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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Volume 6 Issue 75

LET'S BE BLUNT
SEE PAGE 17

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE SEWN UP ISSUE

SM tide has not changed

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILL ROGERS BEACH Portions of Will Rogers, Venice and Dockweiler beaches remained closed today after sanitation officials were notified of a raw sewage spill Tuesday afternoon.

At Will Rogers, 100 yards of the beach will be closed until at least this afternoon on both sides of the Santa Monica Canyon Creek, where sanitation officials estimate 431 gallons of raw sewage entered the Santa Monica Bay.

County health officials warned swimmers and surfers to avoid contact with ocean water, which could cause illness.

"Los Angeles County residents and visitors to these beaches should avoid contact with the ocean near the point of discharge until these portions have been deemed safe to reopen," said Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, the director of public health for LA County. "We will be conducting water quality assessments to test the level of bacteria in the water. Beaches will remain closed until test results indicate that bacteria levels meet health safety standards."

Venice Beach is closed from the Marina del Rey channel entrance to a quarter mile north of the channel. Dockweiler Beach is closed from Ballona Creek to a quarter mile north of the channel.

County health officials said at least 2,400 gallons of sewage flowed into Ballona Creek and out into the bay.

Sanitation workers from the city of Los Angeles responded to the Will Rogers discharge at 12:03 p.m. Tuesday, completed clean-up work at 12:40 p.m. and notified the county health department at 3:30 p.m.

Culver City officials responded to discharges leading to Ballona Creek and Venice and Dockweiler beaches at 3 p.m., completed clean-up work at 4 p.m., and the county department of public health was notified at 4:27 p.m.

Recorded information on beach conditions is available around the clock on the Los Angeles County department of public

SEE SPILL PAGE 10

SHARED NEEDLES

CLOSE-KNIT GATHERING

Santa Monica's knitting circles share their far-from-lost art

STORY PAGE 12

Christine Chang *news@smdp.com*

SPINNING YARNS: **The Talking Stick's barista, Seth Heuiser, gets direction from Johnnie Loy in making a hat. "I knitted a little bit in the past but ever since the Stitch n' Bitch started to meet here, I've picked it up again, and I've been knitting every time they come," he said.**

Professional panhandlers congregate

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

ONE MAN'S TAKE ON CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL For a small piece of paper, it carries a lot of weight. I'm talking about cash money, you know, the almighty dollar.

And just like the O'Jays declared in 1973, some people will still "do things, do things, do things, bad things with it," while others will "do things, do things, do things, good things with it."

Those people — I'm talking about the good guys now — came with their hands out Tuesday night as part of an annual tradition in which residents and social service providers ask the City Council for dough to fund their pet projects. Based on their requests, elected officials develop a set of community budget priorities that they must consider when drafting City Hall's spending plan for the coming fiscal year.

It was especially important for service providers to attend, since the council was discussing what organizations need to do to qualify for the community development grant program, which provides $6.7 million annually to 29 non-profit human service and housing development organizations support-

SEE NOTEBOOK PAGE 11

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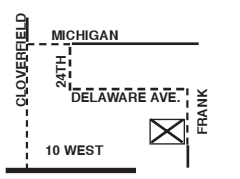

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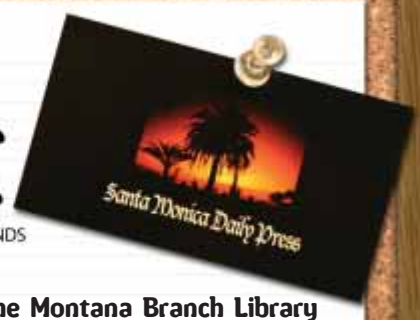
WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Local author Maggie Kilgore at the Montana Branch Library

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Maggie Kilgore will discuss her new book "Remember to Laugh: Writing My Way around the World." Ms. Kilgore's memoir recounts her four decades in journalism and her experiences as a teacher in Asia, Europe and Africa. A book sale and signing follows the discussion. This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

"Our Youth at Risk?" forum

2200 Virginia Ave., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Join other parents and an interactive panel as they discuss topics related to the transition from middle school to high school. Discussion will be held in the Workshop 3 Room of the Thelma Terry Building at Virginia Avenue Park. Free childcare and transportation is available. To RSVP, contact Tara Robinson at (310) 309-6000, ext. 215 or Ileana Maria Abreu at (310) 309-6000, ext. 208.

Tuskegee Airmen Salute

6661 W. Imperial Hwy, Los Angeles, 10 a.m.

The LAX Flight Path Museum presents the first program of its 2007 Speaker Series. Roger "Bill" Terry, one of the original African-American fighter pilots and past president of their national organization, will speak. Admission and parking are free. For more information, call (310) 215-5291 or visit www.flightpath.us.

Laughter Yoga

717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon

Laughter Yoga combines yoga breathing and laughter exercises to increase health and vitality, to decrease everyday stress and to promote a more positive mental attitude. This is a donation class — pay what you can (suggested donation $5 — $10). For more information, call (310) 471-5773.

Weekly LeTip Business Networking Group

11th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Weekly networking over lunch at El Cholo to provide additional leads and referrals to your line of work. Only one person per profession may join. Call (310) 356-7519 to reserve a spot.

Church Mice

1220 Second St., 3:15 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Music, art projects, Bible stories, games and snacks are offered every Thursday in the Christian Education Building of First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica. Children 3 years of age through second grade are welcome. For more information, call Rebecca Hall at (310) 451-1303, ext. 26.

Kundalini Yoga

2309 Main St., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

This class combines the science of movement, posture, breath, sound and meditation. Donations accepted. For more information, please visit www.shiatsumassageschool.org.

"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.

Nordic LAttitudes

601 Santa Monica Blvd., Main Library hours

The Santa Monica Public Library, Friends of the Library, and Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners are presenting a six-week design and discussion event called Nordic LAttitudes, an educational exhibit showcasing the best in Nordic furniture and lighting design. For more information, visit www.smpl.org/nordiclattitudes.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre

1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

For more information, call the Playhouse box office at (310) 394-9779, ext. 2 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)

1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.

For more information, call (310) 515-4840.

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.

Excursion tours LA's trashiest

BY NOAKI SCHWARTZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Every day, buses packed with tourists trundle along the Hollywood Walk of Fame and through Beverly Hills to gawk at celebrities and gasp at the size of their mansions.

A lesser-known tour through the industrial back streets of the county also leaves participants gasping — for another reason.

"On your left is a smokestack," guide Jesus Torres points out as he leads the "Toxic Tour" through neighborhoods in the shadows of oil refineries, factories and slaughterhouses.

The excursions staged by the watchdog group Communities for a Better Environment are gaining popularity among policy makers, lawyers and students who want a firsthand look at poor, minority areas affected by a disproportionate amount of pollution.

Instead of heading to Tinseltown or celebrity crime scenes, the buses visit areas that have been the site of environmental nightmares. Among its stops are "Asthma Town" in Huntington Park and an elementary school that was plagued by miscarriages among workers.

Riders also get to breathe in the warm, sticky stench of slaughtered pigs mixed with the stink of diesel fuel, paint and other chemicals.

"The big thing with the tours is to put a human face on this," said Bill Gallegos, executive director of Communities for a Better Environment.

About 200 people took the free tour last year, compared to just a handful in 1995, when the effort began, organizers said.

Rick Loya went when he was a councilman in Huntington Park and the city was the site of a mountain of concrete collected from freeway damage during the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

He was hospitalized when one of his lungs partially collapsed from breathing airborne debris at the site.

"The first time I went out there I thought, what in the world is happening to me," he recalled. Still, as he lobbied for a cleanup, he felt compelled to grab a respi-

SEE TRASH PAGE 5

Rendering courtesy of W3 Architects

COMING... EVENTUALLY: **The proposed facade of the Big Blue Bus Transit Store on Broadway can be seen in this artist's rendering. More than seven months after a public hearing at which the project was presented, construction has yet to commence.**

Center of attention

New Big Blue Bus center slated for summer opening

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN SM For almost a year, a sign attached to the window of an empty store on Broadway has informed passers-by of better things to come for the Big Blue Bus and its loyal riders — a new customer service and transit store.

But more than seven months after a public hearing at which the project was presented before the architectural review board, the sounds of construction have yet to be heard.

"It's a long process," said Dan Dawson, customer relations manager for the Big Blue Bus. "Even though the Big Blue Bus is part of the city, we have to follow city protocol."

The process requires Big Blue Bus to obtain approval from the fire marshal, fulfill a long city planning department check list, send out a request for proposals to bidders and — finally — make its choice among candidates.

City Council is expected to approve a $587,000 contract for TLD Construction at its meeting on Feb. 27, at which point the project can move forward.

After the contract is approved, city officials hope to hold the first construction meeting in mid-March, with the goal of completing the entire project in time for the summer travel season.

CONVENIENCE CONSIDERATIONS

The new customer service center and transit store will sell EZ passes and tokens, provide trip planning information to customers, and even sell Big Blue Bus and city of Santa Monica merchandise, including Big Blue Bus T-shirts.

The store will feature environmentally friendly products, including a Big Blue Bus notepad made out of seeds. The note paper can be planted and grown into a poppy garden.

"Our goal is to make it the most environmentally friendly retail store in Downtown Santa Monica," Dawson said.

The new site — at 223 Broadway — includes a convenience factor that the current shop lacks. The new downtown store is located within a few blocks of nearly all Big Blue Bus lines, while the current store — at the corner of Olympic Boulevard and

SEE BUS CENTER PAGE 10

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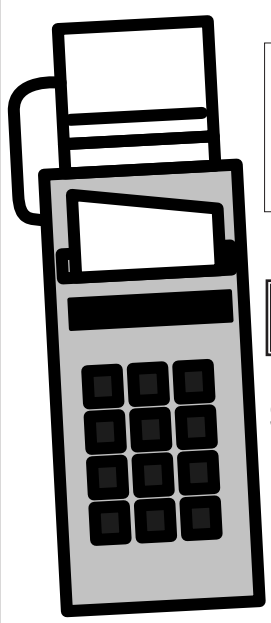

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

With all due respect

Editor:

(Re: "Former Officer Charged," Feb. 6, page 3)

Thank you for a fairly balanced article regarding Evan Mason. It is appreciated that (the Daily Press) published some points from both sides. It is, however, important to note that Evan Mason is "an honorably retired police officer" from Santa Monica, not the mischaracterized "former officer" the Daily Press was provided through case documents. It is, however, typical of the long-standing conduct of "half-truths" being used against him. Mason is held to a higher standard, where the most unproven issue becomes fact.

He survived four on-duty shootings in a six-month period on a joint task force, ultimately receiving a commendation for his work. He has a BS and a master's degree, and has earned the respect of fellow officers, supervisors and council members, as well as the retirees whose stories he sought to memorialize and publish. He was awarded the medal of courage for risking his life on the cliffs of Palisades Park to save a suicidal man, only to be the victim of a relentless chief's ego. He and his family are fine, caring, loving people who only sought to collect and chronicle the department and its history, with the least possible light shining on themselves. Hardly one to so blatantly embezzle from his former department!

Sadly, the ego and power of (then) Chief of Police James T. Butts Jr. has become a barrier for Mr. Mason's 37 years of memorabilia collection about the Santa Monica Police Department.

While seeking a $20,000 bail and state prison time for two outrageous felony charges, and the compelled relinquishment of a collection obtained over 37 years, (The Santa Monica Police Department) and the District Attorney's Office have catapulted a clearly "civil matter" into criminal charges through an abuse of power and discretion.

It can only be hoped that any subsequent articles on this case will conform to the integrity displayed thus far by SMDP.

Steve Brackett
Retired Santa Monica Police sergeant

A simple surplus solution

Editor:

After reading "Back in black: City has a surplus" (Feb. 6, page 1), I ask: Shouldn't the city of Santa Monica use some of its $1.3 million surplus to address the jet air pollution health risks to the communities bordering Santa Monica Airport?

More and more people living close to the airport are complaining about the air pollution from idling jets and how it is affecting their health, as well as their pets' heath. To all these people, there is a sense of urgency, Mayor Bloom!

It has been established that the first step that needs to be taken to assess health risks from the airports operations is to collect data showing the ground activity, including the idle times of the jets at the airport. The data will then be used in a computer modeling study, the preferred method by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This can be done, inexpensively, with a few video surveillance cameras, not unlike the cameras I believe Santa Monica is already using at the pier and at the mall.

We are talking approximately 30 total jet operations a day, not exactly rocket science.

Martin Rubin
Director of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

Guest Commentary

John W. Whitehead — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Football, church lost in commercialism

THE SUPER BOWL HAS BECOME America's new church gathering.

When I was a kid, the Super Bowl was the ultimate football game. You turned the TV set on to watch two teams battle it out for the championship title. But there was none of the buildup that now surrounds the big game.

Today, the football game is merely a sideshow to the glut of television advertisements promoting everything from beer and soda to cars and candy but, in essence, sex and materialism. As one reporter noted: "The hype for Super Bowl commercials has reached the same ridiculous proportions as the orgiastic hoopla over the game itself." At a going rate as high as $2.6 million for 30 seconds of broadcast time and with a viewing audience estimated at 90 million (making the Super Bowl the most widely viewed television program), it's no wonder that the advertisers are the ones running the show. The old maxim about television has become an undeniable truth — the programming now exists for the commercials.

The entire Super Bowl experience has, in fact, become akin to a religious experience. Americans approach the Super Bowl with much the same religious fervor as the Romans had for the lavish games held at the Circus Maximus. And it is this mingling of religion with entertainment that brings us to the recent brouhaha over the National Football League's efforts to prevent churches from holding Super Bowl viewing parties on large-screen or projection TVs.

