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FEBRUARY 3-4, 2007

Volume 6 Issue 71

Santa Monica Daily Press

MAYOR'S CONQUEST IS A-OK
SEE STATE PAGE 7

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE HOLDING THE BAG ISSUE

LAW ENFORCEMENT

TO PROTECT AND SERVE THE HOMELESS

Majority of SMPD's time is spent with down-and-out

STORY PAGE 14

Andre Mayis *news@smdp.com*

There's no let up with these seniors

BY IRENE MANAHAN
Special to the Daily Press

REED PARK — With weather forecasters calling for a warm, sunny weekend with blue skies, it's all systems go for some scrappy seniors ready to put a whooping on their competitors across the net.

After rains put a damper on play here last weekend here, the USTA-sanctioned 57th Annual Senior Tennis Tournament should go off without a hitch. In all, more than 100 competitors will have participated over the two-week long tournament. Players are grouped into five-year age brackets, from 35 to 80.

The Senior Tennis Tournament began as a Juniors event

SEE SENIORS TENNIS PAGE 10

Wiping slates clean

City's experimental homeless court is now in session

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — As he walked out of the City Council Chambers on Friday, David Adams let out a long sigh of relief.

Moments earlier, Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Bobbi Tillmon dismissed several citations filed against Adams by the Santa Monica Police Department for minor infractions such as smoking marijuana on the beach.

The dismissals were made in exchange for Adams' participation in the new Homeless Community Court, a pilot project funded by the county and City Hall to help the chronically homeless get their lives back on track by linking them to services in exchange for clearing their criminal records, which oftentimes prevent them from obtaining employment and housing.

Friday marked the first session of the court, which has been a year in the making.

"This means everything to me," said Adams, 49, as he clutched a bottle of water and brown paper bag filled with snacks that Tillmon prepared for those who participated. "This is a chance for me to clear the wreckage of my past and move on with my life."

A resident at the transitional living facility SAMOSHEL, Adams said he has been able to access counseling and other services that have helped him remain drug and alcohol free for the

SEE COURT PAGE 12

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Urban Tango: The Agony and Ecstasy of Amateur Tango
1416 Electric Ave., Venice, 3 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Performed by the Los Angeles Argentine tango community and directed by Makela Brizuela. For more information, call the Electric Lodge at (310) 740-2007.

"Frida Kahlo"
2332 W. Fourth St., Los Angeles, 8 p.m.
This play, written and directed by Ruben Amavizca, and based on the life of the Mexican artist, takes an analytical look at the woman behind the artist. Spanish and English-language versions of the play are both available. For information and reservations call, (213) 382-8133 or visit www.fridakahlotheater.org.

Kevin Michael Gray's Live Acoustic Performance
143 La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, 8 p.m. — midnight
Also performing at Room 5 will be Paul Manousos, Ray Don and the Backwash Band. Cover charge is $6; 21 and over only. For more information, visit www.room5lounge.com.

Equity Wealth Building Seminar
3858 Carson St., Torrance, 10 a.m. — noon
To reserve a seat, call Citizens Home Funding at (866) 991-5626, ext. 102.

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2007

Super Bowl Potluck Party and Improv Extravaganza
1323-A Third Street Promenade, check for times
Westside Eclectic will host a potluck party and a big-screen viewing of the game, followed by the debut of new house teams. For more information, e-mail Vanessa at vanessa@westssideeclectic.com or call (310) 451-0850.

Free lecture and demonstration of Shiatsu
Main Street, 10 a.m. — noon
Achieve a basic understanding of Shiatsu Massage. Please call (310) 581-0097 or visit www.shiatsumassageschool.org for more info or for a personal tour.

Walk the Labyrinth
1008 11th St., 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Use this ancient meditation tool for centering, prayer and personal reflection. The maze is a replica of the labyrinth laid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in the Middle Ages. This event is free and free underground parking is available. For more information, contact Mary Garbesi at the First United Methodist Church at (310) 393-8258, ext. 106 or visit www.santamonicaumc.org.

Laughter Yoga class
717 Broadway, 5 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Laughter Yoga combines yoga breathing with laughter exercises to decrease everyday stress, increase health and vitality, and promote a more positive mental attitude. The cost is $10 per person. Bring a friend and the price is $16 for both. For more information, call (310) 471-5773.

Mar Vista Farmers' Market
Grandview Boulevard at Venice Boulevard, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Debbie Merrill's Inline Skate Group Class
2400 Ocean Front Walk, 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Beginner and advanced beginner class. Walk-ins welcome.

"And Awaaay We Go To Wonderland"
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.
For tickets and information on this Rudie-DeCarlo Family Theatre Musical, call (310) 394-9779 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

"The Edge of Form"
2903 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.
The debut works of Joe Pinkelman, Susie McKay Krieser and Darlyn Susan Yee will be on display. For more information on the exhibit and/or the artists, visit www.TagTheArtistsGallery.com or call (310) 829-9556.

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

CORRECTION
In the story "Students get a ticket to ride," (Feb. 2, page 3) the name of Santa Monica College's vice president of planning and development was misspelled. He should have been identified as Marvin Martinez.

A few spares

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

SMFD Battalion Chief Mani Torres returns his bowling shoes following the 11th Annual SuperBowl-A-Thon on Friday at the AMF Bowling Center. The fundraiser attended by city officials and service club members benefits the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition.

Schools revisit moratorium

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU CITY HALL — The moratorium restricting the number of non-district students who can attend schools in Santa Monica and Malibu has negatively impacted state and federal funding, according to findings from the Superintendent's Office.

A presentation at the Board of Education meeting here on Thursday showed that while enrollment has steadily decreased over the past few years — resulting in a better teacher-to-student ratio — funding into the district has taken a hit.

Aside from the usual commendations and contract approvals, the bimonthly school board meeting focused primarily on Measure BB business. Passed in November of last year, the bond measure allocates $268 million to improve and upgrade school facilities and classroom instruction in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

It appears it's crunch time for district officials, with the Facilities Master Plan due for public comment this spring. Superintendent Dianne Talarico was eager to jumpstart a discussion with the board on discerning the ideal size for the district — as well as each school — in terms of enrollment.

Members of the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee were on hand, including Chairwoman Gleam Davis and Ralph Mechur, reiterating the importance of identifying an ideal student body number to best allocate Measure BB money.

"Some schools are underutilized now and some are at capacity," Mechur explained.

Discussions centered around whether the board should or shouldn't lift its current moratorium on the number of inter-district students. The board placed the moratorium a few years ago to alleviate overcrowded classrooms and the high teacher-to-student ratio.

> **"THE DECLINING ENROLLMENT WAS REALLY A CONSCIOUS DECISION MADE BY OUR SCHOOL BOARD AND FORMER SUPERINTENDENT."**
>
> **Dianne Talarico**
> Santa Monica-Malibu Unified Superintendent

But the moratorium has also resulted in a loss of revenue to the district, missing out on an estimated $5.1 million in 2006-07 from the decline in enrollment.

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 11

Tripping through history

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN LIBRARY — Though it may be hard to imagine now, with the city's streets lined by cars and Big Blue Buses, Santa Monica was once a hub for railroad transportation.

In a room filled with transportation enthusiasts and civil engineers, Joseph Schwieterman, a professor of public service management at De Paul University and a well-known transportation expert, spoke here on Friday about all things planes, trains and automobiles in Santa Monica.

The history starts with Collis P. Huntington, a railroad tycoon, and his attempts with the Southern Pacific Railroad Company to designate Santa Monica as the Port of Los Angeles by building a long wharf in the late 1800s. However, the dream never materialized.

Schwieterman showed a picture of the long wharf — located about four miles north of the Santa Monica Canyon — that was abandoned by 1910.

"You look at the photograph and think 'what the heck were they thinking back then,'" Schwieterman said.

During its early years, Santa Monica was seen as a nice affluent vacation destination for the residents of Los Angeles to travel to during the weekends and summers.

"It became a great getaway for Los Angeles," Schwieterman said.

At one point, Santa Monica became a great hub for transportation and one of the leaders in the field. Around the early 1900s, the city was home to several different railroad lines, including the Hollywood line, which from Sawtelle and Santa Monica boulevards to Ocean Avenue, and the Air-Line, which had stops at Bergamot Station and in Ocean Park.

"From Downtown Santa Monica, you could go to Central Los Angeles on four different routes," Schwieterman said. "Every few minutes, a train would leave."

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

About 30 people took in Schwieterman's talk about the transportation history in Santa Monica, covered in his new book "When the Railroad Leaves Town."

The book talks about the circumstances concerning the rise and fall of railroads in 58 communities in the western United States. Four of the communities featured

SEE **TRANSPORTATION** PAGE 10

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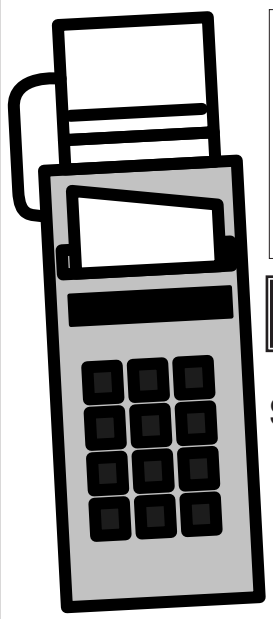

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The value of a good education

Editor:

I wish the school board and school district would listen to the education experts and published studies ("Schools mull how to break 'BB' bread," Feb. 1, page 3). Smaller is better! Smaller class size and smaller schools have been shown to be better for all students. Why then would we ever go back to increasing enrollment in our schools? Franklin Elementary School has over 800 students on one campus. That is too big.

Furthermore, too many of my son's 8th grade classmates at Lincoln (Middle School) will not go to Santa Monica High this September. Why? It is just too big. It is time we look at the big picture and stop putting our schools out to sale with permits. If I remember correctly, that Measure BB money was voted on by Santa Monica and Malibu residents and will be paid by only Santa Monica and Malibu residents. Why are we spending this money to "give" permits out for free to City of Los Angeles residents? I also am paying for Measure S. Again, all L.A. residents who attend our city schools do not pay these bonds and fees.

If Samohi and all the other schools were smaller, we would not have to give out permits to non-residents to attend. City residents would opt for our local schools and not the private ones. This is a failing catch-22 system that penalizes us, the loyal city residents. Stop issuing permits and make our schools smaller and our community stronger. If Samohi only had Santa Monica residents attending, it would be smaller and attract many of the students who are fleeing to private schools. This out-of-city permit practice must stop. Smaller is better.

Dr. Lisette Bauersachs
Santa Monica

Going straight to the source

Editor:

Susan Munves (the city's Green Building Program administrator) is certainly ambitious in her goals to "spur over 10,000 energy actions in the community." I don't know what exactly an "energy action" is, but I would hope that the first ones that she intends to "spur" would involve getting residents to minimize their current energy usage before considering any solar add ons.

Excellent ways to start are:

- Turning down the temperature on your hot water heater to 110 degrees or below;
- Installing low flow toilets, shower heads and faucets;
- Turning off lights and water when not in use;
- Replacing all incandescent lighting with fluorescent;
- Using shades and drapes to control heat gain;
- Opening windows to use breezes instead of air-conditioning;
- Putting on a sweater instead of turning up the heat;
- Weatherstripping doors and windows to block drafts;
- Replacing old and drafty single-pane windows with low-e double-pane ones;
- Adding insulation to the attic, walls and floors;
- Replacing older appliances with energy efficient ones;
- Preheating domestic hot water with a rooftop solar hot water system.

This is just the short list of low or no cost ways to reduce emissions and greenhouse gasses while getting an immediate savings payback.

Installing solar panels is costly and a fairly inefficient way to generate electricity, has a long payback time and does nothing by itself to reduce overall energy usage.

Munves should encourage Santa Monicans to invest in solar power generation only after they have explored and implemented every other possible means of trimming their energy usage. To make a large investment in solar panels without first reducing energy usage where possible is both irresponsible and impractical.

