



Santa Monica Daily Press

A READER POPS THE QUESTION
SEE PAGE 3

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LOVE AND THE CITY



TIME FOR A HEART-TO-HEART

Popping the question has never been more popular
STORY PAGE 3

Skaters turn up volume

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Months of frustration and emotion over the potential demolition of a historic surf and skate shop finally boiled over here on Monday.

Close to two dozen people spoke out, both pro and con, before the Landmarks Commission in regards to the preservation of the old Zephyr and Jeff Ho Productions building at 2001-2011 Main Street. The former business is often credited with helping to usher in a revolutionary period of skateboarding in the 1970s.

The building was thrust into the public spotlight when the commission began to consider nominating it as a historic landmark in October, following public outcry that resulted from a demolition permit filed by the owner. It was in and around the Zephyr shop where a group of street kids from Dogtown helped revolutionize skateboarding, introducing an aggressive style that has come to define the sport.

The building's owner is planning to replace it with an environmentally friendly, 14-unit mixed use development.

It was an emotional meeting on Monday, filled with pleas from advocates to save the Ocean Park neighborhood, a neighborhood that has seen many changes in the past decade

SEE HORIZONS PAGE 7



Christine Chang news@smdp.com

CLIP 'N' SAVE: A sign outside the Horizons West Surf Shop on Monday gets the point across.

HE SAID: Falling in love at breakneck speed

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET If you're a guy having trouble meeting women in Santa Monica, don't sweat it. There's plenty of 'em out there — good ones, too. You just have to be willing to pay, and pay big.

No, I'm not talking about making a trip to a local mas-

sage parlor or thumbing through the personals for an "escort." Who has time for that? I'm talking 15 girls in an hour and a half. I'm talking about speed dating.

For those unfamiliar with the concept, singles pay anywhere from \$25 to \$45 to sit in a bar and talk up 10 to 15

SEE HE SAID PAGE 9

SHE SAID: Dating advice for the quick finisher

BY KRISTIN MAYER
Special to the Daily Press

MAIN STREET When I nudged open the black door into the dimly lit Barcopa on Main Street last Wednesday night, I had a mission: Strike up a few conversations, down a few drinks and check out the prospects of the Santa Monica dating scene.

While free-form mingling is more my style, I couldn't resist a coworker's offer to peek into the world of speed dating.

If you're not motivated enough to meet people on your own, a night of structured speed dating for \$37 is a viable option. Some people

SEE SHE SAID PAGE 8



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Eddie Guerboian

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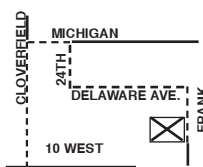
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Calendar

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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Valentine's with B.B. King's

1000 Universal Center Dr., Universal City, 6 p.m.
B.B. King's Blues Club and Restaurant at Universal CityWalk is hosting a Valentine's Day event with a buffet, dancing, music and drinks.
Call for reservations, (818) 622-5464.

Mystery book discussion group

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Discussion book is "Faceless Killers," by Henning Mankell. Meeting will take place in the Community Room of the Main Library.

Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting

1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club holds its weekly luncheon with guest speakers at the YMCA. For more information, call (310) 828-1766.

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.

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 called Nordic LAttitudes, an educational exhibit showcasing the best in Nordic furniture and lighting design. For more information, visit www.smpl.org/nordiclattitudes.

'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.

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007

Storyteller Ina Buckner at Ocean Park Branch

2601 Main St., 3:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
In celebration of Black History Month, professional storyteller Ina Buckner will perform in the Community Room of the Ocean Park Library. Ms. Buckner weaves movement, songs, poetry and international tales in her storytelling. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call (310) 392-3804.

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 now to reserve a spot, (310) 356-7519.

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. For

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.





File photo
TAKE THIS HAND: A couple strolls along the Santa Monica Beach with the Ferris wheel and Pacific Park in the background. The beach and amusement ride are two of the most popular sites in Santa Monica in which to get engaged.

Popping the big one

Valentine's Day is one of the biggest days for proposals; the city offers scenic options

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE With a backdrop of the setting sun and waves crashing against the shore, Santa Monica Beach just might be one of the most romantic destinations on the Westside.