People who heard about the dispute were of two minds: First, there was outrage that the NFL felt it necessary to bully churches into compliance, especially when sports bars and restaurants were granted exemptions. Second, there was bewilderment that churches would even want to participate in what has become an exercise in hedonism. Both reactions are completely understandable.

It goes beyond the pale for the NFL to dictate that churches shouldn't gather together — even if it is to watch the Super Bowl. The league's suggestion that church viewing parties might adversely affect their Nielsen ratings (which are used to leverage more advertising dollars) or cause the league to lose money is a testament to the corporate mindset that has overtaken what once was considered a relatively wholesome, all-American — albeit violent — sport. Greed has become the king of the Bowl.

Clearly, the NFL has little to no respect for Americans who watch the game. But it was a little disappointing that so many churches were willing to — and did — give up without a fight. If churches won't even fight for their right to watch football together, one has to wonder what they would be willing to fight for. For early church leaders, their mission came first, even when that mission conflicted with the state. Thus, they were considered troublemakers because they wouldn't toe the line, which is in sharp contrast to the church today, which aims to be law-abiding. Lacking the moral and spiritual strength of their predecessors, many of today's religious leaders try to force their agendas through politics.

But that's a whole other can of worms. For the purpose of this discussion, it might be enough to ask whether churches should be aligning themselves with the Super Bowl in the first place. How can a church preach against materialism, sexual immorality and drunkenness and participate in a cultural event that glories in all three?

Reportedly, these Super Bowl church bashes are increasing in their popularity. For the churches that planned to host viewing parties, the events were justified as ways to tap into the so-called "social magic" of Super Bowl Sunday by reaching out and ministering to members of their communities. And while there were supposedly churches that planned to invite the homeless and provide a meal, clothes-washing and a bed for the night, and others that intended to accept donations from the crowd to fund a food pantry, community social services or other good causes, there were also church events that differed only in location (and alcohol consumption) from the bacchanals taking place in homes and sports bars across America.

AMERICANS APPROACH THE SUPER BOWL WITH MUCH THE SAME RELIGIOUS FERVOR AS THE ROMANS HAD FOR THE LAVISH GAMES HELD AT THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS.

What would Jesus do? Would Jesus, who overturned the tables of the moneychangers in the temple because they were turning his father's house into a place of business, have condoned turning his father's house into a sports bar?

Are churches trading in their birthright for increased attendance? It may seem like harmless fun and sound marketing, but there are larger spiritual ramifications at work. For example, when you turn the church into the site for a Super Bowl party, have you altered your priorities and become a hedonist first and a Christian second?

By allowing itself to become a part of the greed-driven culture that surrounds the Super Bowl, the church completely erases the line between the sacred and the profane. It's the same concern that has been raised over the growing popularity of televangelism: When you can eat TV dinners, use the bathroom and attend a televised church service and never have to leave the room, it does away with the idea of a sacred space. And, in the end, you do away with your religion.

Constitutional attorney **JOHN W. WHITEHEAD** is founder of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR
Michael Tittinger
miket@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Kevin Herrera
kevinh@smdp.com

Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

PARENTING
Nina Furukawa
nina@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz
fabianl@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Christine Chang
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Robbie P. Piubeni
rob@smdp.com

Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

Andrew Swadling
andrews@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Cynthia Vazquez
advertising@smdp.com

TRAFFIC MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ARTIST
Tessa Vergara
tessav@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER
Annie Kotok
anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Glenn Bolan
glennb@smdp.com

NEWS INTERNS
Irene Manahan
Kristin Mayer

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Dave Danforth
dave@smdp.com

EDITOR-AT-LARGE
Carolyn Sackariason
csackariason@smdp.com

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1427 Third Street Promenade, #202
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

Budget would fund restoration studies

By The Associated Press

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK President Bush's federal budget sets aside money to study the benefits of draining and restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley, which provides water to 2.4 million residents in the San Francisco Bay area.

The president's $2.9 trillion budget includes $7 million to "support Hetch Hetchy restoration studies" that would explore the environmental and recreational advantages of returning the valley, which lies within Yosemite National Park, to its natural state.

Federal studies would build upon a recent California Department of Water Resources analysis that found restoring the valley was technically feasible but would cost between $3 billion and $10 billion.

Environmentalists who favor Hetch Hetchy's restoration praised the proposal, but it faces long odds in Congress where the idea has never found broad political support.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the San Francisco Democrat who serves on the Senate appropriations committee, said she will try to make sure the money isn't in the final budget.

"We're not going to remove this dam, and the funding is unnecessary," she said in a statement.

The proposal only calls for studying the possible benefits of removing the O'Shaughnessy Dam but would not look at the impact on water supply or hydroelectric power generation.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which controls the reservoir and watershed, has argued that draining the valley would threaten the region's water supply and rob the city of 20 percent of its electricity.

The dam and reservoir were built in 1923 to provide drinking water, irrigation and hydropower to the Bay Area and Central Valley.

Information from: San Francisco Chronicle, www.sfgate.com/chronicle

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

Environmental lessons in the air

FROM **TRASH** PAGE 3

rator and return.

The 600,000 tons of concrete remained in the city for more than a decade before it was removed last year.

"We called it the mountain of death," said resident Linda Marquez, who often greets the tour buses that still trek to her street to gauge the lingering impact of the problem.

"We had to close our windows, our doors, we couldn't have the kids out too long because their eyes would tear and noses would run," she said.

After leaving Huntington Park, the bus crosses the Alameda Corridor, a transitway used each day by 14,000 trucks and dozens of freight trains that service the giant Los Angeles-Long Beach port complex.

Along the corridor is Wilmington, where Japheth Peleti has lived with his parents and grandmother since the 1970s.

During the day, a seemingly nonstop ribbon of trains thunder past their home. At night, the giant oil refinery just beyond their back yard spews smoke.

"When it's loud, the whole house shakes. Sometimes we think it's an earthquake," Peleti said.

The next stop is Tweedy Elementary School in South Gate, where an accidental release of chlorine gas in 1986 from a nearby factory sent 76 people, including three dozen children, to hospitals to treat nausea, respiratory and eye problems.

The tour ends at Suva Elementary School in Bell Gardens, where eight school personnel miscarried in 1987 and 1988, with at least two severely deformed fetuses.

Families sued a chrome-plating facility next to the school, blaming it for releasing toxic fumes. The lawsuit also claimed 22 students and six teachers were diagnosed with cancer in an eight-year span.

Plant owners settled the case in 2000 for about $2 million and shut down the facility.

Timothy Malloy, co-director of the Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic at the University of California, Los Angeles, takes students on the tour to reinforce classroom lessons on pollution.

"What really drove it home for the students," Malloy said, "is we were standing at the end of a cul-de-sac with these small homes, and they were looking across a property and could see the emissions we were talking about."

The Q Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Stepping out in Santa Monica ...

Following on the heels of a fatal accident at Euclid Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, it was revealed last week that 13 of the city's 15 flashing crosswalks – where a push-button prompts a series of embedded lights in the street and warns drivers of pedestrians crossing – were malfunctioning on a regular basis. The family of the victim has already made public its intention to sue the city for failing to protect pedestrians.

This week's Q-Line questions asks:

Is the city of Santa Monica, for all its efforts to slow traffic and encourage residents and tourists to leave their cars behind, a pedestrian friendly city? Why or why not?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in next weekend's edition of the Daily Press.

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Church must release convicted priest's files

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A judge Tuesday ordered the Roman Catholic Church to release insurance records and confidential files related to a notorious priest who had been convicted of molestation before being transferred to California.

Superior Court Judge Peter D. Lichtman ordered the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to make public 3,000 pages of insurance records and hundreds of pages from the secret disciplinary files of Siegfried Widera.

Lichtman wrote that Widera's files prove that "priests with known sexual proclivities have been handed off from location to another without regard to the potential harm to the children of the Church."

Kathleen Hohl, a spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, said it would abide by the ruling but declined further comment. The documents will not be released for at least 30 days.

In his 59-page ruling, Lichtman struck down archdiocese arguments for keeping the documents private, including claims that the records were protected by third-party privacy rights, the First Amendment and the confidential business rights of the archdiocese.

Attorneys familiar with the case differed about the significance of the ruling regarding hundreds of other clergy abuse cases pending in California.

Raymond Boucher, the lead plaintiffs' attorney for more than 700 abuse claims, said the ruling would set a precedent for the release of other confidential files on priests. Those files can show when the church first learned of allegations of abuse and how the situation was addressed.

Attorney Mitchell Garabedian, who won the release of clergy abuse files in Boston, agreed.

"It's a significant step in publicizing such documents and a significant victory for victims," he said.

Attorney Donald Steier, who represents accused priests, said Lichtman's order would not have a significant impact on other California cases. He said the order only applies to the files of priests who are dead and even then, only in cases in which the church has not sought protective orders during litigation.

Widera was convicted in Wisconsin in 1973 of sexual perversion. While he was serving probation in that state for the crime, a therapist reported that a mother said her son, a 10-year-old altar boy, had been abused.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee transferred Widera to California in 1981, knowing his history. He was facing 42 counts of child molestation in the two states when he died in 2003 after leaping from a hotel balcony in Mexico.

Last year, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee agreed to pay eight California victims $13.3 million, in addition to nearly $15 million they received in 2004 from the Diocese of Orange, in California.

Under the earlier settlement, Widera's personnel files from California were made public.

"It's beyond belief that you could take a person who had been arrested and was clearly a danger to any child within his reach and yet continue, without warning, to put him right in the middle of his prey," Boucher said.

Appeals court sends Wal-Mart women bias case to trial

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest private employer, must face a class-action lawsuit alleging as many as 1.5 million former and current female employees were discriminated against in pay and promotions.

The ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upholds a 2004 federal judge's decision to let the nation's largest class-action employment discrimination lawsuit go to trial, possibly exposing the Bentonville, Ark.-based retailing powerhouse to billions of dollars in damages.

"Plaintiff's expert opinions, factual evidence, statistical evidence and anecdotal evidence present significant proof of a corporate policy of discrimination and support plaintiff's contention that female employees nationwide were subjected to a common pattern and practice of discrimination," the court wrote in a 2-1 decision.

Wal-Mart said it would ask the court to rehear the case with the same three-judge panel or with 15 judges, a move likely to idle the case for months. Tuesday's ruling came 18 months after the case was argued.

"This is one step of what is going to be a long process," Wal-Mart attorney Theodore Boutrous Jr. said. "We are very optimistic of obtaining relief from this ruling."

He said Wal-Mart's own review found no significant disparity in pay between men and women at 90 percent of its stores.

Wal-Mart, which currently employs 1.3 million workers, claimed that the conventional rules of class action suits should not apply in the case because its 3,400 stores, including Sam's Club warehouse outlets, operate like independent businesses, and that the company did not have a policy of discriminating against women.

U.S. District Judge Martin Jenkins, the San Francisco trial court judge who said the case could proceed, had ruled that anecdotal evidence warranted a class-action trial. Wal-Mart took the case to the San Francisco-based appeals court.

Jenkins said if companywide gender discrimination is proven at trial, Wal-Mart could be forced to pay billions of dollars to women who earned less than their male counterparts. Jenkins rejected as "impractical" Wal-Mart's suggestion of having individual hearings for each plaintiff and he planned to use a statistical formula to compensate the women if they won.

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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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Hawaii may move toward popular vote

BY MARK NIESSE
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Residents of small states like Hawaii could have more say in U.S. presidential elections under a bill advancing in the Legislature, part of a growing national movement to elect the president based on the popular vote.

Supporters of the plan say a popular vote would make presidential elections more democratic and force candidates to pay attention to all voters — not just those in key "battleground" states.

Hawaii lawmakers approved a bill out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday that aims to make the Electoral College system irrelevant by awarding state electoral votes to the winner of the nationwide popular vote. The measure now goes to the full Senate, and a similar bill is moving through committees in the state House of Representatives.

"In Hawaii, our vote for president doesn't count for much right now," said John Ratcliff, a Hawaii lobbyist for the National Popular Vote group. "Hawaii is not a battleground state, which is why we don't get any interest out here."

No presidential candidates campaigned in the islands in 2004, although Vice President Dick Cheney did make an appearance when polls showed the race closer than it turned out to be.

The proposed law, if passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor, would award Hawaii's electoral votes to the candidate who wins the popular vote nationally, taking effect only when state legislatures representing a majority of electoral votes approve similar laws.

The proposal is meant to avoid a repeat of the 2000 presidential election, when Democrat Al Gore lost despite getting more votes than George W. Bush. If the proposed law had been adopted by states carrying a majority of electoral votes, all their votes would have gone for Gore and he would have won, even if Bush and Gore had each led in the same states.

"I guess Al Gore would support this bill," said Sen. Clayton Hee, D-Kahuku-Kaneohe, chair of the Judiciary Committee. "Voters want to know that their vote counts."

> **"HAWAII IS AN EXAMPLE OF A SMALL STATE THAT'S TOTALLY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY THE CURRENT SYSTEM."**
>
> Barry Fadem
> Executive Director, National Popular Vote

By introducing these popular vote proposals in state legislatures, the California-based National Popular Vote group hopes to change presidential elections without going through the difficult process of amending the U.S. Constitution to get rid of the Electoral College.

The bill has sponsors in at least 46 state legislatures this year after it was introduced in five last year. California's legislature was the only state to approve the measure in 2006, but Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed it.

"Hawaii is an example of a small state that's totally discriminated against by the current system," said Barry Fadem, executive director for National Popular Vote. "They don't get a single presidential candidate visit."

