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THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 63

Santa Monica Daily Press

BAD APPLE?
SEE PAGE 6

Since 2001: A news odyssey
THE GOVERNMENTAL ACTION ISSUE



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

QUICK FIX: **The new assessment would be used to help maintain and repair the downtown area.**

Keeping the streets clean

City Hall contemplates new assessment to maintain downtown

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Downtown Santa Monica residents could one day be required to chip into a pool of money used to keep the streets in the largely commercial district in pristine shape.

Their possible monetary contribution into the upkeep of the neighborhood is part of a series of measures aimed to maintain the downtown area's reputation as one of the premier shopping and dining destinations on the Westside. In order to achieve this end, City Hall has been working with a task force and consultant, Progressive Urban Management Associates, to develop innovative approaches to the maintenance and management of the downtown area.

The City Council on Tuesday night reviewed several of those proposals, which include the elimination of the Central Business District (CBD) — an area from which the Bayside District Corp., a private/public entity that manages and promotes the downtown area, draws approximately $200,000 in assessments every year. The district, which is roughly bounded by Seventh Street, Ocean Avenue, Wilshire Boulevard and the I-10 Freeway, would be replaced with the so-called Property Based Assessment District (PBAD), which would encompass a larger area, including residences.

"(Downtown) was a very challenging area and to date the return on the investment for both the community and city and businesses ... has been pretty spectacular," said Robert York, a consultant for Bayside.

A 15-member governing body could be appointed to oversee the expenditure of the funds raised by the assessments. One of the recommendations presented to the council includes the establishment of a Board of Directors that would include seven members selected by rate payers, seven members by the council and a representative for the City Manager, serving as the tie-breaker.

The new district, which would need to be approved in a ballot measure by a majority of affected property owners would generate an estimated $3.7 million, which would be used to enhance current maintenance service levels and marketing campaigns, as well as several new initiatives, including an ambassador program for the Third Street Promenade.

The ambassador program, which would cost roughly $1.2 million a year, would provide guest services on the promenade seven days a week, 15 hours a day, not only guiding and helping promenade patrons, but also serving as the eyes and ears on the street.

SEE DOWNTOWN PAGE 10

Protesters could face new restrictions

City Council adopts ordinance to protect targeted residences

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Protesters planning to stage demonstrations at the homes of animal testers or the subjects of other volatile issues might soon have to take a step back, 50 feet to be precise.

The City Council on Tuesday adopted the first reading of an ordinance that creates a 50-foot buffer zone around residences being targeted by protesters. A second reading, formally putting the ordinance into effect, will be scheduled at a future council meeting.

The intent of the proposed law is to allow free speech while creating some privacy for the targeted homeowner.

If passed, City Hall would follow several other municipalities in Southern California that have passed similar measures. In Los Angeles, protesters are limited to a 100-foot distance while in San Diego County, picketers cannot come closer than 300 feet, according to Sgt. Jay Moroso of the Santa Monica Police Department.

Other cities have taken more restrictive measures — in

SEE BUFFER PAGE 10


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



An adventure to the Caribbean Sea
2601 Main St., 3:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Don your flippers and float down to the Ocean Park Branch library for a film and sound presentation on the colorful reef fish community of the Caribbean Sea. For more information, call (310) 392-3804 or visit www.smpl.org.

Improve eclectically
1323-A Third St. Promenade, 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Westside Eclectic's Level 1 Improv class is an introduction to the art of improv comedy. The intro covers core improv ideals, concepts and vocabulary such as hyper-listening, give and take, yes-anding, efficient communication and emotional response. The WE teaching staff creates a warm and open learning environment that facilitates establishing the foundation of a seasoned improviser.

'Hollywood Homicide: A Mystery Author Panel'
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Authors Harley Jane Kozak, Gayle Bartos Pool, Rick Copp and Bill Bryan, whose latest murder mysteries take place in Hollywood, discuss and sign their books at the Main Library. Free program. Seating is first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Green Living Workshop
402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
The Sustainable Works six-week Green Living Workshop covers water; energy; waste; chemicals; transportation and travel; and shopping and food. Get the latest eco-info, save money, and lower your ecological footprint. To register, contact Barent Roth at (310) 452-8716, ext. 1 or rothbarent@smc.edu.

What's New This Week
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

Friday, Jan. 25, 2008

Art L.A.
1855 Main St., noon — 8 p.m.
ART LA, the New Los Angeles International Contemporary Art Fair presents 60 top international and Los Angeles-based galleries representing an informed cross-section of today's contemporary art trends and directions. The finest examples of contemporary art work will be available for view and sale. Admission for one day is $15 or purchase a 3-day pass for $25; tickets can be purchased by visiting www.artfairsinc.com. For more information call (323) 937-4659.

The agent disguised as an author
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4 p.m.
The Santa Monica Public Library, in collaboration with Children's Book World, invites readers to meet author Anthony Horowitz at the Main Library. A discussion, followed by a Q & A session with Mr. Horowitz, will begin in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, followed by a book signing. Mr. Horowitz has written several series, including the "Diamond Brothers Mysteries," "The Gatekeepers," and the "Alex Rider Adventures," an action-packed series featuring a 14-year-old super spy who works for Britain's MI6. "Snakehead," the newest "Alex Rider Adventure," takes readers from Australia to Southeast Asia, with plenty of danger and deceit in between. For more information on Anthony Horowitz, please visit his Web site at www.anthonyhorowitz.com.

'Choosing the Quiet'
1227 Second St., 5 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Maurizio Barattucci's solo show, "Choosing the Quiet" will open at Emeritus College. Barattucci taught at the Art Department of Santa Monica College for 30 years and retired recently. The exhibition will be shown until February 29, 2008. For more information on this free event, call (310) 434-4306.

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.



CORRECTION:
In Monday's edition, a commentary by Bill Bauer ("The hard truth on Measure R," page 4, Jan. 21) should have stated that the committee in support of Measure R did file campaign disclosure statements with the Los Angeles County Clerk by the Jan. 7 deadline.



Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

NEW RULES FOR PLASTIC: **Gloria Ramirez packs her car with plastic bags after grocery shopping at Pavilions on Lincoln Boulevard on Tuesday. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently passed a measure to reduce the use of plastic bags.**

County has a new bag

Los Angeles Supervisors adopt plastic bag reduction measure

BY MELODY HANATANI I Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN, L.A. Just one month after a day-long county-wide event that advertised the ills of using plastic bags, the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday adopted a voluntary program encouraging grocers to curb the use of the ecologically unfriendly bags.

It was a move lauded by the grocers association and criticized by the environmental sector that had been pushing for an outright ban on plastic bag usage in the county. Just last month, Heal the Bay sponsored the "Day Without a Plastic Bag" event to educate the public about the detrimental effects of plastic bags on the environment and the potential to suffocate marine life. Several businesses participated in the event, some handing out reusable cloth bags, others offering a discount for customers that opted out of using the plastic grocery bags.

The newly adopted "Single Use Bag Reduction and Recycling Program," which is only enforceable in the unincorporated areas of the county, would create a road map to gradually decrease plastic bag usage in the county, establishing two sets of benchmarks for reduction that must be met in order to avoid an ordinance that would put into in effect an outright ban.

An original staff proposal recommended that the use of plastic bags at large supermarkets and retailers be reduced by 35 percent by 2010 and 70 percent by 2013 to curtail an ordinance from being adopted. The board, with initial resistance from supervisors Zev Yaroslavsky and Gloria Molina who reportedly didn't want to see a water-downed version of the staff recommendation, approved an amended program that changes the benchmarks from 35 to 30 percent in 2010 and from 70 to 65 percent for 2013.

Both supervisors voted against the amendment initially because they felt it was a last-minute attempt by the grocery industry to weaken the measure, but eventually decided to support the plan, according to Joel Bellman, the spokesman for Yaroslavsky, whose district includes Santa Monica.

"Zev felt he had to support something and something was better than nothing," Bellman said on Wednesday. "Coming this far to vote against it and possibly participate in the potential sinking of the entire thing over this last minute glitch was counterproductive and not an acceptable outcome after nine months of heavy lifting and negotiations back and forth."

Heal the Bay officials criticized the measure immediately after the board's vote, saying it doesn't go far enough.

SEE **REDUCTION** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM BAY

Caltrans to limit road runoff

A federal court has ruled that Caltrans must begin filtering runoff from 1,000 miles of highways in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, potentially keeping more than six million pounds of toxic pollution out of area waters each year.

The project is slated to be completed by 2011.

The plaintiffs in the suit, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Santa Monica Baykeeper, applaud the decision that would potentially stop millions of gallons of pollution from reaching Southern California waters and off of the region's beaches.

"Highways are the backbone of Southern California's economy, but they are also a major source of toxic pollution in our waterways," said David Beckman, director of NRDC's Coastal Water Quality Project and lead attorney for the plaintiffs.

"Every rainstorm sends a toxic soup of oil, grease, lead and other dangerous ingredients that accumulate on our roads, rushing into Santa Monica Bay," Beckman said. "This agreement means cleaner water and safer beaches for everyone in the region."

Caltrans will start cleaning up the runoff using a variety of methods to capture pollution long before it reaches the ocean. Cleanup options include sand traps, catch basins and new porous pavement that catch polluted runoff and absorb the contaminants.

DAILY PRESS STAFF

SMMUSD HDQTRS

Speaking up for special education

Parents looking to participate in discussions about the school district's controversial special education program can do so at a series of community meetings to be held in February.

The special education program has drawn criticism from parents and the City Council because of a confidentiality clause in settlement agreements for special education students. The contentious issue has fueled some parents' distrust of the district.

District officials said Wednesday that parents and other interested parties will be able to meet with Dr. Lou Barber four times between Feb. 6 and 7. Barber has been selected to conduct an independent, comprehensive review of special education, something which the City Council requested in order for the district to receive a $530,000 increase in aid.

