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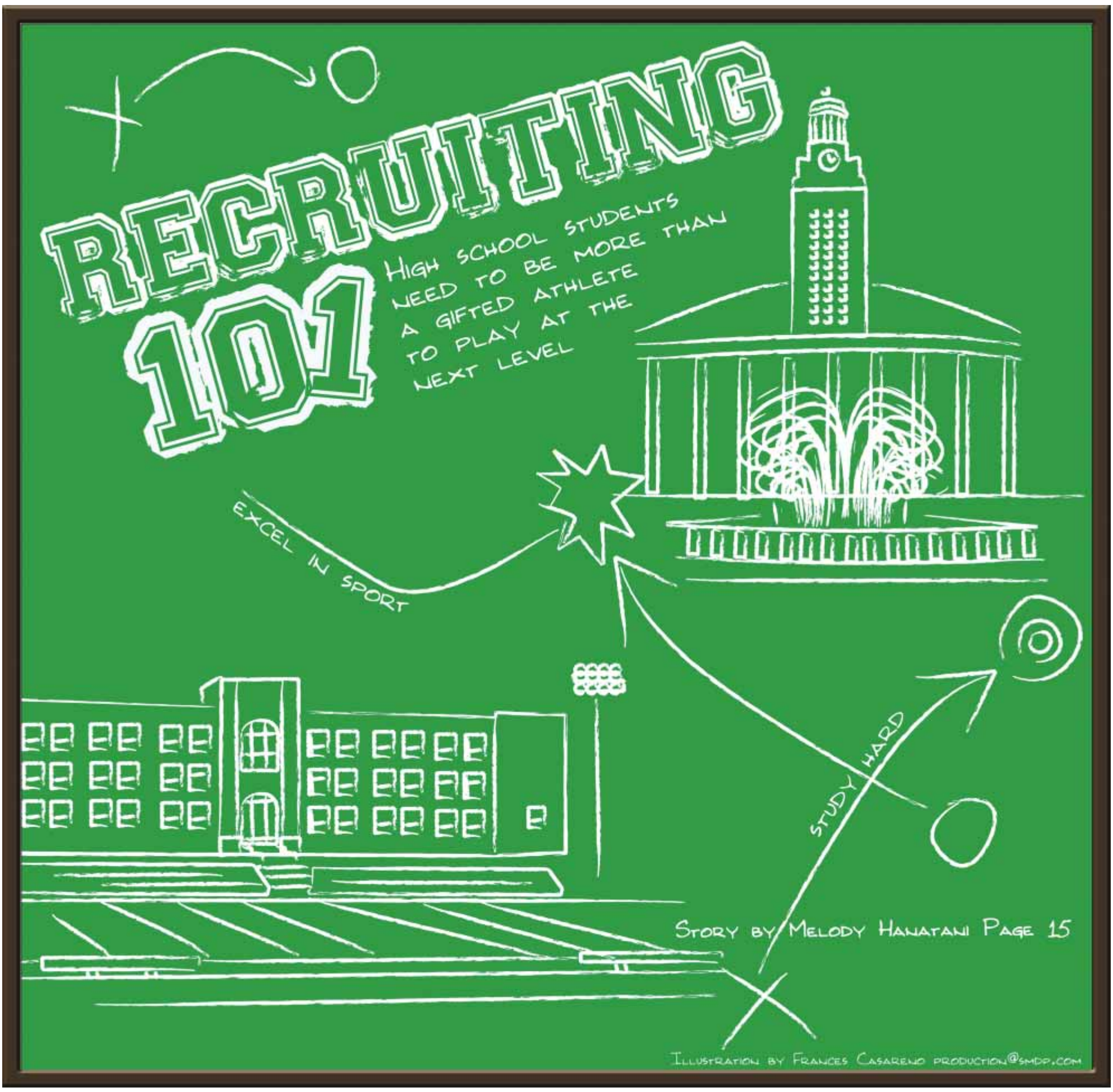


Santa Monica Daily Press

LAKERS GET THEIR MAN
SEE PAGE 20

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE SPORTY ISSUE



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'Whale of a Weekend'
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 12:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium will celebrate the annual migration of the Pacific Gray Whale during "Whale of a Weekend." Whale-related activities will be ongoing both days, including a naturalist-staffed wildlife observation station at the west end of the pier, where guests can search for whales and other local wildlife through binoculars and by steering the Aquarium's Remotely Operated Vehicle, broadcasting live video from beneath the Pier. Inside the Aquarium, arts and crafts projects, story times, face painting, films and presentations will focus on whales.

Monthly Movie Musical: 'You Were Never Lovelier'
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Free screening of the classic movie musical starring Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth. Seating first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Acrylic isn't only for nails
2903 Santa Monica Blvd., 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Tonight, TAG Gallery opens its doors for an artist exhibit reception for two new series: Joan Horsfall Young's "Thick and Thin" oil on canvas paintings and Emily Tanaka's "New Wonder" acrylic on canvas works.

'Aging: What to Expect'
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
UCLA's Dr. Linda Nelson will lecture on topics related to aging and memory loss. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

Glamorous George
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
To coincide with the California Heritage Museum's current exhibit, "Lights! Camera! Glamour! The Photography of George Hurrell," the Santa Monica Public Library welcomes exhibit curator, Dr. Louis D'Elia, for a lecture on Hurrell's life and work. Free program. Seating first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008

'Surf City, Here We Run!'
8396 Terranova Circle, Huntington Beach, 6:50 a.m. — Midnight
The Surf City USA(R) Marathon, formerly known as the Pacific Shoreline Marathon, kicks off its 12th Annual event with some 16,000 runners competing in three divisions — marathon, half-marathon and 5k. Weekend highlights include the two-day Active Lifestyle Beach Expo and Michelob Ultra Post Race Beer Garden. Information available at www.runsurfcity.com.

'Prophets, Persecution, and Polygamy'
3400 S. Sawtelle Blvd., L.A., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Skip the Superbowl and learn about media treatment of the Mormon Church from 1840 — 1900. Dennis Williams presents "Mormons in the 19th Century Media: Prophets, Persecution, and Polygamy." Event will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Santa Monica Stake Center.

'Mary-Mary, Quite Contrary'
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. & 3 p.m.
You're never too old to believe! A host of colorful storybook characters confronts the miracles and mysteries of modern living as they try to convince a quirky Mary-Mary that she is not too old to believe in fairy tales. Call (310) 394-9779, ext. 651 for information.

Lizzy looks to get laid
10508 W. Pico Blvd., 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
"The Catholic Girls' Guide to Losing Your Virginity" tells the story of Lizzy, a witty and soulful Midwestern girl blossoming in the big city of her dreams, who upon realizing her priest has a better sex life than she does, decides to no longer live her life according to the rules of her religion. Lizzy turns 25 in 25 days and will lose her virginity ... or so she hopes. One problem, with whom? From mixing it up in Vegas to church mixers, Lizzy's looking for sex anywhere and everywhere. Tickets are $20 and $17.50 (on Thursdays). For reservations, call (866) 811-4111 or visit www.theatermania.com.

The other Jerry's kids
1348 14th St., 7:30 p.m. — 11:30 p.m.
CUBENSIS brings the sights and sounds of a live Grateful Dead concert to 14 Below every Sunday. Don't forget to bring a tie-dye shirt and tinted glasses, man.

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.





Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com
FEELING PATRIOTIC? **Sonny McLean's on Wilshire Boulevard is a hot spot for fans of the Patriots.**

Big game equals some big profits

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE While Fox expects to bring in big bucks thanks to the Super Bowl — charging millions of dollars per 30-second slot during the most watched American sporting event of the year — the wealth is also usually spread locally.

For local businesses, the Super Bowl translates into huge profits for bars, pizza delivery joints, supermarkets, and in the past few years, electronics stores heavily stocked with high definition flat screen televisions.

According to Chris Sternberg, a spokesman with Papa John's, the pizzeria on average sells about 50 percent more pies on Super Bowl Sunday than any other Sunday of the year, resulting in approximately 750,000 pizzas and more than one million chicken wings.

The Retail Advertising and Marketing Association's 2008 Super Bowl Consumer Intentions and Actions Survey found that approximately 40 percent of Americans out of the nearly 225 million surveyed plan to watch the big game at a party, while only 4.7 percent intend to watch the New York Giants take on the New England Patriots at a bar or restaurant, though that figure is up from 4.1 percent last year.

In the era of the high definition experience, more and more people might be opting to watch the big game at home.

"It might not be as pronounced as it once was given the fact that people have the option of having a gigantic big screen HD television that offers amazing quality right in their own home," said Dr. Jennifer Pate, a professor of economics at Loyola Marymount University.

"Nationwide we tend to see a small increase in [the sales of] big screens," Pate said.

Eddie Borgwardt, the store manager at Startronics in Santa Monica, said just before the Super Bowl, television sales and entertainment system installations are usually on the rise, more so than any other major sporting event, including NBA playoffs in which the Los Angeles Lakers qualify.

"There's a little bit more hype with the Super Bowl than anything else," Bogwardt said.

He also attributed the increase in television sales to the drop in price the past few years. Whereas plasma televisions cost more than $10,000 when they first hit the shelves, most of the high definition sets can be purchase for as low as $1,800, depending on the size, the store manager said.

With more people staying at home to watch the Super Bowl, grocery sales are also on the rise, according to Dave Heylen, spokesman with the California Grocers Association. The four-hour sporting event tends to make consumers crave chips and salsa and buffalo wings, sending them to the supermarket shelves.

"We may even see a little more this year because of the state of the economy and peo-

SEE **BIG GAME** PAGE 12

Santa Monica's got a new pair of shoes

Royal Elastics opens first American location on Main

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

MAIN STREET Royal Elastics, the Australian footwear brand that specializes in kicks without laces, chose Santa Monica's Main Street as the location for its first U.S. retail store.

Royal on Main opened Thursday at 2427 Main St. The store showcases Royal Elastics' alternative sneakers and flats for men, women and children.

"Here, we can show the entire range of our collections," said Ludo, creative director of Royal Elastics.

The company started in 1996 with the idea that sneakers don't need laces. Instead, founders made footwear that fastens with elasticized shock cord or Velcro, making the shoes "airport friendly," because they can easily be taken off, according to the company's Web site.

"It was inspired by kids who went skateboarding and ripped their laces out," Ludo said. "It's easy and fast to put on."

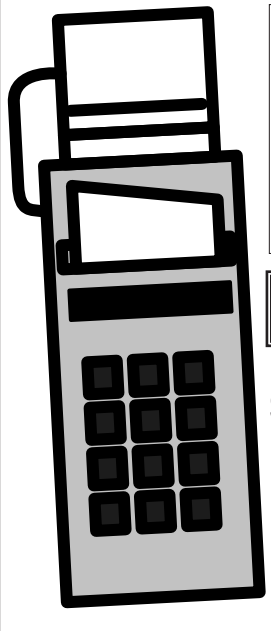
SEE **SHOES** PAGE 18



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*
LOOKING AROUND: **Shopper Molly Lague picks out some shoes at Royal on Main on Friday. The store is on Main Street.**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Parking is a pain

Editor:

This morning, in my daily search for parking, I found only one metered space available within a five minute walk from my office. I try not to park more than a few blocks from the office, as it is usually late and rather dark when I leave, and various vagrants tend to appear at dark. Unfortunately, this one parking space also happened to have a defective meter, which accepted change, but did not register payment amount.

So, in my frustration, I walked to my office and attempted to call the parking meter shop. Not surprisingly, there was no answer and I left messages. I then attempted to fax them. I then also faxed any other city departments that seemed remotely relevant.

Frantic I would receive another ticket, I headed back to my vehicle in search for other parking. Not surprisingly, no other spaces were available. I then put enough change for three hours to avoid another $35 ticket and hoped for the best.

Based on my work hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., I already spend $6.75 on average, per day on parking. Coupled with the fact that many meters around my office have a two to three hour time limit, I must run out to the meter multiple times in the work day to avoid getting ticketed. When ticketed, I then have to pay the $35, on top of whatever is already being paid for meters.

Frankly my co-workers and I are fed up. We have walked blocks around our office to find parking lots, as our employer was willing to pay for the parking, but lots are all full and have waiting lists. The only option left seems to be in metered parking.

Perhaps the city is under the impression that only a few people work in each office, therefore, there must be enough parking. When our entire crew is in the office, we have over 20 people, just in our 2,000 square foot office, searching for parking. This is in addition to every other office around us, competing for the same spaces.