Clinton to join presidential hopefuls at Carson City forum

BY KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS Sen. Hillary Clinton has agreed to attend a Nevada forum for Democratic presidential candidates later this month, state party officials said Tuesday.

Clinton joins five other presidential hopefuls already confirmed for the Feb. 21 event in Carson City, including Sens. Joe Biden and Chris Dodd, former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and former Alaska Sen. Mike Gravel, officials said.

The New York senator is the first of the Democratic front-runners to R.S.V.P. for the event in the state capital.

Billed by as a kickoff to Nevada's new early 2008 caucus, the forum faced some resistance from top-tier candidates. Representatives for Clinton, Sen. Barack Obama and 2004 vice presidential nominee John Edwards complained last week to national party officials about the number and early timing of forums and debates scheduled in Nevada and other key states.

Nevada's caucus was moved to Jan. 19, between Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucus and the New Hampshire primary, as a way for minority and union voters in the West to get a say in picking the Democratic nominee. However, the state has not yet been showered by attention from the candidates.

Nevada Democratic Party spokeswoman Kirsten Searer said some candidates expressed concerns about the format of the forum, and the party agreed to accommodate them.

Candidates will appear on stage individually, give a statement and answer a series of questions posed by a moderator, Searer said.

"Their concern was that they didn't want a lot of negative back and forth," Searer said. "We were very open about the format. We want to give them an opportunity to introduce themselves to Nevada as they're comfortable."

Clinton spokesman Howard Wolfson confirmed the senator would attend.

The Edwards and Obama campaigns did not immediately return calls for comment, but Searer said neither had signed on. Obama, D-Ill., is scheduled to formally launch his campaign Saturday in Springfield, Ill.

The moderator and the network television host for the forum, co-sponsored by the state party and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, has not been decided, Searer said. Its location, the Carson City Community Center, holds about 750 people.

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Accused astronaut returns to Texas

Nowak is facing attempted murder, kidnapping charges

BY RASHA MADKOUR
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON Hiding her face from the cameras, astronaut Lisa Nowak returned to Texas on Wednesday, a day after being charged in Florida with trying to murder the woman she believed was her romantic rival for a space shuttle pilot's affections.

A police car met Nowak's plane on the tarmac, and the astronaut, her head covered by a jacket, was escorted down the stairs and into the waiting squad car, then driven away.

"She looked thin, looked tired," said John Gruttadaurio, a passenger on who was aboard Nowak's flight from Orlando, Fla.

Nowak was charged in Orlando on Tuesday with attempted first-degree murder, attempted kidnapping and three other crimes stemming from what police described as a love triangle involving a fellow astronaut. She was released on bail but ordered to stay away from the other woman and to wear a monitoring device.

Early Wednesday, Nowak was escorted through the Orlando airport by police. She boarded the plane before everyone else and sat in the back with chief astronaut Steve Lindsey, remaining extremely quiet, passengers said.

She was expected at the Johnson Space Center for a medical assessment, "which may or may not include a psychological evaluation," NASA spokeswoman Nicole Cloutier-Lemasters said. "She's not staying here. She's leaving with her family."

Nowak's arrest was a remarkable downfall for a woman whose life seemed to be on a perfect trajectory until a few months ago.

She became an astronaut after winning a series of Navy service awards. She had flown on the shuttle Discovery, and was a mother of three children. She said in a September interview with Ladies Home Journal that her husband, Richard, "works in Mission Control, so he's part of the whole space business, too. And supportive also."

In a NASA interview last year, before her mission aboard Discovery, Nowak spoke about the strain her career placed on her family. She has twin 5-year-old girls and a teenage son.

"It's a sacrifice for our own personal time and our families and the people around us," she said. "But I do think it's worth it because if you don't explore and take risks and go do all these things, then everything will stay the same."

In November, a neighbor reported hearing the sounds of dishes being thrown inside Nowak's Houston-area home, and the police came. And weeks ago, Nowak and her husband separated after 19 years.

The final unraveling came this week after police arrested her for allegedly trying to kidnap a woman she believed was her rival for the affections of astronaut William Oefelein.

"Perplexed is the word that I'm sticking with," said astronaut Chris Ferguson, who attended Nowak's bail hearing in Orlando with Lindsey.

Grown men sue their Jesuit priest father for child support

By The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A Jesuit priest who impregnated two women decades ago while working in rural Alaska is being sued by his two grown sons for child support and damages.

The suit against the Rev. James Jacobson was filed by the two unnamed men and the mother of one of them. One son is seeking nearly $325,000 in child support and the other is seeking more than $270,000.

Jacobson, 83, worked in Alaska from about 1961 to 1976 in Yup'ik villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

Jacobson's lawyer, Joan Unger of Anchorage, has argued her client cannot keep money because he is a priest and has always has turned his money over to his religious order, Society of Jesus Oregon Province, which covers Alaska. The Jesuits say in court papers they don't have to pay child support for priests.

Chris Cooke, attorney for the plaintiffs, said being a priest doesn't erase the responsibility to care for one's children.

Since his children were born, Jacobson received more than $1.5 million in salary and pension, but it all went to the Jesuits and neither he nor the religious order gave his children any money, the legal filings said.

Jacobson's paternity was established through DNA testing and a Bethel judge in May declared him to be the biological father of both John Does.

Their mothers were sexually assaulted by Jacobson and became pregnant, according to a lawsuit filed in Bethel Superior Court in October 2005. Both were married at the time, the suit said.

Jacobson also is accused in the suit of raping a 16-year-old girl in another Western Alaska village.

Messages left for Jacobson and his attorney on Tuesday were not returned, according to the Anchorage Daily News. Efforts to reach the Jesuits and their attorneys were also unsuccessful.

After leaving Alaska, Jacobson worked as a paid chaplain in a prison in Oregon from 1979 to 2005. He currently lives in a Jesuit home in Spokane, Wash.

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New Iraq strategy put to the test

BY ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Defense Secretary Robert Gates told a House panel Wednesday that the U.S. should know in a few months if the Iraqi government is making progress toward peace and whether the United States "is going to have to look at other alternatives and consequences."

In stark contrast to predecessor Donald H. Rumsfeld, Gates also said there was no doubt the Army and Marine Corps needed to be larger if they are to deal with future wars and give troops enough rest between combat tours.

"We need the full range of military capabilities," including ground combat forces to battle large armies and nimble special operations troops to scout out terrorist threats, Gates told the House Armed Services Committee.

"We don't know what's going to develop in places like Russia and China, in North Korea, in Iran and elsewhere," he said.

Gates testified alongside Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as the House was gearing up for its first full-fledged debate on the Iraq war since the Nov. 7 elections. House Democrats plan next week to bring to the floor a measure that would flatly oppose President Bush's decision to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq.

Pace and Gates said they did not think debate in Congress would hurt the morale of troops in combat, undercutting an assertion by many congressional Republicans that members opposing the war were undermining the fighting forces there.

"As long as this Congress continues to do what it has done, which is to provide the resources for the mission, the dialogue will be the dialogue, and the troops will feel supported," Pace said.

Gates added that troops understand members of Congress want to find the best way to win the war. "I think they're sophisticated enough to understand that that's what the debate's really about," he said.

Earlier in the hearing, Rep. Duncan Hunter, the top Republican on the panel, said he would oppose any resolution on Iraq.

"I do not think you can send a message that is going to raise the morale of the troops while at the same time sending a message that we don't support the mission," the Californian said.

Gates said U.S. forces might be able to start leaving Iraq before the end of the year, if the Iraqi government makes strides to subdue violence and reach a political settlement.

"That is essentially the best case story. And that is our hope," he told the House panel.

Democrats and several Republicans say they oppose the troop buildup and that it is time the Iraqi government stepped up to defend its own country.

Tired of waiting for an opportunity to try to stop the war in Iraq, some Democrats say they want to use legislation approving billions of dollars in war spending to insist that Bush not send more troops or bring troops home by a certain date.

"The longer we delay taking action, the greater the failure in Iraq and the larger the cost in American blood and treasure," said Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., who supports legislation that would cap the number of troops allowed in Iraq.

Sens. Barack Obama and John Kerry, D-Mass., separately pushed legislation ordering troops out of Iraq within a year.

"This is not a symbolic vote," Obama, D-Ill., said of his proposal, which is backed by two House Democrats. "This is what I think has the best chance of bringing our troops home."

> **THE LONGER WE DELAY TAKING ACTION, THE GREATER THE FAILURE IN IRAQ."**
>
> **Christopher Dodd**
> Senator, D-Conn.

Democratic leaders in both the House and Senate have pledged to their rank-and-file that a vote on a nonbinding resolution opposing the troop buildup would merely be the first attempt to pressure Bush to shift course in the war. Other legislation will be binding, they said.

Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, his party's House leader, said in an interview that he hoped the GOP would be permitted to seek a vote on an alternative. If so, he said it would call for a bipartisan committee to oversee the war effort, and lay out a series of benchmarks by which people could judge whether the Iraqi government was living up to its commitments to help quell the violence.

PacifiCorp willing to spend $300M on fish ladders

BY JEFF BARNARD
AP Environmental Writer

GRANTS PASS, Ore. PacifiCorp said Wednesday it is willing to spend $300 million to build fish ladders and other means to get salmon over its Klamath River hydroelectric dams rather than tear them out and build a new generating plant to replace the power.

The Portland-based utility serving 1.6 million customers in six Western states said it already has a shortage of power, and feels it is better to hang onto the 150 megawatts produced by the Klamath dams than to face the unknown costs of managing sediment released by dam removal and rising prices of natural gas to generate replacement power.

Company spokesman Dave Kvamme said dam removal remained on the table in settlement talks with Indian Tribes, commercial fishermen, and conservation groups that want them gone as a way of restoring struggling salmon runs in the Klamath.

Federal fisheries agencies last week required the PacifiCorp to provide for salmon to swim freely over the four dams straddling the Oregon-California border as a condition of obtaining a new license to operate them for the next 30 to 50 years, raising pressure on PacifiCorp to consider the cheaper alternative of dam removal.

The river was once the third-biggest producer of salmon on the West Coast, but last year federal fisheries managers practically shut down commercial salmon fishing after the third straight year of poor returns of wild chinook.

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Lisa Haisha is an author, speaker, and trained therapist. She is also the creator of Soul Blazing™. She comes originally from a film background (writer/director/producer) and holds a Masters Degree in Psychology. She has a private practice in Santa Monica.

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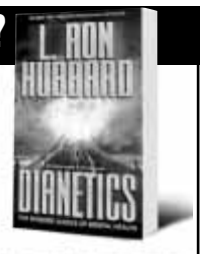

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New center will sport environmental design

FROM BUS CENTER PAGE 3

Seventh Street — is situated in close proximity to only one bus line.

"It's not convenient for people," Dawson said. "We've heard that for many years, and we finally have been able to get a grant to move the customer service center."

Many major transit systems in cities worldwide have opened customer service centers and stores in their downtowns. Examples include London's Tube and New York City's MTA.

"A lot of people have a hard time knowing where the bus center is, and it's a long walk," said Mark Panitz, a Mar Vista resident who struggles to commute to Santa Monica every day due to a disability. "The new center is going to be very convenient. It'll be easier if I want to complain about a bus driver, though I hardly have complaints with the Big Blue Bus."

GREEN DESIGN

The new transit store and customer service center is expected to receive a silver rating from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification system of the U.S. Green Building Council. The city has adopted the LEED certification system — which acknowledges environmentally friendly buildings — as a design basis for the construction of all new public facilities in the city.

The design concept of the center is based on the Big Blue Bus itself, with a metal blue ribbon encircling the outside of the store and flowing into the counters and displays inside, said Warren Wagner, principal of W3 Architects in Venice.

The interior will be constructed from recycled material — the ground will be made out of recycled ground tires, the wall from straw board, and the counter top from recycled cola bottles.

> **"A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE A HARD TIME KNOWING WHERE THE BUS CENTER IS, AND IT'S A LONG WALK."**
>
> **Mark Panitz**
> Big Blue Bus rider

"We're using an interesting mix of green building materials, and we'll have a passive ventilation strategy and day lighting strategy to create an extremely energy-efficient place to work," Wagner said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Meeting to target plastic waste

FROM SPILL PAGE 1

health's ocean water quality hotline at (800) 525-5662, and online at www.lapublichealth.org/beach.

Sewage spills and the time it takes to notify health officials was at the center of a sweeping set of recommendations approved by the county board of supervisors last week to improve the sewage spill reporting process. The move followed an audit that found county officials failed to keep accurate records or act quickly to protect public health in more than 90 percent of the 208 sewage spills in the bay over the last three years.

The board is also pursuing changes in state laws to permit fines against those who fail to report spills to the county's public health officer.

The California Ocean Protection Council will host a meeting in Santa Monica today on the dangerous and devastating effects trash — plastic trash, in particular — can have on marine life. The council is considering drafting a resolution calling for stricter regulation of plastics, and possibly a statewide ban on Styrofoam.

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SM's potential deficit hangs like dark cloud

FROM NOTEBOOK PAGE 1

ing more than 53 different programs.

Those that didn't show could be left out when the council starts divvying up the cash.

The time to ask for the "Benjamins" is now, given the sobering news elected officials received about the future of City Hall's finances. If corrections are not made — and you better believe they will be if the city manager has anything to say about — City Hall will face a structural deficit of roughly $4.7 million by 2009-10, with the deficit potentially growing to as much as $19 million by 2012, said Carol Swindell, the newly hired finance director who made her first appearance before the council Tuesday.