The first meeting will be held Feb. 6 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the district headquarters, 1651 16th Street. Two meetings will take place Feb. 7 at the district headquarters, while the final meeting will be held that same day at the Malibu High School Library, located at 30215 Morning View Dr. in Malibu.

The meetings at the district will start at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.. The Malibu meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.

Those who can't attend can e-mail Barber at lou.barber@smmusd.org.

The district encourages parents and guardians to attend one of these sessions to ensure that the review is as complete as possible.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

This trustee supports Prop. 92

Editor:

Community Colleges have been a gateway to a better life for millions of Californians. The demand for community colleges continues to grow and we need to ensure that our colleges remain affordable and have the resources they need to serve that growing population. Proposition 92 on the Feb. 5 ballot would do just that by providing adequate, stable funding and limiting fees.

For those who question whether California can afford the cost of Proposition 92, perhaps the better question is can we afford not to invest in our greatest asset, our people. According to a 2005 UC Berkeley study, for every dollar spent on community colleges, California taxpayers realize an additional $3. The biggest mistake we can make during the current fiscal crisis is to neglect our human capital for the future.

At Santa Monica College, we're proud to have transferred tens of thousands of students to four-year universities and provided crucial training to workers in a wide range of professions, including nursing, computer technology, new media and early childhood education. These highly trained workers are needed more than ever.

For many Californians, community college is the only opportunity they have to get a college education. By passing Proposition 92, we can ensure that everyone has a chance to go to college and we invest in a stronger California for all of us.

Rob Rader
Chair, Santa Monica College Board of Trustees

Biofuels are great — sometimes

Editor:

Lloyd Garver's column ("Are biofuels just garbage?" page 4, Jan. 19-20) correctly identified some of the potential concerns of biofuels being made from crops that are grown in rain forests and other sensitive habitats. However, there is plenty of biodiesel available that is made from crops that are grown responsibly on American farms.

Our Santa Monica based company, Southern California Disposal and Recycling, converted our fleet of diesel collection trucks from petroleum based diesel to biodiesel last May. We switched to biodiesel because we wanted to do our part to reduce global warming. By using fuel made from soybeans we have made a significant reduction in green house gas emissions. We have reduced carbon monoxide and particulate matter by almost 50 percent and each year we will prevent well over 1 million pounds of CO2 from being released into the atmosphere.

This commitment to reducing green house gasses does come at a cost to our company because right now biodiesel is more expensive. However, we feel that protecting the environment is worth the cost. There are new and exciting technologies emerging in the biofuels field such as making fuel from prairie grass and even algae. We believe that our support of biodiesel will help push these new technologies into the market place. The use of responsibly made biofuels will make a significant environment impact as well as lessening our nation's … dependency on foreign oil. We are proud to be leaders in these efforts and encourage other operators of diesel fleets to join us in making an impact on global warming and domestic resource independence.

Mike Matosian
Vice-President
Southern California Disposal and Recycling



Dispatches from Dystopia

Ryan Hyatt — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Money marriages often end in ruins

THE SCREAMING VIETNAMESE WOMAN standing on my doorstep wasn't a survivor of the My Lai Massacre. She was a mail order bride who lived in a house down the street, fleeing her abusive husband.

I welcomed hysterical Tran Dinh An and her eight-year-old son, Nam, into my home. They ate strawberries and sipped milk at my kitchen table as I pieced together the tale of woe which brought them before me one sweltering afternoon last August.

Tran had come from Vietnam with an agreement to marry Mick Hitchens, a retired veteran of the U.S. Marines and long-time resident of my neighborhood.

Mick had made his marital arrangements with Tran over the Internet. Apparently he wanted a woman who would care for him and his paraplegic brother, confined to a wheelchair. Tran's journey to America would be a motherly sacrifice. In exchange for her devotion to Mick and his brother, Nam would gain access to American citizenship and all of the opportunities that come with it

Mick the patriarch didn't provide a hospitable welcome for his new wife and son. Tran and Nam found themselves locked in separate, windowless bedrooms whenever they weren't relegated to household chores. Police later described the bedrooms to me as "dungeons."

Tran wasn't allowed to make phone calls. She didn't have a driver's license and was prohibited from having any contact with the outside world. Mick handled the grocery shopping.

Tran said she had been physically and sexually abused repeatedly before she made her escape.

I contacted a woman on Tran's behalf who claimed to be her "aunt," another Vietnamese person who arrived at my house just before the police did. She was familiar with Tran's marital arrangement and served as translator, explaining Tran had been willing to tolerate Mick's abuse as long as he kept his hands off Nam.

On that day, however, Mick had beaten Nam severely. The boy stood up for his beleaguered mother, who Mick insisted tar the roof during one of the hottest spells on record. The thermostat that day registered 120 degrees.

Mick strangled and punched Nam, leaving finger prints on his neck and bruises on his arms and legs. So, Tran and Nam fled. With nowhere to go, mother ran up and down the street screaming with son in tow.

A gardener watering my lawn brought Tran and Nam to my attention.

It took six police officers to arrest Mick, after which Tran and Nam took their belongings and relocated to the aunt's house.

I have never seen or heard from them since. I have never seen or heard from Mick either. However, I do see an Hispanic woman ushering an older man in a wheelchair around the neighborhood from time to time.

In my opinion, a good marriage has the qualities of a business partnership. Two adults pool their resources together for the mutual benefit of raising a family. However, unlike a business partnership, marriage takes more than promises of food and shelter and money to be successful. It takes love.

Many men and women come to Los Angeles with career ambitions they cannot fulfill elsewhere. They want to be professional actors or musicians or surfers, i.e., opportunities that are exclusive to this area.

For this reason, I have found that people here, more than elsewhere, often become involved in romantic relationships for business-like reasons. I'd even be willing to say many people in Los Angeles marry not out of love, but as a kind of career move.

For some, like Tran, what is sought is what many of us already have and take for granted: Food on the table, a roof over the head and an opportunity for a future.

But I've come across spouses in LA whose intentions aren't as sympathetic as Tran's. They're after their big break in the Industry, financial "security" or a trophy. They're after anything but a caring partnership, and they'll do anything to get it, including marry for convenience.

Those whose life brings them to LA-LA Land are tempted to forget that it takes more than pursuing a dream to be happy and healthy. That is to say, a human connection sometimes differs from a business connection.

So do yourself a favor on Valentine's Day. Try managing your romantic relationships without any particular career objectives in mind. You may avoid a whole lot of trouble in the process.

And who knows? Maybe you'll even find love.

(Editor's note: Names have been changed)

Ryan Hyatt is a former staff writer for the Santa Monica Daily Press. He is seeking a publisher for his second novel, "Stay Younger Longer," a political thriller that takes place in L.A. in 2046. He can be reached at ryanhyatt@gmail.com.



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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
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Being grown-up has its remorse

SOMETIMES I THINK I WAS BORN guilty. I don't mean that in the Catholic "everyone's born with original sin" kind of way — particularly since I'm Jewish. It's just that no matter how old I am or where I've been in my life, my instinct is always to feel as if I have something to hide whenever I see my parents.

Old habits die hard, I suppose.

While most adolescents and teens spend just a few years expressing their angst toward authority, the era of my insurgency lasted an impressive 12 or so years (although there's a sound chance my dad would argue that the streak is still alive).

I wasn't raised in a home where curfew was taken lightly or ignored (especially since my late dog, Roxanne, would faithfully alert all sleeping residents to my lateness violations). But while it was the rule rather than the exception that I arrived home at an illegal hour, I never enjoyed the stolen time. When the witching hour struck, my priority instantly shifted from hanging out with friends to pleading with any car owner to leave the merriment and take me home.

During the drive I was always calculating how many minutes had transpired since my curfew had expired. The remainder of the time before arriving at ground zero was passed strategizing how I would slip undetected into the garage, up two flights of stairs and down the hall past my parents' room. If my plan was foiled by too many creaks in the floor or a bark from the dog, my brain would automatically start preparing survival tactics for the inevitable grounding or the even worse "We're Disappointed in You" speech.

Other crimes of which I was convicted but didn't (necessarily) enjoy while I was committing include cutting classes, forging notes (my Mom frequently recalls how I would sign her name better than she did), throwing unsanctioned parties and denting cars (mine and other people's).

Severe bouts of guilt were the common threads laced throughout all my transgressions. Some of my friends who regularly disobeyed their parents and withheld the truth never lost a wink of sleep. I, on the other hand, confessed to more misdeeds than I hid. I have always adored my family and knowing full well that I was taught the difference between right and wrong and all the gray shades in between, eventually felt compelled to come clean (especially when the risk of getting caught was probable).

My mom is coming for a visit in a few weeks and my first impulse prior to her arrival is to look around my house to see if there is anything I need to temporarily stash. I've been mentally scanning the contents of the bedrooms, the kitchen cupboards, the refrigerator and the bathrooms.

While of course I'm now an adult and can technically no longer get in trouble, I just can't shake the feeling that I should try and cover up the something I might have done that I'm just not remembering.

I'm worried that my mom will report back to my dad the various scrapes on my car. I can just picture him regretfully shake his head, thinking I care so little for the first major purchase of my life. I fear my history with fender benders means he won't believe that with the exception of the chipped paint on the front left bumper, I'm honestly not responsible for any of the other scratches.

There's a remote possibility that my mom will look in my closet and wonder why during her visit I haven't worn any of the sleek suits, skirts and heels for which we've shopped in New York. While I do wear those clothes when I'm in New York, I worry that my history of her buying me clothes that I never wore will lead her to conclude that I'm repeating the offense.

And although I barely drink anymore, I'm still nervous that my mom and I will be walking around town and someone I know will approach us laughing and say, "Hey, the last time I saw you, you were [fill in the blank]!"