After the Christmas holiday season, Valentine's Day is known as one of the busiest times of year for jewelers, as nervous men, and sometimes women, across the country prepare to pop the big question: "Will you marry me?"

Luckily for couples who live close to the Westside, planning for the perfect location isn't really necessary.

"Any place along the California Incline is just beautiful," said Renee Piane, owner of the Santa Monica-based dating agency Rapid Dating. "When I first met my husband, that is the first place I took him. When he looked down, he said 'no wonder you live here.'"

In fact, when Piane and her husband got married in 2004, they decided they would renew their vows every anniversary at Palisades Park, where they wanted to hold their wedding but couldn't because of capacity restrictions.

The best places to propose in Santa Monica are the locations where the coast is most visible, according to Piane, who suggested Santa Monica Pier and the luxury hotels along the

beach, including Casa del Mar, Shutters on the Beach and Loews.

"All of those locations are very romantic," Piane said.

Approximately 35 percent of people who participated in a survey by Steve Elliott Marketing Research indicated that the beach is the ideal location for a proposal.

Eddie Guerboian of Readers Fine Jewelers on Wilshire Boulevard agreed, saying that many of his customers who purchase engagement rings utilize the natural beauty of the beach to enhance their proposals.

One of his clients even proposed under water, surprising his bride to be with a ring inside of a shell.

Surprisingly, even a jewelry store will suffice when the burning question just has to be asked.

"One guy got on one knee and my assistant brought the ring out," Guerboian recalled.

Perhaps the most popular place to get engaged in the city is at the top of the Ferris wheel in Pacific Park on Santa Monica Pier.

What is unique about the Ferris wheel is it offers beautiful views of the Venice and Malibu coasts.

"There is a quiet sense of beauty and calm when you're up there," said Jeff Klocke, director of marketing and sales for Pacific Park. "It's a peaceful setting to be in. It's very exclusive and private."

Pacific Park, along with the Viceroy Hotel, were rated as two of the most romantic destinations to pop the question in Los Angeles by Westways Magazine.

At the Viceroy on Ocean Avenue, the hotel is popular among its question-popping clientele because of the views

SEE ENGAGED PAGE 9

So, will you marry him?

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

STATE OF DESIRE There is such a thing as love at first sight.

At least there was for Christopher Hertrich and it happened more than three years ago during an art gallery opening. It was there that he first laid eyes on Ritsuko Nakane from across the room, a woman who had moved to the U.S. seven years prior from Japan.

"I knew there was something special about her," the 41-year-old Hertrich said on Tuesday. "There was just something about her."

Hertrich, an art teacher at Crossroads School, followed his instincts, pursuing Nakane, who was 26 at the time. He says the first year of dating was nothing short of pure bliss, enjoying Nakane's humor, her giving

nature and the fact that she is a graphic artist.

The icing on the cake? Nakane is loved by his entire family, something that never happened with any of Hertrich's ex-girlfriends.

"We're a lot alike, even though we're from different countries," Hertrich said.

Three years later, Hertrich is ready to follow his instincts once more.

The couple visited Jack's Jewelers on Santa Monica Boulevard to do something that many women enjoy — window shopping for engagement rings. After getting a good idea of what his girlfriend might like to wear on her ring finger some day, the couple left and went back to the same old.

"I was nervous for a while and I decided, what am I waiting for?" Hertrich said.

So he went back to the store recently and picked out what he believes is the perfect ring for his girlfriend, a ring that reflects her

spirited and lovable personality.

But how to propose?

First came the idea of buying Nakane several different gifts and presenting the ring last. He nixed that idea and then considered spelling out his proposal in a marquee at one of the theaters in Westwood Village, where the couple was supposed to have their first date.

But it wasn't special enough.

With a ring in his pocket and thoughts on how he would propose in the back of his mind, Hertrich left Jack's Jewelers on Tuesday after rejecting a request from the Daily Press to tell his story about the process he was experiencing in proposing to his girlfriend. Then, it him.

He turned back to the Jack's Jewelers, grabbed the number to the Daily Press and finally decided on the best way to express his love to Nakane:



Courtesy photo
The couple before their Daily Press proposal.