Much of that is due to a potential loss of $12 million in user utility taxes as a result of changes in telecommunications regulations at the federal level. A slump in the housing market could also have a negative impact to the tune of $900,000, and so can increases in labor costs

According to Swindell, enterprise funds (those generated to cover costs) such as solid waste, Woodlawn Cemetery and the Santa Monica Pier, could experience deficits, prompting Mayor Pro-Tem Herb Katz to request city staff work with the Pier Restoration Corporation board to develop a business plan for the city's most famous landmark so that it can at least break even.

"We need to make sure that the pier and other funds make positive cash flows, not negative," Katz said.

The Council Chambers were about half-empty (sorry, I'm a reporter, have to be somewhat pessimistic), but those who did attend were very passionate about the programs they run and/or the initiatives they want to see funded.

There were representatives from homeless services providers such as OPCC, the Red Cross — which celebrates its 90th anniversary in Santa Monica next month — the Santa Monica-Malibu School District, CLARE Foundation,18th Street Arts Center, Main Street Merchants Association, Ocean Park Association, the Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Coalition — all seeking that mean green.

"I'm hoping to get money out of your budget instead of mine for some long-term funding for lighting and other street improvements. That's better than the money coming out of my pocket," said Joe Pipersky, chair of the Main Street Merchants Association, eliciting chuckles from the council.

Pipersky was asked why he thought having better street lighting calms visitors to Main Street and, therefore, creates a quieter neighborhood for residents living nearby.

"I think people tend to behave better when the lights are on," he responded.

Members of the Child Care & Early Education Task Force came out to speak on behalf of "those who don't have a voice" before the council — toddlers and other youth. They were joined by representatives of Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) and school board vice president Oscar de la Torre in requesting more funding for education, calling on the council to allocate an additional $1 million for schools as part of a funding agreement between City Hall and the school district.

"Your generous support has helped create a level playing field to ensure that low- and moderate-income families have access to high quality care and education," said Patti Oblath, co-chair of the task force.

With City Hall providing 5 percent of the district's funding, de la Torre emphasized how important the council's contribution has been and asked for elected officials to dig deeper to help close the achievement gap between students of color and their white and Asian counterparts.

The school board vice president also tried to do some damage control, reassuring the council that recent friction within the ranks of the district over a potential deficit due to a raise in teacher salaries was nothing more than a disagreement between the superintendent and the district's finance director. He said money is available to cover the raise and other expenses.

"The board feels confident that we will be able to meet our budget and we will be in a better place once (a review of finances) comes out," de la Torre said.

CONTINUED NEED

Parking and traffic were once again hot topics, with residents from Wilshire-Montana and Ocean Park calling for traffic studies and street improvements. In particular, Ocean Park residents want traffic calming measures along Ocean Park Boulevard, which was widened decades ago.

"Drivers now have a freeway mentality," said Jeffrey Jarrow, president of the Ocean Park Association, alluding to the bustling boulevard. "We've had an ongoing police presence to verify the seriousness of the situation. There have been more than 250 citations issued and 30 accidents in the last year alone ... It's unsafe."

Jarrow and other Ocean Park residents called for traffic lights to be installed and sidewalks widened.

For Wilshire-Montana residents, parking was the issue. They are fed up with not being able to park in front of their homes and apartments and would like City Hall to study whether or not it's feasible to create diagonal parking to create more spaces.

Ana Maria Jara, a member of the Commission on the Status of Women, asked for the council to put more money behind marketing so that more residents know what programs the city offers and how they can access them.

"Many residents are unable to determine which programs they are eligible for," Jara said.

In the end, the council directed city staff to keep their eyes on nine areas when drafting next fiscal year's budget, including; a continued emphasis on customer service; homelessness; mobility (traffic, parking, land use); culture, sustainability; youth violence, education; capital projects; and active living/recreation.

Council identified three areas of special focus — homelessness, addressing youth violence and completion of the Land Use and Circulation Element of the city's master plan.

By the time that happened, it was already close to 10 p.m., and with a goal of ending the meeting by 11 p.m., Mayor Richard Bloom and the rest of the council opted to continue discussion of items related to management of the council meetings and the use of council contingency funds to the next meeting, Feb. 13.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m. in memory of Dr. Don Clelland, a principal at several Santa Monica schools, and in memory of Ed Maggiore, a pediatric dentist and long-time UCLA faculty member.

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CIRCLE OF FRIENDS: **The Talking Stick offers a warm atmosphere of coffee and talk for the Stitch n' Bitch, a knitting group that gathers at the coffee shop every Tuesday evening from 7-10 p.m.**

Knitting clubs create camaraderie

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK What is usually a relaxing and meditative activity has turned into a source of frustration for Jen Penrod.

Firmly clutching a pair of knitting needles, Penrod, a 31-year-old resident of West Los Angeles, glared in annoyance at the blue sweater she was knitting for her husband's godson.

Angela Porter, who was knitting beside Penrod at The Talking Stick coffeehouse on Tuesday, could see the problem. Penrod's needles were too thin, she pointed out with a laugh. The thinner the needles, the harder it is to knit.

Penrod cracked a smile.

If there's ever a time to moan and complain about life, whether it's about a recent break-up or a difficult project, it's Tuesday nights at The Talking Stick on Ocean Park Boulevard, where the Stitch n' Bitch knitting group meets weekly.

Embracing a rebirth of what was considered just a few years ago to be a lost art, the women of the Stitch n' Bitch club set aside three hours a week to knit, seek advice from fellow knitters, and "bitch" about life, as the members like to say.

"It runs the gamut," said Porter, 30, who lives in Playa del Rey. "We talk about everything, from what happened on 'Project Runway' to what book we just read."

The Tuesday night meetings go beyond knitting, which is often considered to be a solitary activity. The sessions provide members with an excuse to get out of the house in the middle of the week and relax with a few friends after a long day of work.

"I like the aspect of meeting people based on something we all have in common," Penrod said, taking another stab at her sweater. "Ninety percent of the time, we're not talking about knitting at all."

The women and men of Stitch n' Bitch — mostly women in their 20s to 30s — have experienced life-altering moments in their years together, from marriages to births.

Many have been knitting for a few years and might fancy themselves fast learners. Penrod herself had no formal instruction in knitting, learning through reading books and browsing the Internet for starter tips.

She started with a hat, then jumping to a pair of socks at the request of her grandmother. Many knitters start with a scarf, said Penrod, who was wearing a sweater that she knitted.

Crocheting a replica of a purse she saw in a knitting book, 27-year-old Annalisa Adams of Los Angeles has come a long way in the short time that she has been knitting. Curious about the pursuit after having heard of Stitch n' Bitch through her friend, Adams enlisted in the club to learn the handicraft.

Her friend eventually moved to New York City, but Adams decided to stick with the knitters.

"It's a dedicated time to work on projects," Adams said, as she crocheted. "This way, I'm definitely working for three hours."

Members give different reasons for why they like knitting. Some say it's therapeutic, while others thrive on the creative energy that knitting provides.

"I like that it's almost instant gratification," Porter said.

Upon hearing those words, Penrod laughed, as her knitting project has yet to provide her with any happiness.

"I just made a hat in a day last week," Porter responded.

A BITCH IN TIME

Though its origins are unclear, the original Los Angeles Stitch n' Bitch group began meeting at the UnUrban Coffeehouse on Pico Boulevard near the West LA border around 2002. The group expanded over the next few years into West Hollywood and Culver City, meeting on different nights of the week.

Following several years knitting and crocheting away at UnUrban, the Stitch n' Bitch crew packed up and made their way west to The Talking Stick, where they have managed to convince nearly every barista who worked on Tuesday nights to take up the craft.

The Talking Stick has been good to the Stitch n' Bitch, members say, lamenting the recent news that the coffeehouse

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ART RENEWED: **Knitting is again finding popularity among younger generations.**

will close its doors in a few months. Members are unsure where they will head next.

During the holiday season a few years ago, The Talking Stick was scheduled to be closed during one of the Tuesday sessions, but unfortunately, word didn't spread quickly enough to the Stitch n' Bitch.

Instead of disappointing the knitters, the owner decided to keep the coffeehouse open for three hours.

As a thank you, the Stitch n' Bitch members knitted an official The Talking Stick blanket, which now hangs on the wall of the room where the knitters gather every week.

As barista at The Talking Stick, Seth Heuiser often waited on and chatted up members during their gatherings over the past two years — that is, until about two weeks ago, when he decided to join.

"They got me back into it," Heuiser said as he knitted a ski cap. "It's always nice to see people get together to chat. You don't see that happen much anymore."

THE COMPATTO KNITTERS

Each Tuesday night, knitters of all ages gather at Compatto Yarn Salon on Wilshire Boulevard to learn a thing or two about knitting socks.

In the months since Compatto opened its knitting boutique, the store has attracted a strong following, with many customers attending classes several nights a week.

Though it's technically a sock-knitting class, the gatherings are friendly and casual as the women laugh and knit alongside a spread of cheese and crackers.

The members of this "club," as some of the women call it, are avid fans of knitting, with some spending up to $200 on a project. They love and appreciate the different colors and materials. They "ooh" and "ahh" as they feel the soft cashmere yarn.

Some even call fancy yarn their "crack."

Lorna Tansey, 49, picked up knitting while a student at UCLA. She recently picked up her knitting needles again after nearly two decades.

"A co-worker of mine mentioned Alpaca yarn and I thought 'must knit,'" Tansey said.

What she loves about knitting is the fact that she has creative control over what she knits, and the result is usually less expensive and a much better quality than a comparable product found in a store.

Sitting across from Tansey was Eileen Eichenberger, 54, of West Los Angeles, who has been knitting for about one and a half years. Already skilled in other handicrafts, it didn't take Eichenberger long to advance to socks and more complicated knitting projects.

"Knitting gives me something to do if I'm watching television or waiting for an appointment," Eichenberger said as she knit a pair of socks. "I love the camaraderie and learning a new craft."

melodyh@smdp.com

What's old is new again

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD What was traditionally considered to be the favorite pastime of the octogenarian sect has enjoyed a surprising resurgence thanks, in large part, to children of the digital age.

"There are younger people who are getting interested in knitting," said Lora Anthony, a partner of Compatto Yarn Salon on Wilshire Boulevard. "It has to do with fashion and the return to the hand arts."

The handicraft is becoming much more popular in recent years, with novels like "The Friday Night Knitting Club" and a silver screen adaptation starring Julia Roberts slated for release in 2008. Knitting groups like the Stitch n' Bitch, which meets at The Talking Stick coffeehouse in Sunset Park, consists mainly of members in their 20s and 30s.

Part of the reason why knitting has become so popular is because of the busy world in which we live with cell phones, iPods and Blackberries consuming our lives, according to Anthony, who admits that she walks around with all three.

The creator of several sweaters and scarves that are displayed in Compatto Yarn Salon, 22-year-old Grace Akhrem began crocheting about five years ago with the help of her friend. She learned the basics of knitting from her grandmother and picked up the rest by reading books.

Now a teacher at Compatto, Akhrem, a Santa Monica College student, said there are more young knitters than before.

"Some refuse to even pick up needles," Akhrem said. "You have to want to do it. A lot of people find it therapeutic and sometimes knit in class."

But Nancy Hannah, co-owner of Compatto, doesn't believe knitting is a new phenomenon among younger women.

And it's definitely not a fad, she insists.

"I'm looking at the women knitting at my table right now," Hannah said on the phone on Tuesday. "Two of them are in their mid-20s and a few are older ladies.

"If you have someone like Julia Roberts, she must obviously see a market for it."

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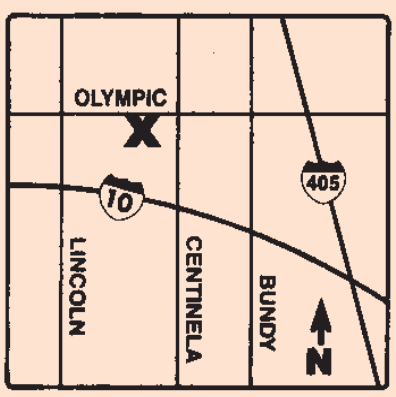

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Market Matters

Brian Hepp
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Designate your beneficiary wisely

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT ESTATE planning, the first thing that may come to mind is your will or living trust. However, while these are valuable documents, they do not have any effect on the distribution of many of your important assets. Your beneficiary designations are the element that ultimately controls who receives these assets.

To help you in deciding how to make these important decisions, here are a few points to consider:

■ Update for life events. You should get in the habit of reviewing your beneficiary designations regularly, and update them as needed. Life events such as a birth, death, marriage or divorce are good reminders to check on them.

■ Evaluate changes to wills and trusts. Any time you make changes to your will or trust, you may also need to make changes to your beneficiary designations. Updating the two at the same time will help you keep both current.

■ Name contingent beneficiaries. Having a beneficiary is an important first step, but what happens if that person precedes you in death? Your assets would become part of your estate and distribution of those assets may be delayed if you don't have a backup beneficiary named as well.

■ Avoid estate as beneficiary. Naming your estate as beneficiary is always an option, but doing so will subject it to the time constraints and fees associated with probate. Additionally, if you have IRAs or qualified retirement plans, there may be adverse income tax consequences to such an arrangement.

■ Use caution when naming a trust as a beneficiary. Before naming a trust as the beneficiary for any of your assets, you should seek professional advice first. If your beneficiaries are minors or if you want to control access to funds, it could make sense to name a trust as a beneficiary. But special income tax considerations do apply if you decide to name a trust as beneficiary of an IRA, a qualified retirement plan or an annuity, so it's important you understand all the details involved.

■ Designate charitable organizations as a beneficiary. You may be able to eliminate potential income and estate taxes associated with certain types of assets if you designate one or more of your favorite charities as a beneficiary, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing they will be used to support a good cause you believe in.