Thankfully, though, I think the worst thing my mom will leave with is the annoyance of wondering why I'm incredibly neat in my own home but an utter slob when staying at theirs.

As long as she comes and goes without having looked on the right side of the bottom shelf in kitchen pantry, we should all be fine.

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

The Q Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Pickin' time

Come February, California voters will be asked to cast their votes to determine which presidential candidates they want to see in the national election in November.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Who do you think would make the best Commander in Chief amongst the current crop of candidates?

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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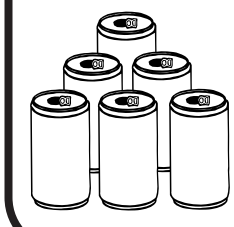
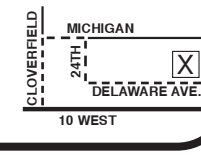
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Taking the bite out of Apple

Current outlook stokes investors' fears about consumer spending

BY JORDAN ROBERTSON
AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE With a broader economic slowdown looming over technology stocks, investors flocked to Apple Inc. in recent months hoping the stock would be a surefire holiday-season winner and safe haven from the market's overall turmoil.

Many shareholders retreated Tuesday from their bets on Apple, however, spooked by lower-than-expected guidance that stirred fears the Cupertino-based company is hurting from weakening consumer spending and isn't immune from sluggishness in the U.S. economy or fears of a recession.

Apple shares, which leaped from around $120 in August to over $200 in December, continued their sudden decline since then, reacting to guidance for the second fiscal quarter that fell far short of Wall Street's expectations.

The stock plunged $17.06, or nearly 11 percent, to $138.58 in after-hours trading. Apple shares had closed down $5.72 at $155.64 during regular trading, before the results were reported.

The falling stock price has wiped out more than $40 billion in shareholder wealth since the end of December, when Apple's stock hit its 52-week high of $202.96.

A robust holiday quarter — Apple's profits jumped 57 percent during the three months ended Dec. 29 — was not enough to overcome worries that even a hot company like Apple will struggle in 2008.

Shareholders had hoped Apple's results would be a high point in a market otherwise marred by bad news. Instead, the company became emblematic of Tuesday's broader market tumble, which saw the tech-laden Nasdaq composite index fall 47.75 points to 2,292.27.

Apple's guidance has historically been conservative, but such a divergence from Wall Street's estimate rattled investors already skittish about the economy.

The stock plunge was likely worsened, Snorek said, by the exodus of a large number of investors who had hoped Apple's stock would be a refuge from the economic pressures hurting the overall stock market.

> **"I THINK IT'S MORE OF THE WHISPER NUMBERS ON APPLE JUST GOT INCREDIBLY HIGH."**
>
> **Jane Snorek,** Senior analyst of technology stocks for First American Funds

Some analysts said the fears about slowing consumer spending were overblown in response to Apple's results, and that the company may have been a victim of its own past successes.

"I think it's more of the whisper numbers on Apple just got incredibly high," said Jane Snorek, senior analyst of technology stocks for First American Funds. "(There were rumors) of $10 billion in sales and $2 per share in earnings and that they might raise their guidance. And when they kind of report in line and guide down like they're supposed to, like they should be doing, it's a big letdown."

Apple forecast profit in the second fiscal quarter of 94 cents per share, far short of the $1.09 per share that analysts were expecting. Revenue is also expected to be lower, coming in around $6.8 billion, compared with the $6.99 billion forecast by analysts.

"There was a lot of money hiding in this stock," she said.

Still, Apple managed to blow past Wall Street's bullish expectations in the first fiscal quarter, aided by soaring sales of Macintosh computers and continued rising sales of iPod digital music players.

Chief Executive Steve Jobs said the company notched the highest sales and earnings figures in the company's history.

Apple's net profit was $1.58 billion, or $1.76 per share, for the three months ended Dec. 29. That was 14 cents higher than the average estimate of analysts polled by Thomson Financial.

Net income during the same period a year earlier was $1 billion, or $1.14 per share.

Sales during the first quarter were $9.61 billion, also higher than the $9.47 billion Wall Street was expecting and 35 percent more than the $7.1 billion of the year-ago period.

Apple is profiting from sharply accelerating gains in the personal computer market in the United States, where the company has hovered for years in the 2 percent to 3 percent market share range. By the end of 2007, however, Apple had scooped out a share of more than 6 percent, according to market researcher Gartner Inc.

Those gains were reflected in the latest quarter with a 59 percent jump in sales of desktop Macintosh computers to $1.51 billion, and a 40 percent jump in laptop sales to $2.04 billion.

Still, iPod sales eclipsed both of those categories, underscoring Apple's transition from purely a personal computer maker and into a delivery vehicle for all forms of digital entertainment, from music to television shows to movies.

Earlier this month, the company took the plunge into online movie rentals through its iTunes service and upgraded its Apple TV device to allow consumers to download and play movies directly through the box itself, obviating the need for a personal computer for those transactions.

In the first quarter, iPod sales jumped 17 percent over last year to $3.99 billion. Total personal computer sales were $3.55 billion.

Apple executives declined to comment on economic factors such as sluggish consumer spending.





STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

School district scales back due to low enrollment

An ambitious $20 billion school construction and remodeling plan is being scaled back by the Los Angeles Unified School District because of declining enrollment.

Four voter-approved bond measures and state funds are paying for the building program designed initially to relieve overcrowding and end involuntary busing.

But enrollment has dipped 7 percent in the past five years and those plans are being modified.

The district canceled plans for 19 new schools and additions to existing campuses.

The nation's second-largest school district now has 694,288 students compared to 747,009 in 2003.

Lower enrollments are blamed on declining birth rates and high housing prices.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VICTORVILLE

Mother, boyfriend allegedly tortured toddler

A mother and her boyfriend are in jail for allegedly torturing the woman's 21-month-old daughter, who is hospitalized with cigarette, curling iron and scalding burns.

The toddler, who weighs just 10 pounds, is in critical condition at Loma Linda University Medical Center with burns to her feet, arms, chest and genitals. The toddler also has a lacerated liver and a distended stomach due to blunt force trauma.

Victorville sheriff's Detective Ryan Collins says, "I've been on the department 10 years and this is the worst call I've ever been on."

Vanessa Woods and boyfriend Reginald Hardin Jr. were arrested Tuesday and booked for investigation of torture, child abuse and possession of a stolen vehicle.

AP

LONG BEACH

Transient gets life for killing homeless woman

A Long Beach transient has been sentenced to life in prison for killing a homeless woman whose body was stuffed into a shopping cart and torched.

Steven Cisneros was convicted of sodomy, attempted rape and first-degree murder for the strangling of 39-year-old Deanne Earle in September 2005.

Prosecutors say the 42-year-old Cisneros lured the woman to a converted garage apartment where she was raped and sodomized before being strangled with a necktie.

Cisneros placed her body into a shopping cart, doused it with gasoline and set it ablaze.

AP

VENTURA

Judge holds juror in contempt for murder trial blog

A Ventura County jury foreman was held in contempt of court for writing an Internet blog exposing details of the case during a murder trial.

Moments after sentencing a gang member to 27 years to life in prison for the knifing death, Superior Court Judge Edward Brodie scolded the jury member, identified only as Juror No. 7.

The blog, or Web log, had also criticized the court staff and complained that the 19-day trial was taking too long.

Brodie told the juror Tuesday that he could have sentenced him to five days in jail and fined him $1,000. But the judge said the misconduct didn't result in an unfair trial and punishment was unnecessary.

AP

SALINAS

Mann Packing house settles water contamination case

One of the nation's leading vegetable suppliers has settled a complaint filed by Monterey County over contaminated runoff water fouling Salinas storm drains.

Mann Packing Co. was cited for runoff water carrying broccoli, bar-code labels and chlorine-sanitized rinse-water found in Salinas storm drains. The contamination was discovered 11 months ago.

As part of the settlement announced Tuesday by Mann Packing, the company will pay $90,000 in penalties and $17,500 to the County of Monterey and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control District.

Mann also plans a variety of improvements and alarm systems as well as enhanced employee training.

AP

SANTA CRUZ

City bans foam containers

Styrofoam coffee cups, food containers and other polystyrene packaging has been banned in Santa Cruz.

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night on a no-exceptions law that requires restaurants use eco-friendly materials.

The law is designed to reduce landfill waste as well as the environmental impact of litter.

Council members and the public criticized polystyrene for being nearly impossible to break down and hazardous to the environment and marine life.

The city has had a voluntary ban on foam since 1989, but some restaurants were still using foam containers for to-go orders. Violators will be fined $100 for the first offense.

AP

GROVER BEACH

Salmon hatchery won't raise and release Chinook

In a setback for conservationists, a Central Coast hatchery isn't raising and releasing Chinook salmon at Port San Luis this year.

The Grover Beach-based Central Coast Salmon Enhancement fisheries conservation group has been hit by recent setbacks, including heavy swells that sent rearing pens onto the beach in December.

The group usually rears up to 140,000 Chinook in pens.