Start with the basics before you jump to the splashy, feel-good and showy. Even a 10-year payback for a system that may last 20 years (not the 40 to 50 claimed by Munves) is not as good an incentive to save energy as is the immediate payback of turning off a light or turning down the heat.

Joe Bates
Venice

Modern Times

Lloyd Garver — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Jiggers! It's the cops!

FOR A LONG TIME, I'VE BEEN WONDERING if I'm the only person who's bothered by the fact that there is a device that is sold legally whose sole purpose is to help people evade the law. I'm talking about those radar detectors for your car that let you know when police are nearby so you can slow down to the legal speed limit, and then speed up again after you're away from the cops.

I'm not a goody-goody. I've certainly gone over the legal speed limit in my driving career. A couple of years ago, I foolishly got a speeding ticket at a very well known "speed trap" near my house where the limit is 35, and it seems there's no reason to go under 50. (You guessed it. It was on San Vicente Boulevard). But 35 is the law. When I got the ticket, I didn't run out and buy a radar detector/scrambler to help prevent me from getting another ticket. I kicked myself for being so dumb.

It's not like this radar thing is a device whose aim is to make a noise whenever you're driving too fast to remind you to slow down. We already have that device — it's called "the spouse." No, this thing's purpose is to help people break the law, and it's sold and purchased without any outrage. I don't get it. If there were electronic devices sold to bad guys to let them know when the police are close enough to catch them robbing a liquor store, I guarantee people would not be so blasé about them.

I'm not a stickler for people obeying every single law. I don't care if you rip off that tag from your mattress. I'm not upset that you deducted that dinner you had with your old fraternity brothers as a business expense. I don't even care if you marry your first cousin. (Just don't ask me to explain it to your parents). But this is about speeding, and speeding kills a lot of people. Yet, we don't seem to take it that seriously.

One reason is because almost everybody speeds. Official estimates are that 90 percent of drivers sometimes go over the speed limit. Very often, the posted speed limit just seems absurdly low to us, and since "everybody else" is speeding, why shouldn't we?

Most people feel that they are the greatest drivers in the world. The thinking is, "Maybe those stupid drivers need to go that slowly, but I can handle a car at a much faster speed."

And maybe you can. Maybe you really are the greatest driver in the world. But if you're speeding, it's much harder to avoid one of those stupid drivers — or pedestrians or animals — than if you're going slower. If you end up in an accident, it's going to be a much more serious accident if you were speeding than if you were going slower. For those of you who understand math, "the forces experienced by the human body in a collision increase exponentially as the speed increases. The crash varies with the square of the impact speed."

For those of us who don't understand math, what that means is, slow down.

"I'M NOT A STICKLER FOR PEOPLE OBEYING EVERY SINGLE LAW ... BUT THIS IS ABOUT SPEEDING, AND SPEEDING KILLS A LOT OF PEOPLE. YET, WE DON'T SEEM TO TAKE IT THAT SERIOUSLY."

Being in a hurry is part of our culture today, but it doesn't always make that much sense in a car. Road rage is one of the few rages that I don't have. What's the difference if I get wherever I'm going a few minutes later? It's very rare that I have to drive as fast as possible because it's a life or death situation in which I must deliver an emergency quip. And I'll bet you find yourself in just as few urgent situations in your car.

Obviously, the people who buy these devices don't think that owning one increases their risk of getting into an accident. And I assume that the people who sell them don't think they are possibly contributing to serious accidents and even deaths. But that is the reality, even if it's unintentional.

If you disagree with me and think I'm way off base on this, let me know. But you don't have to tell me right away. And whatever you do, don't feel you have to e-mail me using your laptop or Blackberry while you're speeding in your car on the way home. I can wait until you get there. What's the rush?

LLOYD GARVER writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@loydgarvermoderntimes.com.

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STRAY talk

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

"It's weird people that want to paint it in a negative way."

— Jennifer Lopez, revealing that her father has been a Scientologist for 20 years

"Let us reflect on these simple words. Let's get it done."

— Father Mike Gutierrez, head pastor at St. Anne's church, in reference to the mantra, "Yes, we can," which was chanted at a meeting to end gang violence

"In this country, the press and the government are supposed to be separated. Journalists don't work as investigators for the government."

— Professor Jane Kirtley, of the University of Minnesota school of journalism, on Judith Miller's appearance as a witness in a criminal trial to testify about confidential interviews

"THE SCHOOL WAS RUN BY KIDS. IT WAS LIKE 'LORD OF THE FLIES.'"

— Duilio Cascio, parent of a John Adams Middle School seventh-grader, remarking on last year's disciplinary problems at the school

"OMG he has got a great buff bod!!"

— A Daniel Radcliffe fan, reacting to pictures of the "Harry Potter" actor's newly toned body. The pictures were taken to promote a London play in which the actor will appear nude

"It would be a sad thing if the building came down."

— Jeff Ho, on the fate of the Horizons West Surf Shop, a building in which he owned and operated a surf and skate shop during the Z-Boys' heydey

"This is becoming an impossible process."

— Excerpt of a scientist's e-mail to a reporter, on efforts by China and the U.S. to avoid language in the global warming report released this week by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that might box them in on policy options. The scientist requested anonymity.

"These are taxpayer-funded streets, and we are kind of marginalized as cyclists, and we are sort of this unspoken underclass to the automobile."

— Zack Beatty, a Santa Monica Critical Mass organizer, on viewing the monthly cycling event as a demonstration

"It's a huge victory for election integrity and election fairness."

— U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler, on Florida Governor Charlie Crist's decision to convert all voting machines in Florida to produce paper trails

Quotations compiled with care by Cynthia Vazquez

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The Q Line

Waiting For A Climax To Prostitution Debate

This week's Q-Line question asked:
Should prostitution be made legal, if it is regulated and workers submit to regular health inspections?

"PROSTITUTION SHOULD NOT BE MADE legal. The question should really be: Why are massage therapists not regulated more properly? If there was more of a standard we probably wouldn't have such a big issue. You only need 150 hours of practice in this city, and anyone can do it. The question should be why isn't there more regulation, because right now, we have an open door to prostitution."

"IF THEY DID MAKE IT LEGAL, A LOT OF guys would cheat on their wives without fear of being arrested. So they should keep it illegal, or they will have to deal with more perverts than there already are in this city. And who wants that in their neighborhood?"

"THE GREAT PHILOSOPHER ALAN WATTS once said: 'The real reason for organized religion was to control our sexual tendencies.' The Puritans who settled here believed that work and all other pleasures were of the devil. That is why we have people like the President who talk about freedom all day, but what he really means is you are free to do things like him or be arrested or killed. That is why we have laws against prostitution and drugs. Even our state pot laws say you have to be sick to have pot. Pleasure and happiness are out of the question when its comes to drugs. Sex is to be for marriage and child-raising only, not for fun. We need somebody to throw out these Puritanical prudes who run our country. Democrats, Republicans and Santa Monicans for Renters Rights or whoever they are, need to vote for real freedom. The freedom to do whatever you wish when it involves your own body."

"I DON'T THINK THAT THE OLDEST profession is ever going to go away. So, it behooves us to work with it. Decriminalizing it will take an undo burden off our legal system and free up police for more serious policing. It would be safer and healthier for the workers and clients. Tax revenue is an obvious benefit. Also, if the workers move indoors, it will also create jobs. The houses in Europe and Nevada have a bouncer, at least one or two per shift. I think those are all good reasons."

"I AM APPALLED THAT 15 PERCENT of massage parlor workers may be prostitutes. That shock is superseded by City Hall's grandstanding. With 57 parlors in Santa Monica, that is a lot of tax money the council has already approved. Didn't we fight a war in Korea so their massage technicians could come to America? Prostitution is the oldest profession. I am sure the first caveman got a massage from the first cavewoman so she could get a bigger piece of mammoth meat. As long as an unobtrusive business does not disturb their neighbors with noise, drugs or used condoms, what business does City Hall have in being 'Big Brother?' You know the best happy ending would be to keep City Council from massaging our wallets."

"NO ONE IS EVER GOING TO ERADICATE prostitution. It's the world's oldest profession. So, yes, it should be legalized, and by all means, let the pros be checked out by a good doctor."

"WE SHOULD DEFINITELY LEGALIZE prostitution. After all, our politicians can accept money and then later screw us. So why not let the sex workers do it too? At least we'd get some pleasure from it."

"AS USUAL, THIS CITY IS ALWAYS attacking the wrong industries. If everybody got a massage at least once a week, there would be a lot more peace and tranquility in the world, a lot less disease, better health, and just generally better feelings among the people. I think we should close down liquor stores before we close down massage institutions."

"I THINK IT SHOULD. IT'S LEGAL in Amsterdam. It's legal in parts of Nevada, Costa Rica, France. It's been good, as they are usually very strict about health and there are less diseases around, and would also give people work. Also, we wouldn't be criminalizing people for certain types of non-victim behavior. The state could tax it and we could make some money off it. They're never going to stamp it out."

"LEGALIZE PROSTITUTION? SURE, why not? We already have every other form of filth in Santa Monica. The city could charge a bed tax and even a 10-percent utility tax, and maybe even figure out a way to assess property owners an additional tax to treat all the cases of resulting venereal disease, as well as provide daycare for any babies born as a result of this newly legitimate business. Most important, think about all the additional tourists who would, no doubt, visit our fine city."

San Franciscans gape, then shrug at mayor's tryst

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A city accustomed to seeing it all gaped, and then shrugged, this week after its dashing young mayor confessed to having an affair with a former secretary, who happened to be the wife of his campaign manager.

Confronting a political scandal that carried overtones of a soap opera, Mayor Gavin Newsom made an emotional apology for what he termed a "personal lapse of judgment" during a City Hall news conference called only hours after reports of the interoffice dalliance surfaced.

"I want to make it clear that everything you've heard and read is true and that I'm deeply sorry about that," said Newsom, 39, who went on to apologize to the aide, his staff, his family and San Franciscans.

Newsom's former deputy chief of staff, Alex Tourk, 39, resigned as manager of the mayor's re-election campaign Wednesday after confronting Newsom about his relationship with his wife, Ruby Rippey-Tourk, 34, who worked as the mayor's appointments secretary until last spring.

The brief relationship first reported Wednesday night on the San Francisco Chronicle's Web site took place a year-and-a-half ago while the mayor was getting divorced from his wife, Fox News Channel host Kimberly Guilfoyle.

Since his divorce became final last March, the dashing bachelor has half-heartedly lamented his appearances in gossip columns, where his active love life has been frequent fodder and included associations with a 20-year-old model and two actresses.

But in his first public statements since the affair was reported, a poised but visibly shaken Newsom did not offer any excuses.

"I hurt someone I care deeply about, Alex Tourk, and his friends and family, and that is something I have to live with and something that I am deeply sorry for," he said. "I am accountable for what has occurred."

Neither Tourk nor his wife returned phone calls and e-mails from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Before the affair became public, the mayor's office released a statement in which Tourk explained he was leaving his campaign job for personal reasons.

STATE BRIEFS

TEMECULA

Cops nab naughty janitor

Police arrested a high school janitor after allegedly finding him having sex with a 15-year-old boy in a parked car.

It was the second sex-in-a-car arrest this week involving Riverside County school employees and teen boys.

Roger Taylor Jr., 35, of San Jacinto, was arrested Thursday and booked for investigation of sodomy with a minor, Lt. Dean Evans said. Police patrolling South Elk Street at about 1:09 a.m. found the janitor and boy having sex in the car, the lieutenant said.

Taylor is the night lead custodian at Great Oak High School, said spokeswoman Melanie Norton of the Temecula Valley Unified School District. He was placed on paid administrative leave, she said.

On Wednesday, a Moreno Valley Unified School District teacher was arrested under similar circumstances. Teacher Terry Delanye Evans, 43, and a 17-year-old boy were allegedly found in the back seat of a sport utility vehicle, police said. AP

LOS ANGELES

Cabbie managers cash in

The nonprofit agency in charge of Los Angeles International Airport taxi operations was faulted in an audit showing cash was given to cab company managers for no apparent reason.