"I've loved you since the day I met you. I want to spend the rest of my days with you. Ritsuko, will you marry me?"
-- Christopher

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Police arrests don’t mean much
Editor:

In the wake of the recent arrests of the killers of Eddie Lopez and Miguel Martin, I find myself laughing out loud at the comments being made by city and SMPD officials (“Raids net alleged killers,” Feb. 9, page 1). Before there can be any kind of positive interaction between our community and police, there is a pressing issue that the SMPD and the city, for some reason, refuse to address. Even though it has been brought up numerous times, I still continue to hear about the constant targeting and harassment of our youth of color by the SMPD. This malpractice was no more evident than in the unfair trial and conviction of Matthew Vargas, and the false accusations brought upon Michael Espindola by the SMPD.

As long as the SMPD tries to tear our families apart, as they did with these two young men by means of terror and power abuse, there can be no positive changes in our relationship with police.

The reactions of several council members to the arrests shows their complete lack of knowledge and ignorance of gangs and youth violence. It isn’t very surprising though, since the entire City Council has been out of touch with its residents for quite some time now. They exist solely to please the special interest groups which support them, one of which is the Santa Monica Police Officers Association. Being in the streets almost daily, as well as having grown up with gang members, I have realized there is only one true way to end gang violence. As long as we live in a capitalist society that promotes the unequal distribution of wealth and the social oppression of Blacks and Latinos, there will always be gangs and crime. The more we’re forced into “ghettos” by means of housing segregation operating under the age-old “separate but equal” ideology, as well as receiving unequal treatment within the SMMUSD, there will be anger and depression amongst our youth of color which, in turn, leads to gang involvement and, ultimately, violence.

David Mendez-Yapkovitz
Santa Monica/Los Angeles

What comes around, goes around
Editor:

(Re: “It’s time to get a move on,” Feb. 6, page 4)
The problem (with a proliferation of shuttle buses) is to attain critical mass. We need shuttles going in “both” directions on their routes, expanded routes. How about a route that goes by every hotel west of Lincoln (Boulevard), combined with up/down Pico (Boulevard), Ocean Park Boulevard and Washington (Avenue) – the entire length of the city (that would be a good start), and a PR campaign to let everyone know about the shuttles?

Dennis Allard
Los Angeles

Beware: Bush is crying wolf again
Editor :

Now (President) Bush is trying to talk us into going to war against Iran. This is the same guy who lied and misled many people into believing that Iraq had WMD, that Iraq was behind 9/11, that Iraq was an imminent threat to us, and that a war in Iraq would be fairly quick and cheap. Does Bush really think we’re so gullible as to believe the boy who cried wolf again?

Considering the endless bloodbath Bush created in Iraq, should we entrust him to take us into war with the much larger and more powerful Iran? For the sake of our country and our over-stretched military, I hope not.

If we have a problem with Iran, we should negotiate like adults and get others from that region involved, rather than throwing another childish tantrum of war.

Are we ready to impeach Bush and Cheney yet? I am.

Doug Long
Rio Rancho, NM

Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Valentine’s doldrums
are half the fun of day

IN SEVENTH GRADE, I BROKE UP with David K. and almost immediately afterwards he started going out with my best friend, Sue H. When he gave her a red carnation and a heart-shaped box of Russell Stover assorted chocolates in the cafeteria on Valentine’s Day, I jealously realized I had made the biggest mistake in all of my 12 years. So, I locked myself in my room for days and played the Phil Collins and Marilyn Martin song “Separate Lives” from the “White Nights” soundtrack over and over while poring through the cards and notes he had given me over the course of our very serious 11-week relationship.

I was in ninth grade and on a vacation in Puerto Rico with my family over Valentine’s Day. My boyfriend Ted B. was in London on holiday with his family. He had given me a red envelope on the last day of school before the winter break and instructed me not to open it until Feb. 14. (I knew he meant business because he underlined the instructions four times!) I dutifully waited until Valentine’s morning to read and re-read the card in which he lovingly asked to “Be Mine.” I spent the rest of that day on the beach listening to a mix of Journey songs on my Walkman, staring at the horizon as the waves crashed on the shore, imagining that somewhere thousands of miles away in England, Ted B. might be doing the same thing. (Cue a deep sigh.)