■ Examine plan documents. If you have assets such as 401(k), 403(b) or other qualified retirement plans, you should know that they are governed by plan documents. Each one differs with regard to permissible distributions on the death of a plan participant, and in some cases greater flexibility may be given to a spousal beneficiary as opposed to a non-spouse beneficiary.

■ Think about lump sum distributions. In some cases, assets with beneficiary designations pay out death benefits as one lump sum. As a result, you should decide whether or not you're comfortable with your beneficiary receiving a lump sum, versus receiving monthly payments or having a rollover option. You should also factor inflation and taxes into your decision.

■ Explore alternatives when changing jobs. A job change may affect the choices you have available to you with regard to beneficiary designations. When faced with such a change, you should explore various options, which may include rolling the assets into an IRA, moving them to your new employer or leaving them with your old employer.

■ Use disclaimers if necessary. Mistakes regarding beneficiary designations often go undiscovered until after an account owner has died. Sometimes it's possible to fix mistakes by using a disclaimer — a legal document that lets the named beneficiary refuse the asset. Because of the complex legal and tax issues involved, disclaimers should be made only after careful consultation with an attorney and CPA.

BRIAN HEPP is a financial consultant with A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or brian.hepp@agedwards.com.

Apple revs up attacks on Vista

BY MAY WONG
AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE For nearly a year, television and Internet audiences have been seeing a familiar string of ads from Apple attacking rival Windows-based computers. With this week's release of Windows Vista, the newest jabs aren't any friendlier.

In one ad, the character personifying the PC is dressed in hospital patient garb, talking about how he's set to undergo major surgery to upgrade to Vista. He then saunters off, telling the Mac character that if he doesn't come back, Mac can have his peripherals.

In another ad, a man pretending to be the Mac character heaps praises for the PC — until the real Mac character steps in, confounded, asking "What's going on?" The fake Mac replies, "Nothing," and then mutters "I'm a fan" as he walks away.

On its own Web site, Apple Inc. tells visitors to get a Mac and states, "Why upgrade to Vista when you can upgrade past it?"

Microsoft Corp. launched Vista on Tuesday, its first major overhaul to the Windows operating system in five years. It features sleek new graphics, better search capabilities, improved security measures and multimedia tools as well as more advanced parental controls and gaming support.

Yet Microsoft detractors, Mac users and even PC-oriented magazine editors are pointing to how some of those features already exist on Macs. And Apple — set to release its own upgrade to its Mac OS X operating system, code-named "Leopard," this spring — has already promised more innovations.

The Cupertino-based company has repeatedly ribbed Microsoft to "start its photocopiers."

Representatives of Microsoft declined to comment Wednesday, following its typical stance of not responding to Apple's marketing ploys.

Skin is back in

Fur is a must-have on the runways of New York Fashion Week

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK It used to be that fur was an almost unattainable luxury, reserved for the wealthiest women who would then cherish their mink coats for many, many years.

But on the runways of New York Fashion Week, fur has turned into a must-have item for fall, even if it's just a subtle trim on a collar or cuff, or, as seen at Marc Bouwer, really good-looking fake fur.

Michael Kors, at his Wednesday runway show, went so far as to make a mink minidress.

"If the past two falls have been about jewel-encrusted clothing, this fall will be all about fur-enhanced clothing," said trend analyst Tom Julian of ad agency McCann-Erickson. "From outerwear to knitwear, from red-carpet gowns to skirts, fur is becoming the trim that women will have to have as part of their wardrobe — real or faux."

Fashion previews for next season continue through Friday.

Michael Kors: Michael Kors makes clothes that people want to wear. On another bitterly cold winter day, models wrapped themselves in a wraparound cardigan made of caramel-colored cashmere and a super-soft turtleneck sweaterdress topped with a broadtail jacket.

He embraced the yin and yang of fashion, pairing an olive-green plaid coat with sable fur collar and cuffs with cashmere sweatpants, and an elegant champagne-colored tunic with a cozy cashmere pullover.

"Delicious dichotomy," is how the designer described it in a statement.

"This was for a glamorous urban warrior," stylist Mary Alice Stephenson said after the show. "It was stunningly beautiful, one of his best. It was sexy, chic, wearable, glamorous, elegant and edgy."

A lot of that edge came from his accent colors — a bright orange, new to the runway this season, and electric blue. A fox coat dyed that blue certainly was a statement piece.

And when Kors did metallic, certainly a trend for fall, he did it full force, including a gold fringe dance dress and gold cheetah-pattern brocade dress.

Peter Som: Some of the favorite adjectives being tossed around the Bryant Park tents are "structured," "architectural" and "slim," while there has been very few references to "feminine" and "delicate" — yet those are the words to describe many of Peter Som's ladylike looks.

The show opened with a high-neck ruffled top and pencil skirt in complementary flower-petal prints, and ended with a white chiffon swirl tank gown. Some of the best outfits in between were a bottle-green chiffon twist dress that skimmed the model's body and a blush-colored dinner dress with strategic layers of sheer organza.

More in line with the trends was a lovely black sweater dress that was a patchwork of different textures.

Ports 1961: "Industrial" is a hard word in fashion. Is it a uniform? Is it metallic? Is it spare or edgy?

Ports 1961 designer Tia Cibani interpreted it as all of the above in a collection she described as rooted in Icelandic architecture and postwar industrial design.

The colors were smoky, even the metallics, and the lines alternated between straight and severe, and quilted and rounded.

Cibani called those rounded details "wadding," which worked best around the collar of a luxurious black coat. She also put necklaces made of tiny pillows, bunched together like charms, around the necks of the models. The key to this wadding is to wear it above the bustline.

Another innovative look was a sheath dress that seemed entwined with a cardigan jacket that tied at the waist.

Gates: Technology's big challenge is data security

RACHEL KONRAD
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Keeping information secure in this age of laptop-lugging workers is the tech industry's most formidable challenge, Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates said Tuesday.

Speaking to an annual gathering of 15,000 computer security experts in San Francisco, Gates invoked the metaphor of a medieval castle to explain the problem: Programmers build bigger moats and thicker fortress walls — but they don't bother to protect the corporate crown jewels when members of their fiefdom exit the castle and leave the drawbridge open.

"We used to think of the data center as a glass house that was very isolated," Gates said. "But if we look (at) what actually goes on — consultants come into your company, employees who are not onsite need full access — we cannot think of that glass house as the way to define what can connect to what. We need a far more powerful paradigm."

Gates repeated Microsoft's claim that Windows Vista, which launched last month, was the most secure operating system in the company's history. But he acknowledged that all software has "weak links" — particularly when thieves steal servers with confidential information, or when employees use simple, obvious passwords on multiple accounts.

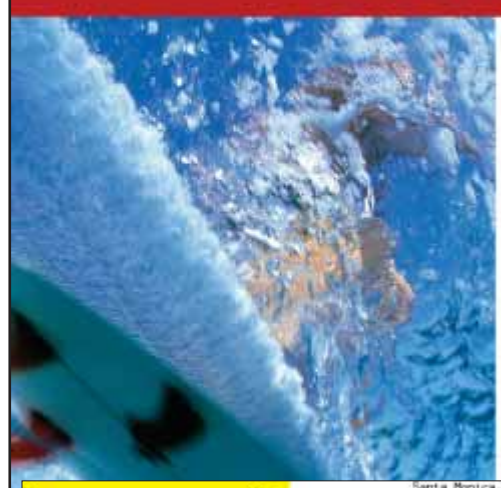
Instead of passwords, Gates favors "public key certificates" — combinations of digital signatures and other identifying information such as a person's name, address, social security number and other data. He calls it the "identity metasystem."

"We all struggle to remember an ever-growing number of user names and passwords as we move between systems at work and home," Gates wrote Tuesday in a message posted on the company's Web site. "Because it is unlikely that a single digital identity system or technology will be universally adopted, a different approach is required."

Craig Mundie, Microsoft's chief research and strategy officer, said the software industry still views computer security in a dangerously outmoded way.

"It's like we've been in the medieval age of network protection. We build thicker walls, higher turrets, put drawbridges in front of the fortress," Mundie said at the security conference. "What we didn't see coming was the airplane and the long-range missile."

SURF REPORT



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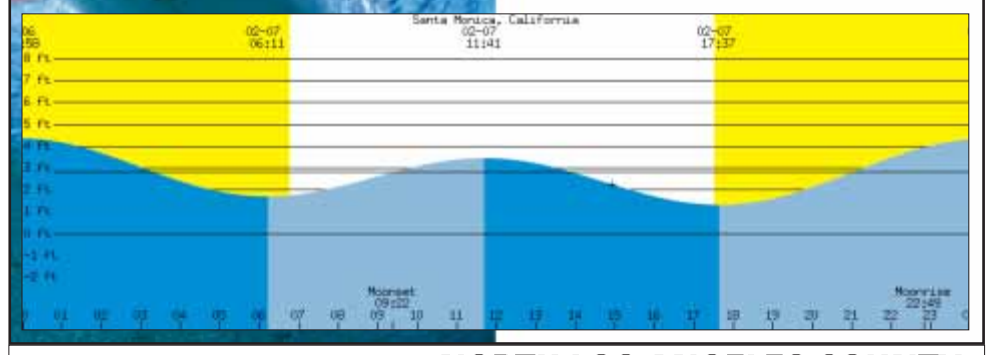

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- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 34
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 14 / 10

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.

Heal the Bay

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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card℠ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

Fun and games, Cancer

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)

★★★★ Your emphasis changes as the day becomes older. You see a situation differently because of feedback from others. Your ability to understand comes from within. You have a unique perspective if you tune in to your creativity. Tonight: Brainstorm with a special pal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others certainly dominate and run the show. Someone you respect comes up with a different point of view. Try to absorb this person's perspective. You could be uptight about a personal matter. Discussing it with another person will open doors. Tonight: Go along with another's choices.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Pace yourself. Truth be told, you can only be in one place at a time. You might have difficulty making a strong decision just yet. Get more facts. In fact, someone enriches your knowledge with new insight. Plug into one perspective at a time. Tonight: Do only what you must.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your imagination fills in the gaps, which might make a situation touchy or difficult. How you view someone and the choices you make could be quite different as a result. Still, you might want to verify and test out your thoughts. Tonight: Fun and games.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You want to move forward and touch base with others. You hit basics and come to a new level of understanding. Others illuminate your perspective. In fact, their imagination might take you aback. Think carefully before making assumptions. Tonight: Happy at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might want to talk up a storm or handle a matter differently. Energy, insight and creativity mix, taking you to a new level of understanding. Ask questions, and you'll finally get answers that make sense. Tonight: Visit with a pal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Your expenses or budget could be at risk. You also might not see a situation as it is. Distorting information could cause more problems than you might imagine. Take a hard dose of reality when dealing with money. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Your personality helps someone reveal more of what he or she might be thinking. Creativity emerges and takes you in a new direction. A wellspring of ideas emerges from out of nowhere. Your instincts guide you financially. Tonight: Happy as can be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Read between the lines. Your instincts come forward and help you. Communication stars. You see someone in a different light. Brainstorm and share away. Consider your options. You have even more than you are aware of. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might need to take a new perspective or do something differently. Honor who you are and what needs to happen. You could be overwhelmed by your feelings and choices. Stay on a preordained course. Tonight: Where people are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Add your dynamic ideas to the pile, and a great new venture, project or happening will emerge. Laugh and relax with those you trust. A friend sheds light on what you might not have understood up till now. Tonight: In the limelight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ If you detach rather than get involved, you'll get better results. You might be overtired or pushed beyond your limits. Laugh and relax with a friend or someone you trust. What stems from brainstorming might be quite dynamic. Tonight: Rent a movie. Do something different.

Born Today

Actor James Dean (1931)
TV journalist Ted Koppel (1940)
Author John Grisham (1955)

Happy Birthday!

Your imagination and spirit know no limits. You express yourself in a novel and dynamic manner. Others appreciate and want your feedback. Let your imagination flourish, and ingenuity and resourcefulness become your nicknames. Recognize that you can accomplish nearly anything, especially if you are willing to take responsibility. With wise decisions, your career will flourish, as well as your finances. If you are single, you certainly don't need to be alone. Meet new people. New friends might introduce you to that special someone. If you are attached, your bond will grow.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com
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Trump's new face

Miss USA out of rehab, modeling for Donald

It was probably not the day at the beach that MISS USA TARA CONNER had in mind.

With winds whipping on a frigid February afternoon, the 21-year-old Conner was at Jones Beach on Tuesday, doing a photo shoot to promote Donald Trump's $40 million planned catering facility, Trump on the Ocean.

"I'm good," said Conner, modeling off-the-shoulder bridal dresses. "I'm cold, but I'm fine."

Trump told Newsday in Wednesday's editions that using Conner as "the face" of Trump on the Ocean will help revamp her image. She recently completed a stint in an alcohol and drug rehabilitation center after nearly lost her crown for hard-partying in New York nightclubs.

Trump, who owns the Miss USA pageant, said at a much-publicized press conference in December that Conner could keep her crown if she straightened up.

"We are trying to get Tara in the mainstream in a positive way," he said.

Conner thanked Trump for giving her a second chance, but avoided commenting on the feud between the billionaire developer and "The View" co-host Rosie O'Donnell that developed over his decision to let her keep her title.

"I just want to finish my lunch," Conner said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

10-year-old director sues for control

Adults may be manipulating a 10-year-old director in a lawsuit over the short film "SAVING ANGELO," a producer has said.

The lawsuit was filed in Superior Court last month on behalf of Dominic Scott Kay, who directed the film, which is based on his real-life effort to nurse an abandoned, badly injured dog back to health.