City Controller Laura Chick's audit also found the Authorized Taxicab Supervision agency paid employees allegedly injured on the job and never filed the mandatory reports with the state.

The audit was also critical of the city airport department for allegedly failing to monitor the agency. The audit noted, for example, that Authorized Taxicab Supervision charged a catering truck $24,000 a year to park near Terminal One and no one at the airport department knew about it.

Airport officials also knew Authorized Taxicab Supervision was paying off-duty police officers to direct traffic and roam the airport in their own cars looking for bandit taxis even though it wasn't authorized, the audit showed.

"Anyone who knows the details of this arrangement would step back and say, 'Huh? That isn't right,'" Chick said, adding the practices appeared to be "back-scratching" and "cushy deals."

"The airport needs to fix these problems," she said. AP

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN UNSCHEDULED VACANCY

One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2008.
Applicants must reside in Santa Monica.
Applications due by noon, Tuesday, March 6, 2007.
Appointment to be made by City Council, March 13, 2007.

City of Santa Monica

The purpose of the Commission on the Status of Women is to enhance the status of women in our community. The Commission will promote these goals through investigation of, advocacy for, and policy development regarding issues relevant to women and girls, and by creating leadership and career advancement opportunities for women and girls in our community.

No Santa Monica City employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires Commission members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action by filing a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

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South of Wilshire	=	$ 1,139,333	$ 646,652
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,269,790	$ 809,000
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,590,000	$ 1,179,700

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Hispanic caucus boils over

Complaints about treatment of women surge to the forefront

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Three female members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus accused the organization's male leaders this week of treating women unfairly. Rep. Loretta Sanchez said the caucus chairman called her a "whore."

Rep. Joe Baca denied uttering the insult, which Sanchez cited among grievances that led her to announce this week she was quitting the group.

"Let me be clear: Her comments are categorically untrue," said Baca, who like Sanchez is a California Democrat.

"He said it. For him to deny it is just a silly thing," Sanchez said in an interview.

She and Rep. Hilda Solis, D-Calif., said Baca made the comment at an event in Sacramento, Calif., over the summer and that it was repeated to them by people they declined to identify.

"Name-calling never helps anything," said Sanchez, adding she confronted Baca about the comment. "He just shook for awhile and then he said, 'That's a lie.'"

The controversy, which became public with a report Wednesday on the Web site politico.com about the "whore" comment, was the latest evidence of conflict between men in the growing caucus and a smaller, mostly female contingent.

Politico.com said it was California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez who heard the comment from Baca and repeated it to Sanchez. Nunez said Thursday he had no recollection of either event. Sanchez said later Thursday she did not raise Nunez's name with politico.com.

Baca was supported by only one of six women in the 21-member caucus when he was elected chairman in November. Solis, Loretta Sanchez and her sister, Linda, and Rep. Nydia Velazquez of New York subsequently disputed the election procedure and asked for a new secret-ballot vote. All caucus members are Democrats.

Other concerns include Baca's decision to use money from the caucus' political action committee to fund his sons' unsuccessful campaigns for state office in California last year. That led Solis, the Sanchez sisters and three other lawmakers to sever ties with the fundraising group.

There also is a perception among female caucus members that their concerns are given short shrift in a caucus that — like the Congress as a whole — remains overwhelmingly male, despite high-profile advances by women in Congress.

"I think there tends to be the sentiment that there has to be more work done to improve relationships in the caucus and the treatment of women in the caucus," Solis said in an interview.

"I am waiting to see if the Hispanic Caucus leadership will make good on its promise to be more fair and inclusive of its Latina members," said Linda Sanchez, whose district is near her older sister's in Southern California.

Thursday night, Baca released a second statement that was lengthier than his initial denials. He didn't directly address the accusations of lack of respect toward women, instead reiterating that the controversy was "based on untruths."

"A months-old internal Hispanic Caucus discussion has been repackaged into accusations with sexual overtones through irresponsible reporting and inflammatory headline-writing," he said.

> **"I AM WAITING TO SEE IF THE HISPANIC CAUCUS LEADERSHIP WILL MAKE GOOD ON ITS PROMISE TO BE MORE FAIR AND INCLUSIVE OF ITS LATINA MEMBERS."**
>
> Linda Sanchez
> U.S. Representative

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Teens arrested for starting fire in a mosque

By The Associated Press

YERMO A garage used as a temporary mosque by Muslims in the Mojave Desert was one of several structures allegedly torched by two teenagers charged with arson.

"I hope it's not a hate crime," said Ali Mohammed, who lost a two-bedroom unit, a four-bedroom unit and a garage in a Jan. 27 arson fire. The garage served as a temporary mosque for about 200 people.

Worshippers had prayed at the mosque just hours before the blaze. Mohammed said he thinks the fire was set by kids who didn't know it was a mosque.

Firefighters and San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies had responded to several arson blazes in Yermo, which is about 10 miles northeast of Barstow along Interstate 15. Arson fires were reported at the Beanery restaurant, an old Union Pacific building and Mohammed's property.

Two teenagers were arrested.

Loren Jesse Clark, 18, of Yermo pleaded not guilty Tuesday to two counts of felony arson and a 16-year-old male, whose name wasn't disclosed because of his age, was cited for arson and released to his mother, investigators said.

Sheriff's Deputy Eddie Paul said one of the teenagers admitted to setting the fire, but he wouldn't disclose which one.

Prosecutors didn't file hate crime allegations and Paul said it didn't appear to be a hate crime.

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Unemployment rate hits four-month high

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Wary employers slowed hiring in January, pushing the unemployment rate to a four-month high of 4.6 percent and giving jobseekers a bumpy start to the year.

Still, the Labor Department's employment report on Friday suggested the jobs market remains in solid shape.

The more subdued job creation in January — 111,000 new positions compared with 206,000 in December — is consistent with the expectation that the economy's growth as a whole will moderate. That means the unemployment rate may well slowly climb this year.

"Across a range of employers' behavior, there is some caution. They are wondering how an expected moderation in economic activity will evolve," said Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics. Analysts predict the economy will lose some speed in the January-to-March period following an energetic October-to-December quarter.

Factories, automotive companies, home builders and furniture makers all cut jobs last month, casualties of the housing slump and the ailing auto industry. Hotels and motels, clothing stores, and telecommunications companies also shed jobs.

Those losses tempered job gains at hospitals and nursing homes, bars and restaurants, architectural and engineering firms, accounting and bookkeeping companies, the government and other places of business.

"Businesses were not in the greatest hiring mood," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors.

Against this backdrop, January's unemployment rate rose from 4.5 percent in December to its highest point since September. Even with the bump-up, though, the seasonally adjusted civilian employment is low by historical standards. During the depths of a recession in the early 1980s, for example, the unemployment rate hit double-digit levels.

The latest employment figures "don't change our view that the job market is still robust," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank.

Last month's hiring situation affected people in different ways. The jobless rate for Hispanics rose to 5.7 percent, the highest in a year. The jobless rate for blacks fell to 8 percent, the lowest in 5 1/2 years. The unemployment rate for whites edged up to 4.1 percent, the highest in five months.

The report comes as President Bush, in economic speeches this week, has sought to soothe some workers' anxieties about their ability to keep or find a job in a dynamic economy that puts an increasing emphasis on skills, education and flexibility.

Democrats, now in control of Congress, pledge to help the middle class, a group that they contend the White House has ignored. Getting final agreement in Congress on legislation boosting the federal minimum wage from $5.15 to $7.25 an hour is a priority.

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Bygones: Santa Monica was a transportation hub

FROM TRANSPORTATION PAGE 3

— Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Newport Beach and Coronado — are in Southern California.

When Douglas Aircraft moved into Santa Monica and began producing airliners and military aircraft around the early 1920s, and the end of Route 66 was established in Santa Monica, the city became one of the leaders of transportation.

"[Santa Monica Airport] is very much the appropriate place to have a Museum of Flying," Schwieterman said.

In closing his presentation, Schwieterman showed a picture of the last train ride in Santa Monica in 1972. Earlier that day, in an effort to find the location of the last train that was photographed, Schwieterman went for a drive around the city with no success.

The talk drew a good number of city employees and politicians who were interested in learning more about the city's past. Those in attendance included Councilman Kevin McKeown, Senior Transportation Manager Beth Rolandson and Planning Commission members.

As an architect, David Kaplan of the Airport Commission, was interested in learning about how transportation has shaped the way the city was developed.

Carol Lemlein, who is organizing a new Downtown Santa Monica walking tour for the Santa Monica Conservancy, sat in the audience taking notes on historical facts to use in the tours.

O'Connor wins MTA seat

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Reelected to the City Council in November, Councilwoman Pam O'Connor now has something else to smile about.

On Thursday, the three-time Santa Monica mayor was reelected to the MTA Board of Directors.

A councilwoman since 1994, O'Connor has served on the MTA Board of Directors since June of 2001, assuming the role from a councilman who had 18 months remaining on his term.

She was elected to her first four-year term in January 2003.

O'Connor will become the board's chair in July for one year.

One of her goals is to push forward with a LEED certification for the MTA. The LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – is a rating system used by the U.S. Green Building Council to officially recognize entities that engage in environmentally friendly practices.

"We have clean fuel buses, but there are more things we can do to push that forward," O'Connor said.

Double their pleasure

FROM SENIORS TENNIS PAGE 1

comprised of men and women over the age of 35, according to Bill Nissley, the tournament's director.

"It's confusing that we call it a 'Seniors' tournament when there are people 35 years old playing," he laughed. "In any case, most of these people have been playing in tournaments all their lives."

Nicole Raikhy, an assistant to Nissley, said the athletes come from all over Southern California to make it to their matches.

"I see familiar faces every year," said Raikhy.

Last weekend's bleak weather ended up soaking the courts and chasing away prospective spectators.

"(When it rains,) we call it 'Lake Lincoln' here at Reed Park," said Nissley, adding that the participants weren't phased by the weather.

All of the scheduled tournaments were still contested by the end of the weekend.

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

Daryl Lemon, 43, said that he prepped himself for the tournament by playing six sets of paddle tennis at Venice Beach. While he has played in Reed Park's tournaments for years, he never competed in the Senior Division.

"So far, so good," said Lemon, a winner last week. "I'm looking forward to playing the No. 1 seed this weekend!"

Jay Ragasa, of Glendale, also took part in the seniors tournament for the first time last week. Ragasa, who just recently marked his 50th birthday, won his quarterfinal round match when his opponent injured his knee, ending the contest.

"The biggest issue at this age is not necessarily who is the best player, but who is the fittest," Ragasa said. "It's a health issue. It's about movement and keeping fit."

In the Men's 55 Singles, competitors and Reed Park vets Alan Berkewitz and Robert Baker know about the able factor. They keep healthy by riding bikes and using elliptical machines when they're not serving up aces.

> **"THE BIGGEST ISSUE AT THIS POINT IS NOT NECESSARILY WHO IS THE 'BEST' PLAYER, BUT WHO IS THE FITTEST. IT'S A HEALTH ISSUE, IT'S ABOUT MOVEMENT AND KEEPING FIT."**
>
> Jay Ragasa
> winner of Men's 50 Singles quarterfinal round

"I need cardio to go," said Baker, the winner of last week's match. "It's funny. I see some guys play better now than they did 25 years ago."

After 25 years of being a referee, Solomon Jolly said the senior tournament is his favorite to judge, with its history and prestige.

Fans are invited to attend the matches at Reed Park, located on Wilshire Boulevard at Seventh Street on Saturday and Sunday. For information, contact Neal at (310) 394-6011.

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City of Santa Monica

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Applicants must reside in Santa Monica and be over 18 years of age.
Applications due by noon, Tuesday, February 20, 2007.
Appointment to be considered by City Council on February 27, 2007.

The mission of the Landmarks Commission is to protect improvements and areas which represent the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the City's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks and historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people.

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Enrollment is on a downward slope

FROM SCHOOLS PAGE 3

"The declining enrollment was really a conscious decision made by our school board and former superintendent," Talarico said during her presentatio<None>n. "It's not a shock to the members of the board who have been here since that time that enrollment would be declining."