AP

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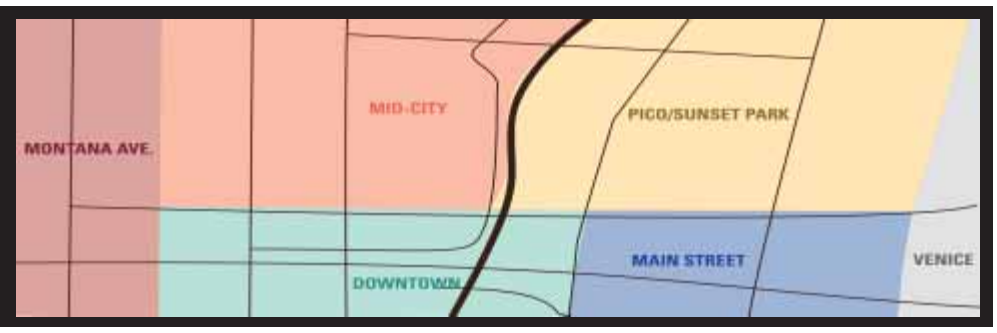

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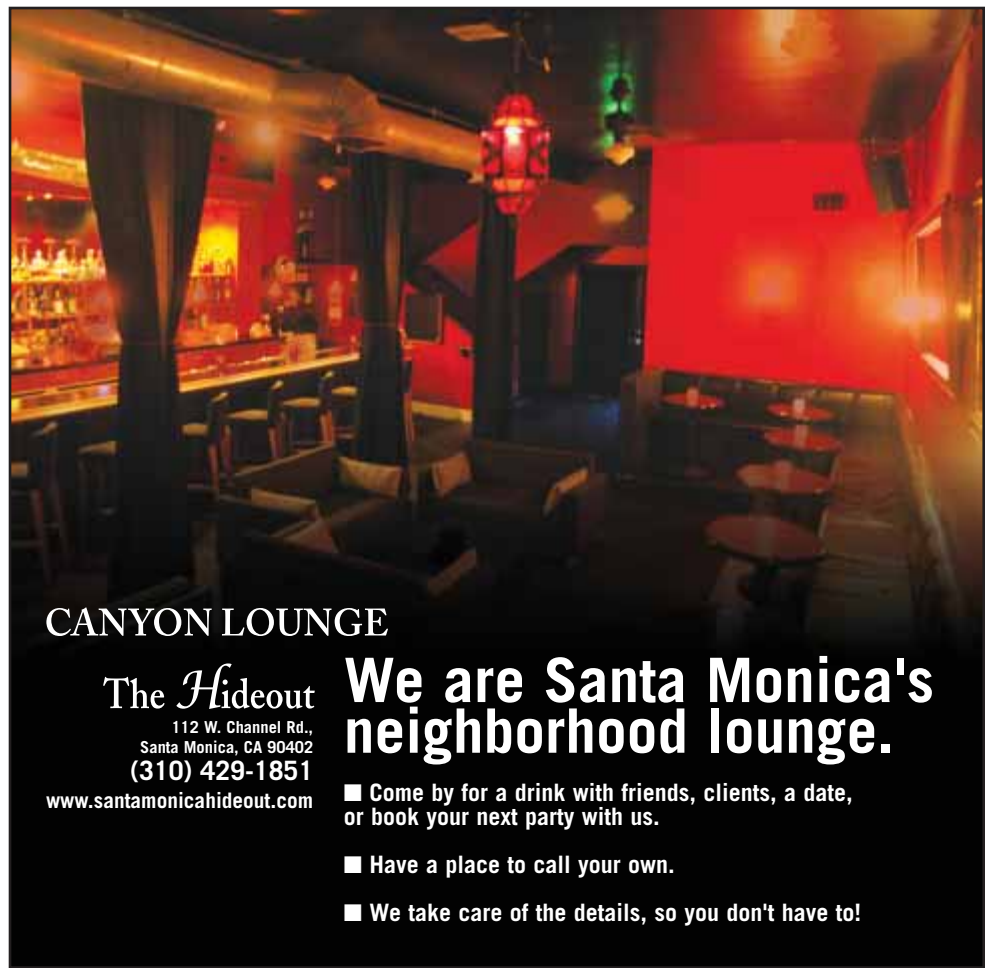
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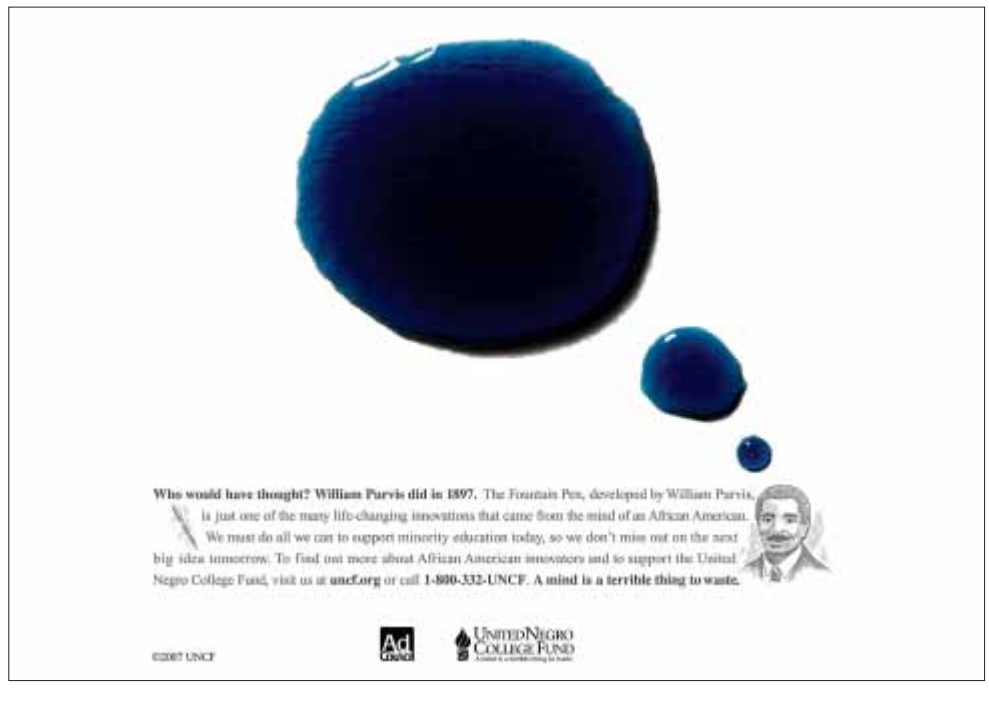
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Spreading the cost for upkeep

FROM **DOWNTOWN** PAGE 1

While the borders of the Central Business District only reaches to the centerlines of the streets, the replacement Property Based Assessment District would expand to include the properties on the north end of Wilshire Boulevard and the east side of Seventh Street.

While only commercial properties and business owners are charged to pay for maintenance services under the CBD, residential properties will also be assessed if the new district is formed. Residential properties owners could have the option of passing the assessment on to their tenants if authorized by the Rent Control Board.

The formula by which the assessments are determined would be weighted differently depending on the location of the property — parcels on the promenade would be rated at 88 cents per lot square foot, while properties between Fourth Street and Ocean Avenue, including Santa Monica Place, would be assessed at 44 cents per square foot. The remaining parcels between Fifth and Seventh streets would be assessed at 22 cents per square foot.

The council was presented with various examples of how much properties owners would pay through the PBAD assessment — the owner of 1351 Third Street Promenade, which houses Barney's Beanery, would contribute roughly $16,280 per year, while a 102,000 square foot office complex on Ocean Avenue would pay about $44,800 a year. The modestly sized building housing The Salvation Army on Fourth Street would pay slightly less than $5,000 a year.

Looking at the core issues, many promenade patrons over the years have raised the same concerns about parking, safety, maintenance and cleanliness, York said, adding that the revenues from the new district will open up resources for those issues to be addressed.

But several councilmembers raised their own concerns about hiring a private contractor to help maintain the downtown area, stressing they didn't want to see private jobs supplant the city crews that are currently assigned to the district.

"I have more than extreme difficulty for a plan that privatizes maintenance for our downtown," Councilmember Kevin McKeown said during the meeting.

A crew of about 19 full-time employees and nine part-time employees maintain the promenade, six downtown parking structures, the transit mall, several restrooms, as well as Second and Fourth streets, Arizona Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard.

"An analysis conducted by Service Group ... concluded that promenade maintenance does a very good job with available resources, but that the staff is expected to cover too large an area to maintain excellent conditions at all times," according to a staff report.

There were also some reservations about how the ambassador program would work and the relationship it would have with the police department.

"I think the ambassador program could be really beneficial," said Councilmember Ken Genser. "Structured the wrong way, it could be really ugly."

The ambassadors would also include restroom attendants in the garages, a program currently being funded by City Hall on a pilot basis, according to a city staff.

"I think the ambassador program brings the potential of value to Downtown Santa Monica," Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom said.

Councilmember Robert Holbrook said he supports the proposals, adding that he thought the council should give the plan its blessing given the possible uphill battle in convincing the majority of property owners to approve the district and its accompanying assessments.

"They have a long road ahead of them," Holbrook said.

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Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES: **The city is considering a new assessment to help maintain the city's thriving downtown area.**

Ordinance creates 50-foot buffer zone

FROM **BUFFER** PAGE 1

San Diego, the City Council passed an outright ban on residential picketing in 1993.

There have been several residential protests in Santa Monica the past several years, most recently in March when animal rights activists staged a demonstration in front of the home of Nelson Freimer, a UCLA professor of human genetics whom activists alleged experiments on monkeys.

A few years ago, during a protest in Sunset Park, a resident in an unrelated home suffered a heart attack, according to city officials. While the heart attack has not been officially attributed to the protest, it is an example of how such activity could disrupt a neighborhood and cause complications.

Pamela Feodin, one of the protesters that has demonstrated in front of Freimer's home, spoke out against the proposed ordinance on Tuesday, saying that the 50-foot buffer zone would just push the picketers closer to the homes of neighbors that have nothing to do with the subject of the demonstration.

"Our forefathers fought and died in order to give the public (the right) to redress our grievances to picket on tax-paid sidewalks and this is what I've done," Feodin said.

Councilmember Kevin McKeown touched on Feodin's concern, adding that Santa Monica is a dense city.

"While protesters may have an issue with a particular resident, they probably don't have issue with people who live 50 feet away," McKeown said.

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom, who happened to be in the home of the heart attack victim during the protest, said he supports the ordinance, adding that security is something that is valued in residential neighborhoods.

"We are talking neighborhoods here and there are families present who experience this as well," Bloom said.

