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Vandalism At Construction Site

DOWNTOWN – Vandals hit a construction site in Los Angeles, causing a fire in an apparent attempt to halt the progress of a privately owned skyscraper under construction in the downtown sector.

The area was marked with an unusual crater that severely cracked the cement surrounding the structure.

No suspects have been arrested at this point, but some graffiti suggests that the vandalism was part of the ongoing sectarian violence between Muslims and Catholics in Los Angeles. The owners released a statement saying that no permanent damage was caused, and the building construction continues on schedule. Damage is estimated to be over a hundred thousand dollars.



Desinger Drugs Return

By: Charles Chiselton

LOS ANGELES – A number of new synthetic drugs are surfacing on the streets again. These drugs, often called “designer drugs,” were originally created to bypass the law. Now they are reentering the market as chemists are able to create products with effects perceived as superior to more commonly available illicit drugs. In many cases, the side effects are more serious or deleterious as well.

In the case of a new drug called Pale, it is becoming increasingly popular due to its effects of euphoria. However, its side effects are very severe; it is often accompanied by blackouts, memory loss, and loss of vision. Doctors believe that long-term effects could prove even more dangerous.

Also entering the market as a hip club drug is "Sleek". Sleek users report euphoria, a sense of narcoleptic well-being, and increased energy and mental attention. Police report that Sleek is chemically indistinguishable from meth amphetamine derivatives, but its aggressive place in the street market can only be attributed to a central, organized source.

Vatican III?

By: Darius Kanman

Like Boston and Rome, Los Angeles

of the early 21st Century has become a bastion of the Roman Catholic Church. The combination of a large immigrant population and traditional Spanish heritage, and the outspoken faith of celebrities, have created a large percentage of Catholics in the nation's second largest city. That population base has been energized by a conservative, traditionalist movement that seeks to return the Catholic Church to its pre-Vatican II roots. With the addition of fuel to the fire of faith like Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ", the magnum opus of the Gloria Dei movement to which Gibson professes to adhere, and firebrand religious leaders like Father Ignitio Coronado, and Los Angeles has become a hotbed of religious renewal and clamor for reform.

"Vatican II was an abomination in the eyes of God." said Fr. Coronado, who preaches at Our Lady of Perpetual Sorrow in Chatsworth. "God is a god of mercy, but also the god of wrath. It was a mistake to allow the recognition of the right to freedom of faith. There is only one true faith, and that is the Holy Catholic Church. Any other religion is a road to damnation; and as Christians we are charged with saving the souls of all humanity. It is our divine and holy duty to give everyone the chance to be baptised in the only church of Jesus Christ, be absolved of their sins, and be saved. We will save every soul, if we have to put an end to every other church on earth to do it!" said Fr. Coronado.

Given the large voting block commanded by largely Latino Catholics in Los Angeles, city officials are taking notice. Even more, Vatican III adherents, so called because they have petitioned the church to repeal Vatican II and return to traditional worship, are organizing to raise money, buy advertising, and stay active in their communities. "Los Angeles is a city founded on faith, and the city government is happy to see a resurgence of good ol' fashioned virtue." said Lieutenant Mayor, Monty Scott. "We're on the side of the lord! Vote Villaraigosa!"

Suns Win

By: Champ Chunk

LOS ANGELES - Road games on consecutive nights can make even the best of teams look as haggard as plow-horses on those second nights. But with Phoenix not expending much energy in a 29-point loss Tuesday at Sacramento, the Suns pounced on the Clippers for a 20-point lead in the second quarter and had enough gas left to hang on for a 112-102 victory Wednesday at Staples Center. The win lengthened the Suns' Pacific Division lead on the Clippers to 3 1/2 games, the same gap that Phoenix would have to make up on Dallas by Feb. 5 to make Mike D'Antoni the West All-Star coach.

Anacapa Island Ceded

By: Dell Kancho

As reparation for unconstitutional internment of Japanese-American citizens during World War II,



Anacapa Island

the U.S. Federal government has ceded Anacapa Island to survivors of the camps. Citizen's groups representing the interest of the camp survivors cited the loss of the properties they were stripped of during their confinement, the loss of wages, and the psychological trauma of being treated as criminals by the country they were citizens of. Anacapa, currently a national park, will be turned over to a joint council of Japanese-American camp survivors and governmental representatives. It will be apportioned to the survivors based on the estimated loss of the value of their property, and the recommendations of the council – effective March 1st, 2006.

Stallions "Freed" From Ranch

By: Doug Karch

A midnight raid in Rancho Cucamonga resulted in the first documented case of horse rustling since the 19th Century. The missing stallions, most of them Mustangs raised in the wild and captured and trained by ranch hands, were found the next day, milling in a nearby arroyo where water and brush were plentiful.

Ranch owner Mike "Big Mike" Hixon commented, "These are the worst horse-thieves I've ever heard of, they just opened up their corrals, chased them out, and left 'em alone."

Police are investigating the incident, but thus far a volunteer posse of local would-be cowboys have managed to round up all but a few of the escaped Mustangs. The only clue to the identity of the inept thieves was the message "Aslan is on the move!" written in the dust near the corral gate.

Hixon has as yet to press charges.

Birthday Celebration Turns Tragic, Humorous

by: Chewie Chung

TORRANCE – Reports persist of a serial child killer in Los Angeles, while the police deny that there is any validity to the story. The murderer has been dubbed “The Chupacabras Killer” because the alleged victims were drained of blood and found predominately in Mexican-American neighborhoods. The county coroner’s office has declined to comment on any inquiries regarding the presence or state of any victims.

OOC Note: Stories have a byline. The initials of the writer of a story will match up to the ST running that storyline.

Christian: Deathtone7@yahoo.com

Davy Krieger: davy.krieger@gmail.com

Mike Hixxon: vanderrick@adelphia.net