Perhaps, the city is also under the impression that we can all afford parking, and those of us who cannot, should take the bus? I have inquired with the city about parking lots, and they were only able to suggest driving to a bus lot, parking and taking the bus. This is impractical, as it would take longer for me and many of my coworkers to drive to a bus lot, park, and take the bus, than to drive directly to the office. In addition, with all of the homeless wandering about in Santa Monica, I, as a woman, do not feel safe walking to and from a bus stop when working late hours. If I were to be accosted by someone while walking to the bus stop late, would the city be liable, since they suggested taking the bus?

Additionally, it seems that the city no longer issues street parking permits for businesses. Because of this restriction, it appears that a black market of residential parking permits has sprung up and the rest of us are left in our daily search for parking.

I am sure this is old new by now, but the Santa Monica parking situation is ridiculously disruptive to work and productivity. It appears that this city has no interest in maintaining a good relationship with businesses. In the future, when given the option, I would opt out of working, living or opening a business in Santa Monica.

Bonny Hsu
West Los Angeles



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lots of hits, but not one hit man

Craigslist is a huge Internet Web site that people use to buy and sell all kinds of products and services. According to the "best of Craigslist," people have advertised a couch shaped like a vagina, have looked for the hot-selling Wii, and have even posted an ad that read, "Wanted: Heart Surgeon for Day Gig-No Pay."

If you think you can find anything and everything on Craigslist, you're not alone. A 49-year-old woman supposedly tried to use the site to find an assassin to kill the wife of a man with whom she had had an affair. It turns out that this is not only against the law, but it's against Craigslist's rules.

Craig Newmark started Craigslist as an e-mail list for friends and coworkers in 1995. It was a way for them to be aware of events going on in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1999, Craig quit his job to work full time on Craigslist. The "bio" about Craig says that he no longer runs the Web site, but now works as a customer service representative. That's almost as shocking as the story about the woman looking for a hit man. After all, if you didn't need a job, why would anyone want to be the person on the other end of the phone when people call up to complain? I wonder if he pretends to be a computer-generated voice, saying things like, "Press 1 for English, press 2 if your computer crashed because of our site, press 3 if you're tired of listening to computer voices like this one."

How successful is Craigslist? Over the past 12 years, 550 million ads have been posted there. There are more than 9 billion page views per month. More than 30 million people use the site each month. If just half of those people would read my column regularly, I could afford a couch shaped like any body part I want.

Anyway, the FBI caught up with Ann Marie Linscott who allegedly was using the site to look for a killer. Ann Marie didn't come out and say, "Hit man Wanted To Kill Woman Who's With The Man I Love." Instead, she advertised for somebody to perform a "freelance job." Only after people responded to this ad, did she e-mail her true intentions to them. That's when she offered them $5,000 to "eradicate a female."

Fortunately, the proper authorities were called before anyone got hurt. Craigslist has strict rules about trying to use the site for activities such as selling child pornography, weapons, and counterfeit currency. Also, you can forget about it if you're thinking about going on the site to try to sell that extra kidney of yours. I couldn't find "murder" on their list of prohibited postings, but I think we can assume a site which bans fireworks sale and stud breeding, also doesn't approve of killing people.

When someone commits a crime that seems bound to lead to their arrest, we often ask, "How could they be so stupid?" I guess people just don't think things through, and they believe that they won't get caught. There will be people trying to get away with crimes as long as there are things like greed, lust, and lightweight DVD players.

GOT OP-ED?

Say it loud, say it proud, **but keep your guest commentary to 800 words or less. Send submissions to EDITOR@SMDP.COM.**

The Internet has produced all kinds of crimes that we couldn't have imagined 20 years ago. We've come to accept that identity theft and financial scams are just part of the web. But I never thought that the Internet would be used to advertise for a murderer on the same site where you can buy a dishwasher.

It's obvious that the Internet and its uses are growing at an alarming rate. I'm sure it's hard for law enforcement to keep up with every new law-breaking idea. That's why all of us have to be cautious when it comes to what we get involved with using our computers. In case you're wondering how the accused woman met the married man she had the affair with — they met online.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He writes online for "The Huffington Post," and can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com



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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

"All of you people born here, if you had to take that test - well, Canada would be building a fence right now."

— Craig Ferguson, the Scottish-born host of CBS' "Late Late Show," on getting a perfect score on his U.S. citizenship test

"My position is still up in the air. There is a problem in the American voting system: The most qualified people don't have the chance to become president."

— Santa Monica resident Brian Frates expressing his political opinion in front of the CNN Election Express Yourself caravan, which was sent out along the campaign trail to gauge public opinion on the upcoming presidential elections

"IF YOU'RE NOT ACTIVELY TRYING TO HELP WITH (GREEN) PRACTICES, YOU'RE DESTROYING (THE ENVIRONMENT)."

—Janabai Amsden, owner of Euphoria loves Rawvolution, regarding the new ordinance that bans the use of plastic and Styrofoam containers in Santa Monica

"There's a lot more responsibility with this one than with an Oscar, which all you really have to do is, you know, drink after the party."

— Actor George Clooney on feeling honored with the role of U.N. messenger of peace bestowed on him by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

"Well I say to her and I say to all those who are struggling in this country, we will never forget you. We will fight for you. We will stand up for you."

— Democrat John Edwards, referring to a homeless woman with whom he spoke before announcing his resignation from the presidential race. Edwards pledged to continue bringing attention to what he calls the "two Americas" - one for the powerful, one for those without

"Our job is to make people take us for granted. If that happens, then everything is running as it is supposed to and that means we are doing our jobs."

— Craig Perkins, director of environmental and public works management for Santa Monica, who's stepping down after 25 years

"He's a joy to work with and an excellent kisser."

— Actor Jeremy Piven on his "Entourage" costar Rex Lee who plays his assistant, Lloyd, on the HBO comedy

"I understand health care is a national problem. I also understand the UC has the money to pay."

— Lakesha Harrison, president of the Local 3299, regarding UCLA Medical Center and Orthopedic Hospital's offer to provide its employees with health care at the same cost as what other UC employees pay. Service workers and medical technicians are currently striking for wage increases and better healthcare benefits.

"They came into the house with an agenda and are trying to look like the heroes after all the dirty work has been done. Their main worry is being financially cut off."

— Sam Lutfi, Britney Spears' companion, referring to the singer's family. Spears was recently hospitalized for a mental evaluation at UCLA.

Quotations captured and compiled with care by **CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.**

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The Q Line

Rethinking restriping

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you agree with the move to make Ocean Park Boulevard a one-lane corridor or do you want the city to cancel the pilot program and restore the street to the way it was?

Here are your responses:

"WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE OF TRAFFIC in Santa Monica is a total incompetent idiot. Every time they change something it makes it worse and as soon as you get used to anything the idiots change it back to something totally different again. Just put it back the way it used to be and fire the idiot in charge."

"IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE city of Santa Monica has more major highways than any of the other bay area cities between the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Point Dume. To name five: Wilshire, Santa Monica and Lincoln boulevards compounded by the I-10 Freeway and Pacific Coast Highway. All are crowded with traffic congestion every day of the week due to various forms of interlopers visiting Santa Monica for work, business and pleasure. Santa Monica has chosen to restripe Ocean Park Boulevard as a partial solution in abating the horrors of bumper-to-bumper traffic congestion along this traffic corridor. Time will tell if it helps to speed up the slow flow of traffic. At the present time the entities most pleased with the restriping of city streets are those companies who supply street paint to the city."

"I THINK THE NEW STRIPING ON OCEAN Park Boulevard is terrific. It slows down the traffic. It doesn't give the speeders the chance to change lanes and it is safer for people parking cars because of the buffer of the bicycle zone and it encourages bicycling. I would like the city to put in more traffic signals on Ocean Park Boulevard as well."

"I AM VERY PLEASED WITH THE restriping on Ocean Park Boulevard, bringing it down to one lane. Traffic moves slower, it is easier for drivers to see you in the crosswalk and all in all I hope they keep it that way."

"I'M DISTRAUGHT AT WHAT THEY HAVE done to that street. A one-lane corridor is not what we need in an area with that much congestion. I oppose it and I think the city should put it back the way it was."

"THE EXPERIMENT ON OCEAN Park Boulevard has been interesting to say the least. I'd say that the positive is that it has allowed a couple additional parking spaces. The narrowing from Seventh Street to Lincoln Boulevard has created a queuing up scenario where you will get anything from eight to 10 cars being on a green to get across Ocean Park Boulevard and head up the hill going east. If the city is in fact treating this as an experiment it has been a failure. We're ready to circulate a petition to ask the city to put things back the way they used to be."

"ONE LANE, TWO LANES, ONE WAY, TWO ways – so what. It is just rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. It is a lost cause. Without population control, everything else is just blowing in the wind."

"I THINK THAT OCEAN PARK BOULEVARD is now awful to travel on. They should reverse course and restore it to the way it used to be so the traffic can flow again."

"OUR OWN COUNCILMEMBER RICHARD Bloom gave a great hint to the socialist thinking on the council when he worried about too many parking spaces contaminating public driving pleasure. I didn't get a taxpayer supported trip to Europe to view mass transit, we've bailed Europe out twice now. As an American we're great because we drive in our own direction. Over development plus no infrastructure has led to an European big brother approach to mass transit. Nobody who speaks English wants to take a $51 million subsidized Blue Bus ride. Thanks to the council and its millionaire developers and jet flying rich, only they will be able to drive a car. Retarding population growth is the best way to experience American driving pleasure."

"OCEAN PARK BOULEVARD HAS become a traffic stresser in its current configuration. Please take this bad idea and dump it. Restore Ocean Park Boulevard to the way it used to be."

"IT IS TERRIBLE WHAT THEY HAVE done. It seems like Santa Monica has a problem with traffic so they make it even more difficult to drive through their city. It is awful and I would like it put back the way it was for years."

"THEY RESTRIPED OCEAN PARK Boulevard so that it would affect congestion. It did affect congestion, it has gotten worse. They shouldn't have done it."

"I THINK OCEAN PARK BOULEVARD should be reverted back to the way it was. The new lane restriping is confusing and it is very dangerous and it is certainly slowing down traffic."

"I HOPE THEY KEEP THE BIKE path on Ocean Park Boulevard because it is much easier to bicycle on that street up to Lincoln Boulevard. I think the birds are happier too because they have less cars going by."

"IT NOW TAKES 20 TO 30 MINUTES to drive seven blocks until 25th street. It is a mess."

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Microsoft makes unexpected bid

Technology giant would become a force if it acquires the popular Yahoo

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Microsoft Corp. has pounced on slumping Internet icon Yahoo Inc. with an unsolicited takeover offer of $44.6 billion in its boldest bid yet to challenge Google Inc.'s dominance of the lucrative online search and advertising markets.

The surprise offer of $31 per share, made late Thursday and announced Friday, seizes on Yahoo's weakness while Microsoft tries to muscle up in a high-stakes battle with Google likely to define the technology landscape for years to come.

In a statement Friday, Yahoo said it will "carefully and promptly" study Microsoft's bid.

With its profits steadily sliding, Yahoo's stock slipped to a four-year low earlier this week and a new management team has been trying to steer a turnaround but sees more turbulence through 2008.

The announcement lifted Yahoo's share price by almost 50 percent in morning trading, while Google fell more than 8 percent, dragged down by a fourth-quarter earnings report that missed Wall Street expectations.

In conference call Friday morning, Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer indicated he won't take no for an answer after Yahoo rebuffed takeover overtures a year ago.

"This is a decision we have — and I have — thought long and hard about," Ballmer said. "We are confident it's the right path for Microsoft and Yahoo."

Besides the question of Yahoo's acceptance, Microsoft's bid also faces regulatory scrutiny in Washington and Europe. On Friday, the Justice Department said it is "interested" in reviewing antitrust issues. European Union officials declined to comment.

To underscore its resolve, Microsoft is offering a 62 percent premium to Yahoo's closing stock price Thursday. If the deal is consummated, it would be by far the largest acquisition in Microsoft's history, eclipsing last year's $6 billion purchase of online ad service aQuantive.

Since reaching a 52-week high of $34.08 in October, Yahoo shares have fallen 46 percent. Yahoo climbed $8.62 a share, or 45 percent, to $27.80 in afternoon trading. Microsoft shares fell $2.22, or 6.8 percent, to $30.38.

Microsoft publicly disclosed its cash-and-stock offer in hopes of rallying support from Yahoo's shareholders, making it more difficult for Yahoo's board to turn down the bid.

In a letter released Friday, Ballmer pointedly noted Yahoo's financial performance has deteriorated since Microsoft was spurned a year ago. At that time, Ballmer said he was told Yahoo believed it was better off on its own.

"A year has gone by, and the competitive situation has not improved," Ballmer wrote in his letter.