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✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



File photo

POLICE PRESENCE: **Santa Monica Police officers protect a home that was targeted by animal rights protesters last year. A new ordinance creates a 50-foot buffer zone around such residences.**



Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

ON THE WAY OUT? **A shopper exits Pavilions market carrying a couple of plastic bags on Tuesday. The county has approved a measure that aims to reduce the number of bags used.**

Heal the Bay criticizes vote on new plastic bag measure

FROM **REDUCTION** PAGE 3

"The county's history on being progressive on environmental issues is not really much of a history," Mark Gold, the president of Heal the Bay, said on Wednesday. "The end vote was not a surprise, but we felt it was important to make ourselves be heard and let the Board of Supervisors know this is a critical issue that isn't going away."

According to Heal the Bay, approximately six million plastic bags are used in the county every year and approximately $25 million from the state coffers is spent annually on collecting and disposing plastic shopping bags.

Bellman said it isn't conceivable to start with an outright ban in a county where the prohibition would only be effective in unincorporated areas.

"It's not clear what would be achieved by starting off like that," Bellman said. "(Yaroslavsky) would support a total ban if that were achievable."

The California Grocers Association (CGA) praised the board's action on Wednesday, saying it falls in line with actions the industry has been taking to deal with plastic bag usage.

"A number of elements in the ordinance are programs that the industry has already instituted or is in the process of instituting," said Dave Heylen, spokesman for the association.

Heylen added that the CGA worked with San Francisco city officials in 2005 to create a voluntary recycling bag program. Last year, San Francisco became the first city in the country to ban plastic bags at chain grocery stores.

Residents in Santa Monica seemed generally supportive of a future ban on plastic bags, something that is being considered by local city officials.

"I think it's best if it'll help the environment," said Warren Simon on Wednesday as he finished his grocery shopping at the Ralphs on Cloverfield Boulevard.

Barbara Illes, a Santa Monica resident, said she tries to use her reusable bags as often as possible, though she occasionally forgets to put the cloth bags back in her car in anticipation of the next trip.

Such was the case on Wednesday afternoon when Illes opted for plastic bags because she had inadvertently left the reusable bags at home.

"I think it would be a good idea to ban plastic bags because nothing can be done with them," Illes said as she loaded the groceries into her car at Ralphs. "I would definitely like to see us move in that direction."

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Keeping pace with early exits

BY JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES It's never been a secret that when people die after long and distinguished careers, those detailed stories about their passing that major news organizations seem to produce almost instantaneously in fact were written well in advance.

But now the news that The Associated Press has prepared an obituary for 26-year-old Britney Spears has put the spotlight on a debate transpiring within the business of reporting death: With people grabbing the celebrity spotlight at a younger age, and some of them living lives of obviously dangerous excess, is it time for news organizations to begin preparing for early exits from celebritydom's under-30 crowd?

"It's a complex issue, a complex debate," says Washington Post reporter Adam Bernstein, one of the news media's most respected obituary writers. "It's unclear to what degree somebody really is on the edge. So do you spend the time to put something together when you're wondering whether it will run now or 70 years from now?"

Of the approximately 100 prepared obituaries The Washington Post has in its files, Bernstein couldn't recall any on a person under 30. He also questioned whether an obituary on someone like the troubled pop star could be much more than a recitation of bizarre public behavior, as opposed to focusing on real accomplishment.

"Somebody like Britney Spears or Lindsay Lohan or Amy Winehouse, you could arguably put something together," he said, naming three young stars who have lately become more prominent for bouts of bizarre behavior than displays of talent.

"But it takes a significant chunk of your time to do it and there are people who are incredibly more accomplished and in their 100s," Bernstein added.

> **"IT'S A COMPLEX ISSUE, A COMPLEX DEBATE. IT'S UNCLEAR TO WHAT DEGREE SOMEBODY REALLY IS ON THE EDGE."**
>
> **Adam Bernstein,** Washington Post reporter

He didn't deny, however, the huge public interest in anything any young star does. When Anna Nicole Smith, mainly famous for being famous, died at age 39 of a drug overdose last year, The Washington Post and numerous other newspapers put her obituary on their front pages.

Such interest, veteran Hollywood publicist Michael Levine believes, is being driven by the Internet. He speculated that the Web's ability to make stars of people overnight is forcing news organizations to be more prepared to tell those celebrities' stories within minutes of their demise.

"Technology makes all this stuff much more present in the consciousness of the culture," said Levine, former publicist for one of Hollywood's most bizarre personalities, Michael Jackson.

"There's much more pressure to get the news out right now," he added. "You distribute or you die."

It was Smith's death that served as a "wake-up call" to be prepared to report immediately on any high-profile person with a public history of troubled behavior, said Lou Ferrara, the AP's managing editor for sports, entertainment and multimedia.

"I don't think anyone particularly likes this part of the business, but it is something you need to do," said Ferrara, who was one of the editors who asked for the Spears obituary.

When Smith, the former Playboy Playmate of the Year, was found dead in a Florida hotel room, the AP did not have a prepared obituary. Neither did it have one on Brad Renfro, the 25-year-old actor who died earlier this month, two years after being arrested as he tried to purchase heroin on Los Angeles' Skid Row.

The fact that celebrities sometimes die young is of course not a new phenomenon. James Dean's car-crash death at age 24 in 1955 shocked the nation. So to a lesser extent did the drug-overdose deaths of former "Saturday Night Live" stars John Belushi in 1982 and Chris Farley in 1997. The year 1970 is famous in the annals of rock music for the substance abuse deaths of Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin, who were both under 30.

As for today's celebrities, "I don't know that more younger people are at risk, but they certainly seem to be in the news more," Ferrara said, noting the extensive coverage given to the death of Renfro, a relatively minor celebrity. Deciding which ones to prepare obituaries for, he said, is a judgment call decided on a case-by-case basis.

The AP has approximately 1,000 prepared obituaries in its files on a wide variety of public figures. Although most are on people over 70, Spears is not the only 20-something whose passing the news agency is ready for.

The Los Angeles Times has approximately 400 prepared obits as they are called, although they lean heavily toward much older newsmakers, said Jon Thurber, the paper's obituary editor. Britney Spears is not among them.

"While we're aware of celebrities and their problems, to try and go ahead and do advance obituaries on these folks when they're going through their dark periods would probably be more work than we could handle and stay up with the older people we need to cover," Thurber said.

"That isn't to say we don't do some prep work on certain (younger) figures who are at risk," he noted.

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Registration begins at 10:30 am

For more information, please call 323-256-1161
or visit the PNA website, www.piconeighborhoodassociation.org

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Stocks recover from sharp losses

Slumping housing prices and credit crisis add to turbulence

BY MADLEN READ I AP Business Writer

NEW YORK It started with another stomach-turning drop at the open, and a loss of more than 300 points by midday. Then stocks changed course, raced higher and closed with a dramatic gain of nearly 300.

This wasn't just volatility. This was Wall Street whiplash.

Amid tumbling housing prices, an ongoing credit crisis and growing fears of a recession, turbulence has become a hallmark of Wall Street in recent weeks. And after five straight days of pullbacks, analysts saw some positive signs in Wednesday's trading.

Investors certainly found a reason to buy, perhaps encouraged by the Federal Reserve's unprecedented 0.75-point interest rate cut a day earlier and a widely held bet on another half-point cut next week.

By day's end, the Dow had swung 631.86 points from its low point to its high — the largest single-day turnaround in more than five years.

"You might say this is a belated reaction to what the Fed did this week, compounded by hopes for the Fed to do more next week," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners.

The Dow had plunged more than 465 points just after the opening bell Tuesday as the market digested news of the rate cut. But stocks rallied to finish down just 128, then tacked on a 2.5-percent gain on Wednesday.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished the day up 298.98 at 12,270.17. It had been down 323.29 at its low point.

The swing from negative to positive territory of 631.86 points was the largest point move since July 24, 2002, according to Dow Jones Indexes. The largest intraday point swing, a metric that Dow started calculating in 1995, was a 721-point swing on April 14, 2000.

"Volatility is certainly the norm now and not the exception," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at Jefferies & Co.

He noted that all but two trading days this year had seen triple-digit swings in the Dow, three of them 300 points.

On Wednesday, traders who bet on the Fed's target fed funds rate were pricing in a 100 percent chance of a 0.50-percentage-point cut by the central bank when it meets next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rate cuts are designed to stimulate borrowing and, in turn, business activity and the overall economy. They also will eventually boost profit margins for banks and other lenders, which have been working to lower costs and raise cash levels through layoffs and stock sales after having lost billions of dollars to bad mortgages and mortgage-related investments. Those companies — including Citigroup Inc., Washington Mutual Inc. and Merrill Lynch — were the big winners Wednesday.

"What has happened is the Fed is flooding the system with liquidity and eventually we should see some traction in the economy. And stocks tend to respond first," said Steve Goldman, chief market strategist at Weeden & Co.

Still, analysts were mindful that in recent months Wall Street has been known to soar one day and succumb the next, and that there are still many economic unknowns for the market to weather. And, given that stocks are so badly beaten down, bargain hunting played a part in Wednesday's turnaround.

Before Wednesday's session, the Dow had fallen nearly 10 percent since the start of the year, and it was down more than 15 percent since its record close of 14,164.53 on Oct. 9.

Broader stock indicators also surged Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 28.10, or 2.14 percent, to 1,338.60, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 24.14, or 1.05 percent, to 2,316.41.

Advancing issues outpaced decliners by nearly 3 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume came to a heavy 7.33 billion shares, up from 6.33 billion Tuesday.

Democrat candidate throws barbs

Obama criticizes Clinton's candor and trustworthiness

BY CHARLES BABINGTON I Associated Press Writer

ROCK HILL, S.C. Democrat Barack Obama questioned Hillary Rodham Clinton's candor and trustworthiness Wednesday, saying she has indulged in double-talk on bankruptcy laws, trade and other issues. Politicians "don't always say what they mean, or mean what they say," the Illinois senator told about 900 people at Winthrop University. "That is what this debate in this party is all about."