Kay, who voiced Wilbur the pig in the 2006 movie "Charlotte's Web," claims in the lawsuit that producer Conroy Kanter unfairly demanded creative control and distribution rights for "Saving Angelo."

Kanter, who put about $11,000 into the project, said Tuesday the lawsuit has to do "with a dispute between adults over business and monetary issues."

"Unfortunately, he may be being manipulated by the adults in his life who are behind this suit," Kanter said in a statement.

Kanter said she gave the money as a charitable contribution.

The lawsuit seeks a jury trial and a court declaration that Kanter has no right to creative control or the distribution or promotion of the movie.

AP

Blunt to perform at Elton's celebration

Rocker JAMES BLUNT will perform at the 15th annual Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy Awards celebration Feb. 25 at the Pacific Design Center, the foundation announced Wednesday.

"James is a truly talented singer-songwriter," John said in a statement. "His voice and expressive lyrics enchant audiences worldwide. I have no doubt that he will do the same for our guests on Oscar night."

Blunt, 32, is up for five awards at the Grammys, which will air live on CBS from the Staples Center on Sunday. His double-platinum debut album, "Back to Bedlam," yielded the smash hit "You're Beautiful." He toured with John in 2004.

The Elton John AIDS Foundation has raised nearly $120 million to support HIV/AIDS prevention and services since it was founded in 1992.

AP

Celine Dion to unveil song at Oscars

CELINE DION will unveil her new song, "I Knew I Loved You," during a tribute to Italian composer Ennio Morricone at this year's Academy Awards, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Wednesday.

Morricone, who will receive an honorary Oscar at the Feb. 25 awards, orchestrated the song for 1984's "Once Upon a Time in America," directed by Sergio Leone.

Songwriters Alan and Marilyn Bergman wanted to write lyrics for the song, but the film's producers felt none were needed. The Bergmans got their chance with Dion's version.

Morricone, 78, has received original score Oscar nominations for "Days of Heaven," "The Mission," "The Untouchables," "Bugsy" and "Malena."

The new rendition of "I Knew I Loved You," produced by Quincy Jones, will appear on Morricone's upcoming greatest-hits album and on Dion's forthcoming record.

AP

CHRISTINA IN THE BUFF

CHRISTINA AGUILERA has no problem showing skin – especially on weekends with her husband, music executive Jordan Bratman.

"We claim ourselves to be the coziest couple ever. We have something called 'naked Sundays,'" the 26-year-old pop star tells Ellen DeGeneres in an interview set to air Wednesday on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

"You have to keep marriage alive, spice it up," says Aguilera, who married Bratman in November 2005. So the couple stays in on Sundays, she says. "We do everything naked. We cook naked."

"You cook naked?" asks DeGeneres.

Aguilera replies: "Yeah, we cook naked."

"Nothing with grease – that could splatter," says DeGeneres.

"Well, unless you want the grease," Aguilera replies.

AP

MUSM: miss you so much
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life
HDOP: help delete online predators

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Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

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Wednesday
Taxi Driver
7:30
Thursday
Midnight Run
7:30

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

Babel (R)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
Because I Said So (PG-13)
1hr 42min 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
Blood Diamond (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)
1:55, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05

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

Catch and Release (PG-13)
2:00, 4:40, 7:35, 10:10
Children of Men (R)
2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 9:55
Dreamgirls (PG-13)
1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15
Epic Movie (PG-13)
1hr 26min 1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:25
Messengers, The (PG-13)
1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:50, 10:05
Night at the Museum (PG)
1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
Pan's Labyrinth (El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)
1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

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

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

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

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

Arthur and the Invisibles (PG)
11:50am, 2:20, 4:50
Blood and Chocolate (PG-13)
7:20, 10:00
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
BRONZE

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

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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

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

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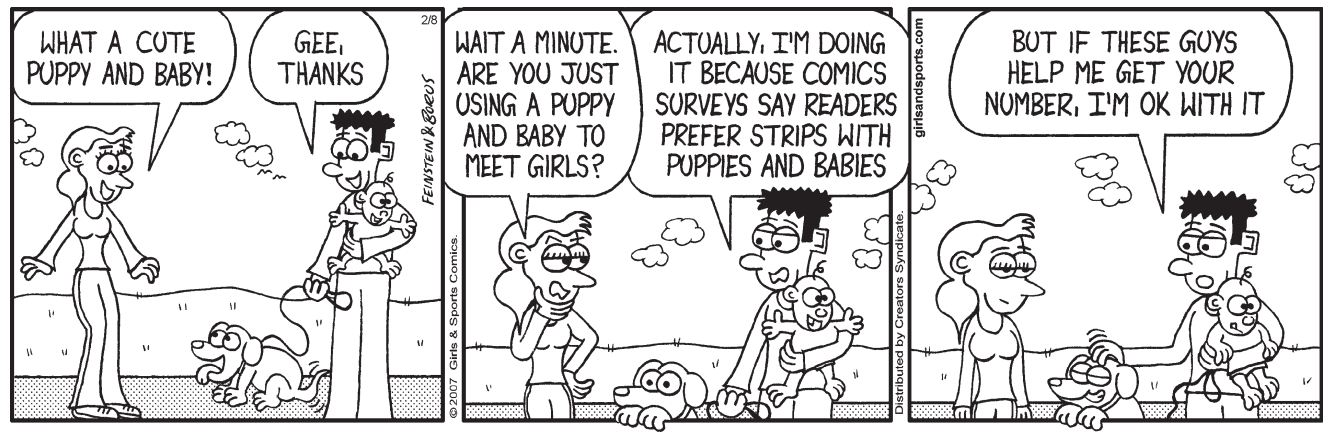
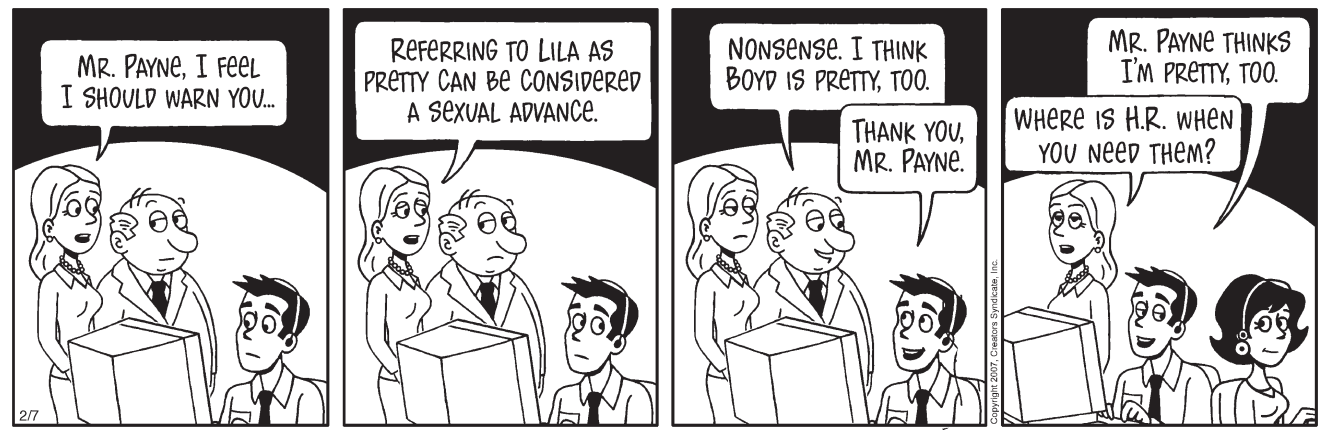
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



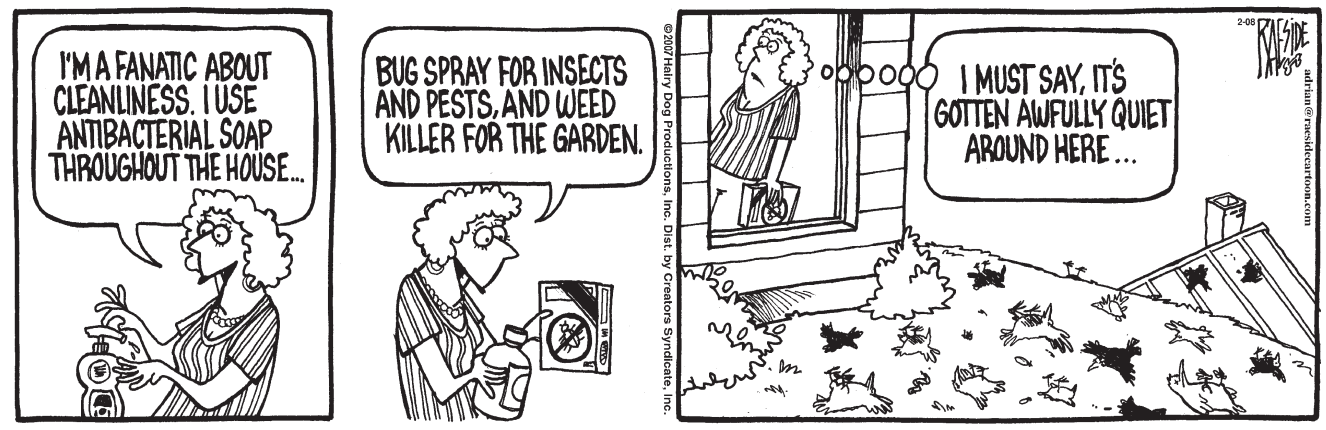
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



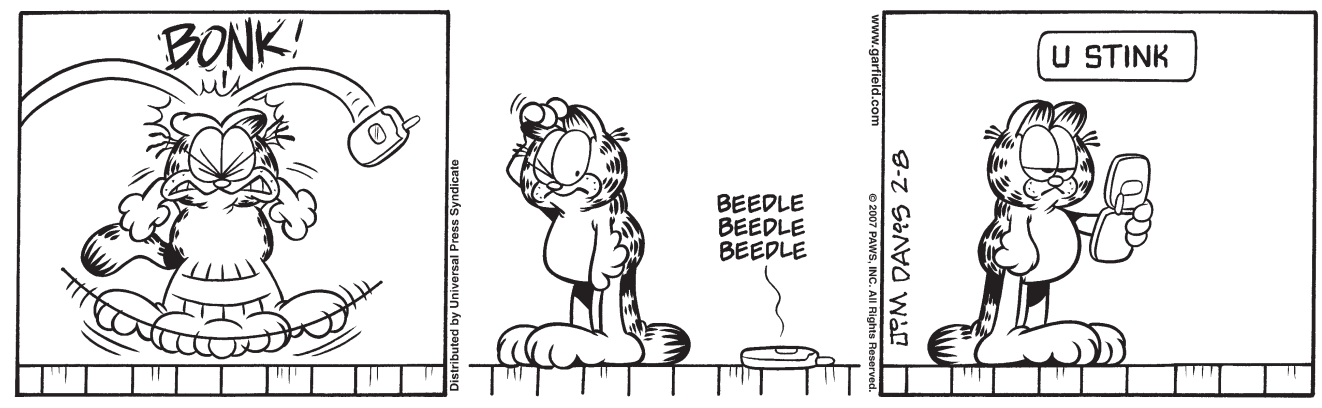
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



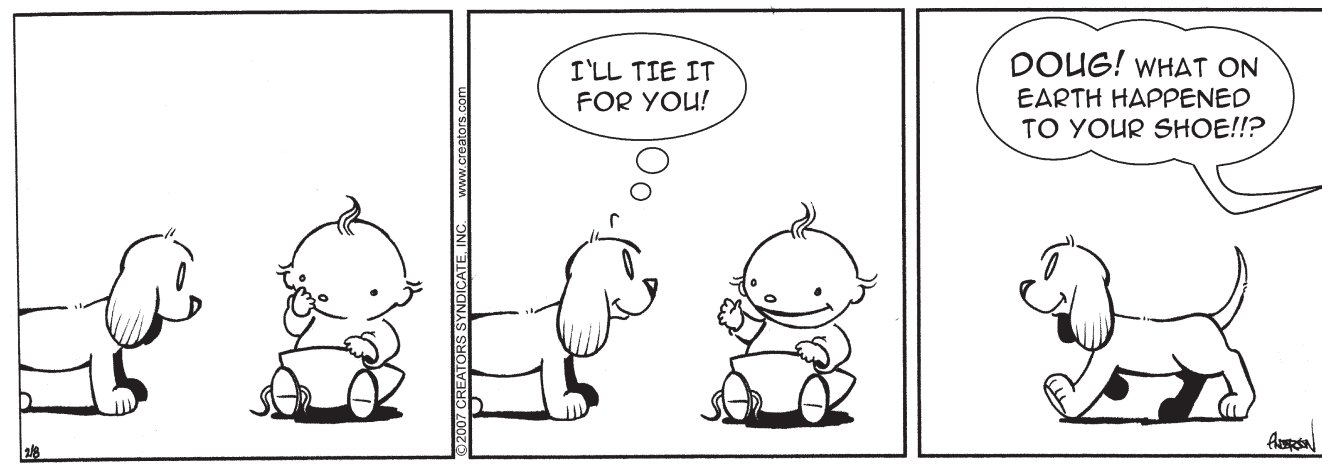
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