There was the time in my sophomore year of high school when I kissed my good friend Alyssa M.’s boyfriend, Jared H., who also happened to be the best friend of my boyfriend at the time, Jared L. When he heard the news, Jared L. immediately dumped me. Coincidentally, that was the exact moment I realized he was probably definitely Mr. Right and I had blown my chance forever with my One True Love. I begged his forgiveness, but he would have none of it. Or me.

I spent a lot of time weeping and cradling a piece of string from Jared L.’s green sweater that had brushed off on my sweatshirt when we bumped into each other in the hall at school. (However, in my own odd defense, my dad has always said that I had a habit of saving pieces of string and, for some reason, receipts.) I passed that Valentine’s Day listening to 38 Special’s “Second Chance” until the grooves in the 45 wore out. I also became the real-life embodiment of the Police song “Every Breath You Take,” obsessively pining for Jared L., who, even after I made endless hang-up phone calls to his house, failed to realize how we were totally meant for each other.

Then there was a boyfriend in college who took me out to dinner on Valentine’s Day, cupped my hands in his, gazed in my eyes and murmured, “Ever realize that Cupid

rhymes with stupid?” A year to the date later, after the dinner at which he wished me a “Happy VD day,” I discovered the therapeutic pleasure of listening to the J. Geils Band classic, “Love Stinks.”

Three years ago, I started falling in love with my now-husband Rick soon after he asked if he could take me out to dinner for Valentine’s Day — two weeks after we started dating. I accepted, but only under the condition that my parents could join us since they would be in town that weekend. He happily agreed, and then sent me a colorful bouquet of Gerber daisies the day before, declaring in the card that Valentine’s Day was overrated and we should celebrate Friday the 13th instead.

At the same time that he won me over with his humor-laced sentimentality though, Rick totally spoiled Valentine’s Day for me. After all, it’s sort of fun in a melodramatic kind of way to feel a little sorry for yourself on Valentine’s Day when the only card you get is from your mom, and sometimes she signs the dog’s name on it to be cute. Or, like something straight out of a Molly Ringwald or John Cusack movie from the 80s or a Meg Ryan movie from the 90s, you feel at once depressed and empowered when friends declare they’ll be your Valentine and send Shoebox Greetings cards with messages inside that are somewhere between Rosie O’Donnell and Alanis Morissette on a man-hating scale.

The reigning sappy love song “(Everything I Do) I Do it For You” from the sappy love song master Bryan Adams seems to mean the most when you listen to it and then realize that you have no one in your life other than your cat to do anything for, and even then, cleaning the litter box is really a benefit to you both. The song means a whole lot less when it’s playing in the background during a marriage proposal that’s being shown on “America’s Funniest Home Videos” (at which time the song is often the unintentional funniest part of the tape).

The monthly women’s magazines with the Valentine themes, the heart decorations hanging from pharmacy and supermarket ceilings, the dish of Sweetheart candies on a co-worker’s desk and the back-to-back diamond-ring TV commercials all seem to secretly count for so much until the day you actually get the chocolates, the candlelit dinner, the slow dance and the ring and discover that it’s actually just the person, not the stuff he buys or the grand gestures he makes, who means the most.

I guess Hallmark is just going to have to find another holiday to suck me into. Shoot! I just missed Groundhog Day, didn’t I?

MEREDITH CARROLL can be reached at meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

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 MANAGER
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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YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press

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Earth Talk

By the editors of E Magazine

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Wizards of Oz can predict weather, but not change it

Dear EarthTalk:

Are the recent cyclones and droughts in Australia and elsewhere more evidence of global warming?

Billy Hulkower
Los Angeles

SCIENTISTS CAN'T BLAME INDIVIDUAL storms or droughts on climate change, but many believe that human-induced global warming is increasing the severity and frequency of such weather "anomalies." Indeed, on Feb. 2, 2007, scientists with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a long-awaited 21-page report confirming "with 90 percent certainty" that increases in man-made greenhouse gases since the mid-20th century are raising the planet's temperature and destabilizing the climate.