The atmosphere grew more charged throughout the day after Clinton's campaign aired an ad in the state suggesting Obama approved of Republican ideas.

Extending a theme he has stressed in recent days, Obama mocked the New York senator for saying she voted for a 2001 bankruptcy bill but was happy it did not become law.

"Senator Clinton said, `Well, I voted for it, but I hoped the bill would die,'" he said, drawing hoots from the crowd.

In a similar vein, Obama said Clinton originally praised the North American Free Trade Agreement — which was enacted during her husband's presidency — but now criticizes aspects of it.

"You can't always tell what Senator Clinton's position on trade has been," he said. Obama promised to provide "the kind of straight talk and clear thinking we need in this campaign."

Talk and its meaning seemed to occupy the day.

Clinton's campaign went after Obama's own words. In a radio ad that uses a clip from Obama's interview with the Reno Gazette-Journal editorial board, Obama is heard saying: "The Republicans were the party of ideas for a pretty long chunk of time there over the last 10, 15 years."

An announcer states: "Hillary Clinton thinks this election is about replacing disastrous Republican ideas with new ones, like jump-starting the economy."

Obama's campaign planned to run its own counter ad, but first enlisted supporters in South Carolina to denounce it as selective editing. Former Gov. Jim Hodges protested that Clinton's campaign seemed determined to win "at all costs."

Obama's comment about Republicans came as he discussed elections that represented shifts in political direction. The full quote is: "I think it's fair to say that the Republicans were the party of ideas for a pretty long chunk of time there over the last 10-15 years in the sense that they were challenging conventional wisdom."

He preceded the remark by noting that John F. Kennedy also had shifted the direction of the country. "I think we're in one of those times right now, where people feel like things as they are going aren't working," he said. "That we're bogged down in the same arguments that we've been having, and they're not useful. And the Republican approach, I think, has played itself out."

Obama and Clinton clashed bitterly over questions of truthfulness and consistency in a televised debate Monday, giving the campaign a personal edge it largely lacked before.

Obama sees South Carolina's primary on Saturday as a must-win race, and he continued to spend all his time in the state even though Clinton has visited other states this week. She returns to the state on Thursday.

Former President Clinton, who has been campaigning in South Carolina this week, said Obama and the media had stirred up the tensions over race in response to criticism from some Democrats about the couples' strategy.

> **SENATOR CLINTON SAID, `WELL, I VOTED FOR IT, BUT I HOPED THE BILL WOULD DIE."**
>
> **Barack Obama**
> Presidential candidate

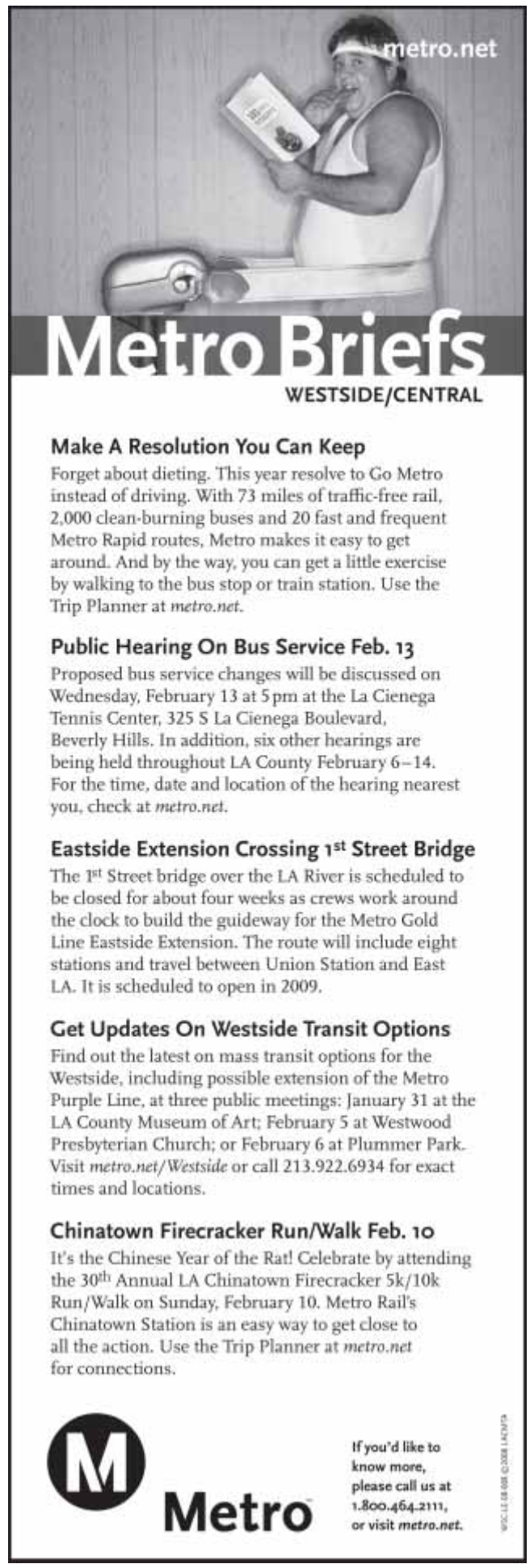
"I never heard a word of public complaint when Mr. Obama said Hillary was not truthful, no character, was poll-driven. He had more pollsters than she did," Bill Clinton said in an exchange with a CNN reporter. "When he put out a hit job on me at the same time he called her the senator from Punjab, I never said a word."

The former president has accused Obama of exaggerating his anti-war record and handing out undeserved praise to Republicans. Clinton said he personally witnessed Obama's union forces intimidating Nevada caucus voters and said an Obama radio ad suggested how Democrats could keep votes from his wife.

Last year, Obama's campaign circulated a memo describing Hillary Clinton as "D-Punjab," a reference to her Indian-American donors.

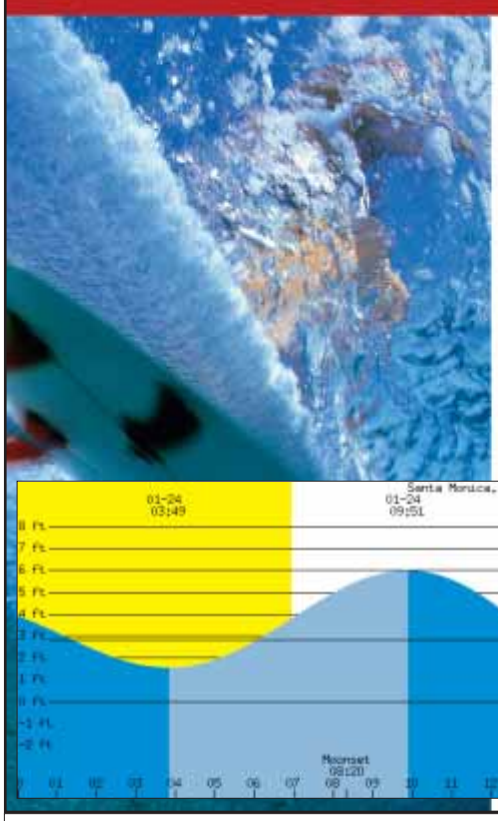
Bill Clinton said civil rights leaders Andrew Young and John Lewis have defended his wife. "They both said that Hillary was right and the people who attacked her were wrong and that she did not play the race card, but they did," he said. "Let him go get in an argument with them about it."

At the end of the exchange, Clinton told the CNN reporter, "Shame on you."





SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 55°**

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

Thursday the 24th we should see some WNW swell come in from the western Pacific. As with recent WNW swells, this will be modest in size as the system producing this swell didn't get any closer than 2000-2500 miles from our shores before getting thrown to the north. Size is expected to run chest high for west facing breaks, coming in from 285 with 14-second periods. The tide though will climb to around 6 feet mid to late morning.

LONG RANGE SYANOPSIS

SW PICKS UP SOME WEDNESDAY...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **January 15, 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 -- 11
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 13
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 32

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (leocarrillo)	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	D
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	D	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	C
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	D	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	B	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	D	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	B
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	F
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	F
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	D

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

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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.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Love returns home to little adoration

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Kevin Love expects the worst when he goes home to Oregon this week for two Pac-10 road games.

No. 8 UCLA (16-2, 4-1) visits Oregon (12-6, 3-3) on Thursday in Eugene, about 110 miles south of Love's hometown of Lake Oswego.

Love will be more than a visiting opponent. He's the freshman phenom who got away, jilting his home state for the winning tradition of UCLA.

"I'm expecting nothing but boos when I get announced. I think it will be horrible," he said Tuesday.

"It'll be fun, though, just seeing what they come up with. A lot of stuff will probably be derogatory, but I'm ready for it. It's kind of what college basketball is all about, opposing crowds and going and playing in hostile environments."

Last season, the Ducks handed then-No. 1 UCLA its first loss of the season, 68-66 in Eugene. The Bruins are coming off a 72-63 upset loss at home to Southern California, leaving them tied atop the Pac-10 with Washington State and Arizona State.

Oregon fans have extra reason to get on Love's case. His father, Stan, starred for the Ducks as an all-conference player in 1970 and '72, when there were just eight schools in the league.

"He'll be in everybody's face," Love said.

UCLA coach Ben Howland joked that Love should expect Oregon fans "to treat him with the utmost respect."

The younger Love remembers attending games at McArthur Court since second grade. If UCLA was visiting, he rooted for the Bruins while his father cheered for the Ducks.

"I've been recruited there since sixth or seventh grade," he said. "They probably have a little anger in them that I didn't go to Oregon, but they always knew that I was going to either choose UNC (North Carolina) or UCLA."

Love has been prodding his teammates for their extra tickets to the Oregon game to accommodate a large group of friends and family traveling from California including his uncle, Mike Love of the Beach Boys.