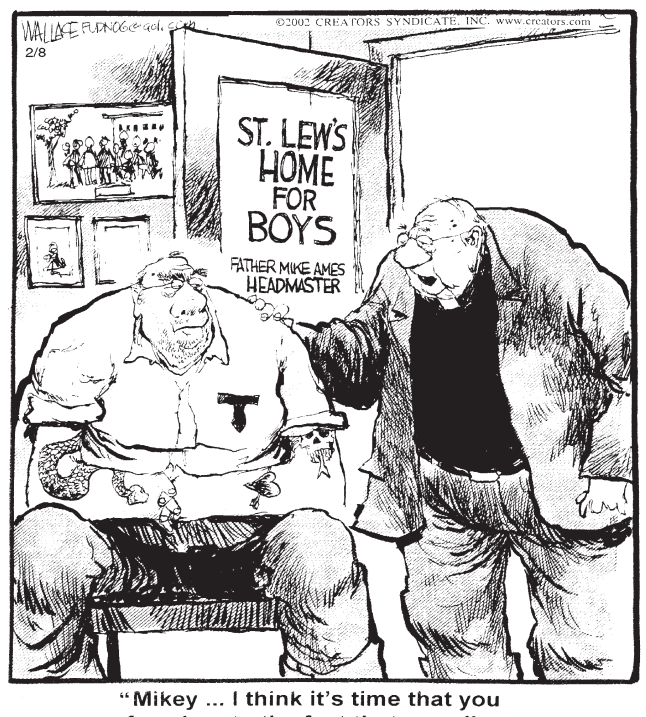
By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

Natural Selection

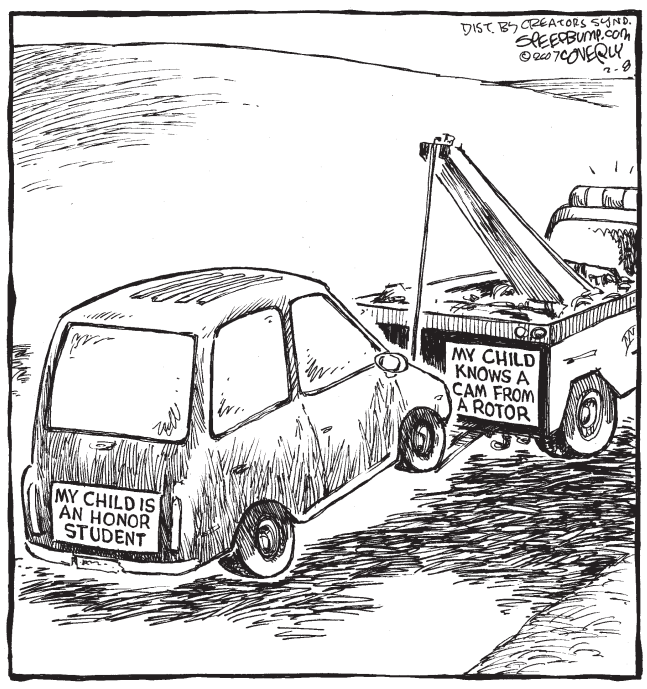
By Russ Wallace



"Mikey ... I think it's time that you faced up to the fact that ... well ... that you may not ever be adopted."

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Mystery Photo

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Parka part
5 Fierce fighter
10 Carry on
12 Peace goddess
13 Complete
14 "— luck!"
15 Surrenderer of 1865
16 Becomes chatty
18 Flashing light
20 Bonanza stuff
21 Periods
23 Wine choice
24 Fret
26 Works the soil
28 Busy one in Apr.
29 Pride member
31 Trouble
32 Nerdy ones
36 Deceit
39 Kitten cry
40 Singer Lennox
41 "What do —?"
43 Designer Geoffrey
44 Congo's former name
45 Zeal
46 Horn sound

DOWN

1 Moves freight
2 Big musical group
3 Mink's cousin
4 Word on a bill
5 Mosaic piece
6 Wrinkle remover
7 Become angry
8 Guarantees
9 Took in
11 NFL all-star game
17 Sulky state
19 Pindar poem
22 Entertainment industry
24 Twirler
25 Like a hawk
27 Individual
28 Melon variety
30 Courtroom oath
33 Net receipts?
34 Catcher Yogi
35 Lovable
37 Lush
38 Taunt
42 Fare carrier

F	I	R	S	T	S	■	S	P	A	T
O	C	E	L	O	T	■	C	O	C	O
G	E	M	I	N	I	■	O	T	T	O
■	■	■	P	E	R	K	U	P	■	■
N	A	P	S	■	■	A	T	O	M	S
I	R	A	■	P	U	R	S	U	I	T
N	E	T	■	O	N	E	■	R	D	A
J	A	C	K	S	O	N	■	R	A	T
A	S	H	E	S	■	■	M	I	S	S
■	■	O	P	E	N	E	R	■	■	■
P	O	U	T	■	E	L	M	O	R	E
A	R	L	O	■	A	M	O	R	A	L
R	E	I	N	■	R	O	M	A	N	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

1	2	3	4	■	■	5	6	7	8	9
10				11	■	12				
13					■	14				
15			■	16	17					
18			19			■	■	20		
■	■	■	21			22	■	23		
■	24	25			■	26	27			■
28			■	29	30			■	■	■
31			■	■	32			33	34	35
36			37	38			■	39		
40					■	41	42			
43					■	44				
45					■	■	46			

2-8

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 16 21 35 36 46
Meganumber: 38
Jackpot: $91M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 18 20 31 32 33
Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: $25M

Fantasy 5: 6 9 12 30 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 1 6
EVENING: 4 1 4

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1.40.83

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

■ Lamest Defense: James Lane III, 27, was arrested in Carrboro, N.C., in January after police chased him, in his car and later on foot. Officers tackled Lane about 20 feet into a wooded area and recovered a white plastic bag containing a pound of marijuana. When police pulled Lane to his feet, he said that someone must have left the bag on the ground at precisely the spot in the woods where Lane fell, because he had never seen it before.

■ Least Competent Lawyers: Jeffrey Leonard is on death row in Kentucky for murder and had challenged the fairness of his conviction, criticizing his court-appointed defense counsel. Lawyer Ferdinand Radolovich had represented Leonard all the way through his murder trial without bothering to learn his real name, in that for his conviction and subsequent first appeal, Radolovich thought Leonard was "James Slaughter" (and he didn't even know how to spell that name, habitually writing it "Slawter"). (Also, Radolovich had told judges that he had previously handled four death penalty cases but in fact had done none.) Nonetheless, by a 7-7 vote, the U.S. Court of Appeals could not conclude that better lawyering would have helped the clearly guilty Leonard.

■ The Bosnian town of Bijeljina proposed in November to build a giant cabbage monument to honor its most important crop. "We very much appreciate this vegetable," said the director of the town's tourism office. And Briton Richard Townsend, 24, on a personal mission in December, ate 36 brussels sprouts in one minute, seeking the world record, but fell seven short. He said he had trained by eating a plate of brussels sprouts every day for six weeks.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1587 Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England after she was implicated in a plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

1693 a charter was granted for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

1837 selected the vice president of the United States, choosing Richard Mentor Johnson after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes.

1904 the Russo-Japanese War, a conflict over control of Manchuria and Korea, began as Japanese forces attacked Port Arthur.

WORD UP!

idee fixe \ee-day-FEEKS\, *noun:* An idea that dominates the mind; a fixed idea; an obsession.

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GREY GOOSE VIP LOUNGE - $225 per day
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CHAMPIONS CLUB - $180 per day
Riviera C.C. Grand Ballroom

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Some restrictions may apply.

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*Please call our Classified Sales Manager to reserve your ad space. Specific ad placement not gauranteed on classified ads. Ad must meet deadline requirements. See complete conditions below.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

Announcements, Creative, Employment, For Sale, Furniture, Pets, Boats, Jewelry, Wanted, Travel, Vacation Rentals, Apartments/Condos, Rent, Houses for Rent, Roomates, Commerical Lease, Real Estate, Real Estate Loans, Storage Space, Vehicles for Sale, Massage, Services, Computer Services, Attorney Services, Business Opportunities, Yard Sales, Health and Beauty, Fitness, Wealth and Success, Lost and Found, Personals, Psychic, Obituaries, Tutoring

All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out ***www.smdp.com*** for more info.

Miscellaneous

LOSE WEIGHT. Feel great. Safe, Guaranteed. (800)210-5687

Announcements

RAPID DATING
Let Us Hook YOU up in 2007!

VALENTINE'S COCKTAIL-DANCE PARTY
MALIA, Santa Monica – SUN. 2/11
Appetizers, Prizes, Networking, Dancing, Tarot Readings
6:30 – 10:00 PM
Ages 25+ $25 in advance

EVENTS
Marina del Rey at C & O – WED.3/7
Ages: Women 40+ • Men 45+

GET ON OUR E-MAIL LIST
Events & Seminars Weekly
Dating Makeovers & Consulting
www.RapidDating.com
310-656-7099

WEST COAST Premiere of a Hollywood documentary about Ralph Nader. An Unreasonable Man. Feb. 9. at the Landmark Nuart Theatre. Ralph Nader will take questions after the 4:30 and 7:15 shows as well as introduce the 9:55 show. Show runs only one week.

Employment

$5,000 WEEKLY! PROCESSING REBATES From Home! Weekly Paychecks! No Experience Necessary! Start Earning Today. Register Now! www.GreatCashJobs.com

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
For Entertainment company. Must have accounting experience or degree. F/T position $12-$14/hr. Full benefits.
Office based in Santa Monica. Send resumes to renitac@redcar.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Brentwood CPA firm seeks a qualified candidate to answer phones, check & print emails, create & file files, bank deposits, must have excellent typing skills, must be proficient in Word & Excel. F/T
Fax resume to (310)571-9216

BLUE CROSS Pet hospital hiring all positions (310)454-2633. Sandra or Ginger

BOOKKEEPER P/T can handle payroll for 50+employees. Prepare invoices, track accounts, and perform cashiering for retail business. $25/hr. Fax resume to (310)204-4309

New Yacht Cleaning Service

Looking for **energetic,** ENTHUSIASTIC people with *attention for detail* for full/part-time positions yacht cleaning/detailing/waxing

Experience preferred.
Located in lovely MDR.

Email resume:
jennifer@mermaidsmarineservices.com

Employment

SECURITY
Beach Area Jobs
Current guard card
Apply online LANTZSECURITY.COM
or call (800) 870-4357

College radio music promoter (310)998-8305 xt.85

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade 215 Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings morning and evening shifts. Apply afternoons in person. (310) 396-9898.

DENTAL ASSISTANT (Chairside) and office manager. 70% back office duties, 30% front office duties. 3 years experience. 3-4 days per week. 20-30hrs per week. (310)451-1446

DENTAL OFFICE looking for office manager excellent communication skills, typing, great personality (310)826-7494 f a x (310)826-9564 Excellent salary + benefits

EARN $3,500-$5,000 WEEKLY! DATA ENTRY From Home! Start Earning Immediately! Guaranteed Paychecks! PT/FT Positions Available Today! Register Online Now! www.EasyIncomeJobs.com

EARN INCOME from home. P/T F/T Will train. www.pioneeredsuccess.com

FANTASY PHONE actress
Work from home. Totally flexible schedule. Leave message for Debbie. 310-459-7762

MERCHANDISER/POTENTIAL SUPERVISOR to service supermarket routes in Culver City. Must live in area. Flex AM hrs M-F, PT Perm, Approx 20 hrs WK. 800-216-7909 x767 www.ataretail.com

PART TIME
Production artist needed for 20-30 hours per week at the Santa Monica Daily Press.
Must know Quark, Photoshop and Acrobat.
Call 310-458-7737 x 104

RADIO INTERVIEW campaign sales person p/t flexible SM (310)998-8305 * 84

RECEPTIONIST GENERAL office bilingual English/Spanish a plus. 45wpm MS Word, filing, phones in Marina del Rey. Fax resume with salary history to (310) 306-4498

SALES MANAGER West LA. Credit card processor. Base plus commission. 2 years experience. Email ross.levine@verizon.net.

SANTA MONICA $1386/mo 1bdrm/1bath, Flexible lease, parking, dishwasher, balcony, A/C washer/dryer, communal sundeck (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals a home finding service

SOCIAL ESCORTS needed. Accompany celebs, V.I.P.'S to dinner, theatre, events, etc. assignments strictly platonic. P/T evenings and weekends. $150/hr (323) 852-1377

Employment

SPANISH TRASLATOR
needed for mortgage company in Santa Monica. Will train. Excellent commission structure. P/T. Will assist top salesman. Call 888-800-1688.

WEBMASTER FOR KMZT/Country 1260 Managing daily backend operations of multiple websites; implement improvements to existing perations-creating web interface to MS SQL database. 2-3 years minimum experience hands-on web development and familiarity with models and applications. Advanced/expert user of Visual Studio, SQL Server, MS Access, MS Office and Flash. Proficient PC based skills and familiarity and networking concepts TCP/IP, FTP, HTTPS, and Internet fundamentals. EOE. Send resume to: mlevine@mountwilsoninc.com. or fax to: Michael Levine 310 445-1439

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED
Earn Extra Income assembling CD cases from Home. Working with Top US companies. Start Immediately. No experience necessary.
1-800-405-7619 Ext 104
www.easywork-greatpay.com

MYSTERY SHOPPERS NEEDED
For Store Evaluations. Get Paid to Shop. Local Stores, Restaurants & Theaters. Training Provided, Flexible Hours, Email Required. 1-800-585-9024 ext. 6262

For Sale

DIRECTV FREE 4 Room System! N O Start Up Cost or Equipment to Buy! 250+ Channels! Packages Start $29.99! FREE DVR or HD Receiver Upgrade! 1-800-574-2260

FREE DIRECTV 4 Room System! NO Equipment to Buy or Start Up Costs! 250+ Channels! Packages Start $29.99. FREE DVR or HD Receiver Upgrade! 1-800-490-1814

BOLD IT! MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT

SPA/HOT TUB 2007 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth $5950, sell for $1950 (310) 479-3054

Yard Sales

MULTI-FAMILY IN Mar Vista. 3748 Maplewood Ave. Sat. 2/10 9am-1pm. Clothes, books, kitchenware, toys, electronics, sports.