Microsoft's previous offer was rebuffed by Terry Semel, who stepped aside last year as chief executive under shareholder pressure.

Microsoft sent its latest takeover offer to Yahoo late Thursday, shortly after Semel resigned as the company's chairman. The letter is addressed to Semel's successors, new Chairman Roy Bostock and the current CEO, co-founder Jerry Yang, who is one of Yahoo's largest shareholders.

In a prepared statement, Yahoo said its board "will evaluate this proposal carefully and promptly in the context of Yahoo's strategic plans and pursue the best course of action to maximize long-term value for shareholders."

Microsoft views Yahoo as its best chance to thwart Google, which has leveraged its leadership in Internet search and advertising to emerge as an increasingly serious threat to the world's largest software maker's persuasive influence on how people interact with computers.

Google already controls nearly 60 percent of the U.S. search market, and has been widening its lead, despite concerted efforts by both second-place Yahoo and third-place Microsoft. By combining, Microsoft and Yahoo would have a 33 percent share of the U.S. search market, according to the latest data from comScore Media Metrix.

By joining forces, Microsoft and Yahoo also would widen their narrowing advantage over Google in providing free e-mail accounts — a service that helps foster more loyalty with users and create more advertising opportunities.

Advertisers around the world are expected to double their spending on the Internet during the next three years as more people get their news and entertainment on the Web instead of television, radio, newspapers and magazine. The trend is expected to create an $80 billion online ad market in 2010, up from an estimated $40 billion last year.

Despite an aggressive push in recent years, Microsoft's online advertising expansion hasn't paid off. Last week, the Redmond, Wash.-based company reported a 79 percent jump in its overall profit, but its online division's loss widened to $245 million.

And Yahoo has been struggling to attract more advertising even though its Web site attracts one of the biggest audiences. The Sunnyvale-based company's profit has declined for five consecutive quarters, prompting plans to cut 1,000 jobs later this month, a 7 percent reduction of its 14,300-employee work force.

Besides helping to boost its online ad revenue, Microsoft believes it could mine more profit from Yahoo by jettisoning workers and eliminating overlapping operations.

Microsoft said it sees at least $1 billion in cost savings if it buys Yahoo. Microsoft executives deflected questions about how many jobs might be lost, but the company emphasized retention packages will be offered to Yahoo engineers and other key employees, including some executives.

The fate of Yahoo's brand also is unclear if Microsoft takes over. Both Ballmer and Kevin Johnson, president of Microsoft's platforms and services division, hailed Yahoo's strong brand value but didn't commit to keeping the name alive.

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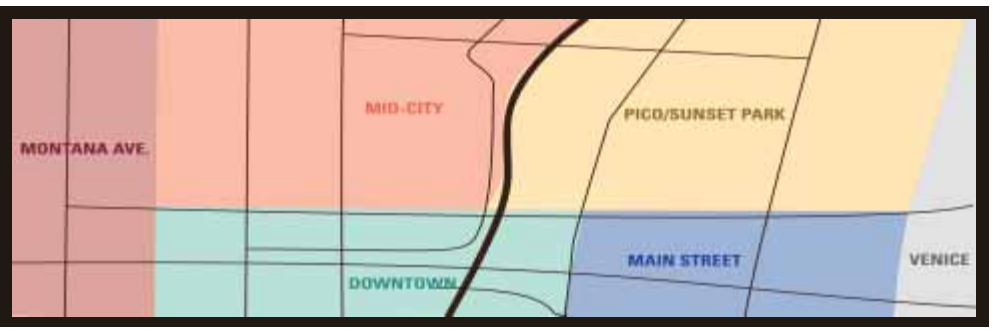
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Creative Sushi 2518 Main St. (310) 396-2711
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The Enterprise Fish Co 174 Kinney St. (310) 392-8366
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La Vecchia Cucina 2654 Main St (310) 399-7979
Library Alehouse 2911 Main St. (310) 314-4855
Lula Cocina Mexicana 2720 Main St. (310) 392-5711
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Malia 2424 Main St. (310) 396-4122
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Urth Caffe 2327 Main St. (310) 749-8879
Via Veneto 3009 Main St. (310) 399-1843
The Victorian Baker Cafe 2640 Main St. (310) 392-4956
Wildflour 2807 Main St. (310) 452-7739
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Abbot's Pizza Co 1407 Abbot Kinney Blvd (310) 396-7334
Agra Indian Kitchen 2553 Lincoln Blvd. (310) 396-8749
Axe 1009 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (310) 664-9787
Azteca Restaurant 835 Sunset Ave. (310) 396-6576
Baby Blues BBQ 444 Lincoln Blvd. (310) 396-7675
Beechwood 822 W. Washington Blvd. (310) 448-8884
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Shima 1432 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (310) 314-0882
Siam Best Restaurant 2533 Lincoln Blvd. (310) 827-8977
Stroh's Gourmet 1239 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (310) 450-5119
Szechwan Restaurant 2905 Washington Blvd. (310) 821-6256
Uncle Darrow's 2560 S Lincoln Blvd. (310) 306-4862
Wabi-Sabi 1635 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (310) 314-2229
Wacky Wok 2805 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (310) 822-7373

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C & O Cucina 3016 Washington Blvd. (310) 301-7278
Cafe Del Rey 4451 Admiralty Way (310) 823-6395
California Pizza Kitchen 3345 Fiji Way (310) 301-1563
Casa Escobar 14160 Palawan Way (310) 822-2199
Chart House 13950 Panay Way (310) 822-4144
The Cheesecake Factor 4142 Via Marina (310) 306-3344
Chin Chin 13455 Maxella Ave Ste 266 (310) 823-9999
Chipotle Mexican Grill 4718 Admiralty Way (310) 821-0059
Harbor House Restaurant 4211 Admiralty Way (310) 577-4555
Islands 404 Washington Blvd (310) 822-3939
Jer-ne at The Ritz-Carlton 4375 Admiralty Way (310) 823-1700
Kaya Sushi 13400 Washington Blvd. (310) 577-1143
Kifune Restaurant 405 Washington Blvd (310) 822-1595
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Chez Mimi Restaurant 246 26th St (310) 393-0558
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Coral Tree Cafe 11645 San Vicente Blvd. (310) 979-8733
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Literati II 12081 Wilshire Blvd. (310) 479-3400
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Bombay Cafe 12021 W. Pico Blvd. (310) 473-3388
Carmine's II Caffe 10463 Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 441-4706
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Bracing for an election day rush

Registrars face unexpected voting-related challenges

BY ALLISON HOFFMAN I Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO Days ahead of an election without precedent, California officials are scrambling to cope with record absentee ballots, voting machine changes and logistical headaches.

Myriad complications arising from California's earliest-ever statewide election have left registrars worried that they will end Election Night with up to 2 million ballots left uncounted, about 22 percent of the expected vote total.

The challenges are as diverse as the state's electorate:

• Testing last year by the Secretary of State's office found that many electronic voting machines could be hacked, forcing 21 counties to revert to paper ballots. That has left a shortage of the high-speed optical scanning machines needed to read the ballots quickly, which is expected to cause a backlog on Election Night.

• More than half of all voters will cast mail-in ballots, but a large percentage are expected to mail them at the last minute or drop them off at polling places on Election Day. Those late ballots will be tallied only after the precinct count and first must go through a time-consuming verification process.

• A shortage of remote optical scanning machines means ballots will have to be trucked long distances — or flown — to central locations before they can be counted in some of California's larger counties.

And that's not to mention the unpredictability of weather during California's first midwinter election.

"I was nervously eyeing the ten-day forecast because with paper ballots we have to have plastic bags out there to protect things coming in," said Deborah Seiler, registrar in San Diego County. "You don't want those getting wet."

San Bernardino County, the nation's largest geographically, is another of those that returned to paper ballots this year.

The county stretches from Los Angeles County on the west to the Arizona and Nevada borders, and includes some of the most isolated communities in the state.

Three airplanes will retrieve ballots from some of those, including Needles, near the Arizona border, and Baker, a freeway pitstop on the way to Las Vegas known for its skyscraper thermometer.

But Registrar Kari Verjil is trying to decide between helicopters or a fleet of trucks to get ballots from the mountain communities, a special concern if the area is hit by bad weather.

> **"WE'RE NOT ANTICIPATING THAT WE'LL FINISH COUNTING THE PAPER BALLOTS UNTIL 6 A.M."**
>
> **Elma Rosas,** Spokeswoman for the election office in Santa Clara Count

Already this year, storms have caused fatal avalanches, mudslides and widespread power outages.

"The paper ballots are so big and heavy I don't think they'll fit on the helicopters," Verjil said. "So we've hired a lot of trucks this year."

Throughout the state, county workers are busy retraining poll volunteers to understand new equipment, processing a spike in registrations and weeding out early ballots that have been improperly filled out.

Final figures will be released Friday, but voter registration already has hit a record for a presidential primary — nearly 15.5 million voters as of early December.

Driving the interest is the first presidential primary in recent California history that is contested and pivotal to the national campaigns. The state's traditional primary is in June, but the Legislature moved the election to Feb. 5, in part to capture part of the nominating spotlight.

Nearly a third of all registered voters are clustered in the 21 counties that are switching from electronic voting machines to paper ballots. Besides San Bernardino and San Diego, they include Riverside and Santa Clara counties.

The switch has sent registrars hunting for additional high-speed scanners to process the ballots. But most predict counts will stretch into Wednesday morning, even if everything runs smoothly.

That's nothing like the near-instant results produced by the electronic machines.

"We're not anticipating that we'll finish counting the paper ballots until 6 a.m.," said Elma Rosas, a spokeswoman for the election office in Santa Clara County, which includes San Jose and much of Silicon Valley. "The paper is just going to take us that much longer."

In Sacramento County, glitches that caused precinct scanning machines to reject paper ballots will force all counting to be done at a central office — but only by seven machines.

The result: No final tally in one of the state's most populous counties until at least 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Meanwhile, registrars are pushing their staffs to canvass all the absentee ballots that have been returned early and finish the verification process before polls open on Tuesday.

A sample of registrars throughout the state suggests that many absentee voters are holding onto their ballots rather than mailing them in. That could be to avoid voting for candidates who later drop out, as Democrat John Edwards and Republican Rudy Giuliani did this week, or because the races in both parties remain so competitive.

Absentee ballots that are received on Election Day get tallied last — and only after the laborious verification process. Because of the expected flood of late absentee ballots, a large percentage of those are not likely to be counted until sometime Wednesday.

Santa Monica Daily Press
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STATE BRIEFS

YAKIMA
Palm Springs billboard back in Washington

A billboard proclaiming "Welcome to Yakima: The Palm Springs of Washington" is back by Interstate 82 amid the snow and cold of winter.

The sign is owned by Gary Lukehart, a Yakima developer and business owner. For 23 years it greeted motorists from the Gateway Shopping Center. Then about a year ago it was removed because of hotel construction.

Last Friday it rose again, this time at Lukehart's Chinook Business Park, about a mile north of the old location.

He says, "I've heard people say, 'Who was the idiot who put that up?' but that doesn't bother me. It's there to attract attention and tourists."

Lukehart coincidentally is just back from — where else? — Palm Springs, Calif.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH
Animal rescue owner must reimburse city

The ex-owner of Noah's Ark Animal Rescue Center and her partner must pay $94,614 to Long Beach to cover the cost of treating 299 dogs and cats seized during a raid at the private shelter.

Alexia Selma Tiraki-Kryklund and Gloria Ramos have been serving sentences on animal cruelty convictions. Tiraki-Kryklund was sentenced last month to 16 months in prison and Ramos got a year in jail.

During Thursday's restitution hearing, Animal Control Lt. Michelle Quigley detailed the extensive costs in treating the animals seized during the Aug. 23, 2006 raid.

Testimony showed Noah's Ark was an overcrowded, sweltering and poorly ventilated facility stained with urine and feces.

AP

LOS ANGELES
DA touts prosecutor diversity

District Attorney Steve Cooley is praising the diversity of his prosecution team, noting it's come a long way since it was a bunch of "old white guys" when he came aboard 35 years ago.

Cooley says "a lot of those guys were sons of judges" when he joined as a young attorney in 1973. Now, recent hiring statistics show the district attorney's office has the most diverse group of new attorneys in history.

The office is currently 35 percent minority.

Of the 253 employees hired in the past three years, 45 percent were racial minorities and 55 percent were women.

DA figures also show 24 percent of the office's 114 attorney-managers and attorney-supervisors are racial minorities and 35 percent are women.

AP

LOS ANGELES
Owner of medical pot dispensaries facing prison

The owner of a chain of medical marijuana dispensaries is facing up to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to federal charges of distributing pot at his West Hollywood location.