Besides hurricanes like Katrina that have affected the northern hemisphere, a number of high-impact tropical cyclones and typhoons have occurred around the world in just the last few years, with Australia's mammoth Cyclone Larry topping the list in terms of intensity. That March 2006 storm battered the northern Queensland coast with 180 mph winds, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage and virtually wiping out Australia's banana crop. Thanks to Australia's top-notch weather forecasting and emergency preparedness, however, unlike Katrina, Larry claimed no human lives.

Meanwhile, higher global temperatures have at least worsened, if not outright caused, drought conditions around the world, and Australia has been no exception. A 2003 report by the Australia chapter of the World Wildlife Fund found global warming to be a key factor in the severity of the country's 2002 drought, one of four especially harsh droughts in just the last 50 years. The 2002 drought, which many scientists consider to be still in effect, was particularly memorable as Australians endured higher daytime temperatures than had ever been recorded during any March-November winter season. Besides causing countless bush fires in the Australian Outback, the drought has led to a significant



Courtesy of Getty Images

In addition to impacting the severity of weather events like hurricanes, higher global temperatures have at least worsened drought conditions.

drop in agricultural production, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in economic losses, according to government data.

An original 1997 signatory to the landmark Kyoto Protocol calling for reduced greenhouse gas emissions, Australia's government nevertheless has refused to ratify and adhere to the terms of the treaty. Prime Minister John Howard has taken a position similar to that of U.S. President George W. Bush, who considers the terms of Kyoto bad for industry.

But just because Australia hasn't ratified Kyoto doesn't mean it has refused to acknowledge the potential environmental impacts of global warming. The country has pledged \$300 million over three years to implement various strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It has also signed onto the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, an agreement with India, Japan, China, South Korea and the U.S. to develop technology that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Whether such an agreement has enough teeth to take a bite out of global warming is anybody's guess, but it and other endeavors to fight global warming will undoubtedly pick up momentum with the release of the landmark IPCC report.

Want to get down to earth? Submit questions to earthtalk@emagazine.com.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 16!

Santa Monica Daily Press

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The Q-Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

And the winner is ...

With the staging of the annual Grammy Awards this past weekend and Oscar nominations creating a buzz about town, the so-called awards season is in full swing. From television to film, from music to theater, the month of February is crammed with awards ceremonies wherein critics and artists congratulate one another on making an artful contribution.

This week's Q-Line questions asks:

What performance, art installation or creative work – either local or international – made the biggest impression on you this past year, and why?

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. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



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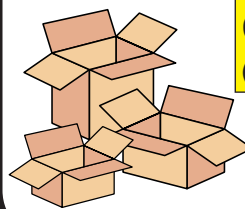
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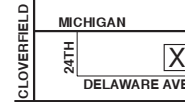
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Here's looking at hue: Garages getting fancy

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Coming soon to a parking structure near you — citrus leaf, cornflower and violet gems.

Those are some of the colors city staff is considering using when it comes time to paint the roofs and stairwells of the six parking structures downtown to give each one an identity so that visitors don't forget where they park and have a better sense of their surroundings.

When shoppers and diners park and walk about downtown, they need only remember they parked in Tuscan sun. Or was it armour?

In addition to the new shades, each structure will have additional lighting and signage developed by City Hall's cultural affairs manager, artist Cliff Garten and architects at Santa Monica-based Hugh + Scarpa, which was hired by City Hall in 2006 for \$107,000 and counting to give the structures a much-needed makeover.

"The structures are horrible and need to have been painted yesterday," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp., a public-private management company that works with City Hall in promoting and managing downtown. "Let's move forward and see what we get."

If only it was that easy. With improvements come added maintenance costs. The parking structures are no different. There is some concern about how much City Hall will have to spend each year keeping the paint clean and looking fresh, especially since the design calls for a gradient effect that includes



Rendering courtesy Hugh + Scarpa

4 THOUGHT New fangled parking structure designs include modern touches like gradient lighting.

multiple shades of each color.

At a meeting of Bayside board members and city staff, issues were raised regarding graffiti removal and normal wear and tear. Staffers are flirting with the idea of painting just one portion of a structure to see how the paint will hold up after six months. That would give them a better idea as to what the challenges are with maintaining the color schemes.