Starting with the 2001-02 school year, enrollment declined steadily in the elementary level, but in the middle and high school levels, enrollment actually increased until it reached its peak in 2003-04. The district has lost about 940 student since that time.

In the district's middle schools, enrollment has steadily declined. In the three high schools — Santa Monica, Malibu and Olympic — enrollment started to decline after the peak year, but then jumped up by 11 students in the current school year.

Though Malibu High School is statistically overcrowded, the school does not give off the feeling of being overcrowded, said School Board member Kathy Wisnicki, who lives in Malibu.

"It's not as crowded as the report indicates," she said.

There are currently 11,902 students in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

Meanwhile, staffing has actually increased since the 2004-05 school year, the report found.

> **"I WOULDN'T JUMP TO SOME SORT OF DOOMSDAY SCENARIO ABOUT CONTINUOUSLY DECLINING ENROLLMENT VERY QUICKLY."**
>
> **Jose Escarce**
> SMMUSD Board of Education

It is important to stabilize staffing levels to meet the current student population, Talarico said.

School officials predict that enrollment will continue to decline over the next six years, reaching a low of about 11,175 students for the 2011-12 school year.

"All of this is being said because we've got to begin to think about and call into question how big we want the [district] to be, because it has serious implications for Measure BB resources," Talarico said.

But school board member Jose Escarce had a different set of findings. Staring at a fact sheet from School Works, an educational consulting group, enrollment is expected to stabilize over the next few years, he said.

In 1988, the district's enrollment stood at 8,900 students and did not break the 10,000 mark until 1993. In 1998, enrollment peaked at about 12,800.

With the roughly 400-student difference during the 10-year period from 1988 to 1998, Escarce estimates that roughly 200 were residents of the district and 200 were not.

Based on birth rates in the city, School Works predicted increasing enrollment.

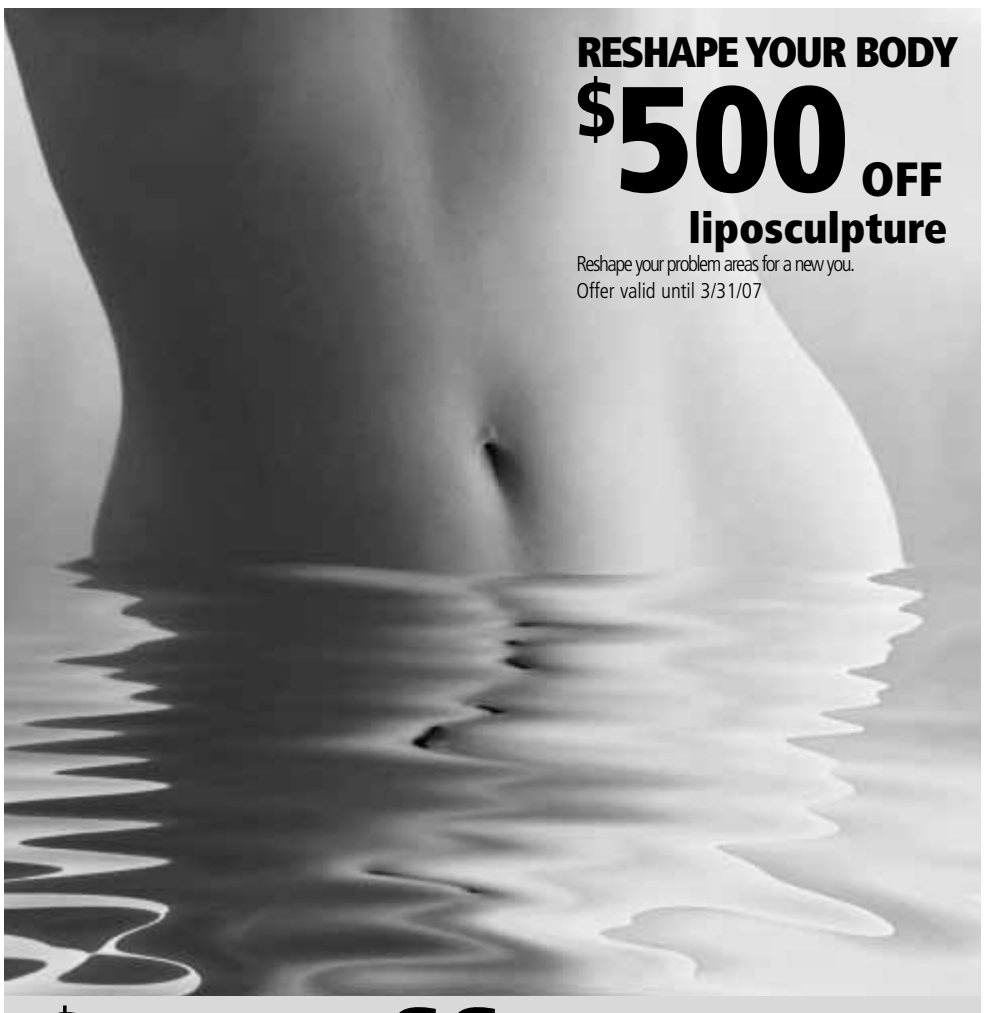
"Hopefully, that prediction won't be wrong," Escarce said. "I wouldn't jump to some sort of doomsday scenario about continuously declining enrollment."

Talarico replied that she is not "an alarmist," and that she wanted to provide a snapshot of where the district currently stands in comparison to six years ago.

"If we decide to become smaller, or if we decide to make any adjustments to our current staffing level with current enrollment level, it will be tied to programs," she said.

A community workshop to discuss enrollment will be held on Feb. 13 at the SMMUSD Headquarters — 1651 16th Street in Santa Monica — at 4 p.m.

melodyh@smdp.com



Free workshop reveals 7 ways to slash college costs

SANTA MONICA – An extremely popular free workshop is being held for the parents of college bound high school students during the month of February at various Santa Monica locations.

The workshop will focus on little-known ways of getting money for college, no matter how much income you make, or how good of a student you have. The class will include such topics as how to double or triple your eligibility for free grant money, the secret to sending your child to a private or UC school for less than the cost of a junior college, and the single biggest mistake that 9 out of 10 parents make when planning for college.

The workshop dates are Tuesday, February 6th at the Montana Avenue 7:15PM-8:45PM, Saturday, February 10th at the Santa Monica Main Library 10:15 AM. to 12 PM, and Tuesday, February 13th at the Santa Monica Main Library. The workshop will be taught by Shanee Chavis an affiliate of the College Planning Network, Inc. the nation's leading expert on paying for college.

Seating is free, but limited by the size of the room. To reserve your seat, call 310-581-7954 leave a message and receive a confirmation

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Court orders up fresh starts

FROM COURT PAGE 1

past three months. While he still finds it difficult to stay away from methamphetamine and other vices, he is working hard to stay clean, find a job and secure housing.

If he follows through, Judge Tillmon and county prosecutors have agreed to drop the remaining charges against him and give him a fresh start on life.

"Mr. Adams, you have agreed to go on with the Homeless Court, as well as continue with the program that has been designed for you at SAMOSHEL," Judge Tillmon said in court. "We have received a very good report on your progress. You've obviously done some work to better your life and that is what we want to hear. The court is looking forward to you continuing down that same road."

Adams and the other defendants who participated on Friday are scheduled to reappear March 2 for the court's second session.

The Homeless Community Court handles those cases involving quality of life crimes, such as public intoxication, camping and public defecation, according to city officials. Participants are selected by the City Attorney's Office and social service providers for showing a desire for a better life.

The court is intended to compliment City Hall's current roster of homeless services, while simultaneously saving money by ridding the system of repeat offenders. City officials conservatively estimate the annual cost of providing police, paramedic and city jail services to chronically homeless individuals can run as high as $8,000 per person, along with substantially greater costs to the county.

City officials conjured up the homeless court after traveling to New York City last year to study what officials there are doing to address homelessness. Former county supervisor and current Santa Monica Homeless Czar Ed Edelman, with the help of city staff, worked closely with Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the City Attorney's Office, Human Services Division and Santa Monica Supervising Judge Linda Lefkowitz to develop the pilot program.

The court finally became a reality June 26, when the county supervisors approved $500,000 to help run the program for one year. City Hall will commit $1.2 million in services and permanent housing, city officials said.

"Within weeks of returning from New York, Supervisor Yaroslavsky and the courts worked hard to make this a reality, and here we are a year later for the beginning," said Mayor Richard Bloom. "In bureaucratic terms, that's light speed, and we are very happy that the supervisors and the court, along with the city of Santa Monica, were able to make this happen.

"A lot of people and a lot of resources had to come together to make this happen."

Bloom praised the decision by the supervising judge of Santa Monica to select Tillmon to oversee the court, given her extensive experience in the family law field. Tillmon worked for more than a decade as Santa Monica's family law commissioner. Before that, she served for 16 years as a family law attorney, where she handled issues of domestic violence and civil harassment.

"I can think of a better fit, because many of the problems that affect the homeless, we see in family law, especially issues of substance abuse and mental illness," said Bloom, an attorney who now serves as the executive director of the Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center, which provides low-cost legal services to low- and moderate-income families in Los Angeles. "She has the perfect judicial temperament for this. I know this is going to be a success."

> **"THIS IS A CHANCE FOR ME TO CLEAR THE WRECKAGE OF MY PAST AND MOVE ON WITH MY LIFE."**
>
> **David Adams**
> client of SAMOSHEL and participant of the Homeless Community Court

CRITICS CHIME IN

The homeless court has drawn some criticism from skeptics who are wondering if it will be successful, given there is no real threat of jail time for those who do not follow through with the program. The county jail system is so overcrowded that those who are found guilty of a lower-level crime often do not serve even 10 percent of their sentence.

Those who are sentenced cannot serve time in the Santa Monica Jail because it is a Type 1 facility and can only hold people for 96 hours. To extend that, City Hall would have to spend a considerable amount of money hiring additional staff and building more facilities so detainees could have medical care and a place to exercise, according to SMPD Deputy Chief Phil Sanchez.

"It's not only a question of money, but a question of space," Sanchez said. "We don't have the capacity to create a rec room or an exercise room in any way shape or form."

Supporters of the court said that, while the threat of jail time is lacking, they believe the court can be successful because those participating are committed to change and do not want to revert back to a lifestyle that continuously puts them on the wrong side of the law.

"I think there is going to be enough participation from the homeless population without (jail time)," Yaroslavsky said. "We will have to evaluate as we go along. Right now, the jail portion of this isn't an option. I'm assured by the judge and others involved that it's not needed at this point. At some time down the line, it may be and we will continue to monitor that.

"We're not as interested in putting people in jail as we are in getting them back on their feet, and if somebody has gotten to the point where they want to come here on their own, they probably don't need a stick," Yaroslavsky added. "The objective is to not get them into court, but to get them connected to services that can make them independent and mitigate some of the issues that have caused their homelessness."

Yaroslavsky said there is no time limit for the court. If it works, additional funding will be allocated. If it doesn't, then it will be discontinued. To measure success, officials will be looking at the number of people who participate, and how many access services and move towards independent living.

"If we get a significant number participants and a number of them don't succeed, at least we have gotten them here and can see why they are not succeeding and fix that," Yaroslavsky said. "The key is to get people in here. That's 80 percent of the battle."

On the first day, two defendants failed to show up for court, forcing Judge Tillmon to issue bench warrants for their arrest.

Most of those who did participate Friday left with smiles on their faces, with the audience of roughly 25 people clapping to show support. The defendants thanked Judge Tillmon and those who made the court possible.

"I hope this is my last time in court," said Ronnie Mosley, a defendant facing multiple citations and misdemeanors. "I just want to wipe the record clean."

Officials acknowledge the homeless court is a work in progress and that there will be hurdles to overcome.

"Those people who have trouble conforming their conduct in public places the way they need to tend to cycle through the court system over and over," said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, whose office is in charge of prosecuting misdemeanor offenses. "So if we can help them out of the cycle, it's not just better for us and the city, but better for the defendant ... Our hope is to get them out of that cycle."