Larry Roger Kristich pleaded guilty Thursday and he will be sentenced April 21. Besides the prison sentence, he's facing up to $95 million in fines.

The 64-year-old businessman owned the Oakland-based Compassionate Caregivers marijuana dispensaries in San Francisco, San Diego, Ukiah, Oakland, San Leandro, Bakersfield and West Hollywood.

He pleaded guilty to knowingly operating the Yellow House dispensary on La Brea Avenue. A conspiracy count is expected to be dismissed at sentencing.

AP

SANTA BARBARA
CHP grant targets drunken driver `Sideways' effect

The California Highway Patrol blames an increase in wine country drunken driving arrests and crashes on the "Sideways" effect.

The 2004 hit movie "Sideways" set in the San Ynez Valley vineyards led to a stampede to the area's 90 wine tasting rooms, and there was suddenly a rise in drunken driving incidents.

The Santa Barbara Area CHP just got $658,000 grant to crack down on drinking and driving in the wine country.

AP

SAN LUIS OBISPO
Judge invalidates voter-approved Measure J

A San Luis Obispo judge invalidated voter-approved Measure J, which would have allowed developers to build a shopping center on 51 acres at the old Dalidio Ranch.

Measure J was approved by San Luis Obispo County voters in November 2006. Environmentalist and other groups opposed to growth sued to overturn the measure.

Superior Court Judge Roger Piquet wrote in his decision that "Measure J is not a proper subject for an initiative."

AP

SANTA CRUZ
School turns up heat in three-month tree-sitting protest

Tree sitters perched in redwoods on the University of California, Santa Cruz, campus the past three months are now being targeted for discipline.

A university official wants an 18-year-old student supporting the antigrowth protest suspended for two months.

AP

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Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

HOT SPOT: **High-end televisions are a big seller at places like Carlson's TV & Appliances on Fifth Street this time of year.**

Super Bowl drives sales

FROM **BIG GAME** PAGE 3

ple are eating in more," Heylen said. "That will roll over in an event like the Super Bowl as well."

But David Houston, the co-owner of Barney's Beanery, doesn't believe that bar participation during the Super Bowl is in a downward spiral. Last year, the Third Street Promenade bar filled to capacity, which is around 300 people.

The only other event that receives more attendance at the bar is when the Lakers are in the playoffs, Houston said.

This year, Houston purchased nine new 50-inch HD television in anticipation of the Super Bowl, an event in which he will charge customers a flat $100 fee for all-you-can eat drinks and food.

To Houston, the appeal with the bar is being able to watch the game with hundreds of other fans.

"The first best thing to do is be there because you and a hundred thousand people scream their heads off," Houston said. "The next best thing is to be in the bar and have 250 people screaming their heads off."

Sasha Choquette, a Santa Monica resident, said he is planning to watch the game at his friend's bar, The Yard on Broadway.

"It's better to go out with a lot of people," Choquette said. "It's a more festive atmosphere."

Others plan to savor the game experience in person.

Chetan Bhandari, a former Angeleno who now lives in Hong Kong, flew to the United States just to watch his favorite team, the New England Patriots, in Glendale, Ariz.

Bhandari, who moved to Hong Kong six months ago, is planning to take his young son, Axel, a Giants fan.

"I think it will be a blow out (in favor of the Patriots)," the elder Bhandari said, smirking at his son who was wearing a Giants shirt.

The rivalry will spill over in Santa Monica where both Rick's Tavern, a New York-theme bar, and Sonny McLean, a Boston bar, are expected to be filled to capacity.

"It's awesome here," Sam Fusaro, a bartender at Sonny McLean's, said on Friday. "Every single person is a Patriots person, every single person knows each other from watching games with each other all year."

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(Partial List)

For a complete list, please visit www.YesonRforOurSchools.org

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COMMUNITY BRIEF

NORWALK

The skinny on crossover voting

Acting Registrar-Recorder Dean Logan reminds voters who are registered as "Decline to State" or "Nonpartisan" that they may crossover and choose American Independent or Democratic party ballots in the Feb. 5 Presidential Primary Election.

Voters can also vote a nonpartisan ballot using statewide measures and local ballot propositions only.

Under California's "Modified Closed Primary" law that passed in 2002, each established political party may request that "Nonpartisan" or "Decline to State" voters be allowed to cross over and vote in their scheduled party primary elections. For this election only, the American Independent or Democratic Parties requested that this option be exercised.

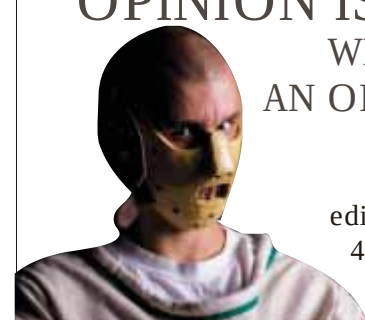
"This is the first time that the Democratic and Republican parties have made different decisions with regard to allowing cross over voting for nonpartisan voters," Logan said. "We have undertaken an aggressive voter education campaign in order to avoid confusion so that voters who are eligible and choose to cross over can do so."

Logan's office mailed letters to all permanent nonpartisan mail-in voters notifying them of their options, included notices in sample ballot packets mailed to every registered voter and trained poll workers extensively so that nonpartisan voters who vote at their polling location will be aware of their options on election day.

Additional information, including a full explanation of crossover voting may be found on the recorder's Web site at www.lavote.net. Voters may also call the recorder at (800) 815-2666.

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Gymboree	(310) 470-7780
Hot Topic	(310) 474-8230
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Indian Arts	(310) 446-6363
Lady Foot Looker	(310) 446-1707
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Nine West	(310) 446-9560
Planet Funk	(310) 441-9636
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Sunglass Hut	(310) 474-6484
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Brookstone	(310) 474-6888
Express Men	(310) 458-8054
Forever 21	NOT OPEN YET
Foot Locker	(310) 260-7913
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Charles David	(310) 348-5050
Kenneth Cole	(310) 282-8535

The Oaks Mall

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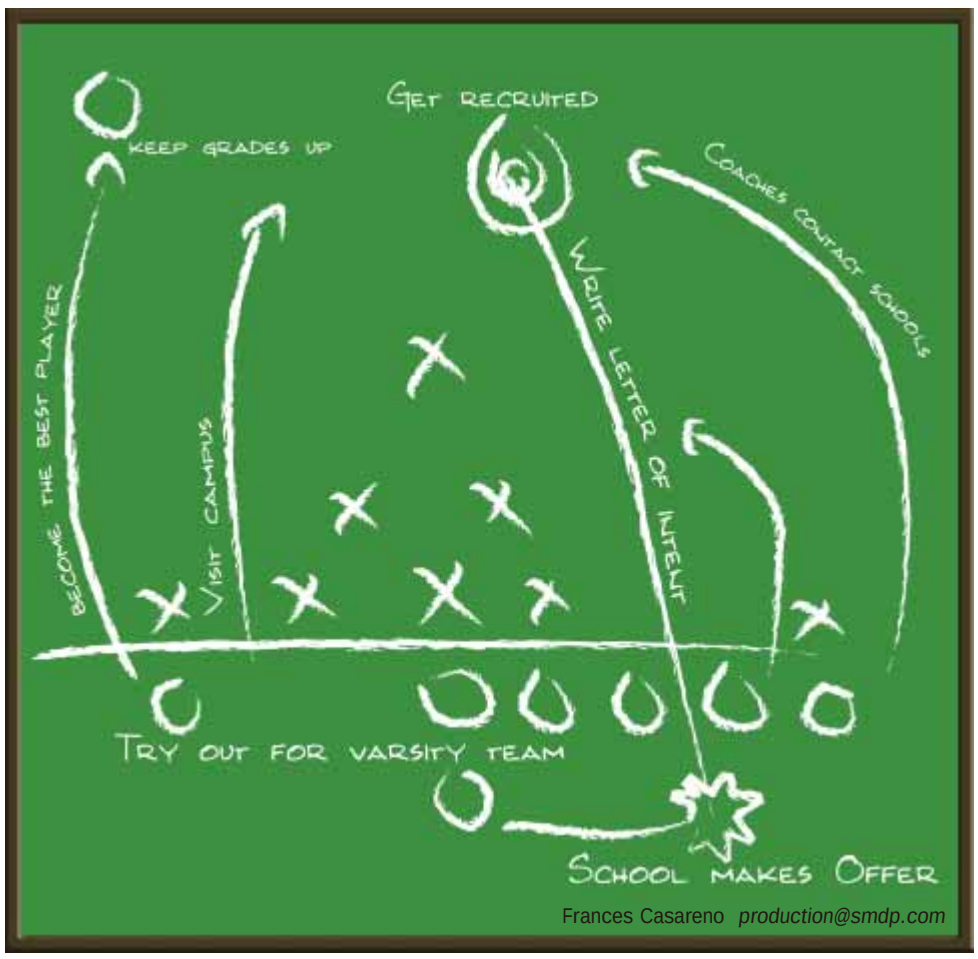
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Frances Casareno *production@smdp.com*

Becoming a COLLEGE ATHLETE isn't so easy

Student jocks have a long road to stardom

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHI It was a future that started with a lofty dream.

For Ryan Katz, they were dreams of blue and gold, being the field general for UCLA at the Rose Bowl, images of Cade McNown and Cory Paus in mind.

While the Santa Monica High School quarterback won't be suiting up as a Bruin next year, his dreams of playing at a major college program will come true on Wednesday when he along with hundreds of seniors across the country will cross the T's and dot the I's, signing their Letters of Intent on an annual event known as "National Signing Day."

Katz will be among the quarterbacks competing for a starting role on next year's Oregon State University squad.

"I'm anxious to get up there," Katz, who graduated in the fall semester, said on Thursday. "It's going to be a new challenge and that's going to be good."

While Katz will soon head to Corvallis, Ore. in a few months for spring practice, the course to becoming a college athlete wasn't without obstacles.

For many high school students with similar aspirations, the process to secure an athletic scholarship to play at the next level is time-consuming, with mornings spent in the gym and on the court or field, honing their skills. Afternoons were spent buried in textbooks, adding muscle to their brain.

Playing in college is a dream for many high school athletes, who grew up idolizing the likes of Michael Jordon and Tom Brady, and playing at the next level could be a step toward becoming a professional athlete. But for others who don't have the financial means to pay for college, becoming a student athlete is a ticket to receiving higher education.

It's a process that for many students begins during their sophomore and junior years of high school.

Katy Keating, a power forward on the girl's basketball team at Samohi, started getting noticed by recruiters after her freshman year when she spent her summers in the club circuit, playing in tournaments that are highly attended by college coaches.

Her teammate, shooting guard Daisy Feder, started receiving letters from colleges during her sophomore year, but didn't begin responding until her junior year. By the summer before her senior year, the

SEE **ATHLETES** PAGE 16



Student athletes

FROM **ATHLETES** PAGE 15

calls started rolling in from coaches and the Samohi senior, with college on the horizon, began changing her dietary and work-out habits, keeping track of everything she ate, getting more rest, and spending more time in the gym.

Next year, Feder will play at the University of California at San Diego while Keating will join the University of San Francisco's women's team.

"It's something I've dreamed about doing since I was a little kid," Feder said.

The course that high school student athletes take to secure a spot on a college team, whether it be a Division I or II program, depends on the particular sport and level as each is restricted by different guidelines under the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Many athletes grab the attention of recruiters through their play in off-season club leagues, traveling in the summer through various tournaments that are often highly attended by recruiters. Such was the case for Katz who was already highly touted before his junior year because of his performance in several summer camps, according to Samohi football Coach Zach Cuda.

This past summer, Katz participated in summer camps at both Oregon State University and its rival, the University of Oregon. Cuda and his brother both worked in the Oregon State summer football camp and took their young quarterback with them, performing for the Beavers' coaching staff.

"They loved him and by the end of the camp, they offered him a full-ride scholarship," Cuda said.

Offers from Oregon and the University of Washington followed soon after.

High school coaches will often sit down with their players during their sophomore or junior years and ask them to compile a list of schools for whom they would like to play, after which point the coach will send out a highlight tape of the athlete to the colleges of choice along with the student's transcript.

Marty Verdugo, the girl's basketball coach at Samohi, said after evaluating a player's athletic and mental ability, he will call college coaches to notify he has a top-notch player, inviting them to watch the girls in action at an upcoming game. Just the other night, a recruiter from Cal State Fullerton came to watch Ellesse Brandis play against Inglewood High School.

Samohi's football coach undergoes a similar process for his athletes, helping them create highlight tapes and reviewing a possible list of schools for them to attend and compiling a package that includes the tape, a transcript and test scores.