"The proof really is in the pudding," said Elaine Polachek, director of community maintenance. "We need to put it on the wall to see how it looks ... The idea of a pilot pro-

gram is to see what the impacts are. We need to determine what resources will be needed to keep it going."

Polachek said there are only four painters on staff to handle the entire city.

Members of the Bayside board said they were pleased with the design and color scheme, but were not in favor of a pilot program, which would delay painting the structures for almost a year. The land and asset committee for Bayside voted against the pilot project and will make a recommendation to the City Council to move forward with the painting.

The Architecture Review Board has already signed off on the design and color scheme.

"We are talking about a parking structure here, not the interior of a multi-million dollar home," said John Warfel, a member of Bayside and chair of the committee. "My concern is that the paint we do use come from a brand name company so we're not sitting here three years from now unable to order the colors to match what we currently have."

"We're talking about 48 different colors ... we have a hard enough time now keeping the same color white."

Gwynne Pugh, a co-founder of Pugh + Scarpa and chair of the Planning Commission, said he understands the maintenance concerns, but said the cultural affairs division in City Hall has agreed to make sure the right paint is used during any repairs.

"With any project, you just got to deal with the realities that you will struggle getting a wide variety of people to agree on one thing," Pugh said. "Disagreement is par for the course."

Rob York, a consultant for Bayside, said no harm can come from moving forward with the project considering the current state of the structures.

"In the worse-case scenario, it will take years before it's worse than it is today," York said of the proposed color scheme. "And we have to remember that it's just paint. If there's a problem (with the color scheme), we can paint over it."

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LAND HO: Skate and surf legend Jeff Ho protests on Monday the possible demolition of the Horizons West Surf Shop on Main Street. Ho owned the original surf shop in the building.

Landmarks officials avoid the Horizons

FROM HORIZONS PAGE 1

with bigger developments coming in, such as directly across the street from the building in question. To bulldoze the Horizons West Surf Shop, once home of Zephyr, and two artist studios run by famed artists John Baldessari and Annie Sabroux, would be a step in the wrong direction, advocates said.

"You'll be doing a great disservice to the city if you bulldoze it," said Paul Hoffman of Orange County.

This week marked the first time the Landmarks Commission had discussed the building since December, when it continued the motion for two months to give Juli Doar, the granddaughter of the owner, time to reach out to the community. Two months later, the commission decided again to continue the motion for two months, in order to gather more information about the developer's plans and the cultural history at the site.

Several Landmarks Commissioners said they were opposed to nominating the building for landmark status at this point, since the building is not in imminent danger.

"I think we have a real honest attempt by a property owner to come up with a real model project that could be a landmark in its own right down the road," said Commissioner Roger Genser.

Both Commissioner Ruthann Lehrer and Chairwoman Nina Fresco spoke in favor of nomination.

"It's a dog of a building, but it's Dogtown, so maybe it's the right building for this," Fresco said.

ALL SIDES OF THE STATUS

The audience was filled with both young and old, current and former residents of Ocean Park, and opponents and proponents of preserving the building through a landmarking process. Some in the audience proudly wore their Zephyr Competition Team T-shirts and jackets, including Jeff Ho himself.

"I don't blame the owner for trying to develop the property, but if you do tear it down, it would be a loss to the community and to the world," said Ho, the original owner of Zephyr.

The speakers appeared to be split into three groups. First, there were those who wanted to save the building at any cost, arguing that it is vital to preserve the old character of Santa Monica in a rapidly changing neighborhood.

"There is something that is different from

an actual historical landmark versus something that is meant to commemorate it," said Shannon Leavey, an Ocean Park resident who has been a vocal proponent for landmarking the building.

A 30-year resident of Ocean Park, Chris King talked about how his neighborhood has changed over the past three decades. He cringes whenever he sees the "eyesore" that is developing across the street from the Horizons West Surf Shop.

"To deprive other kids to grow without that culture and influence that Jeff Ho and others provided for me ... would be a huge detriment to this town," King said.

Others in the audience said that a compromise is possible, as long as the owner decides to incorporate a proper homage to skating history in the new development.

Doar is planning to do so by incorporating an art installation into the new building.