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Crimes committed by the homeless account for a big portion of calls answered by the SMPD.

Answering the call, over and over again

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Police officers spent more than half their time last year issuing citations and arresting those who were homeless or living at a local social services center, according to law enforcement officials.

In 2005-06, SMPD officers made roughly 3,000 arrests — nearly 1,800 of which involved those without a permanent address, for an estimated cost of just over $2 million. Those figures don't include the countless number of hours officers spend speaking with homeless people, trying to convince them to access services and turn their lives around, said SMPD Deputy Chief Phil Sanchez.

"It's difficult to come up with a direct associated cost because of the varied duties required," Sanchez said. "I don't think I would couch it as a 'drain' ... We respond to all community concerns with an equal commitment to resolve the situation.

"Throughout the organization, the department has really diversified its ability and opportunities to combat homelessness … We are really trying to tackle this as a region, hooking up with various agencies because we recognize that Santa Monica cannot do this alone, nor should we be solely responsible for addressing the issue."

One way the SMPD has tried to tackle homelessness is through the Homeless Liaison Program, or HLP team, which is comprised of six officers who combine traditional law enforcement duties with more social service-oriented work. The HLP team was developed in 1991.

In addition to HLP teams, the SMPD also has 20 park rangers assigned to the city's parks, beaches and open spaces. The primary focus of their work is homeless-related.

"The chief is currently doing an assessment of our resources to see what might be necessary in the future," Sanchez said.

In 2005-06, the HLP team responded to approximately 2,400 incidents involving transients and made about 2,900 periodic checks on property and open space.

One common source of frustration is the lack of jail time those who are convicted typically receive, given the overcrowded conditions at county jails. Oftentimes, those who are found guilty of a minor offense, such as being drunk in public or failing to pay citations, never serve more than three days in county jail. This has forced the SMPD and other law enforcement agencies to be more creative in how they address repeat offenders.

On Friday, City Hall's new Homeless Community Court was in session for the first time (see related story), focusing on chronically homeless individuals who have multiple citations and warrants for their arrests. In exchange for their participation in

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drug and alcohol treatment programs, job training and other services, defendants can have their criminal records cleared.

"Putting someone in jail is the general public's usual idea of what it means to enforce the law, but it is expensive to jail someone and, in Santa Monica, it is also an extremely short-term solution," read a report from the Urban Institute, which conducted an independent review of City Hall's efforts to end homelessness that was released in December 2006. "Most people brought in for public drunkenness are held only six hours and released without charge."

On the flip side, Santa Monica is enjoying its lowest level of crime since 1956, which suggests the SMPD is providing a high level of service while still addressing the needs of the homeless population, which has at times been critical of the department for not addressing their needs when they are victims of a crime.

Nearly one in five homeless people have been victims of physical violence on the streets in the last 12 months, according to a survey of 20,000 homeless conducted by the Association of Gospel Rescue Mission (AGRM).

"Personal safety has always been one of the greatest concerns among homeless people," said Rev. Steve Burger, executive director of AGRM. "Many were worried about being mugged for the cash in their pocket or purse. But now fears are growing. The proliferation of Internet sites, online movies and television shows that make a sport out of beating defenseless people add to the danger for those on the streets."

Sanchez said, regardless if someone is homeless or not, the SMPD will be there to help. Sanchez pointed to the Urban Institute's review, which interviewed homeless people as to why they were attracted to Santa Monica. Some said the weather and general pleasantness of the city, but nearly all put safety near the top of the list.

"We have more women and children, more elderly homeless in Santa Monica than a lot of our neighboring cities, and I think that speaks to the level of perceived security and respect and compassion we have here,"

> **"I DON'T THINK I WOULD COUCH IT AS A 'DRAIN' ... WE RESPOND TO ALL COMMUNITY CONCERNS WITH AN EQUAL COMMITMENT TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION."**
>
> Phil Sanchez
> SMPD Deputy Chief

Sanchez said. "Our mandate is to serve the community. We have no concern as to the person's socio-economic status or religion or any other factor.

If you are a victim of a crime, we will investigate that crime to the best of our ability."

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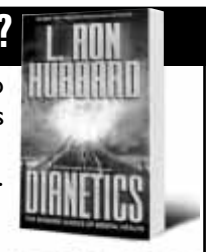

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Grad student uses sound to capture whales dining on seals

BY DAN JOLING
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska Marine researcher Kelly Newman wanted to learn if transient killer whales were dining on the fur seals that abound in the waters off Alaska's Pribilof Islands.

With limits on what her eyes could contribute to her research, Newman turned to her ears.

Using a sophisticated hydrophone, the graduate student last summer captured the distinctive sound of orcas killing — pouncing on seals, or ramming them like freight trains, often at night, then calling in their companions to share in feeding.

Newman says her work, so far just a pilot project, affirms that visual observations are limited in determining behavior of marine mammals, especially if the animals don't want to be seen.

"You may see a killer whale, and you may see a fur seal, and you may see something going and maybe think there might be predation, but you can't be sure," she said.

Newman is pursuing a doctorate in marine biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The waters off the coast of Alaska have been a focus for researchers because of changes brought on by warming, such as diminished sea ice, and population drops in pinnipeds such as fur seals and Stellar sea lions.

Like dozens of other scientists focused on wildlife research in the vast North Pacific Ocean, Newman faces formidable physical challenges before she collects an iota of data for analysis.

It costs $1,000 to fly round trip from Fairbanks to the Pribilofs, a group of five islands in the Bering Sea 300 miles from the mainland. St. Paul, the largest island, has a village of the same name with about 500 residents, and St. George Island 47 miles to the south, has about 125.

Otherwise, the most famous residents are the 210 species of birds that nest in the islands' cliffs and attract birders from around the world.

The remote outposts also are the breeding grounds for more than half of the world's northern fur seals. Males arrive at rookeries in late spring and stake out territories. Breeding females arrive in mid-June, give birth a few days later and begin nursing.

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Mideast peacemakers look for new answers

BY ANNE GEARAN
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON World powers have largely abandoned hope that Hamas radicals will drop anti-Israel positions that have riven the Palestinian leadership and led to a cutoff of direct international aid. Now diplomats are looking for a new approach.

A year after Hamas' surprise victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections put renewed peace efforts with Israel in doubt, the United States was to host other would-be peacemakers for a strategy session Friday.

The gathering of diplomats from the U.S., United Nations, European Union and Russia follows months of mounting street violence between Hamas and the rival Fatah Party. The political factions each control part of the Palestinian government, and each command militias or security forces like those that battled in the streets of the Gaza Strip on Thursday, killing six.

A goal of Friday's meeting at the State Department is to demonstrate tangible support for the secular Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas through increased money, training and other aid for his Fatah security forces.

The Bush administration has asked Congress for an additional $86 million for Abbas' forces, although the money would not go to buy weapons. European diplomats said their governments are considering a separate effort to train and equip Fatah, the party Abbas heads.

"What you have to do in a situation like this is go in and engage in consultations with your allies," White House spokesman Tony Snow said Thursday. "And I think there have been some discussions about what people would like to see, but I don't think it would be constructive to try to lay it out publicly at this juncture."

The group hosted by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is the sponsor of a dormant 2003 peace plan that would lead eventually to an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. That goal, although popular among both Israelis and Palestinians, has seemed especially remote as the internal Palestinian dispute worsened this year.

Ahead of the meeting, there were signs that the United States may have difficulty holding the group to its hard line against Hamas.

A senior Russian diplomat called Tuesday for the lifting of the international blockade of the Hamas-led Palestinian government, the Interfax news agency reported. Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Saltanov said Moscow would use the meeting of international mediators in Washington to press for the lifting of the financial sanctions.

Russia joined a strong statement from the group last year that laid out conditions for Hamas to receive international aid and political recognition. The Islamic radicals have refused to renounce violence or accept Israel's right to exist, and will not commit to commitments made by the previous secular Palestinian government.

A senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe U.S. thinking ahead of the meeting, said diplomats have little hope that Hamas will meet those conditions and are looking for ways to break the impasse.

"Now we start to look towards, 'How do we move past Hamas?"' the official said.

Rice plans to meet later this month with Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in a largely symbolic attempt to revive Palestinian hopes for independence.

That three-way meeting is meant to strengthen Abbas, who supports accommodation with Israel, in his power struggle with Hamas.

Drought leaves neighbor states fighting for water from Bighorn

BY MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press Writer

LOVELL, Wyo. Sandy gullies and endless sage brush offer little hint of the watersports Mecca once envisioned for this small town near the Montana border.

Back when the Bighorn River flowed strong out of the distant Wind River mountains, it backed up 72-miles from the Yellowtail Dam in Montana south to the outskirts of Lovell — a man-made lake that once drew almost half a million visitors annually.

But drought has choked the Bighorn going on eight years, chopping 30 miles off Bighorn Lake in recent summers and prompting tourists to vacation elsewhere. And now a U.S. senator from Montana — anxious to tap the reservoir to feed a downstream trout fishery — could crush Lovell's recreational aspirations for good.

Flexing his newfound muscle as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Democrat Max Baucus has introduced legislation that could further deplete the lake. It would force the federal Bureau of Reclamation to ensure a steady flow of water out of Yellowtail Dam, drought notwithstanding.

The bill, which Lovell officials say would effectively doom Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, stakes out yet another front in the water wars breaking out across the Northern Plains.

As the worst dry spell since the 1930s shows no signs of abating, Nebraska and Kansas are wrangling for control of irrigation water from the Republican River. South Dakota has demanded that the Army Corps of Engineers stop drawing down reservoirs in the state because it is hurting recreational fishing. Downstream, barge companies along the Missouri River in Iowa are demanding the Corps release more water so their vessels can operate.

And Wyoming and Montana are fighting two more water battles in the Tongue and Powder river basins. Montana officials claim Wyoming is diverting too much water from the rivers before they cross the state line, sparking a U.S. Supreme Court lawsuit filed Thursday. Also, intensive coal-bed methane production on the Wyoming side has Montana officials worried over the prospect of poor-quality water flowing into their state. Water drawn from the ground during methane extraction often is high in salt, making it unsuitable for agriculture or human consumption.

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Panel puts the heat on human race

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

PARIS A panel of international scientists predicted Friday that global warming will continue for centuries no matter how much people control pollution, in a bleak report that blamed humans for killer heat waves, devastating droughts and stronger storms.

The report said people were "very likely" the cause of global warming — the strongest conclusion to date — and placed the burden on governments to take action.

"It's later than we think," said Susan Solomon, co-chair of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Man-made emissions of greenhouse gases are to blame for fewer cold days, hotter nights, heat waves, floods and heavy rains, droughts and stronger storms, particularly in the Atlantic Ocean, the 21-page report said.

It highlighted "increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global mean sea level."

Authors of the report called it conservative: It used only peer-reviewed published science and was edited by representatives of 113 governments who had to agree to every word. It was a snapshot of where the world is with global warming and where it is heading, but does not tell governments what to do.

Yet if nothing is done, the world is looking at billions of dollars in costs adapting to a warmer world over the next century, co-author Kevin Trenberth said in an interview. He also warned of at least 1 million deaths in droughts, floods and hurricanes.

The study said no matter how much civilization slows or reduces its greenhouse gas emissions, global warming and sea-level rise will continue for centuries.

Gaza fighting leaves 10 people dead, truce in tatters

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK
Associated Press Writer

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP Fatah fighters stormed a Hamas-affiliated university on Friday morning for the second time, setting buildings on fire and threatening to escalate an already raging battle between the two factions in the Gaza Strip.

A new round of heavy fighting throughout Gaza killed 10 people Friday — including a woman and three children — making a total of 17 since Thursday afternoon, as gunmen waged battles in the streets with mortar shells, rockets and heavy machine guns.

Thousands of Gazans huddled in their homes to escape the crossfire from the resurgent violence, which destroyed a brief truce between Fatah and Hamas. Health authorities said they were running out of blood to treat the wounded.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah appealed Friday for calm.

"I call on all parties in Gaza to stop these actions that harm the Palestinian people," he said.