After a series of phone calls and campus visits, the scholarship offers come rolling in, usually during the end of the players' junior year or beginning of their senior year.

Next year, at least four Samohi football players are expected to play in college — linebacker Max Monbouquette who might end up at a Division III school; wide receiver Taylor Wright, who is close to committing to the University of San Diego; and Al-rilwan Adeyemi, a wide receiver and defensive back who is also being recruited by the University of San Diego as well as the Air Force Academy.

"This time of year is insane because recruiters are coming by almost daily," Cuda said.

The initiation goes both ways.

Nina Matthies, the women's volleyball coach at Pepperdine University, scans the entire country for potential volleyball players, keeping a close track of their database of players they have watched for years.





Photos by Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

ON THEIR WAY: **Santa Monica High School' Katy Keating (left) has committed to the University of San Francisco. Daisy Feder (right) has agreed to play for the University of California at San Diego. Both players are seniors.**





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File photo

ON THE OREGON (STATE) TRAIL: **Santa Monica High School's Ryan Katz will be an OSU Beaver next year.**

Matthies and her assistant coaches spend much of their time watching high school athletes that participate in the off-season club programs, which for volleyball, takes place around January.

"I'm looking for the best student athlete in the country," Matthies said.

Verdugo, who is only in his second year as the head coach of the girl's basketball team, said he anticipates that colleges will begin eyeing the Samohi program more as he sends more and more students to play in college. He got a start last year when he sent Allie Southam to play at a Division III school and Emily Foshag chose to attend New York University, where she currently is a walk-on and getting minutes as a freshman.

BEING A STUDENT FIRST

Tom Salter, the head football coach at Culver City High School, is tough when it comes to academics.

It starts in his players' freshman year, going over the core classes that they need to take in order to be able to play in college and the scores they'll need to achieve on standardized tests to even get a look.

The required courses have been committed to memory for Salter as he has been over the process numerous times before — four years of English, two years of science with a lab class, three years of math.

"When they don't come in as good students ... sometimes it doesn't register until their senior year when all of a sudden they (know) they can go to college if they get better grades," Salter said. "A lot of times, it's a maturing process."

For the Katz family, academics always took a priority over athleticism. If all else fails in the world of sports, at least the younger Katz could rely on a solid education, said father Mike Katz.

"We always emphasized that (education) was our number one priority and athletics was a dream," Mike Katz said. "Ryan was always a good student in the classroom."

It's a concept that has been ingrained in Keating, who said a lot of student athletes believe that their physical talent is their ticket out of a bad situation.

"You need to have the drive to be a student before an athlete," Keating said. "Be a student in the classroom and athlete on the floor and push yourself academically and athletically."

Academic standards depends on the school, some more stricter than others. The NCAA Clearinghouse sets a minimum requirement for student athletes that is based on a sliding scale — the lower the grade point average, the higher the SAT score needs to be.

The transcript is usually the first thing a college recruiter asks for when they receive word about a gifted athlete, Cuda said.

"When they come down, they have an entire city of Los Angeles to recruit and they can't waste their time courting a kid who academically isn't able to get into their school," Cuda said. "They start with the grades and the test scores ... and once that hurdle is crossed, then you get down to the evaluation of athletic talent."

REACHING OUT AT A YOUNG AGE

Recruiting is striking closer to the womb.

Case in point — last June, the USC basketball program made headlines when Coach Tim Floyd offered 14-year-old Ryan Boatright, a middle school basketball star from Illinois, a scholarship to play at the Galen Center.

At Pepperdine University, the recruiting process is near completed for the class of 2009 — current high school juniors — and coaches are getting ready to evaluate high school freshman and seniors, Matthies said.

"Volleyball is perhaps one of the sports where recruiting is becoming more escalated," Matthies said.

She added that there are students from the class of 2012 and 2013, who are currently in middle school, sending her letters asking that she come down and watch them play in a weekend tournament.

"I think kids see it as a way to help them pay for a college education," Matthies said. "There's pressure as they get a little bit older and understanding what it is they have to do."

Salter said he believes that the early recruitment efforts can take an emotional toll on the student athletes, but doesn't fault the student if the school's offer is too good to pass up.

"It's a lot for them to handle," he said. "Some kids could handle it with great motivation — if they get a letter from a school, there's this stress to really work and do better in the classroom."

There's been a lot of concern about the pressure placed on young athletes to push themselves to the limit physically and mentally, perhaps stripping them of having a normal childhood. Some have played through injury out of fear of disappointing a coach or a parent, while others simply burn out.

Mike Katz said he was concerned about the level of recruiting on his son, but had confidence that the young quarterback was level-headed enough to handle the stress.

"I always try to talk to him to get him to keep things in perspective," Katz said. "There comes a time when people say a lot of things, but you have to wait and see what the final decision and final offer is, especially in the early phases of recruiting."

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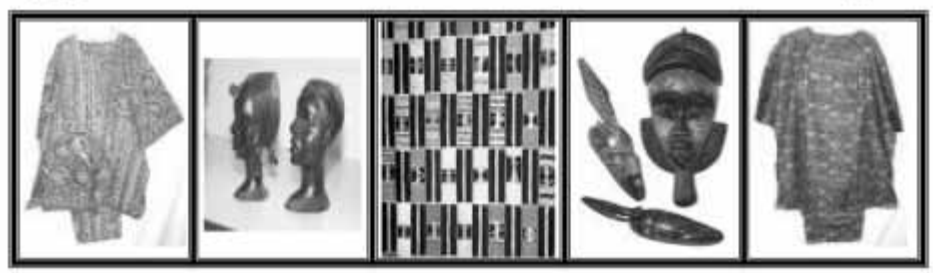
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SPLIT DECISION

(Above) Santa Monica College's Irina Sharf (left) leans into Cee-Cee Jeffries as she drives to the basket on Wednesday at West Los Angeles College. The Corsair women won the game, 73-62.

(Left) SMC's Noah Gottlieb takes it to the hoop as a pair of West Los Angeles College defenders try to move in to make a play on Wednesday. The Corsair men lost the road game, 68-56.

Photos by Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Shoe store opens on Main

FROM **SHOES** PAGE 3

For 2008, Royal Elastics introduced the King and Queen, its new take on the popular vulcanized sneaker.

"It's time for something new, people, and we have it," Ludo said.

The King, for men, and Queen, for women, are available in high- and low-top versions. They join Royal Elastics favorites like the women's Flonica flat and the men's Icon sneaker.

Royal Elastics was founded in 1996 in Australia, and now has 10 retail stores in Asia. The success of the Asian stores inspired Royal Elastics to open in the United States.

"This is an unedited way to market our brand directly to the consumer," said David Nichols, president of Royal Elastics. "There's a lot of momentum with this brand in other markets, so we take a global view. Our international component is vibrant. This enables us to further speak with a unique voice."

The company chose Main Street over other Los Angeles locales because, "the area just fits the brand," said Jennifer MacFarland, a spokesperson for Royal Elastics.

"We couldn't imagine being in any other place," MacFarland said.

Royal on Main takes a rare approach to merchandising: It also sells items related to the themes that inspire Royal Elastics designs. Royal Elastics makes a licensed line with Andy Warhol's graphics, and the store stocks Andy Warhol by Levi's jeans, Andy Warhol watches by Seiko and even a Warhol fragrance by New York house Bond No. 9. Royal on Main also sells Royal Elastics' licensed footwear lines by Gwen Stefani's Harajuku Lovers and L.A.M.B. Soon, the store will carry the other artists' limited-edition skateboard decks and wheels.

"The extra products complement what we're doing," Ludo said. "All these brands together create a diorama that represents Royal Elastics."

The store also features a gallery space, which will exhibit everything from photography to furniture design.

"Main Street is still very artistic, open and free spirited," Ludo said. "It's a street where you can walk and discover all the stores."

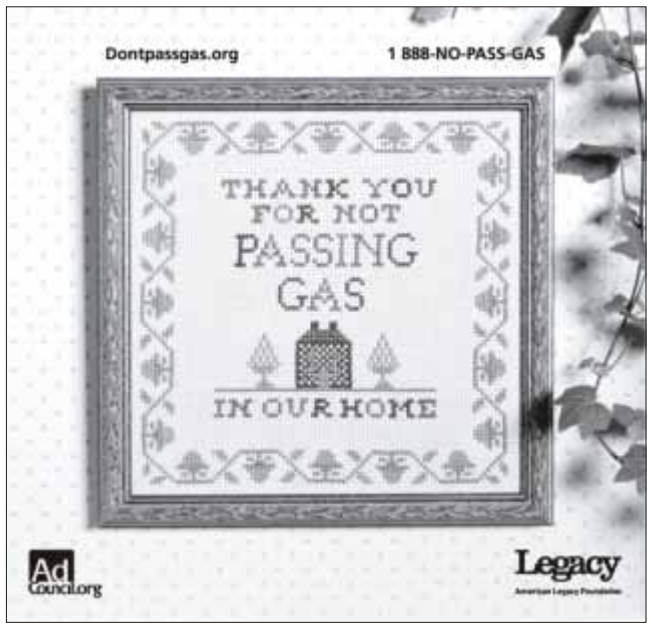
The 1200-square-foot shop is housed in the Edgemar complex, a contemporary architectural landmark designed by Frank Gehry. Ludo designed the store's interior, including Lucite "thrones" (stereo speakers included) for the King and Queen.

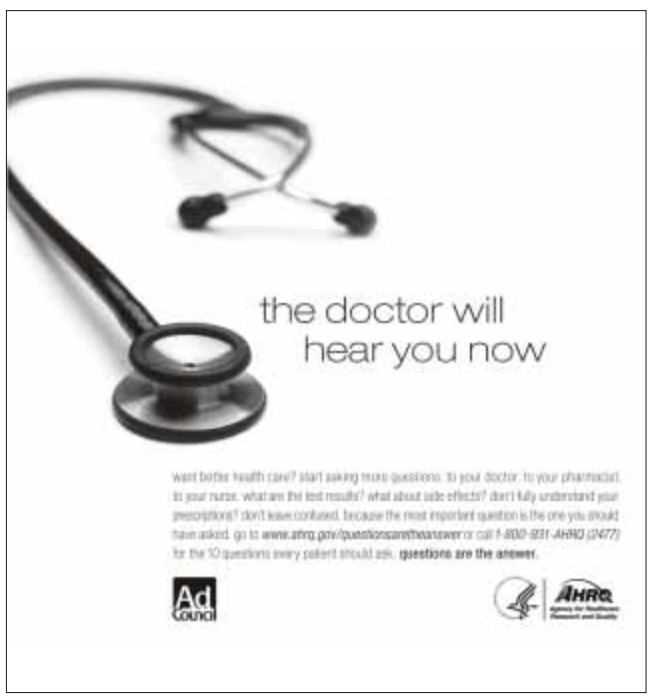


Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

NICE FIT: **Darren Domingue tries on a pair of Royal Elastics' shoes at the company's new location on Main Street on Friday. Royal on Main is the company's very first location in the U.S.**

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NBA

Lakers acquire Gasol from Grizzlies

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Lakers bolstered their banged-up frontline Friday with a key acquisition — 7-footer Pau Gasol of the Memphis Grizzlies.

The Lakers gave up Kwame Brown, rookie Javaris Crittenton and two first-round draft picks for Gasol. The Spaniard is certain to help a Lakers team reeling from recent injuries to inside players, including blossoming center Andrew Bynum.

Gasol, averaging 18.9 points, 8.8 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.44 blocked shots in 39 games this season, can fill in at center until Bynum returns in mid-March and then move to power forward.

The Grizzlies will get the Lakers' first-round draft choices in 2008 and 2010; guard Aaron McKie, signed earlier Friday for salary cap purposes; cash considerations, and the rights to Gasol's brother Marc, a 2007 second-round pick of Los Angeles.

The Lakers also receive the Grizzlies' second-round pick in 2010.

"We're extremely pleased to be able to make this trade," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said in a statement. "Pau is a proven player of All-Star caliber in this league who can score and rebound and is still a young player. We feel this strengthens our team in the short term as well as the long term."

Gasol, the NBA rookie of the year in 2002 and an All-Star four years later, has averaged 18.8 points, 8.6 rebounds and 3.1 assists in 476 career games with Memphis. The 27-year-old forward-center, under contract for three more years, is the franchise leader in 12 statistical categories, including points, rebounds and blocks.

The Lakers were one of the NBA's best teams before the 20-year-old Bynum injured his left knee Jan. 13 against Memphis, coincidentally. Los Angeles had a 28-16 record entering Friday night's game at Toronto but had lost five of eight since Bynum was injured.