Word has reached Love that Ducks' fans are eagerly awaiting him. He hopes to counter their hostility with support from his pals who attend the school.

"I've actually got a good response from my friends back home," he said. "They're going to be rooting for me and they're going to be the loudest fans in the stands. That feels good to have their support. Hopefully, I'll hear a lot of that."

Love expects a somewhat easier reception Saturday when the Bruins visit last-place Oregon State (6-12, 0-6) in Corvallis, roughly halfway between Eugene and Portland.

If Howland allows, Love plans to attend some of Friday night's game at Lake Oswego High, where he starred and expects a welcome atmosphere.

"They play Oregon City, a school that didn't really like me," he said. "They did a lot of derogatory chants and brought signs to the game that weren't that good."

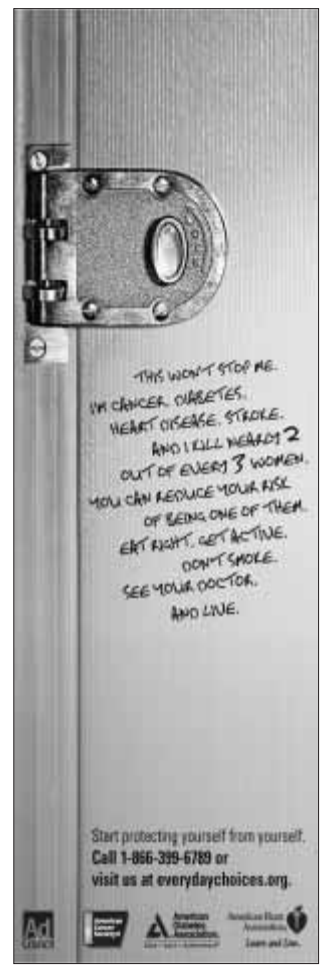
At Oregon, Love will go against 6-foot-9, 220-pound forward Maarty Leunen, a friend from years ago. Leunen averages 15.9 points, 9.9 rebounds and shoots 49 percent from 3-point range.

Love averages 18 points and 10.8 rebounds in Pac-10 play, tops among the Bruins. He's had nine double-doubles in 18 games. Love is 1 inch taller and 51 pounds heavier than Leunen.

"I want to go in there, get a ton of rebounds, get the ball in the low post, try to do some things on offense, get the ball to open teammates," Love said. "I don't want to do anything special."

He'll leave that to the home fans.





In and out

Spears appears at a Los Angeles courthouse only to abruptly leave

BRITNEY SPEARS' child-custody hearing was held Wednesday without the pop star, who showed up at the courthouse but abruptly left — prompting a court commissioner to uphold the order suspending her visitation rights.

Spears came to the courthouse to seek the right to visit her two little boys, entered the building and went through security screening. But she suddenly stated that she wanted to leave, spokesman Allan Parachini said.

A Superior Court spokesman says a commissioner took notice of Spears' absence and went ahead with the hearing, but in the end made no changes in the order suspending her rights.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUSTA RHYMES PLEADS GUILTY



BUSTA RHYMES pleaded guilty Wednesday to assaulting his ex-driver and a fan in a deal that will bring three years' probation and 10 days of community service.

The 35-year-old rapper also must pay a $1,250 fine, plus court costs, for driving while intoxicated and with a suspended license.

He pleaded guilty to the charges — related to four separate incidents — in Manhattan Criminal Court on the day he was set to stand trial.

AP

Police assess Winehouse video to determine potential charges

Scotland Yard started an investigation Wednesday into a video that allegedly shows troubled British singer AMY WINEHOUSE smoking crack.

The British tabloid, The Sun, released grainy footage showing Grammy-nominated Winehouse, 24, inhaling fumes from a pipe. The video was reportedly shot hours before she attended a court hearing for her jailed husband.

Police will look at the video before deciding whether any charges should be brought against Winehouse, a Metropolitan Police spokesman said while speaking on condition of anonymity in line with force policy. The Sun gave the police the video, he said.

Winehouse spokesman Shane O'Neill said he was unable to comment on the investigation.

In the video, Winehouse lights a pipe in front of a photo that appears to have been taken on the day of her wedding to Blake Fielder-Civil.

Winehouse's father, Mitch Winehouse, said in an interview with The Sun that he was devastated by the images and hoped it would prompt his daughter to turn her life around.

"Your video of Amy taking drugs may well be the best thing that has ever happened to her," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Universal Records, Winehouse's record label, said it would do what it could to help her.

"We are deeply disappointed and upset by these latest revelations and are doing everything we can to offer Amy our full support in dealing with her problems," it said in a statement Tuesday.

The singer's public demise amid allegations of drug use and lackluster musical performances have provided fodder for Britain's notoriously scandal-hungry newspapers. Last month, the troubled singer, whose songs include "Rehab" and "You Know I'm No Good," was photographed walking outside her London home wearing a bra and jeans, with no shoes, looking upset.

Winehouse attracted yet more attention in court Friday when she blew Fielder-Civil kisses and shouted out, "I love you, handsome, gorgeous one," as he was led away after facing charges of assault and conspiracy.

Fielder-Civil, 25, is accused of attacking a pub landlord and then later conspiring with him to withdraw as a witness at the trial. Fielder-Civil pleaded innocent to the charge of assault, and is expected to plead to a charge of perverting the course of justice next month.

AP

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

Pay bills first, Leo

Happy Birthday!

You make a difference this year, and you will do exactly what you need to do. You'll discover just how important a key bond is. If you are single, you enter a very special period in which the people you meet have a lot more depth and character than you see at first. If you are attached, plan special getaways together. VIRGO makes a good business partner.



Born Today

Actor John Belushi (1949)

Singer Neil Diamond (1941), Actor Ernest Borgnine (1917)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You feel like you could handle the world if you just focus. Truth be told, you have a strong work ethic, which often saves the day. Listen to others echoing your message. You might not be exactly sure of what needs to happen. Tonight: Fit in some exercise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your fun style makes waves and opens doors. You seem to understand what needs to happen. You could be taken aback by how wild your imagination might be. Listen and follow through on what needs to happen. Tonight: Fun and games.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You might want to understand what will happen if you relax. Listen to news that heads in your direction. You'll want to come from an anchored position. Center yourself if need be. You will be able to make a big difference if you just stop. Tonight: Anchor in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Listen to news and get feedback. Review a decision with care. Understanding will develop if you remain open and have a much-needed talk. Discussions are animated and lively. Just flow with the moment. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Use special care with your finances. You easily could regret a purchase, as much as you like the item. Playing it conservative just might be the way to go. Listen to what others share. Think positively. You will make headway. Tonight: Pay bills first.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You are coming from a more grounded place than in the past. News makes you smile and allows another opportunity to come forward. Your creativity will soar if you focus on what you must. Don't say no to opportunity. Tonight: Say yes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Think carefully before leaping into action. Knowing when enough is enough might be most important. Pull in and be willing to say no to major indulgence. You will be happier ultimately. If you need space, ask. Tonight: Do for yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to reflect on possibilities and zero in on the one that most makes you smile. With a strong drive, support and that Scorp charm, success will follow you. Just know what you want. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others look to you for answers and positive change. Sometimes you might not have the right words. Lie back and understand your limits. You still might want to pioneer a project to achieve special results. Tonight: In the limelight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Venus moves into your sign, adding to what already could be a spectacular day. Though sometimes it might be difficult to lift the cloud that restricts thinking and understanding, you do just that! Tonight: Whatever helps your mind relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Work with someone rather than cause yourself a problem. One-on-one relating actually could create a deeper understanding. You see life in a much more upbeat manner. Ask questions. Tonight: Team up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others clearly are dominant. Do what you need to do in order to loosen up a situation. Relax and flow with others. Warmth will build between you and another person. Understanding is important. Trust yourself. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528

High Anxiety (PG)
7:30
Silent Movie (PG)
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Atonement (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00
Enchanted (PG)
1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:25
The Great Debaters (PG-13)
1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:35
The Kite Runner
1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:50

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

27 Dresses (PG-13)
1:30, 4:10, 7:05, 9:40
Charlie Wilson's War (R)
2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
Cloverfield (PG-13)
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 9:15, 10:20
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
P.S. I Love You (PG-13)
3:30, 6:25
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)
1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 10:10
There Will Be Blood (R)
2:30, 6:20, 10:00
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)
12:55

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

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (Le Scaphandre et le papillon) (PG-13)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
Juno (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
Persepolis (PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG)
11:30am, 1:50, 4:10, 6:20
The Bucket List (PG-13)
11:50am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Cassandra's Dream (PG-13)
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
First Sunday (PG-13)
12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
I Am Legend (PG-13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
Mad Money (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
One Missed Call (PG-13)
8:30, 10:50

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic 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 Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
BRONZE

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

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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

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

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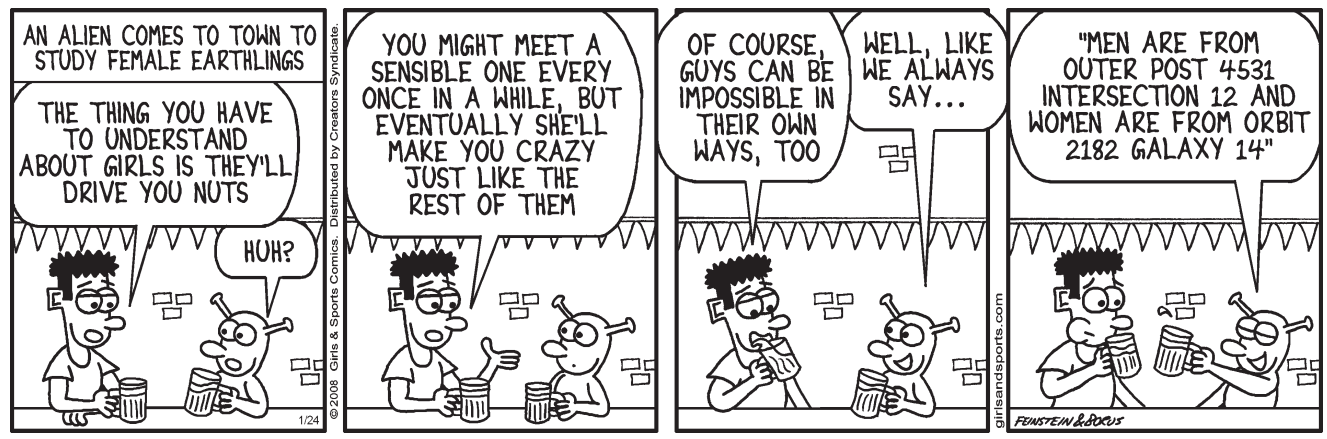
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310 993 2727 CALL NOW
www.ePrepNow.com

