



START HIM UP
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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THE BRING IT ON ISSUE

COMMUNITY PROFILES KATINA ZINNER



Photo courtesy © Maya Myers

ZINNER

Local artist stands up for elephant

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

L.A. ZOO The fate of a lone elephant here hangs in the balance but not if artist/animal activist and longtime Santa Monica resident Katina Zinner has anything to say about it.

The ebullient Zinner, who fuses her personal connection to nature and love of animals into thought provoking, emotionally turbulent yet sometimes playful "Flowing Abstracts" — magnificent contemporary oils that also suggest a contemplation of space and movement — has long been involved with the Los Angeles Alliance for Elephants and was part of the recent protests at Los Angeles City Hall over the L.A. Zoo's proposed "Pachyderm Forest" and their one remaining elephant, Billy.

"The city is proposing to spend \$42 million to expand the elephant exhibit, and bring in six, seven, or eight more elephants. These creatures need proper room to grow. They should be at a sanctuary," said Zinner who believes the 3.6-acre compound would not provide suitable growing room for its occupants.

According to reports, 13 elephants have died at the L.A. Zoo since 1975 from captivity related diseases varying from foot disease to arthritis.

"They [the Zoo] sent several elephants to a Tennessee sanctuary but they already had infections on their feet because they're not

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HOT SHOT

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Santa Monica High School's Garrett Frick (right) goes up for a shot against Palos Verdes Peninsula defenders Andrew Yukawa (left) and Yusef Jordan during the Vikings' 58-44 home victory on Saturday. With the win, Samohi improves its record to 13-2 on the season.

Recession hits recyclers extra hard

BY ROB LAWRENCE
Special to the Daily Press

MID-CITY Instead of a black Monday it was a black month last October for one of Santa Monica's leading recyclers, Allan Co.

Depending on the commodity, prices for recycled goods have dropped anywhere from 10 to 40 percent, and even more in some cases, said Adam Holt, general manager of the Allan Co. Santa Monica Recycling Center.

As consumer demand for autos, appliances and new homes dropped, so did the steel and pulp mills' demand for scrap, paper and other recyclables.

"For the most part it was the global economic situation, it was the main factor," Holt said. "This time of year is pretty notorious for being slow, but not like this. It happened really fast. October was a bloodbath, it was going down — sometimes 10 to 15 times a day. It was scary."

Holt was referring to the price on their most commonly received commodity, old corrugated containers (OCC), a paper product. Holt said in the summer the price for OCC was as high as \$130 for a ton.

"The price today is \$10 [a ton] — just a complete meltdown," Holt said.

Jose Ramirez is a regular paper recycler at the Santa Monica Recycling Center. He takes excess papers from the L.A. Times and recycles them. Ramirez said the price drop has affected him "big time."

Before the month of October Ramirez would average \$80 to \$100 for every truck load he brought in. Now, for the exact same amount he's getting \$14 to \$18.

The recycling job takes him about three

SEE RECYCLE PAGE 10

State offices to close first and third Fridays due to lingering fiscal crisis

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Californians — and their state government employees — will start feeling the pain of the state's fiscal crisis in February when offices will be closed two days a month.

The recurring shutdown of state govern-

ment is the first time budget problems have forced California officials to take such a step, according to the Department of Personnel Administration.

The Schwarzenegger administration announced the move on Friday, revealing how it planned to implement the executive order the governor signed last month mandating furloughs for state workers.

State offices will close the first and third Fridays of each month starting Feb. 6. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said the step is needed to start addressing a budget deficit projected at \$42 billion through June 2010.

The two-day-a-month furloughs are expected to save \$1.3 billion over that period.

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Zinner wants exhibit closed

FROM CP PAGE 1

walking enough and if they're not walking enough it gets to the point where the problem can't be fixed, and they die," Zinner said. "Billy is really alone. He spends his time unnaturally bobbing his head. Elephants are social creatures and Billy's head bobbing is indicative of frustration and boredom, behaviors that are not natural in the wild."

Zinner has worked tirelessly with L.A. City Council member Tony Cardenas who also believes the elephant exhibit should be shut down.

"The fees for treating an animal with a vet discount are 20K per month. L.A. city should step up ... and close the elephant exhibit. We need to be progressive and we're not. To spend this kind of money when we have so many other [zoo related] issues where money could be allocated in more humane ways is a crime," Zinner said.

As for her work ... Zinner's exhibitions have ranged from the sublime such as her "Tides of Emotion" at the James Coleman Gallery — shared with her famous sculptor mother Christa Zinner — to the downright outrageous Live Draw! — a provocative event held at DCA Fine Arts Gallery, in which guests sipped wine and watched as Zinner created on-the-spot vibrant pastels from live nude models.