Center Chris Mihm has been sidelined with right ankle problems for several weeks; forward Trevor Ariza broke his right foot in practice Jan. 20 and is expected to be out until mid-March, and forward Luke Walton was day-to-day with a right hip pointer.

Brown has been filling in at center since Bynum was injured, but the first overall pick in the draft by Washington in 2001 has been a significant drop-off from Bynum. Brown, earning $9.1 million this season in the final year of his contract, is averaging 5.7 points and 5.7 rebounds in 23 games. He has averaged 7.6 points and 5.7 rebounds in 389 games with the Wizards and Lakers.

Crittenton, the 19th overall pick in the draft last summer, averaged 3.3 points in 22 games for the Lakers. He was expendable because of the fine play by second-year guard Jordan Farmar as a backup to Derek Fisher. The 20-year-old Crittenton averaged 14.4 points and 5.8 assists as a freshman at Georgia Tech last season.

Marc Gasol, the 48th overall pick in the 2007 draft, is playing for Akasvayu Girona in Spain. The Gasol brothers were members of the gold-medal-winning Spanish national team at the 2006 world championships. The younger Gasol is 23 and a 7-1, 280-pounder.

McKie, a 13-year veteran, played in 10 games for the Lakers last season and hasn't played this season. He is expected to be released by the Grizzlies. He has averaged 7.4 points and 2.7 assists for Portland, Detroit, Philadelphia and the Lakers.

"This deal provides us with a significant amount of assets — two first-round picks, the draft rights to Pau's brother Marc, who has emerged into the top big man in Spain, a talented young point guard in Crittenton and a sizable amount of salary cap room over the next few years," Grizzlies general manager Chris Wallace said in a statement.

The Lakers also signed backup center DJ Mbenga to a second 10-day contract. The 7-footer from the Congo signed his first 10-day contract Jan. 21 and averaged 1.5 points and 1.5 rebounds in four games. Mbenga was released by Dallas on Oct. 30 and signed with Golden State on Nov. 17, where he played 16 games before being released Jan. 6.

NFL

Patriots coach Belichick rocks — and even jokes

BY DAVE GOLDBERG | AP Football Writer

PHOENIX With his mumbled, one-word answers and stern demeanor, Bill Belichick often seems as gray as the hooded sweatshirt he wears on the sideline, as prickly as the cactuses seen everywhere at the site of this year's Super Bowl.

So it was surprising — shocking to some — that the New England Patriots' coach would even crack a joke at a media session this week. Or curl his mouth into a smile upon hearing that Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers would be the halftime entertainment.

"I wish I could stand out there and listen to it," he said.

Belichick rocks? Who'd have guessed?

And how about that quip at the expense of the Mexican TV reporter who came to Media Day in a wedding dress and suggested to him that she was more attractive than model Gisele Bundchen, Tom Brady's girlfriend.

"I wouldn't go that far," Belichick said.

Even the Boston Globe asked, "Who kidnapped Bill Belichick? Who invaded his body?"

Of course, he still won't acknowledge that the New England Patriots are on the verge of becoming the first NFL team to go 19-0. The "U" word, for "unbeaten," has not crossed his lips at any point during the first 18 victories, so why should he say it now?

The 55-year-old Belichick is on his way to becoming one of the most successful coaches in NFL history — perhaps THE most successful.

If the Patriots beat the New York Giants — and they are favored by nearly two touchdowns — they will have won their fourth Super Bowl in seven seasons, the most successful run in nearly 30 years in a league that legislates parity among its teams.

The only real comparisons are Vince Lombardi, who won five titles in seven seasons in Green Bay; Chuck Noll, who won four in six seasons with Pittsburgh in the 1970s; and Bill Walsh, who built a San Francisco team that won four Super Bowls between 1981-89.

But none of them operated with free agency and a salary cap that makes it nearly impossible for a successful team to keep all its stars.

Of the 53 current Patriots, only eight were on the roster six years ago when New England upset St. Louis 20-17 for their first title. Lombardi and Noll were able to keep rosters laden with Hall of Fame players intact throughout their runs, and Walsh's 49ers had the kind of depth that allowed them to back up one Hall of Fame quarterback, Joe Montana, with another, Steve Young.

Belichick, the son of a career assistant coach at the U.S. Naval Academy, may be closest to Walsh, who was known as "The Genius" for his offensive innovations that are still very much in style. Belichick's innovations are defensive — especially those he used to slow down high-powered Buffalo and St. Louis offenses in the 1991 and 2002 Super Bowls, the first as defensive coordinator for the Giants, the second as head coach of the Patriots.

> **WHO KIDNAPPED BILL BELICHICK? WHO INVADED HIS BODY?"**
>
> **Boston Globe, in an article**

And like Walsh, Belichick lets people know he's smart.

He often projects an image that he's above explaining the complexities of his schemes and that he's simply smarter than his 31 adversaries. Many of them resent him for that as much as they resent him for the episode in the first game of the season when a Patriots employee was caught taping the defensive signals of the New York Jets, coached by former Belichick assistant and protege Eric Mangini. Belichick was fined $500,000 by the league.

"He's one of the smartest people I've ever known, maybe the smartest. That's why I hired him," said Patriots owner Robert Kraft. Despite numerous calls urging him to stay away from Belichick, Kraft hired him in 2000 even though his record as the coach of the Cleveland Browns from 1991-95 was 37-45.

Nobody ever doubted his football acumen.

He was analyzing Navy film at age 9 for his father and was an assistant coach for the Baltimore Colts at 23, his first year out of Wesleyan University, where he was a 165-pound center after a year at the exclusive Phillips Andover Academy.

He went from the Colts to the Detroit Lions and Denver Broncos, then settled in at age 27 with the Giants, becoming defensive coordinator at 32. He spent 12 years at the Meadowlands, helping Bill Parcells win Super Bowls there after the 1986 and 1990 seasons.

NFL

Green, Tagliabue among Hall finalists

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Football Writer

PHOENIX Paul Tagliabue gets another crack at making the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday, and Darrell Green and Cris Carter are the only first-time eligibles who made the finals.

Tagliabue, commissioner during the NFL's biggest period of prosperity, retired in 2006, replaced by Roger Goodell. He failed to get the necessary votes for election a year ago.

In his 17 years in charge, the league experienced no labor stoppages, while its TV contracts skyrocketed. There also were expansions to Jacksonville, Charlotte, Cleveland and Houston under his watch, and several teams moved into new stadiums, many of them built with public funds.

But some people, including some journalists who have a vote, found Tagliabue to be unapproachable and uncooperative.

Still, as one of Tagliabue's supporters said: "Can you write the history of the NFL, the most successful professional league in America, and not include Paul Tagliabue?"

Green is a rarity in that he played two decades with one team, the Washington Redskins. He was nearly as fast at the end of his stellar career as a cornerback and punt returner as he was when he first broke into the league from Texas A&I in 1983.

And that means fast: For years, Green was considered the NFL's quickest player.

"If you think you know fast, then you need to have seen Darrell Green run," Carter said. "A lot of guys thought they could outrun him, but they couldn't."

Green holds the record for consecutive seasons with an interception (19), and had 54 picks for 621 yards and six TDs. A member of the 1990s All-Decade team, Green made seven Pro Bowls.

Often during his career, he covered Carter, who retired in 2002 with 1,101 receptions, and 130 TD catches, both second overall to Jerry Rice. Carter also made the 1990s All-Decade team and his 122 receptions in 1993 set an NFL record since surpassed by Marvin Harrison.

He's also served as a mentor to younger receivers, particularly Randy Moss early in Moss' career in Minnesota. Carter made eight Pro Bowls.

Two other receivers are finalists: Art Monk and Andre Reed.

Monk retired in 1993 with records for most consecutive games with a reception (164) and career catches (820). Both have been surpassed, but Monk didn't play in as wide-open an era on offense as other receivers.



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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 56°**

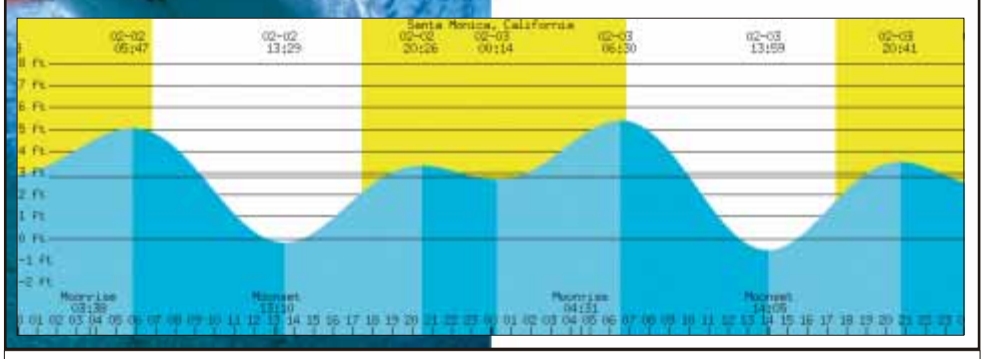
SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)

Saturday the 2nd the NW should still hover around chest high or so for west facing breaks, waist high at south facing spots. Saturday AM should be mild wind-wise for the dawn patrols, but winds will likely pick up onshore by mid to late morning. Rain could fall by the evening

LONG RANGE SYANOPSIS

WEATHER AND WIND ISSUES SUNDAY...
LIGHT SWELL NEXT WEEK AS CONDITIONS CALM.....

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 29, 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 20 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 15
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 29 / 10
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 13 / 33

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+	B
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F
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+	F
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	C	D
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	B	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	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	B
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	D
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	C	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	C	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	B	F

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

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.

NFL

Goodell defends destroying tape

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Football Writer

PHOENIX In the face of congressional pressure over destroying evidence from the Spygate scandal, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell defended his actions Friday.

Goodell also said he'd be willing to meet with Sen. Arlen Specter, who sent a letter to the commissioner the previous day asking why tapes shot by the New England Patriots in the cheating scandal were destroyed.

"The reason I destroyed the tapes is they were totally consistent with what the team told me," Goodell said during his State of the NFL speech. "It was the appropriate thing to do and I think it sent a message.

"The actual effectiveness of taping and taking of signals from opponents — it is something done widely in many sports. I think it probably had limited, if any effect, on the outcome of games.

"That doesn't change my perspectve on violating rules and the need to be punished."

NFL security confiscated a video camera and tape from a Patriots employee during New England's 38-14 victory over the New York Jets in the season opener. The employee was accused of aiming his camera at the Jets' defensive coaches as they signaled to players on the field.

Goodell fined Belichick $500,000 and docked the team $250,000 and a first-round draft pick. It was the biggest fine ever for a coach and the first time in NFL history a first-round draft pick has been confiscated as a penalty.

Goodell said there were six tapes, some from 2007 preseason games and the rest from 2006. Another reason he destroyed them was one tape was leaked to the media just after the Patriots-Jets game.

"We wanted to take and destroy that information," he said. "They may have collected it within the rules, but we couldn't determine that. So we felt that it should be destroyed."

Specter, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the issue could put the league's antitrust exemption at risk.

The matter may not compare to the CIA's destruction of interrogation tapes, Specter said in a Capitol Hill news conference, but the Pennsylvania senator added, "I do believe that it is a matter of importance. It's not going to displace the stimulus package or the Iraq war, but I think the integrity of football is very important, and I think the National Football League has a special duty to the American people — and further the Congress — because they have an antitrust exemption."

Goodell was asked a half-dozen times about elements of the scandal, which has touched a nerve with nearly everyone who follows the NFL — particularly with the Patriots at 18-0 and on the verge of the first unbeaten season since 1972.

He made it clear he's convinced the Patriots have acted in good faith since the taping was discovered.

"I think it was the best way to make sure the Patriots followed my instructions, to make sure that bit of information would not appear anywhere again," he said. "If it did, I'd know they didn't hand me all the information. Not having those tapes out there, now I know if something arises, they didn't tell me the truth."

Goodell also announced that the New Orleans Saints will host the San Diego Chargers at Wembley Stadium in London on Oct. 26 in the latest international game.

"The reception we got was extraordinary for last year's game (the Giants against the Dolphins), and we're so grateful we're coming back."

He noted that many franchises expressed interest in the London game, perhaps because the Giants played there and are now in the Super Bowl.

The league approved the Buffalo Bills' plan to play a regular-season game in Toronto in each of the next five seasons, plus a preseason game in Canada every other year. Goodell said the Bills' plan "was done thoughtfully to help regionalize the team even more broadly."

That game almost certainly will be in December, after the CFL's Grey Cup has been played.

