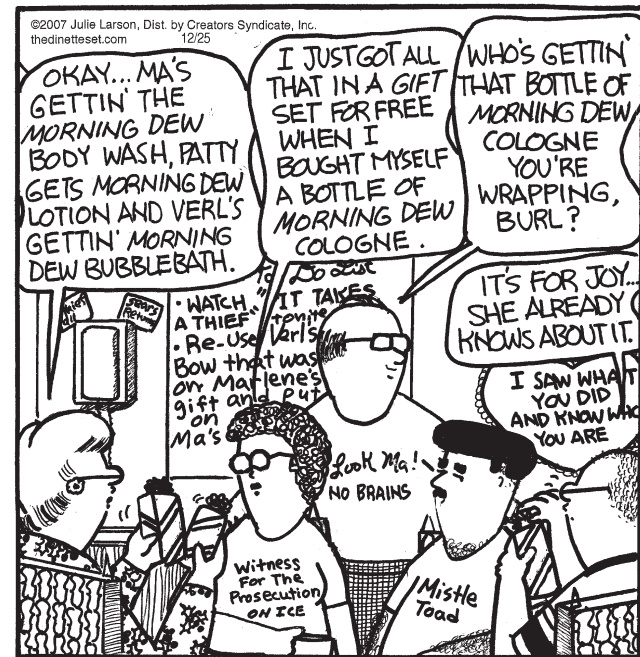
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Michael Tittinger miket@smdp.com

Bill Dawson is the winner of the most recent Mystery Winner contest, being the first to identify that this shot was captured at the Post Office building at Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue. Look for a new Mystery Photo in Monday's edition.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Mil. sch.	41 Tendon
5 Beeper's kin	42 Comfy spots
	43 Disorder

DOWN

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and Sulu	sold
13 Military	2 "Drat!"
salute	3 "—
15 Farm	Fideles"
animal	4 Parties
16 Use a	5 Finish a
pew	hole
17 Winter air	6 Cry of
quality	insight
18 Store	7 Hospital
business	transport
20 Drummer	8 Regal
Krupa	fur
21 Suit	9 Sounded
material	hoarse

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27 Ginger in
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S	E	R	V	E	R		L	E	E	K
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Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
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12-25

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Jane Balogh, 66, was informed in September that she will not be prosecuted for defrauding elections officials in Seattle, despite having illegally registered her dog, Duncan M. MacDonald, to vote. Balogh, protesting how easy officials have made it for people to vote illegally, put her home phone account in Duncan's name, which is all the proof required for registration, then signed him up, and when an absentee ballot arrived, she went public about her scheme. However, despite the public confession, Duncan continued to be sent official absentee ballots for the two subsequent election cycles.

■ In September, police in Hertfordshire, England, stood fast under criticism for their program of placing posters around the area reading, "Don't Commit Crime." Said a police spokeswoman, "If stating the obvious helps to reduce crime or has any impact at all, we will do it." (The police also installed signs at gas stations: "All Fuel Must Be Paid For.")

■ Just when Internet newspaper sites appear to be gaining ground as replacements for printed editions, a 70-year-old woman identified only as Maggie told the Edmonton (Alberta) Sun in September that her paper edition of the Sun is a crucial part of her daily diet, literally. She eats it, in strips, and has, she said, for the past seven years because it tastes good. "I can't explain it," she said, and it was only when she recently experienced a blockage of her esophagus, and doctors found a ball of paper, that she revealed her obsession. Doctors cited by the Sun said that except for the blockage danger, newspaper eating is not unhealthy.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1066 William the Conqueror was crowned king of England.

1776 Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, N.J.

1907 Jazz singer and band-leader Cab Calloway was born in Rochester, N.Y.

1926 Hirohito became emperor of Japan, succeeding his father, Emperor Yoshihito. (Hirohito was formally enthroned almost two years later.)

1941 During World War II, Japan announced the surrender of the British-Canadian garrison at Hong Kong.

1946 Comedian W.C. Fields died in Pasadena, Calif., at age 66.

1977 Comedian Sir Charles Chaplin died in Switzerland at age 88.

1989 Ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were executed following a popular uprising.

1991 Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

1997 Comedian Jerry Seinfeld announced plans to fold his highly successful NBC sitcom "Seinfeld" at the end of that season.

WORD UP!

maudlin \MAWD-lin\, *adjective*: Tearfully or excessively sentimental.