More than 100 Palestinians have been killed in internal violence since Hamas won parliamentary elections last year and formed a Cabinet. In the wake of the election, Abbas took control of the security forces and Hamas established its own militia. The two forces have fought repeatedly in the streets.

In another effort to end the fighting, Abbas was to travel Tuesday to Saudi Arabia for talks with Hamas' supreme leader, Khaled Mashaal, on forming a national unity government, an Abbas aide said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting had not been officially announced.

Previous rounds of talks have ended in failure and often led to new waves of bloodshed.

On Friday afternoon, Fatah forces raided a Hamas stronghold, the Islamic University in Gaza City, setting fire to two buildings and sparking a heavy firefight with Hamas forces. Masked men in black uniforms ran through the campus and took up positions on the roof of the school's mosque.

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BASEBALL

Gwynn grows tired of his Aztecs losing

BY BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO Tony Gwynn was at a baseball dinner in New York last weekend when someone asked if he was still coaching at San Diego State.

Ouch.

Of course he's still coaching at his alma mater, replied Gwynn. So why, he was asked, doesn't anyone ever see the Aztecs on TV, in the College World Series or even at the NCAA regionals?

"I said because we haven't been there in 16 years," Gwynn recalled while sitting in the dugout at Tony Gwynn Stadium on a rainy afternoon this week.

Gwynn, elected to the Hall of Fame on Jan. 9, is starting to feel the pressure as he enters his fifth season as SDSU's coach. While Gwynn played for two Aztecs teams that reached the regionals under predecessor Jim Dietz, his squad keep coming up short.

Coaching the Aztecs remains Gwynn's dream job. It's just that victories haven't come with the seeming ease that all those opposite-field hits did during his 20-year career with the San Diego Padres.

"I'm tired of losing," said Gwynn, who's 113-132 in four seasons. "I'm alumni, too. Coach Dietz did a super job here, took the team to regionals and all that, and we haven't been able to crack that barrier. College baseball is at a point now where it's getting more attention than it's ever gotten. You've either got to keep up or you'll be looking for a new job. It's just that simple."

Gwynn said he's not feeling heat from his boss, which athletic director Jeff Schemmel confirmed. Even so, everyone around knows it should almost be a birthright for the Aztecs to make regular postseason appearances, since San Diego is blessed with a great climate and a ton of prep talent.

The Aztecs have never made it to the College World Series. They haven't been to the regionals since 1991, when Gwynn was reaching the halfway point of his big league career.

"I think the pressure that's on Tony is self-inflicted," Schemmel said. "He's anxious to be successful. I think some of the changes that I've seen in some of the things he's done with the program will reap some benefits."

After going 23-36 last year and making a quick exit from the Mountain West Conference tournament, Gwynn drastically changed the makeup of his squad. He brought in 29 new players as he switched from a club that swung for the fences to a more athletic bunch that will be expected to manufacture runs — just like Gwynn did in the majors.

The roster redo is so dramatic that the Aztecs return only one starting position player, and the one starting pitcher who returns, Bruce Billings, will begin the season as the closer.

The Aztecs open the season Friday with the first of three games at Cal Poly.

"We'll have some growing pains early, I'm sure," Gwynn said. "But when you have that many new guys, you've got to try to stay clam, stay focused."

Manusky named Niners' defensive coordinator

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. The San Francisco 49ers have hired San Diego linebackers coach Greg Manusky as their defensive coordinator.

Manusky, who played 12 seasons in the NFL, spent the last five years on the Chargers' staff, where he worked with one of the league's top defenses. He spent the previous season with Washington before following coach Marty Schottenheimer to San Diego, where they ran a 3-4 defense similar to the scheme favored by 49ers coach Mike Nolan.

After a nine-hour job interview Monday, Manusky emerged as Nolan's top choice despite no previous experience as an NFL coordinator.

"I'm just excited to be part of an organization that's building something now," Manusky said. "It's an up-and-coming situation."

Manusky replaces Billy Davis, who was fired last month after two seasons. Nolan, a longtime defensive coordinator for four NFL teams, was heavily involved with preparing the Niners' defense, yet still dismissed Davis when the unit yielded an NFL-worst 412 points in 2006 after giving up 428 in 2005.

Nolan plans to allow Manusky to call the 49ers' defensive game plan, hopefully relieving himself of some Sunday stress. Manusky has never called a game before, but Nolan is confident in his ability to pick it up quickly.

"I wanted to get an NFL-experienced guy into the job — someone that had been around it, seen it, done it the right way," Nolan said. "We will continue to collectively put a game plan together, but that will be Greg's call. I think he's got a great mind to do it."

Nolan chose Manusky over Jaguars assistant Dave Campo, former Lions assistant Donnie Henderson and 49ers assistant head coach Mike Singletary, who is a candidate to fill the Dallas Cowboys' head coaching vacancy.

San Francisco offensive coordinator Norv Turner is considered the front-runner for the top job in Dallas, which could mean Nolan will have to replace his top three assistants from a 7-9 team. Al Everest was named the 49ers' special teams coordinator last month after Larry Mac Duff left to become assistant head coach at the University of Texas.

The Cowboys aren't expected to choose a coach until after the Super Bowl.

"I've spoken with Norv since he got back (from Dallas), and it's still gray," Nolan said. "I'd love to know one way or the other, so I know what I've got to do. I would have to guess — and only guess — that he's the leading candidate."

Nolan also lost offensive coordinator Mike McCarthy when he became head coach of the Green Bay Packers last season — a remarkable track record for a club with only 11 wins the past two seasons.

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 30, 2007**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 14
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 1
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 34
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 14 / 10

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

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

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

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

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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.

Naughty and nice, Taurus

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic ★★★★ Positive
★★★ Average ★★ So-So ★ Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Emphasize what you can do as opposed to what you cannot. You might be a little taken aback by the options that head in your direction. Someone might play devil's advocate. Get into the sparring and don't take the fighting personally. Tonight: Find your most relaxing spot.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your creativity surges whether you are making plans or mulling over an issue. Extremes punctuate plans and people. Get into the variety rather than miss the stability. Learn to count on yourself. A friend might not know as much as he or she thinks. Tonight: Ah — to be naughty and nice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ No matter which way you turn, you appear to be in the crosswinds of a situation. Step boldly into the unknown, without support. Sometimes you have difficulty trusting yourself. Experiences like today might build confidence. Tonight: Some quiet time at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You speak your mind. Others might not listen. After hearing new information, you feel as if you have broken a barrier. Doors will open if you are ready to walk through them. Know that not everyone has to agree with you. Tonight: Hang out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Recent expenses might have you sitting back on your haunches. You might not need to agree with everyone or everything, but right now you might be closing down. Creativity doesn't have to mean risk. Tonight: Fun doesn't need to run an outrageous cost.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Many might not agree with you. Fortunately, right now support isn't the issue — good choices are. Think in terms of greater risks without others cheering you on. You are your own person, no matter how you look at it. Tonight: Your magnetism speaks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ How you deal with someone might have a lot to do with how you are feeling. Refuse to go on automatic. Make choices because you decide to head in a particular direction. Discussions can be animated as well as informative. Tonight: Add more mystery.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Aim for what you want. Friends, children and loved ones play into the happenings that surround you. Knowing when you have had enough might be important. Don't get enmeshed in a situation where secrecy must occur. Tonight: Find the action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Pressure seems inevitable with the whirlwind of people and ideas that surround you. Everyone comes from a different perspective, adding to the many options and ideas. Don't get stuck in a battle of wills. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Visualize what others are saying. Walk in their shoes to get a complete grasp. You might be surprised by just how easy it is to reconcile what seems impossible with this approach. Cut judgments, at least for the day. Tonight: Get into a game of Scrabble or go to the movies.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Work with individuals rather than get caught up in problems or your perspective. You might be surprised how extending your hand can make a difference in the outcome of an important situation. Tonight: Dinner for two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Others might challenge you inadvertently. You certainly have a lot to say about a situation. Pick and choose your words with care so you don't sound like a tape recorder. Think impact. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

Born Today

Artist Norman Rockwell (1894)

Happy Birthday!

Focus on individuals, and you'll achieve many desires this year. Groups might prove to be a distraction, though you'll certainly enjoy your friends and get-togethers. You'll also gain through a partnership. You have many moneymaking ideas. Test them.

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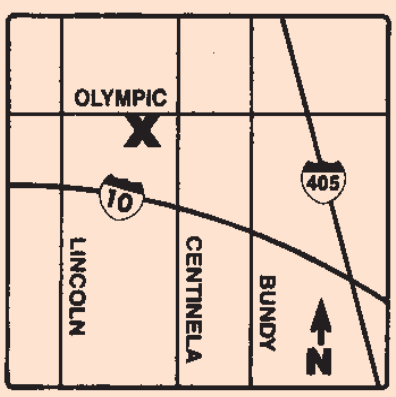

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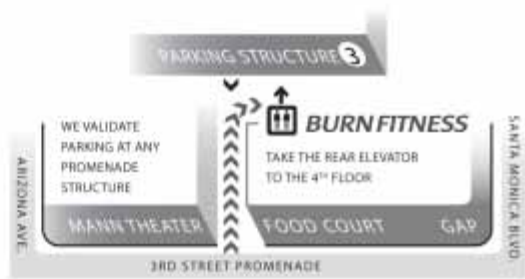

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A 'sorry' guy

KEVIN FEDERLINE has something to say to those who are offended by an upcoming Super Bowl ad featuring him as a fast-food worker: He's "really sorry."

"The commercial is completely intended for me, making fun of myself and my own situation," the aspiring rapper, 28, told Associated Press Television in a recent interview. "It has nothing to do with anybody in the fast-food industry at all. So, you know, if we've offended anybody, I'm really sorry about that."

National Restaurant Association President and Chief Executive Steven Anderson said last week that the ad amounts to a "strong and direct insult to the 12.8 million Americans who work in the restaurant industry."

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co.'s 30-second spot shows Federline performing in a glitzy music video. However, the punch line is that he's daydreaming — while cooking french fries at a fast-food joint.

It's a "`Saturday Night Live' skit on myself. ... Maybe it'll land me some good roles in Hollywood," said Federline, whose debut rap album, "Playing With Fire," has had dismal sales since its release last fall.

On Thursday, Federline's attorney confirmed that K-Fed and estranged wife Britney Spears will continue to share custody of their two young sons this month, following the terms of a January custody agreement. Spears filed for divorce from Federline in November after two years of marriage, citing irreconcilable differences.

"I'm a good father," said Federline, who wouldn't talk about his personal life. "I love my kids and I'll always be here for (them)."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

Singer-songwriter MARC COHN will return to Colorado for concerts in three cities next week, his first performances in the state since he was shot in the head during a carjacking attempt in Denver nearly a year and a half ago.

Cohn will play in Boulder, Breckenridge and Aspen, according to his Web site.

In August 2005, Cohn was shot during a botched carjacking. Joseph Yacteen, 27, pleaded guilty to attempted first-degree murder and was sentenced in October to 36 years in prison.

Cohn, 47, told The Daily Camera he feels some anxiety about his return: "The truth of the matter of is, and I'm well aware of it though it's hard to convince your brain, the chance of anything like that happening again, especially where it's already happened once, are pretty slim."

Cohn, who's married to ABC News anchor Elizabeth Vargas, had a hit with "Walking in Memphis" and won a Grammy in 1991. His latest album is due out next summer.

AP

Lee puts his money where cameras are

Academy Award-winning director ANG LEE grew up in Taiwan and started his career there. Now he wants to give back to its movie industry.

He and younger brother and fellow filmmaker Lee Kang have started a program to cultivate Taiwanese directors by financing them and providing help in marketing, Lee Kang told The Associated Press Friday in a phone interview.

"Nowadays directors have to do everything — raising money, writing the script, securing government grants, shooting, producing and marketing," he said.

The Lee brothers hope to free up filmmakers to focus on directing. "We'll produce for the directors ... We'll plan their marketing for them," he said.