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



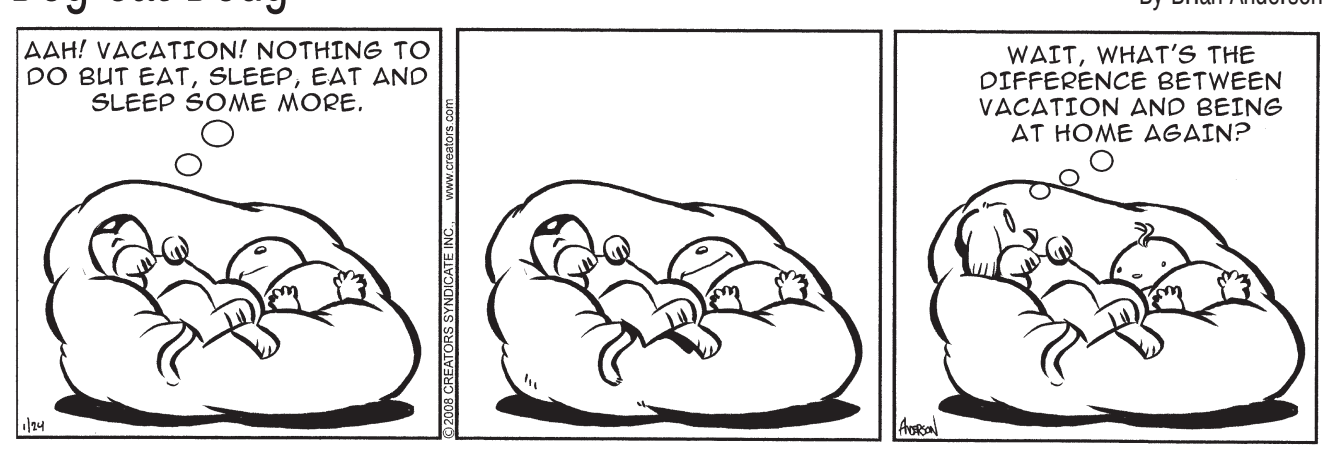
Garfield

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

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Hang loosely
5 Beach tent
11 "It's a Sin to Tell —"
12 Middle East language
13 New York team
14 New
15 South Africa neighbor
17 "Clockers" director
18 "Sleeper" director
22 Overturn
24 Trombone part
25 Nogoodnik
26 Cinch
27 Highbrow types
30 Out of style
32 Bothered
33 Completely
34 Car shopper's tryout
38 Half of an interrogation team
41 Cracked
42 Glacial period
43 The Eternal City
44 Horror and mystery, for two
45 Hunt for

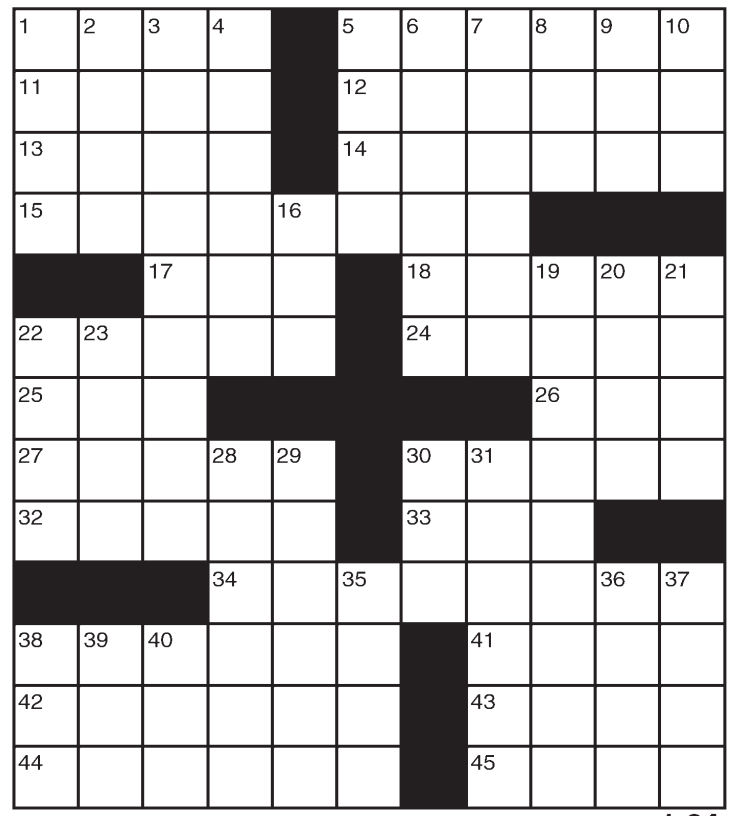
DOWN

1 Flock member
2 Bread spread
3 Minimus
4 Reduce
5 Singer Irene
6 Concert venues
7 Bogie's love
8 Tad's dad
9 Diarist Anaïs
10 Be decisive
16 Tie the knot
19 Hoss' brother
20 Falco of "The Sopranos"
21 Require
22 Stellar bear
23 Gasp for air
28 Moving saloon
29 Patsy
30 June honoree
31 Church sights
35 Jungle group
36 Identical
37 Difficult trip
38 Whopping
39 Good serve
40 Relaxing room

M	I	C	A	■	P	E	R	I	O	D
O	D	O	R	■	A	L	U	M	N	I
R	O	M	E	■	G	A	S	P	E	D
E	L	M	■	J	A	P	E	■	■	■
■	■	E	V	E	N	S	■	C	A	V
M	A	N	E	T	■	E	R	O	D	E
O	N	C	E	■	■	■	O	M	A	R
S	T	E	P	S	■	C	O	M	M	A
H	I	D	■	P	L	A	T	E	■	■
■	■	■	G	A	I	T	■	N	C	O
C	A	V	O	R	T	■	S	T	O	W
A	T	E	A	S	E	■	P	E	E	L
D	E	X	T	E	R	■	A	D	D	S

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1-24

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Fantasy 5: 4 5 10 14 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 2 6 EVENING: 0 4 4

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 02 Luck Star 3rd: 10 Solid Gold RACE TIME: 1.41.03

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

■ More than 5,000 Christians have joined the Hollywood Prayer Network to pray anonymously for the spiritual transformation of certain troubled celebrities, according to a November Chicago Sun-Times report. Also, an "Incognito Prayer Network," whose members wear "90028" bracelets with Hollywood's ZIP code, will assign celebrities to members who are touched by a particular star. Even in the face of criticism, members stand firm. Said one, "I don't know if I could turn off this compassion that I feel (for a particular celebrity). I'm called to do this, so I do."

■ In Russia, at least two eccentric Christian sects are in the news: Thirty members of a cult devoted to the mesmerizing, diagnosed-schizophrenic Pyotr Kuznetsov have holed up in a cave in the Penza region since Nov. 7, awaiting the end of the world in May 2008 (though Kuznetsov has asked them publicly to come out). And a group in the city of Nizhny Novgorod worships outgoing president Vladimir Putin as the incarnation of the Apostle Paul and King Solomon. "We didn't choose Putin," said one devotee. "... God himself has chosen him!"

TODAY IN HISTORY

1742 Charles VII was elected Holy Roman Emperor during the War of the Austrian Succession.

1848 James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

1908 Is considered the starting date of the Boy Scouts movement in England, under the aegis of Robert Baden-Powell.

1922 Christian K. Nelson of Onawa, Iowa, patented the Eskimo Pie.

1924 The Russian city of Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg) was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader. (However, it has since been renamed St. Petersburg).

1943 President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

1965 Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.

1978 A nuclear-powered Soviet satellite, Cosmos 954, plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

WORD UP!

effusive \ih-FYOO-siv\, *adjective:* Excessively demonstrative; giving or involving extravagant or excessive emotional expression; gushing.

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- Laundry & Errands

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comprehensivehomecare.biz
Comprehensive Home Care Services



Kate Bransfield

COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL

Estates Director
Previews Properties Specialist
Coldwell Banker - Montana Ave

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....for a Virtual Tour & multiple photos of these Properties

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231 - 18th Street
$2,349,000
Gillette's Regent Square
3 + 1.75
1935 Original Spanish
Single Family Home

Open Sunday, January 27th
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm



1012 - 7th Street # 7
$639,000
Updated 2 + 1.75 Condo, Amazing Location!



Open Sunday,
January 22nd
11:00 am to 2:00 pm
785 Linda Flora Drive
$1,599,000
3 + 1.75
Fabulous Architectural
Lower Bel Air

Easy to Show
Call for appointment



737 Pier Avenue # 3
$748,000
Ocean Park 2 + 2.5 Townhome

Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Late January 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 2,654,714	No Listings
North of Montana	=	$ 3,657,261	$ 1,994,900
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 1,833,000	$ 927,835
South of Wilshire	=	$ 1,099,000	$ 732,356
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,275,211	$ 672,385
Ocean Park	=	$ 2,159,800	$ 896,548

Statistics updated every Friday

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.