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Atonement (R)
12:45, 3:10, 5:50, 8:25, 10:50
Atonement (R)
1:25, 4:20, 7:25, 10:20
The Great Debaters (PG-13)
1:05, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
P.S. I Love You (PG-13)
1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

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Charlie Wilson's War (R)
10:05am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45
Enchanted (PG)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:10
The Golden Compass (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:20, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
The Kite Runner (PG-13)
10:55am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:55
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)
10:45am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 9:55, 10:50
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)
10:15am, 1:05, 4:05, 7:30, 10:25
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)
10:00am, 12:40, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:05

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Juno (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
Persepolis (PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
The Savages (R)
1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG)
11:10am, 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
The Bucket List (PG-13)
11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30
I Am Legend (PG-13)
12:00, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) DLP-Digital Projection
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

Borat is dead

Sacha Baron Cohen says he's retiring alter egos

SACHA BARON COHEN tells The Daily Telegraph that he's retiring the clueless Kazakh journalist, as well as his alter ego, aspiring rapper Ali G. "When I was being Ali G and Borat I was in character sometimes 14 hours a day

and I came to love them, so admitting I am never going to play them again is quite a sad thing," the 36-year-old actor-comedian says in the British newspaper's Friday edition. "It is like saying good-bye to a loved one. It is

hard, and the problem with success, although it's fantastic, is that every new person who sees the Borat movie is one less person I 'get' with Borat again, so it's a kind of self-defeating form, really." Baron Cohen brought

Borat Sagdiyev – an anti-Semitic buffoon in search of Pamela Anderson – to the masses last year with his smash comedy, "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." He first

introduced the character on "Da Ali G Show," which was carried in the U.S. on HBO. Baron Cohen can be seen as a singing barber in Tim Burton's "Sweeney Todd."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADAMS HAS DOUBTS

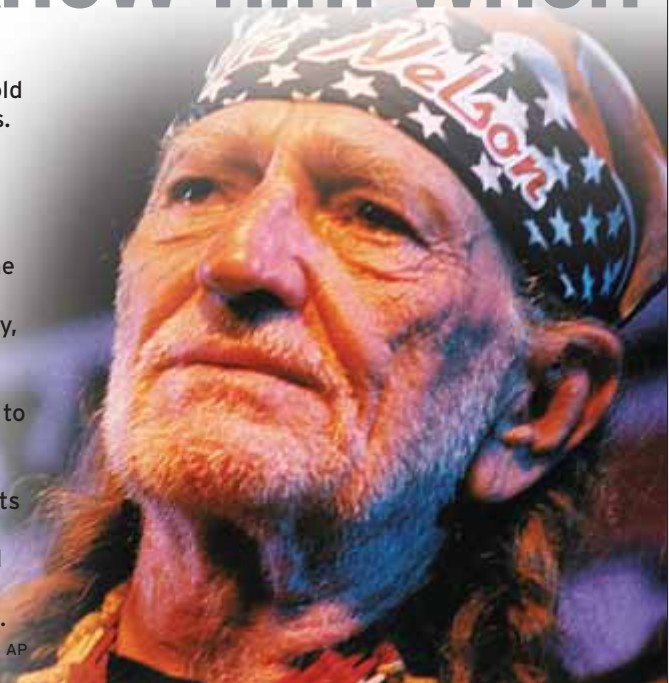
For all the buzz **AMY ADAMS** has earned with her performance as a princess in Disney's "Enchanted," she still has doubts about her career path. "Am I doing it right?" she said. "I don't think all success and failure is judged by a career. I'm not married. I don't have children. Sometimes I wish I read more books than scripts. Did I choose the right road?" Adams, 33, told Newsweek in its edition that hits newsstands Monday that she's even having trouble sleeping. "I drew a picture of myself in the third grade of what I would be when I grew up."

AP

Willie Nelson donates \$40K to town that knew him when

WILLIE NELSON hasn't forgotten the town that knew him before he was famous. The 74-year-old country singer has donated \$40,000 to Vancouver, the southwestern Washington city where he sold some of his first records a half-century ago. Nelson performed at The Amphitheater near Vancouver on June 30. He promised to share some of the proceeds with the city and area charities. In the late 1950s, Nelson worked as a disc jockey for Vancouver station KVAN. He financed

and recorded the single "No Place for Me" and sold it to some of his listeners. Nelson soon moved back to his native Texas and then on to Nashville, Tenn., and fame. Vancouver received the \$40,000 check three weeks ago. On Wednesday, the city gave \$15,000 to the Humane Society of Washington and \$15,000 to the Boys and Girls Club. Colleen Kawahara, Vancouver special projects coordinator, said the remaining \$10,000 would be used for efforts to improve city government.



AP

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

Enjoy the glow, Aquarius

Happy Birthday!

Let others strut their stuff this year, even if a side of you would like to steal the limelight more often. You have nothing to prove, as you will discover. If you are single, be more open to that person who could be a touch different. Your popularity will soar. If you are attached, give your sweetie plenty of one-on-one time. He or she will need it, as you keep seizing the limelight. LEO reads you cold.