For the first time in years, the league is considering revamping seedings in the playoffs to assure that more late-season games are meaningful. That could lead to a wild-card team actually hosting a first-round game if it has a better record than the division winner it is meeting.

Goodell admitted concern that some teams had virtually nothing to play for toward the end of the schedule.

"The incentive should be to win as many games as possible," he said. "Last season, I believe there were nine games in the last two weeks when at least one of the teams did not have any impact on the postseason (riding on the outcome)."

Goodell also:

• Indicated there is no timetable for testing of human growth hormone in the NFL. The league has given anti-doping researcher Don Catlin $500,000 to look into an HGH urine test, and also invested $3 million with the USOC to be used for anti-doping research.

"We're not at a point of a widely used test we can be comfortable with," Goodell said. "I don't think there's a significant amount of HGH use, but I have no basis in fact for saying that."

• Was confident the owners and the NFL Players Association can make progress toward extending or revamping the collective bargaining agreement, which runs through 2010. Both sides can opt out of the deal in November, which would lead to no salary cap for the 2010 season.

"The labor agreement is critically important to our business, which has changed over recent years," he noted, adding that costs have increased greatly because of stadium construction debt. "That needs to be recognized in the labor agreement and the union has recognized it."

• Noted that violations of the player conduct policy decreased by 20 percent, including a large reduction among rookies. He also emphasized that the league, in the wake of the death of Sean Taylor and three other 24-year-old players, is doing "everything we can to educate players on simple things they can do to protect themselves and their families. They are celebrities."

Imposter

Police investigate $100,000 burglary at Leslie Stahl's New York City apartment

A burglar posing as a construction worker made away with about $100,000 worth of jewelry and electronics in a broad-daylight heist at LESLIE STAHL's apartment, police said Friday.

Police wouldn't provide specifics, but the New York Post reported the burglar posed as a construction worker and stole several diamond watches, a pearl necklace, earrings, gold and silver necklaces and a laptop.

The break-in occurred during the morning of Jan. 25 at the "60 Minutes" correspondent's apartment overlooking Central Park.

Stahl, a former White House correspondent who has been on the CBS news magazine since 1991, wasn't home at the time. She had no comment on the burglary, a CBS-TV spokesman said.

The burglar reportedly went onto the roof, gained access by breaking a patio door and then ransacked the apartment Stahl shares with her husband, writer Aaron Latham, and daughter.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PLESHETTE GETS A STAR

SUZANNE PLESHETTE got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Thursday, less than two weeks after she died of respiratory failure.

On what would have been her 71st birthday, Pleshette received the walk's 2,355th star.

The husky-voiced television, film and theater star died Jan. 19. She underwent chemotherapy for lung cancer in 2006. She was best known for her role as Bob Newhart's wife on "The Bob Newhart Show," a CBS comedy that ran from 1972-78.

Newhart attended the star's unveiling, which had been planned before Pleshette's death.

AP

Jury acquits Snipes of fraud

Action star WESLEY SNIPES was found not guilty of federal tax-fraud and conspiracy charges Friday, but was convicted on three misdemeanor counts of failing to file a tax return.

Snipes and two co-defendants, a delicensed accountant and a tax protest leader, were indicted in 2006. Snipes was also indicted on six counts of willful failure to file a tax return from 1999-2004, a period in which he signed two contracts for more than $10 million on sequels in the "Blade" trilogy. He was acquitted on three of those and convicted on the others. He could be sentenced to three years in prison after originally facing a possible 16 years.



WESLEY SNIPES

Co-defendants Eddie Ray Kahn, the founder of a tax protest group, and Douglas P. Rosile, the accountant, were convicted by the same jury of tax fraud and conspiracy.

Snipes sat expressionless until all of his verdicts were read. Then, defense attorney Robert Bernhoft put his hand on the actor's leg and Snipes nodded in relief.

Rosile grimaced when his verdict was read. Kahn was not in attendance. He remains behind bars and argues the court has no jurisdiction to try him.

The verdict came on the third full day of deliberations.

Snipes, who starred in the "Blade" films and "White Men Can't Jump," is among the most famous targets of an IRS criminal investigation, and his prosecution was key for the government. The actor used tax protest arguments long rejected by courts but still continuing to find adherents.

For example, Snipes said the IRS's own code meant no citizen had to pay taxes on income earned in this country, and the agency had no legal authority to collect wages anyway, because it is not a proper government entity.

Snipes' attorneys claimed he was victimized by crooked advisers, and tried for years to get the IRS to explain whether he owed taxes. Later, the actor threatened the government and individual agents in his pursuit, declaring himself a "non-resident alien" not subject to tax laws.

Prosecutors say Snipes paid taxes in the 1990s, but changed his mind after meeting Kahn in 2000. He allegedly stopped filing returns, illegally sought $11 million in 1996 and 1997 taxes paid and drew fake checks to pay the U.S. Treasury.

AP

Live it up, Cancer

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

Happy Birthday!

This year, learn how to use anger and frustration to energize rather than cause hassles. If you are single, many people could be drawn to you, though some people could become angry if you don't choose them to be your sweetie. If you are attached, a squabble could add to the steaminess between the two of you. SAGITTARIUS encourages you to take a walk on the wild side!



Born Today

Singer Shakira (1977)

Writer Ayn Rand (1905) author James Joyce (1882)

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

★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. Find your friends and discover what their plans are before deciding what you want to do. Communication flourishes. Don't act on anger. You might be surprised by what goes down. Tonight: Act on a wish.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Work with a partner, even if it becomes frustrating or difficult. You have answers, but not all of them. Over-spending or taking a risk could be a problem. Someone you look up to only adds confusion to the immediate situation. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You are more volatile than you might realize. If you harness this hot energy, you could make some dynamic changes. Understand where others are coming from. Detach and attempt to see the complete story. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Easy does it. You might want to go off to the gym for a workout or take in a movie. You need to and must relax. You simply cannot get enough R and R. You could easily be aggravated. Turn away from such irritants. Tonight: Live it up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Creativity emerges. Open the door to mischief and fun. Many people surround you and clearly enjoy your company. In some sense you feel pressured to visit with everyone. Don't push a friend. Tonight: Have as much fun as possible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You might want to slow down some. Enjoy your family, roommates or pet. Don't feel as if you have to push every single moment. Right now, a timeout just for you fits. Take some much needed time. Tonight: Make it easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Speak and share your opinions. You could be a tad overwhelmed by what is happening around you. Keep communication flowing. Try walking in another's shoes. Understanding will bring more happiness. Tonight: Hang out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Balance your checkbook before you mosey on out the door. You might have thought you had more flow. A partner might keep challenging or demanding more. If you must set down your limits, do. Tonight: Remember your budget!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might feel in the pink, but others have a lot to share and express. Head in your own direction if need be. Avoid a confrontation, yet at the same time don't sell yourself short. Confirm plans before heading out. Tonight: Say yes to living.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Take your time, especially if you are tired. Recognize that you can cancel plans. Take care of yourself, and you might enjoy yourself more. Others will appreciate a more invigorated, happy Goat. Exercise through stress. Tonight: Vanish quickly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ The more people you see, the more connected and happy you are going to feel. Loosen up and relax with your pals. Get into a favorite hobby with a dear friend. Relax through playing. Tonight: Where the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Even if you aren't into being a role model, you are at this moment. How you handle yourself triggers a lot of admiration. A child or family member could be irritating. Let the issue go. You will be happier. Tonight: In the limelight.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528

My Neighbor Totoro (NR)
7:30
Spirited Away (Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi) (PG)
7:30

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

Atonement (R)
10:45am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)
11:00am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
Over Her Dead Body (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)
10:50am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50

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

27 Dresses (PG-13)
1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50
Charlie Wilson's War (R)
11:10am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00
Cloverfield (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:00, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:15
The Eye (PG-13)
12:10, 2:40, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35
Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Disney Digital 3D (G)
10:30am, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
There Will Be Blood (R)
11:20am, 2:55, 6:30, 10:05
Untraceable (R)
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 8:15, 10:45

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

The Business of Being Born (NR)
11:00am
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (Le Scaphandre et le papillon) (PG-13)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
Juno (PG-13)
12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
Operation Homecoming (NR)
11:00am
Persepolis (PG-13)
12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:15
Reflecting Pool, The (NR)
11:00am
Yiddish Theater: A Love Story (NR)
11:00am

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

The Bucket List (PG-13)
11:50am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Cassandra's Dream (PG-13)
11:40am, 5:20, 10:30
Mad Money (PG-13)
2:40, 7:50
Meet the Spartans (PG-13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
Michael Clayton (R)
1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 10:20
Rambo (R)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Strange Wilderness (R)
12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

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
GOLD

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

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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

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

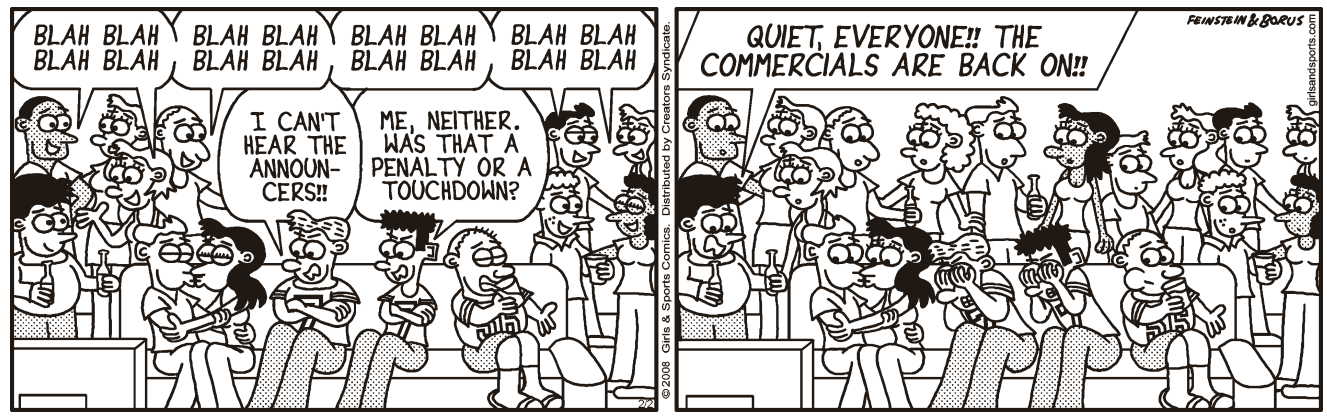
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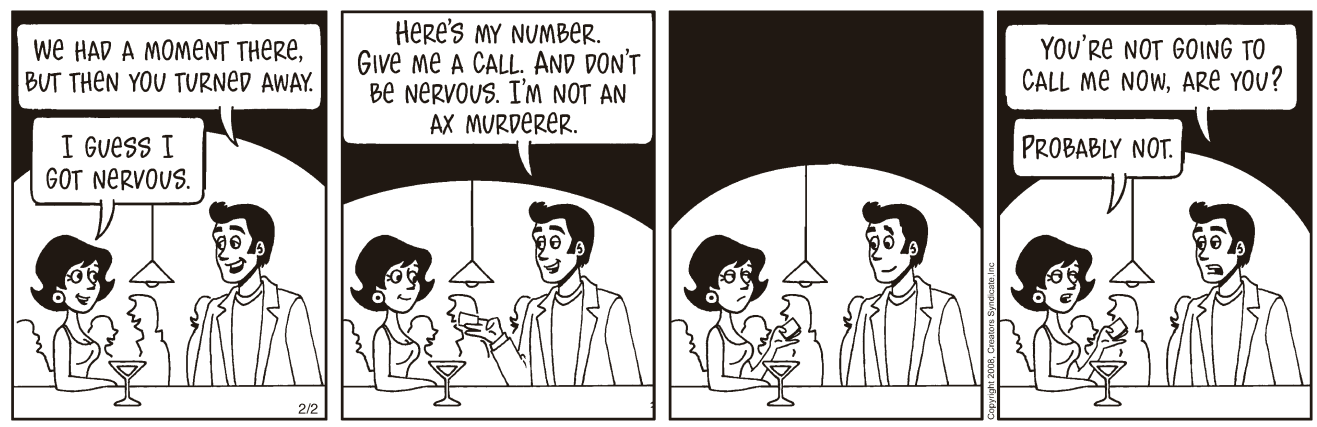
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