He wants to train directors in making commercial movies and counter Taiwan's preference for arthouse cinema, while Ang Lee, who won the best-director Oscar last year for "Brokeback Mountain," will serve as an artistic consultant, focusing on developing the scripts of chosen directors.

AP

LEE

Rowling marks end of the 'Potter' saga

J.K. ROWLING marked the spot where she finished the final "Harry Potter" book.

"J.K. Rowling finished writing `Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows' in this room on 11 Jan 2007," read the message on an antique-style statue at Edinburgh's five-star Balmoral Hotel.

The writer announced on Thursday that the seventh and final installment in the series, which tells the story of Harry during his final year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, will be published July 21.

"I can confirm she did write some of the book at the Balmoral last month and did complete the book at that hotel," the author's spokeswoman, Nicky Stonehill, said.

The hotel said it does not encourage guests to write on hotel property, but Rowling is a special case.

"Obviously this is quite a unique case," hotel spokeswoman Jessica Trotter said. "We're honored and flattered she chose the Balmoral as surroundings to do her writing."

As a single mother on welfare more than a decade ago, Rowling used to sit in cafes near the Balmoral while writing her first book, "Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone."

Since then, Rowling — who lives in Edinburgh with her husband and children — has seen her books sell more than 325 million copies in 64 languages.

Four hit movies already have been adapted from the Potter books. The fifth film, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," is scheduled to come out July 13, eight days before the release of "Deathly Hallows."

AP

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MOVIEGUIDE

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Thunderball, You Only Live Twice
7:30
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James Bond Trivia Contest
4:00
Dr. No, From Russia With Love
7:30

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Babel (R)
1:15, 4:25, 7:35, 10:45
Because I Said So (PG-13)
1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
Blood Diamond (R)
1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)
1:55, 4:40, 7:40, 10:20

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
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(310) 289-4262

Catch and Release (PG-13)
11:20am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:40
Children of Men (R)
11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:40, 10:10
Dreamgirls (PG-13)
10:35am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30
Epic Movie (PG-13)
10:50am, 12:55, 3:00, 5:15, 7:50, 10:00
The Messengers (PG-13)
10:30am, 12:35, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15
Night at the Museum (PG)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)
10:40am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50

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The Departed (R)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
Notes on a Scandal (R)
11:00am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

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Letters From Iwo Jima (R)
1:20, 4:45, 8:00
The Queen (PG-13)
1:55, 4:35, 7:30, 9:55
Venus (R)
1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
Volver (R)
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

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Arthur and the Invisibles (PG)
11:50am, 2:20, 4:50
Blood and Chocolate (PG-13)
7:20, 10:00
Casino Royale (PG-13)
12:00, 3:30, 7:10, 10:10
Freedom Writers (PG-13)
11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20
The Last King of Scotland (R)
12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50
Smokin' Aces (R)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
Stomp the Yard (PG-13)
11:20am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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 LAST PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

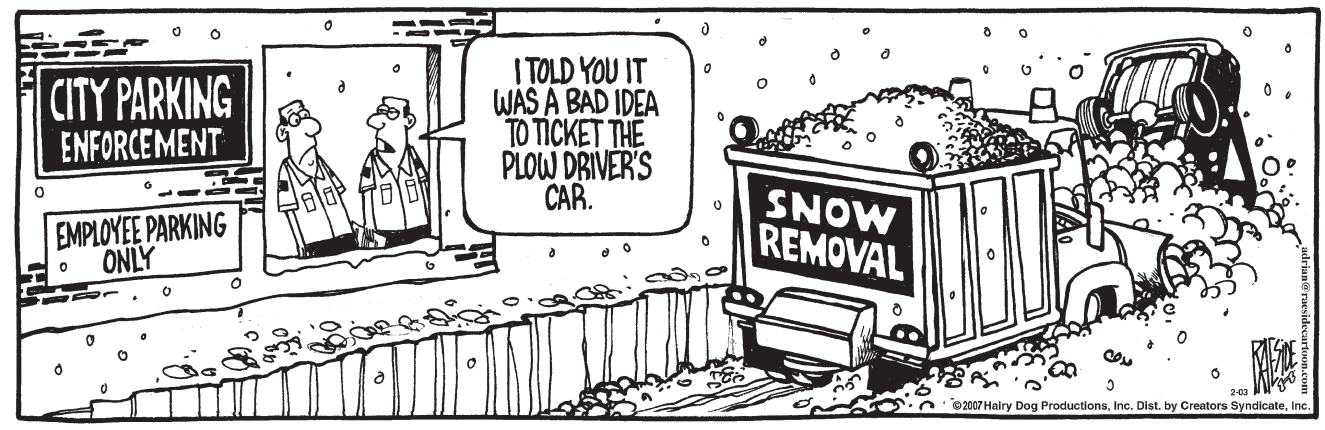
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

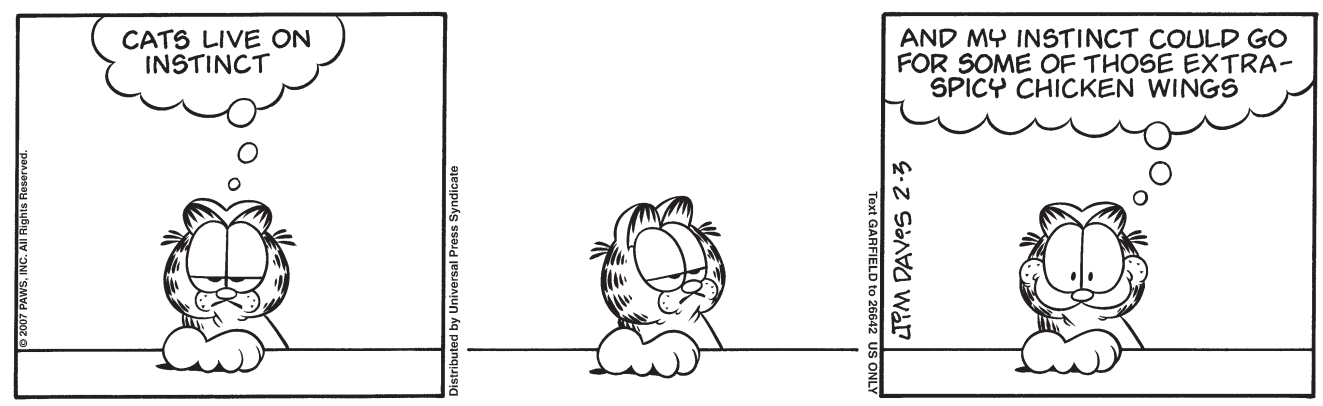
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