Fortunately it's not often that Zinner's job requires intense concentration under such nerve wracking public scrutiny, but Zinner — who spent her formative years traveling between California and Europe while her father, Peter Zinner, the late Oscar winning editor ("The Deer Hunter"), worked with luminaries in cinema — is no stranger to attention. Encouraged to draw at a young age, and one time allowed to cover an entire kitchen in felt pen drawings, Zinner had her first solo art show when she was only 11 years old.

"My father was working on "The Godfather," we were living in San Francisco at the time and this woman [at the show] was really enjoying the drawings and was so enthusiastic about them but to me it was just kind of natural. I would just doodle. I was just a kid, so I wasn't making the connection, "Wow, this is a great opportunity to show my work," Zinner said.

Creativity didn't end at the canvas. Zinner also learned the skill of film editing from her father who taught her to cut 16mm by hand. Of the two mediums — editing and painting — Zinner said, "They're both very focused, but editing is meticulous and collaborative. I put together great moments already captured on film. Somebody's lit the set. Someone's directed the piece ... so it's really not your own work. A white canvas is such a gift because nobody else has had laid a hand to it. It's yours."

When she's not painting or editing she volunteers at Martine Colette's Wildlife Way Station, the California Wildlife Center and the Los Angeles Alliance for Elephants or is busy rescuing animals, recruiting members and volunteering time and money to these organizations.

On Wednesday, Jan. 14 the motion to halt the elephant exhibit construction and send Billy to a sanctuary goes to the Los Angeles City Council Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee. Its members will support, oppose or make recommendations on the issue and on Friday, Jan. 16, those recommendations will be put to the Los Angeles City Council for a vote.

"People should call the City Council members to indicate their support for shutting down, halting construction and for sending Billy to a sanctuary. Or better yet, show up at the City Council meeting this Friday," Zinner said.

For more information check out www.helpelephants.com and www.helpbilly.org

Taylor Van Arsdale is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Talfish@roadrunner.com.

Deadline to submit is March 31

FROM GREEN LIT PAGE 3

Books may be submitted by following the guidelines on the library's Web site, www.smpl.org/greenprize.htm.

The submission deadline is March 31. A selection committee consisting of librarians and local authorities on sustainable issues will choose the winning titles that demonstrate outstanding achievement in their respective categories. The winners will be announced at a presentation ceremony at the Main Library in October.

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SEE YA: People recycle their cans and plastics at Allan Co. Santa Monica Recycling Center Wednesday afternoon.

Paper recyclers in distress

FROM RECYCLE PAGE 1

hours a day and he is losing money doing it. However, Ramirez keeps working to maintain a good relationship with the L.A. Times so he can continue to collect their papers. He is optimistic that the prices will go up.

"I see a light at the end of the tunnel," Ramirez said.

Ramirez is one of few paper recycling regulars at the center. Holt said during the summer they had nearly 40 regular customers bringing in cardboard every day. Now they are seeing an average of five.

"A lot of these guys, with the little trucks, they go from \$130 to \$10 — all of a sudden that doesn't even pay for their gas," Holt said.

There just isn't a demand for recycled paper. Regardless, Allan Co. keep their doors wide open for all recyclables, even the material they can't sell.

"You got to be able to hold onto that material until the [paper] mills start buying," Holt said. "A month, six months, two years, that's the burning question."

Currently Allan Co. has three warehouses where they are storing excess recycled material. Holt was firm when he said they would not be throwing anything away.

"If we have to get more [warehouses] we will and we'll wait it out," Holt said. "It's all we can do."

In addition to stockpiling their recyclables they have had to trim their workforce hours. Allan Co. has made sure to cut back on overtime. The recycling sorters are no longer specialized sorters, they have to help each other out and "do every job" to finish the work faster.

"The most important thing is we haven't had to lay anyone off," Holt said.

Amidst falling prices on recyclables there is some good news. The prices for glass and plastic bottles, and aluminum has not fallen significantly.

For the past 10 years Curtis Young has trekked from West Hollywood to the recycling center to redeem bottles and cans.

Young said Allan Co.'s prices are worth the journey. In West Hollywood he would get \$8 and at Allan Co. he gets \$20 for the same amount of bottles and cans.

"They told me about [the price drop]," Young said. "It



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FALLING: Price list for Allan Co. Santa Monica Recycling Center.

was nothing big though."

While the recyclables continue to pile up in Allan Co.'s warehouse, Holt remains optimistic that the economy will turn around.

"We've taken every precaution we can," Holt said. "We're waiting for a brighter day."

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