Auto Donations

DONATE A Car Today To Help Children And Their Families Suffering From Cancer. Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Children's Cancer Fund of America, Inc. www.ccfoa.org
1-800-469-8593

$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS! CALL TODAY

DONATE YOUR CAR, BOAT OR RV TO HELP CHILDREN FIGHTING DIABETES. Tax deductible, free towing, need not run. Please call Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation #1-800-578-0408!

Your ad could run here!
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Pets

CAT SITTER
I will watch your cat, water your plants, and take in your mail while you are away. Call Kirsten. References available (310)729-7258

THREE YORKIES, 3 ckc two males $1000/each, one female $1750 will be tiny. (559)562-1204 Will deliver.

Classes

Art Classes
taught by established artist. Paint Sculpt and draw in a garden setting. Classes start February 1st, 2007. Your artwork and bio placed on www.campbellart.com free with sign up. Call 310-804-0335 for schedule and pricing.

Employment Wanted

HOUSECLEANING
APTS. houses condos and vacancies. Babysitting on weekends. Excellent references. 30 years experience. (323)243-0008

Bookkeeping Services

QUICKBOOKS BOOKKEEPING service, personal or businesses. Call 310 977-7935

Resorts/Timeshares

TIMESHARE RESALES. The cheapest way to Buy, Sell and Rent Timeshares. No Commissions or Broker Fees. Call 1-800-640-6886 or go to www.buyatimeshare.com

For Rent

3 BLOCKS form the beach, 3+2 wood floors, backyard, Good for roommates. $3100/mo (310)399-1273

BRENTWOOD 1 bedroom+den. Best location. Near Country Club. Hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace, shutters, french doors to garden patio garage. No pets. $2150. 310-826-7960

HOWARD MANAGEMENT GROUP
(310) 869-7901

2bdrm/1bath $2095/mo
2103 Oak Unit C
Refurbished.
928 6th St. #12 $2550 2+2
1011 Pico #18 $2450 2+ loft

PLEASE Visit our website for complete listings at:
www.howardmanagement.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 218, 219 1bdrm/1bath, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, tiling, flooring, granite counter tops, with utilities, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. $1195/mo (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

Your ad could run here!
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave unit 1 lower, stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, laundry, one parking space, no pets. $1500/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

For Rent

PALMS/BEVERLYWD ADJ. $1375.00 2 Bdrms, 1 1/2 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Parking, No Pets. 2009 Preuss Rd. #11. Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr: 101

SANTA MONICA $2500/mo 3bdrms/1bath, Month-to-month lease, Carpet Floors, parking, yard, central heat, washer/dryer (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com a home finding service

SANTA MONICA $2700/mo 3bdrms/2baths, hardwood floors, laundry on-site, yard, very large living room (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com a home finding service

SANTA MONICA $1250.00 1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking, No Pets, 2535 Kansas Ave., #203 Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr. #101

SANTA MONICA $1295/mo 1bdrm/1bath, Cat ok, Hardwood Floors, patio, washer/dryer in unit, refrigerator (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com a home finding service.

SANTA MONICA $1300/mo 1bdrm/1bath, charming upper.
No pets, Hardwood Floors, laundry-on-site, refrigerator, stove. (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com a home finding service

SANTA MONICA $1495/mo 2bdrm/1bath, No pets, Carpet Floors parking, quiet neighborhood, refrigerator, dishwasher. (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com a home finding service

SANTA MONICA $1500/mo 2bdrms/1bath, New Carpets, stove, washer/dryer hookups, Paid water, trash, gardener, (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com a home finding service

SANTA MONICA $1550.00 2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking, No pets. 2535 Kansas Ave., #209, Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr: #101

SANTA MONICA $2400/mo 3bdrms/2baths, Carpet, Hardwood/Tile Floors, 2-car Parking, laundry –on-site, dishwasher, fireplace (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com a home finding service

SANTA MONICA $850/mo Bachelor/1 Bath, Month-to-month, balcony, controlled access, central heat, washer/dryer hookups (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com a home finding service

SANTA MONICA $950/mo Studio/1bath, Cat ok, One year lease, Carpet Floors, refrigerator, cooktop (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com a home finding service

SANTA MONICA 833 5th st. unit 101 2bdrm/1.75 bath, $3000/mo, stove, dishwasher, balcony, granite counter tops, carpet and tiling flooring, wood

For Rent

flooring laundry, intercom entry, pool no pets (310)393-2547 jkwproperties.com

SANTA MONICA GUEST House
2 Bedroom 2 Bath
18th Street By SMC
Newly remodeled, wood floors
Laundry room in house
No Pets, No Smoking
Contact Nikki @ 310-266-0629
$2350.00

VENICE 2206 Brenta Place unit 2, 1+1 stove, fridge, dishwasher, carpet, blinds, balcony, laundry, garage parking, no pets, West of Lincoln. $1375 (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

VENICE 501 N Venice unit 36 1+1 $1150/mo stove, fridge, carpets, blinds, utilities included, laundry on site, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 jkwproperties.com

VENICE SINGLE 501 N Venice unit 4, $995/mo stove, fridge, carpets, blinds, utilities included, laundry on site, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 jkwproperties.com

WESTCHESTER 6707 W 86th place unit d 2bdrm/1bath, stove, dishwasher, microwave, blinds, carpet, laundry, gated parking, no pets, $1425/mo (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA adj $1475/mo 2bdrm/1bath upper. Remodeled, stove, refrigerator. No pets. garage. Near shopping. no smoking. good credit. (310)451-2993, (310)490-8481

Houses For Rent

UNFURNISHED HOUSE, Culver City/Mar Vista area. 2+1, hardwood floors, fenced backyard. $2395/mo. (310)770-3155
drpolsky.com/greenlawn.html

Commercial Lease

SANTA MONICA 2941 Main Street. Small single room offices $825-$890/month. Parking available. PAR Commercial (310)395-2663

Real Estate

HOME SELLERS
Free home evaluation. Free compterized list of area home sales and current listings.
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1-800-969-8257 ID #1041
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NO DOWN PAYMENT? PROBLEM CREDIT? If you're motivated and follow our proven, no-nonsense program, we'll get you into a NEW HOME. Call 1-866-255-5267 www.AmericanHomePartners.com

TENNESSEE LAKE BARGAINS Lakefront properties starting at $99,900. View properties starting at $29,900. ZERO CLOSING COSTS, LIMITED TIME! Call today 888-871-5263

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

Classifieds

GET RID OF YOUR ROLLERBLADES. Sell your sports equipment to someone who will actually use it. Santa Monica Daily Press

Prepay your ad today!

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Chairman's Circle - Platinum
#1 Prudential Santa Monica Realtor
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What is Your Home Worth?
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for local, current real estate info...
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Locals don't have to get on the 405.

So they will be in a better mood when they get to work.

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in the Santa Monica Daily Press classifieds.

Call today to learn about our local hiring packages.
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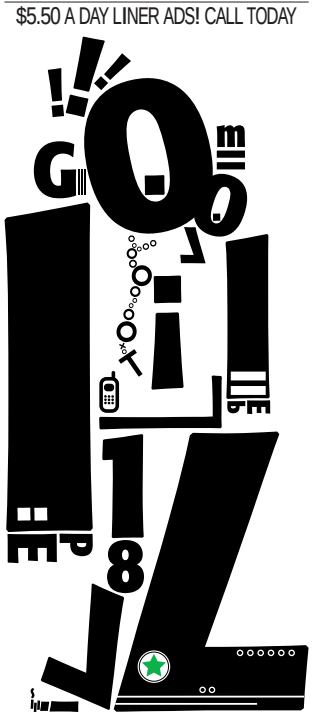

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310 392-9223

VERY AGGRESSIVE
RATES
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RATES AS LOW AS 6%

30 YEAR FIXED	5.76%
APR 5.866%	
10 YEAR/1 ARM	6%
APR 6.6%	
7 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%
APR 6.655%	
5 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%**
APR 7.0%	
3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.5%**
APR 7.0258%	
1 YEAR/1 ARM	5.25%
APR 7.1%	
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5%
APR 7.24%	
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1%*
APR 8%	

*Rates subject to change
* As of January 31, 2007
** Denotes an interest only loan

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SANTA MONICA

Beautiful House
New Construction
3+3.5 2600 SF
$1,399,000

3rd Street 2+2 Condo
Between Wilshire & Montana
$725,000

Ocean View
Penthouse Condo
$2,200,000

Ready to Show Now

Sean Ahaus
310-418-3025
Bankers Realty

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GARGAGE FOR rent. North of Wilshire near Idaho and Lincoln. Large enclosed, single garage. Approx 9 by 23. $250/mo (310)395-1495

Autos Wanted

WANTED FIXER/PROJECT MGTD, TF MGA/B/C, Triumph TR 2/3/4/250/6. Healey 100/4/6/3000, Bugeye . (818)782-2880

Business Opps

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FREE CASH GRANTS! $700-$800,000++ **2007!** NEVER REPAY! Personal/Medical Bills, School, Business, Housing. $49 billion unclaimed 2006! Live Operators! CALL NOW! 1-800-592-0366 Ext. 196

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$700-$800,000++ **2007!**FREE CASH GRANTS! NEVER REPAY! Personal/Medical Bills, School, New Housing, Business. AS SEEN ON T.V. Live Operators! Call Now! 1-800-592-0366 Ext. 197

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BLISSFUL RELAXATION
Experience hands-on healing power. Reiki Tummo: Heart Chakra opening with Kundalini & Earth energy. Intro & Bodywork special $68. Lynda, LMT: 310-749-0621.

EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing body work by mature Europen. Very Professional, Sonja (310) 397-0433.

Personals

ESCORT DISTINGUISHED lady for going out to theatre, restaurant, conversation. $75/hr. Legitimate only.

Personals

(818)915-8589, (626)796-3946

Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ABRAHAM H. STERNBERG AKA ALBERT STERNBERG CASE NO. BP102624

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the lost WILL or estate, or both of ABRAHAM H. STERNBERG AKA ALBERT STERNBERG.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ANDREW M. STERNBERG in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ANDREW M. STERNBERG be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's lost WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The lost WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 02/28/07 at 8:30AM in Dept. 11 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner
ELLIS STERN
6345 BALBOA BLVD #200
ENCINO CA 91316
2/1, 2/2, 2/8/07
CNS-1080729#
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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'03 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
V6 3.5L, Auto, Pwr Pkg, Moon Roof, Multi CD, Bose Sound, Leather
(P1536) $26,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

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Vehicles for sale

'04 Toyota Tacoma Double Cab 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
V6 3.4L, Auto, 2WD, A/C, Pwr Pkg, Bed Liner, Alloy Wheels (I6474A)
$21,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'99 Mercedes-Benz ML320
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
V6 3.2L, Pwr Pkg, Dual Front Air Bags, Leather, Moon Roof, Privacy Glass. (P1505) $14,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'04 Volkswagen R32 Hatchback
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
V6 3.2L, 6 speed, Manual, Leather, AWD, Premium Sound, Moon Roof
(P1511) $27,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'05 Ford F150 Super Cab
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V8, 4.6L, Automatic, Dual Front Air Bags, ABS, Bed Liner
(P1521) $19,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'06 Toyota Highlander Sport SUV 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
4-Cyl., 2.4L, Automatic, Pwr Pkg, Air bags, Third Seat, Roof Rack
(P1489A) $26,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS! CALL TODAY

'06 Scion tC Hatchback 2D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
4-Cyl., 2.4L, A/C, Pwr Pkg, Cruise, MP3, Moon Roof, Spoiler, Alloy Wheels. (P1515)
$17,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

BOLD IT! MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT

Lexus 430 LS 2001.
ULTRA DELUXE PACKAGE. $24,995. Mystic green. Has factory warranty. Runs and looks like new. One owner. (310)704-9377

Vehicles for sale

'03 Acura RSX Type S Sport
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
4-Cyl., 2.0L Ho VTEC, 6 speed, Manual, Bose Sound, Leather. (I6582A)
$16,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'03 Hummer H2 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Black, Adventure pkg, OnStar, Nav. system, LOADED! (P1506)
$39,951
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'03 Toyota Sequoia SR5
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
2 tone beauty, auto, V8, Rear, air & more! (35161217)
$18,995
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

'05 Altima 4DR
Full Pwr, Auto, Air, CD, Cruise & more! (5N921645)
$14,995
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

'03 Volvo V70 Wagon
Super Sharp! Best Buy! Leather, Moon roof. (3230300)
$16,995
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

Your ad could run here!
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

'06 Grand Cherokee
Wow! What a Deal! Laredo, 6 Cyl, Super Sharp. (6C218273)
$18,788
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

YOUR AD
COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US TODAY AT
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Santa Monica Daily Press

ServiceDirectory

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Prepay your ad today!

*Please call our Classified Sales Manager to reserve your ad space. Specific ad placement not gauranteed on classified ads. Ad must meet deadline requirements.

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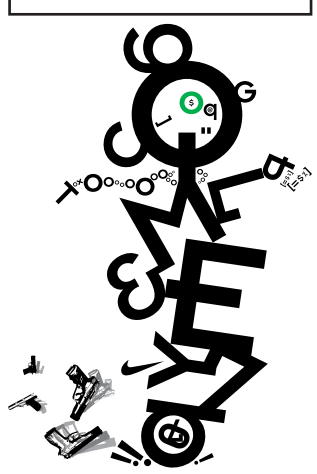

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