"What we would really like to do is continue on with our project and integrate some art and to ask for guidance now as to which direction to go," Doar said.

More important than the building itself is the cultural history that occurred in the building, said Blair Calderhead, who grew up in Ocean Park. Calderhead feels the property owner is "getting hung out to dry."

"Something like a surfing reef would be an awesome thing that we could all use," Calderhead suggested.

Then there were the ones who say they respect the history, but are in favor of more affordable and green housing and would like to see a new development.

An advocate for workforce housing, former City Council candidate Jenna Linnekens argued that while history is important, so is the future.

"Character and spirit are not defined by walls," Linnekens said.

Landmarking the building would set a dangerous precedent, according to Richard Wexler, who has lived in Ocean Park since 1975. Wexler, who started surfing in the 1950s with two of his friends who became skateboarding pioneers, is concerned with the practice in America of people telling other people what they should do.

"To declare this a historical landmark would be demeaning to the landmark process," Wexler said.

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Hurry up there, Romeo

FROM SHE SAID PAGE 1

enjoy the assurance that they will, in one hour, meet numerous people of varying ethnicities, ages and creepiness levels with the chance to follow up later online.

At this time last week, I had no plans for Valentine's Day, let alone a follow up relationship. Tonight, I have promising dinner plans, all thanks to my spontaneous jaunt into the world of Hurry Date.

But single women in Santa Monica don't exactly have it made. Out of the 11 guys I met while speed dating, only a handful matched my desired level of social aptitude.

Guys rotated around the intimate bar room, decorated with expansive mirrors, red tea candles and matching walls. One by one, they paused for a five-minute conversation — or sales pitch — on why they deserved my attention. I jotted a quick note on whether I wanted to see number so-and-so again and off they floated.

I didn't expect my evening to turn into a chance to give dating advice to my fellow Santa Monica singles, but now I can't resist.

First impressions are crucial in speed dating. To stand out in a crowd in a positive way, you must demonstrate that you're unique, but in no way desperate for a date.

Case in point: One slightly balding guy carried a note-taking clipboard around to the dating "stations" and openly shared that three months of solid speed dating hadn't turned up any good results. Not smooth.

As far as attire goes, here's a word of advice

for the gentlemen: Leave the jean shorts at home. Datable denim means jeans, skirts or maybe a jacket, but never shorts. If I dress up for you, you'd better not dress up for a hike.

Showing up wasted is not attractive, no matter how many moves you assume it will add to your game. Sure, you can nurse a bottle of Corona, but please don't rely on six shots of vodka to make you irresistible. Slurring words as you ask if I like guacamole, olives and fish doesn't exactly turn me on.

engineer who stared at his computer screen all day.

Guy after guy sat down and asked the same questions over and over: "Where do you live?" "What do you do?" "What do you do when you're not working or speed dating?"

It's a good rule of thumb to try to find common ground, preferably without appearing too frantic. This worked for me and my Valentine's Day date, who happens to be a fellow USC Trojan.

I DO HAND IT TO THE GUYS, THOUGH, FOR CARRYING THE CONVERSATION FAIRLY EFFORTLESSLY, EVEN WHEN I THREW A FEW TRICKS THEIR WAY. FOR ME TO FIND A GUY ATTRACTIVE, HE MUST INTERACT WITH EASE IN UNPREDICTABLE SOCIAL SITUATIONS.

Even if the conversation does turn to odd culinary preferences, in the speed dating arena, you don't have to worry about a woman giving you the cold shoulder or oh-so-cleverly evading you in the restroom. For five minutes, you have her seemingly undivided attention.

Yet for some reason, these guys just didn't seem to use it wisely. They couldn't keep their stories fresh, and they all ran together. I couldn't tell the yoga fanatic apart from the

But try to find these commonalities without asking the typical, boring questions. To do this, a guy must be creative and able to think on his feet — that is without weirding me out. Actually make me think, and I'll award you extra cool points.

Out of desperation, I asked the guys to tell me something they hadn't told anyone else in the room. My quest for random facts left way too many guys fumbling for words they couldn't just pull from a can of lines

rehearsed on the drive over.