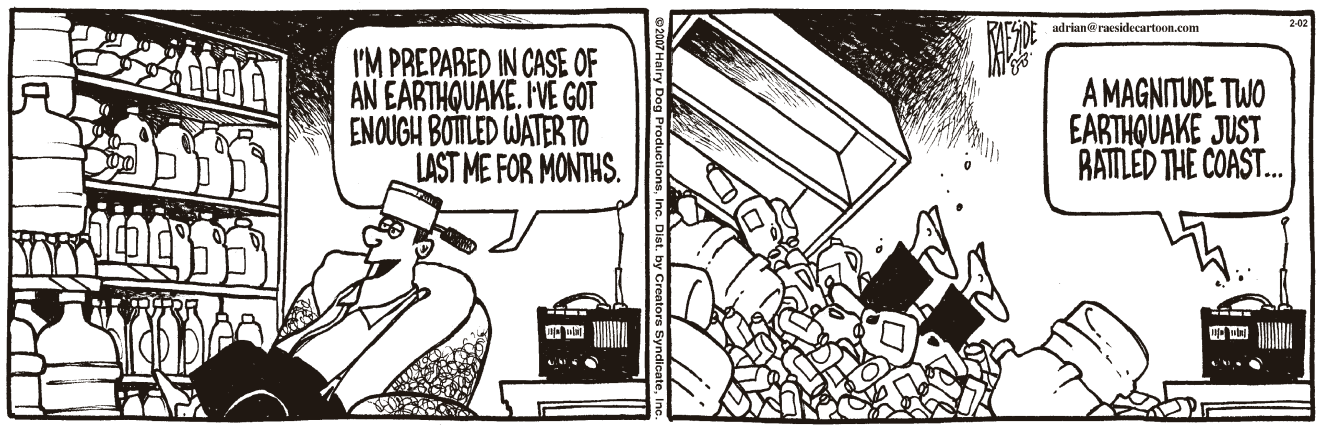
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



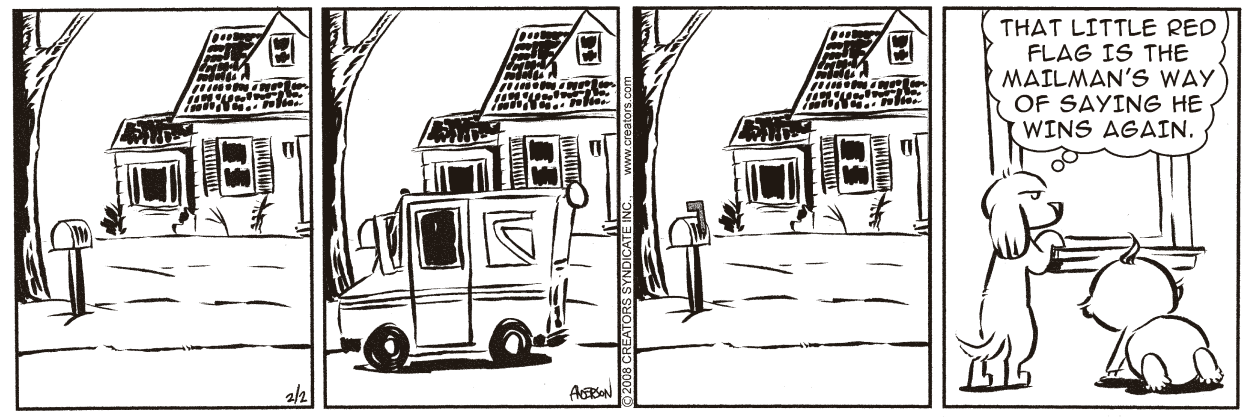
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

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 Potential prince
5 Rotis-series
10 Holds power
12 Column style
13 Fund
14 Olympics symbol
15 Ring legend
16 Corrode
18 Casey Affleck's brother
19 Proper
21 Melody
22 "Too bad!"
24 "Be quiet!"
25 Player without a contract
29 Lively folk dance
30 Hit NBC show
32 Wholly
33 Dove comment
34 Guide-book feature
35 Cabaret sight
37 Gallows loop
39 As a follower
40 Alarm sound
41 Role for Cooper
42 For fear that

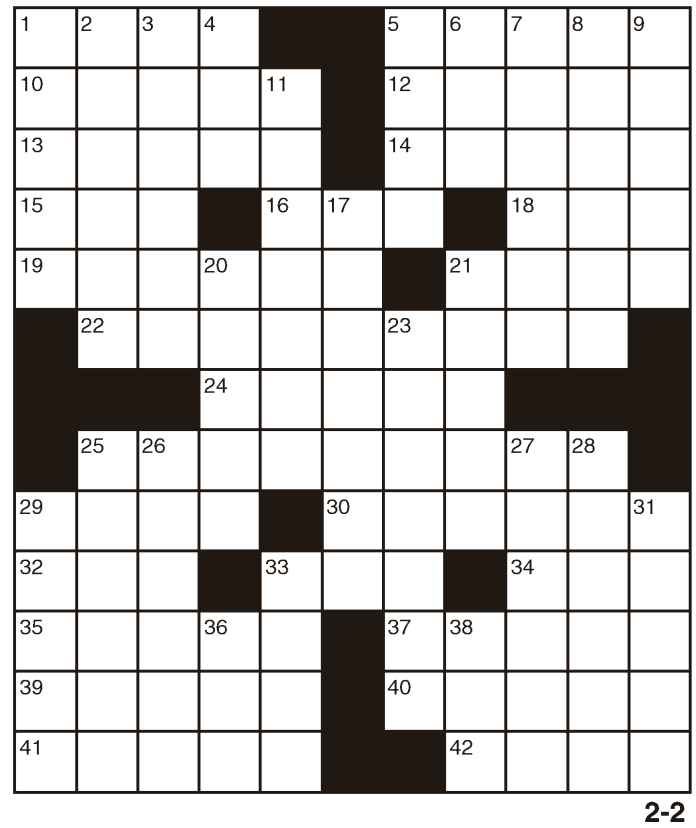
DOWN

1 Anomaly
2 Near depletion
3 Getting up there
4 Earthy prefix
5 Make finer
6 Campaign pro
7 Soon
8 Opportune
9 Cologne
11 Honey
17 Plains people
20 Eye color
21 Soda purchase
23 Roof roosters
25 Stealthy
26 Feel sympathetic
27 "— Mr. Nice Guy!"
28 Pesters
29 Swift
31 Used up
33 Pasture group
36 Silent approval
38 Engine need

A	M	B	E	R	■	B	A	T	C	H
S	E	R	V	E	■	O	C	H	R	E
C	L	U	E	S	■	T	R	E	E	D
E	T	C	■	T	O	T	E	B	A	G
N	E	E	■	S	O	L	■	U	S	E
D	D	A	Y	■	P	E	A	C	E	■
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M	O	T	O	R	■	L	O	S	E	R
S	T	Y	L	E	■	E	N	T	R	Y

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



2-2

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 3 14 30 44 56
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: $87M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 10 18 28 40 47
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: $57M

Fantasy 5: 2 10 14 16 34

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

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1.41.49

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

■ An unnamed Children's Court judge in Melbourne, Australia, sentenced eight boys to probation in November even though he had found them guilty of sexually assaulting a teenage girl, setting her hair on fire, spitting and urinating on her, and filming the episode. (There was no jail time, but the youths were assigned to a rehabilitation program teaching "positive sexuality"!)

■ Britain's Judge Francis Gilbert in November sentenced a 28-year-old woman to probation for her eighth conviction for false claims of rape, involving seven men over a six-year period. In one case, police said, she called them "every two or three days" to keep the investigation alive.

■ A Jury Fond of Probation: A Brownsville, Texas, jury in December found Traci Rhode guilty of shooting her husband to death in his sleep, but rejected the prosecutor's recommended sentence of 60 years, opting instead for 10 years' probation and a $10,000 fine. (She did serve two days in jail after the guilty verdict was announced, but before sentencing, but Rhode's lawyer was outraged even at that: "Can you imagine the shock," he told the jury, "of being locked up for two days in a 4-by-8 cell with cement walls, in isolation?") Texas subsequently passed a law banning probation as the punishment for murder.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1536 The Argentine city of Buenos Aires was founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain.

1653 New Amsterdam _ now New York City _ was incorporated.

1848 The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican-American War, was signed.

1870 The ``Cardiff Giant,'' supposedly the petrified remains of a human discovered in Cardiff, N.Y., was revealed to be nothing more than carved gypsum.

1876 The National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs was formed in New York.

1897 Fire destroyed the Pennsylvania state capitol in Harrisburg. (A new statehouse was dedicated on the same site nine years later.)

1948 President Harry Truman sent to Congress a 10-point civil rights program calling for measures against lynching, poll taxes and job discrimination.

WORD UP!

mien \MEEN\, *noun:* 1. Manner or bearing, especially as expressive of mood, attitude, or personality; demeanor. 2. Aspect; appearance.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Obituaries



ARIEL SHAPIRO

A MODEST AND UNASSUMING MAN

Ariel Shapiro beloved husband of Barbara (BB) passed away at the age of 81. He died peacefully at home in Santa Monica on Jan. 9th. He's also survived by 3 brothers, Jacob, Michael and Isaac and by nine nieces and nephews in Russia, USA and Japan.

The son of classical musicians, Ariel was a quiet but extraordinary man. He loved music and world travel. He was born in Palestine in 1926, along with his fraternal twin. Following their profession, his parents moved to Japan. Ariel and his four brothers went to an American school where they received an excellent education trained in languages, art and music. Ariel was a boy of 15 when Pearl Harbor was bombed.

Due to the war there were food shortages in Japan, so Ariel and his fraternal twin, Joseph, went to live in Habin, China with their maternal grandfather. From China Ariel immigrated to Israel in 1949 and joined the Air Force for 5 years. He worked as a travel agent for five more years before moving to Los Angeles to join his parents. It was here he met his future wife B.B. who had also grown up in Israel on a kibbutz.

Ariel and B.B. were married thirty-two years, the last sixteen of which they lived in Santa Monica. A Memorial will be held at Pierce Brothers Memorial Park 1218 Glendon Ave. Westwood on Thurs. Feb. 7th at 2 P.M.

Announcements

TRAINED OPERA singer available to sing jolson songs, oldies.There will be a sing-a-long! Gabe (310)392-6501

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for more information

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PT/FT SALESPERSON for a hardware store. Call (310) 395-1158

GENERAL OFFICE help for Swartz Glass Co., permanent position, full-time or part-time w/ benefits. (310)829-0251

GIVE OF YOURSELF volunteers wanted at the discovery shop. Help us contribute to the American cancer society by spending 4 hours per week assisting in our resale shop in Santa Monica. Contact Terry or Shaunna at (310)458-4490

HELP WANTED

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MUSIC BOOKING agency sales. p/t flex. (310)998-8305 xt 88

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Retail associates are responsible for providing exceptional service to our customers, ringing up sales and participating in visual merchandising, inventory, and all special store events. Weekend availability is required. Benefits for 30+ hrs/wk.
Magellan's offers a fun and challenging work environment as well as competitive compensation, medical, dental & vision insurance and a 401K with employer match. Please forward your resume to: Magellan's, 1006 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90401; Fax 805-564-8014; E-mail: HR@magellans.com

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SPA/HOT TUB 2008 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth $5950, sell for $1950 (310) 479-3054

SURFBOARD MC Coy 7'4" Gun first $200.00 takes it. Contact Mike @ 310-989-9444

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Yard Sales

MOVING SALE WHOLE WEEK -SANTA MONICA (1837 11th Street, #4, Santa Monica 90404)
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HOUSEHOLD ITEMS-CYSTALS WINE GLASSES, DECANTERS,PICTURE FRAMES,DECORATION ITEMS ETC. ETC.
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1214 Idaho 3BD-1 3/4 BTH. $2,895
225 Montana 1BD-1.5 BTH. $1,995

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MAR VISTA ,$1200/mo, 1bdrm/1bath. Bright upper unit. parking, stove, refrigerator, laundry, no pets, no smokers. (310)489-5044

MAR VISTA 12450 unit 207 and 222 Culver Blvd. $1125. Stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, utilities included, no pets, intercom entry, gated parking, (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA, $1800/mo 2bdrm/2bath 1400 sq. ft. Real fireplace, stove, d/w, refrigerator, Master suite. 12775 Pacific. (310)450-5476

PALMS 3540 Overland unit 1 $1000 (no parking) and unit 6,$1050 (parking) Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, one year lease, no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

SANTA MONICA, $1495, 2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, NO Pets, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking. 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #16, Open Daily for viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in Unit. Manager in #19

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All utilities included except phone and cable.
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3 + 1.75 Original Spanish
Single Family Home

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$748,000
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		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	=	$ 3,447,500	$ 2,066,286
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,399,500	$ 935,983
South of Wilshire	=	$ 1,109,250	$ 784,736
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,276,167	$ 656,500
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,906,214	$ 865,475

Statistics updated every Friday

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