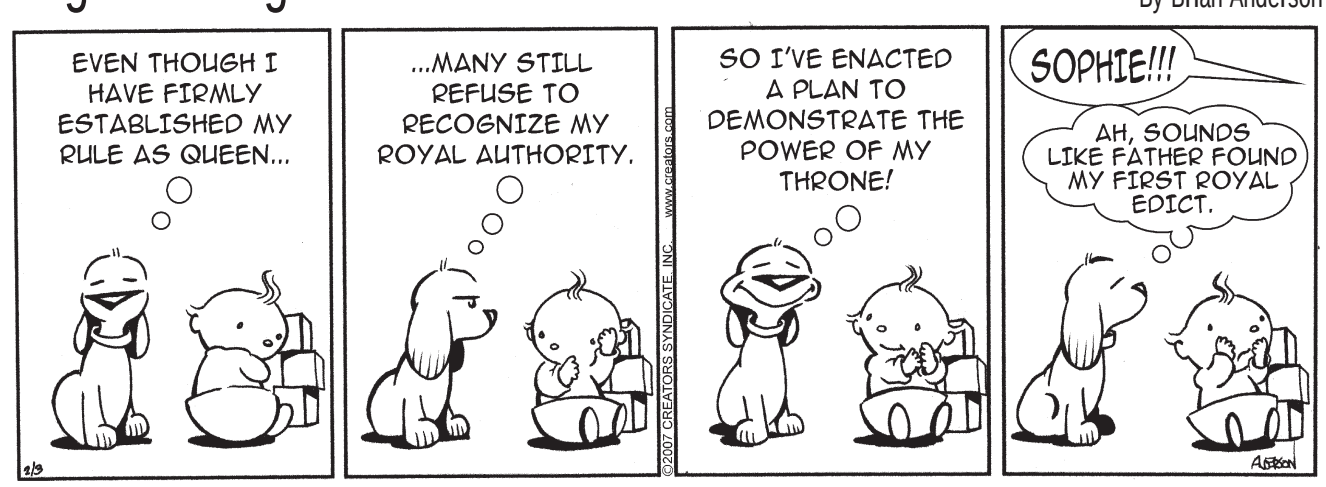
Garfield

By Jim Davis

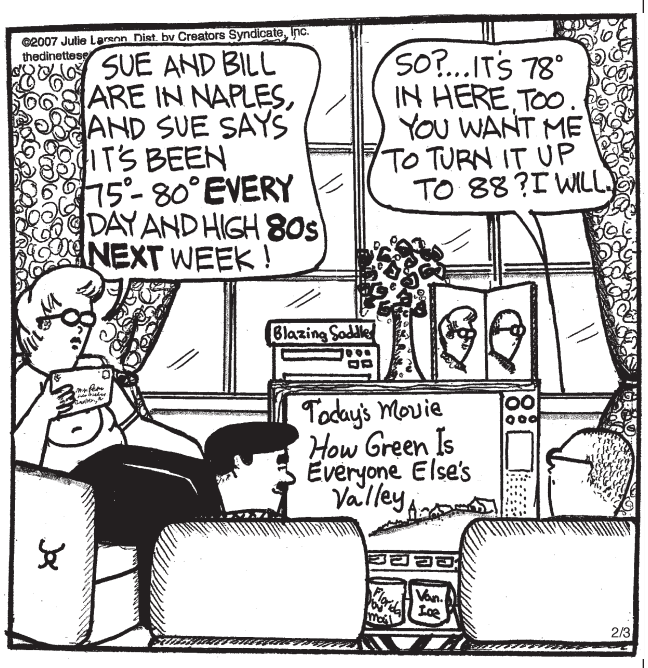


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

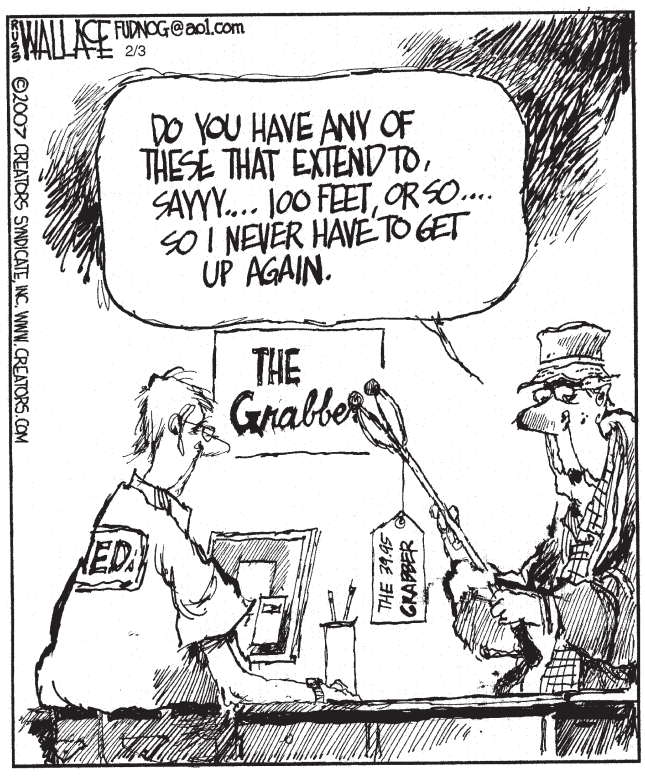


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



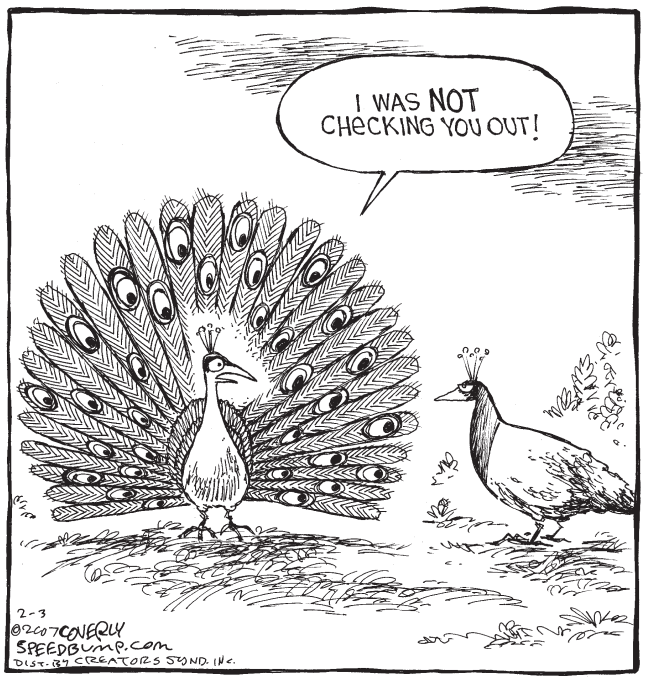
Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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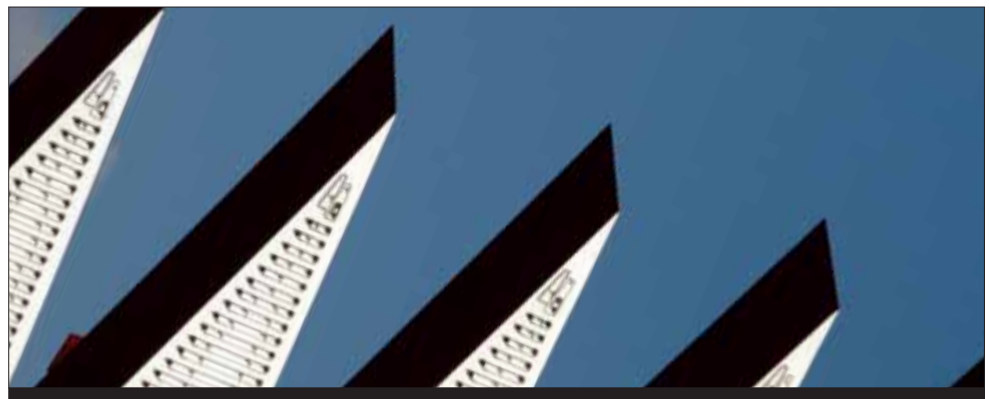


Mystery Photo

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

The first person to correctly identify where this Mystery Photo was taken within Santa Monica will win a prize from the Daily Press.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Quarry
5 M's men
10 Ventilated
12 McEnroe rival
13 Not so good
14 Promptly
15 Greek vowel
16 Swear
18 Motel freebie
19 Hold
21 Dance move
22 Pillaged
24 Columbus' birthplace
25 Sport played by Harry Potter
29 Confident
30 Minimal baseball lead
32 Network
33 "CSI" evidence
34 Simile center
35 Subside
37 Polite chaps
39 Mortise's mate
40 "Cats" creator
41 Cologne
42 More than a few

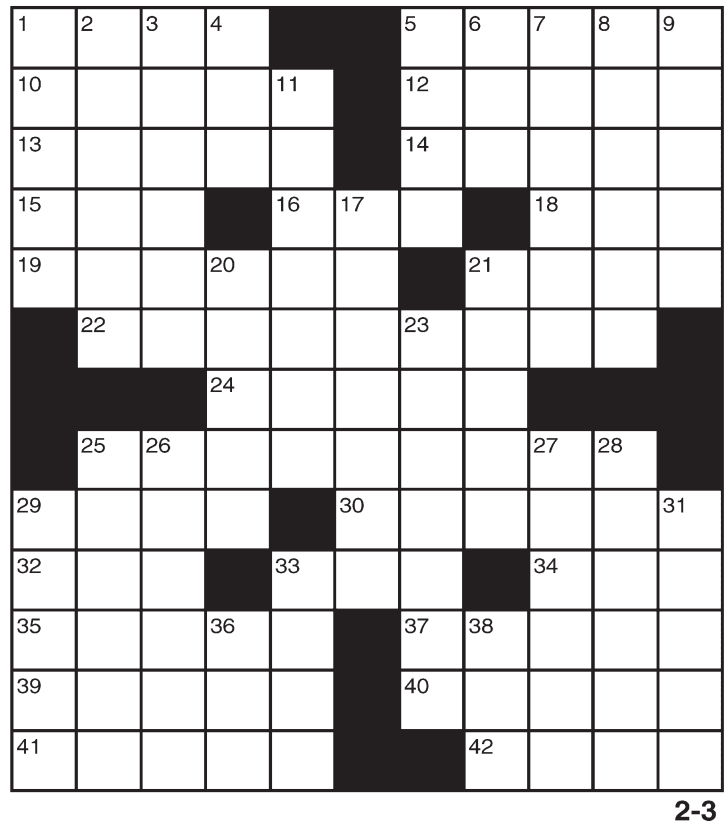
DOWN

1 Treated roughly
2 Mob member
3 Book goofs
4 For sure
5 Lethargic
6 Stock holder
7 Spur on
8 Drew out
9 Go undercover?
11 Dreamed up
17 Continually
20 Rolling Stones song
21 Enjoy the rink
23 Inventing words
25 Largest province
26 Suave
27 Brain protectors
28 Director John
29 Smacks
31 Disagreeable
33 Body shop concern
36 Cargo unit
38 Popular street name

M	O	T	I	F	■	A	T	W	A	R
A	B	H	O	R	■	C	H	I	L	E
S	T	O	N	E	■	T	A	L	I	A
H	U	M	■	D	E	F	I	L	E	D
U	S	A	■	O	N	O	■	I	N	S
P	E	S	T	■	D	U	M	A	S	■
■	■	P	E	R	■	R	I	M	■	■
■	M	Y	N	A	H	■	A	S	P	S
B	A	N	■	M	A	D	■	T	E	E
E	N	C	L	O	S	E	■	Y	O	N
E	T	H	A	N	■	C	A	R	P	S
C	R	O	N	E	■	A	H	O	L	E
H	A	N	D	S	■	L	A	N	E	S

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



2-3

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Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: $65M

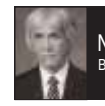
SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 7 14 17 18 32
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: $22M

Fantasy 5: 7 13 15 20 34

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 5 9
EVENING: 4 8 2

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1.41.38

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

■ At least 30 Texas death-row inmates have pages on dating Web sites, according to a November Associated Press report, and the murderers usually describe themselves in cuddly terms. Wrote convicted cop-killer Randy Halprin, "I think I'm a pretty funny guy. I have a wacked (sic) sense of humor. I can be a big kid at heart. I'm a hopeless (and I mean hopeless) romatic (sic)." However, also in November, Calvin Bennett, 26, a suspect in two Arkansas murders, was traced by police to Rothschild, Wis., by the personal ad he had placed on a dating Web site, describing himself as shy and giving his ideal evening as "a nice romantic dinner with soft music, followed by a romantic walk or a carriage ride."

■ Police in Chesterfield Township, Mich., arrested Calvin Fluckes Jr., 21, in December after he tried to cash a counterfeit check for $848 at a Wal-Mart. Fluckes was apparently oblivious of the approximately 80 uniformed police officers who were in the store for a charity event and whose cruisers Fluckes had to pass when he parked his car in the Wal-Mart lot. According to a police lieutenant, "(Fluckes) was immediately apprehended."

■ Also Should Have Kept His Mouth Shut: Jeremy Lyons, 20, was arrested in Hanover Township, Pa., in October for an alleged vandalism spree, bashing car windows with a baseball bat. A local TV station had carried a story of the arrest of another person, and Lyons for some reason called the station and, laughing, told them they had the wrong man. He was arrested when the call was traced.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1959 A plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa, claimed the lives of rock 'n' roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. ``The Big Bopper'' Richardson. That same day, an American Airlines Lockheed Electra crashed into New York's East River while approaching LaGuardia Airport, killing 65 of the 73 people on board.

1809 Congress passed an act establishing the Illinois Territory.

1907 author James Michener was born in New York.

1913 the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

1916 Canada's original Parliament Buildings, in Ottawa, burned down.

WORD UP!

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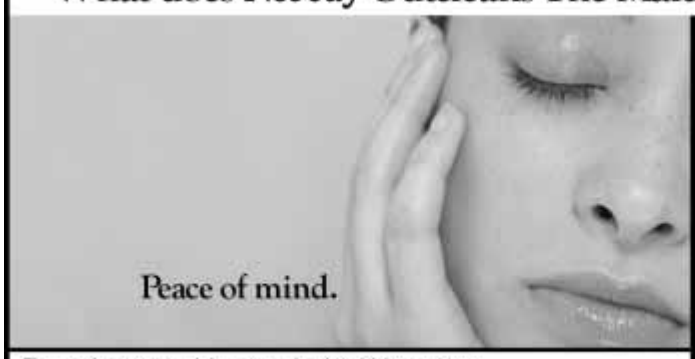

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Classification (Pets, Yard Sale, Etc...): _____

Ad Copy (attach copy if necessary)

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____

13 _____ 14 _____ 15 _____

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❒ Box (.50/day) ❒ Reverse($1/day)

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❒ Visa ❒ Mastercard ❒ AMEX ❒ Check

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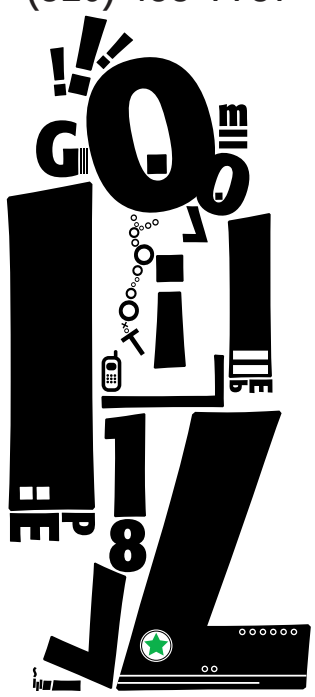

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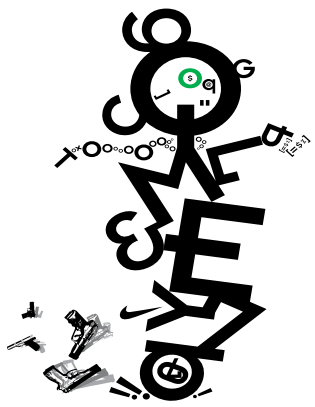

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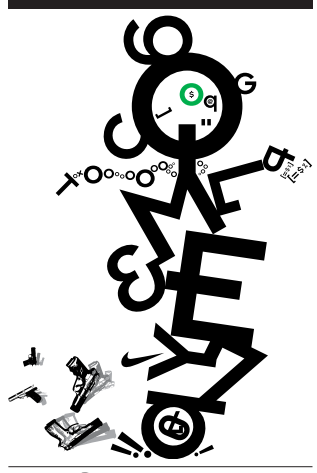

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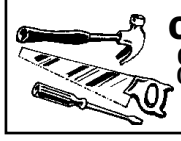

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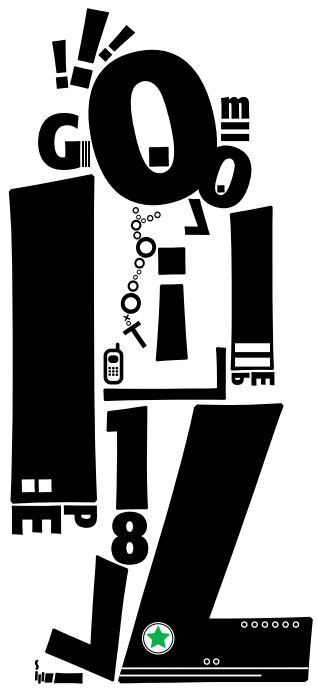

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