Born Today

Singer Jimmy Buffet (1946)
Actor Humphrey Bogart (1899)

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Family and your immediate loved ones dominate, as they should. Indulge a loved one with attention and caring when others are distracted. You have the skill to squeeze everyone in. You will do just that. Tonight: Express your feelings freely.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might be a touch too busy to stop and share with everyone, but you do a great job at squeezing in others. Your attention means more than you know. Center on what is important and make strong choices. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Watch a tendency to lose the true meaning of this holiday with the swirl of action and gifts. Slow down and take time to simmer or center. Reach out for others and make that extra effort. Tonight: Speak, share and smile.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your energy helps many. You certainly are the sign that most appreciates holidays and family. You share and lift others' spirits. Investigate someone's need to be possessive or have his or her way. Tonight: Go for what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ Though mildly out of sorts, you can decide to make the best of the moment. Understand what is happening within your immediate circle. Share special feelings. You revive post-happenings and beam. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Use the early hours of the holiday to express your depth and caring. You beam, and so do others, simply because they are around you. Take some personal or quiet time toward the end of the day. Tonight: Give a personal thank-you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to touch base with quite a few people but have limited energy and time. Listen to your inner voice. Do your best. Remember a special friend later in the day. He or she might be alone. Tonight: Zero in on that special person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Make a point of staying tuned into the spiritual meaning of this holiday; you could be so overwhelmed otherwise. Others look to you for direction and meaning. Give them just that. Tonight: Up late visiting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Defer and understand. Share your time with others, but independently. Think in terms of adding that special caring with others. If you're feeling upset, save it. You can clear the air later on. Tonight: Touch base with those at a distance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others continue to maintain their high profile. You might have no choice but to sit back. Make special time for a loved one. Express your depth and caring. Help someone who might feel uncomfortable. Tonight: Time with your very favorite person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Chip in and help someone with a problem. Examine what needs to happen more carefully. Listen to a child who might be overwhelmed with excitement. Help others relax. Step in and help out. Tonight: Enjoy the remaining glow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Be more kidlike and get into the holiday. Don't let your mind or judgment interfere with the mirth and joy that surround this day. Others appreciate your depth and feelings. Do share. Tonight: If you're tired, slow down.

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Obituaries

MARGARET C. BONACHEA
Bonachea, Margaret C. Passed away on December 5, 2007 at the age of 92. Beloved mother, grandmother, and aunt. Services will be held on Tuesday December 11, 2007 at 10 A.M. Spalding Mortuary (323) 934-1181 may be contacted for further info.

Miscellaneous

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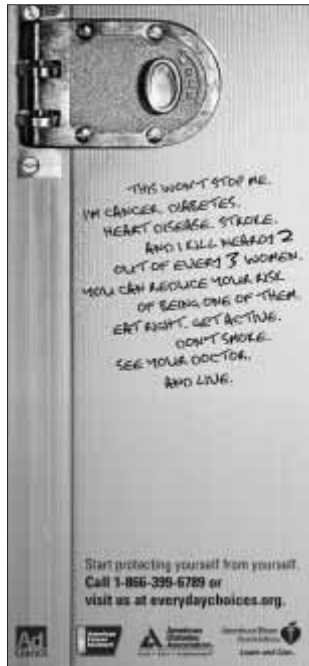
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Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is given that on December 26, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. or as soon after that time as the matter may be heard, petitioner will move for an order adjudicating the Santa Monica Daily Press as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles. The hearing will be held in Department 20 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The Petition sets forth the following:
1. Petitioner, Ross Furukawa, is publisher of the newspaper known as Santa Monica Daily Press, which is seeking adjudicated under Government Code §6008 as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Santa Monica.
2. Santa Monica Daily Press is published for the dissemination of local or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character in the City of Santa Monica, California. The business address is 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica, CA 90401.
3. Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and substantial paid distribution.
4. For more than three years preceding the filing of the petition, the petitioning newspaper has been established under the name of Santa Monica Daily Press, and has been so established and published, that is, issued and sold or distributed regularly each weekday in the City of Santa Monica.
5. During each of the three-year period preceding the filing of this petition, the newspaper has maintained a minimum coverage of local news and intelligence of a general character of not less than twenty-five percent of its total inches; it has a principal office of publication located in the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles.

DATED: December 13, 2007
Lisa Grace-Kellogg
Attorney for Petitioner
Santa Monica Daily Press
14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 Dec 2007

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072574226 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as EMPIRE BY DESIGN, 3755 MENTONE #8, P O BOX 741963, L.A. CA. 90004, 90034. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : LEVAR BROWN, 3755 MENTONE #8, L.A. CA. 90034 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/19/2007. /s/: LEVAR BROWN This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/19/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq. Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/18/2007, 12/25/2007, 1/1/2008, 1/8/2008

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		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
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North of Montana	=	\$ 4,196,810	\$ 1,841,609
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,017,800	\$ 1,041,952
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,049,800	\$ 676,993
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,371,353	\$ 689,357
Ocean Park	=	\$ 2,004,778	\$ 963,513

Statistics updated every Friday

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