I do hand it to the guys, though, for carrying the conversation fairly effortlessly, even when I threw a few tricks their way. For me to find a guy attractive, he must interact with ease in unpredictable social situations.

To check one guy's conversational skills under pressure, I responded as long-windedly as possible to his persistent questions, but silently refused to ask any of my own. A brief awkward pause and he was on his way to another question.

Another guy managed to stay oblivious to an experiment in which I talked in sentences or questions of only two words or less. He obviously liked to hear himself speak.

For me, the real test was the optional post-speed dating mixing. Most of the guys bolted as soon as they lost their excuse to talk to the women. But I stuck around and mingled with a few of the guys that left positive impressions on me.

Might I suggest, however, that a guy not waltz up to a couple who has already paired off and expect to jump into the conversation?

If a woman needs to escape a conversation, she will. As much as you'd like to think so, she doesn't need to be saved. Only step in if she gives the clear signal combination of eye contact, nod and smile.

Luckily, I didn't have to resort to my escape mechanism. A quick exchange of phone numbers with my guy, and I knew I'd be set for a happy Valentine's Day.

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Dating a dozen girls in one night is costly

FROM HE SAID PAGE 1

women for five minutes at a time. At the end of the night, if you've found a connection, you either exchange numbers or go online and chat. On one site, www.hurrydate.com, you can create a profile, post pictures and a little blurb about yourself, even send people virtual drinks to break the proverbial ice.

In search of my next ex, or at least a date for Valentine's Day, I gave the speed dating thing a whirl. What I ended up with was a phone number in my pocket and a little more confidence in my game. But still, at the end of the night, I found myself asking whether it was all worth the price of admission? Not really.

My high-octane, somewhat surreal, dating experience was staged at Main Street's Barcopa, a pleasant, but incredibly tiny back-alley type lounge with a friendly bartender, \$4 Newcastle and plenty of candles to set the mood.

There I met my host, a delightful woman who herself had given up on dating to focus on her new dog — not very encouraging, considering she was running the show. She assigned me the number 26, and that's how I was subsequently known — Kevin, No. 26.

Around the bar were "stations," with a participating woman seated at each. The men were instructed to rotate counter-clockwise every five minutes, with each date ending with the decidedly unromantic shrill of a whistle, as if we were running lay-up drills for the high school basketball team. After each mini-date, we were told to write down the person's name (or number) and circle a "Y" or "N" — signifying if we liked the person or not.

IMBIBE, THEN IMPRESS

Prior to kickoff, we were encouraged to drink up — "A dollar off beers and wine," the hostess kept reminding daters. I ordered a beer and sat at the bar. There, I met two 20-somethings, Joe and Jerry. It was their first time participating in speed dating, so we were all in the same boat — a little nervous, a little excited and a little hopeful, but with more than a hint of skepticism. The two were engineers, so I knew I had them beat in the personality department. I was feeling good about my chances.

A short time later, some of the ladies began to trickle in and I immediately began my critiques. I had heard some horror stories about the types of women who sign up for speed dating, everything from "Fatal Attraction" types (sexy, but crazy) to the homely school teacher (sweet, but dull).

The diverse selection surprised me. I sat up on my stool.

Of the dozen women who strolled into Barcopa, several were attractive, young and engaging. There were a few duds, of course. Knitting isn't my idea of a fun Saturday night. Some were seeking a serious companionship, other girls just wanted to have fun. There were teachers, secretaries, a gymnastics instructor, event planner and a dental assistant; those with college degrees and those without.

Wary of the uncomfortable pregnant pause, I'd prepared a set of questions to ask them: "Do you consider yourself to be a city girl or mountain girl?" "Are you looking to get married or just kick it?" "What did you do last weekend?"

Since it was Super Bowl weekend, I wanted to see who even remotely liked sports, me being a fanatic.

Looking back, it was a good thing I had my questions because what I discovered (and sort of knew going in) is that women would much rather talk about themselves. At nearly every "station," the women seemed more content to have me ask them questions than try and gauge my interests. Only a few — actually, just one — asked me a question that wasn't based off of something I had asked, or was the standard "What do you do?" "Where do you live?" or "What brought you to speed dating?"

Bummer, dudes.

But in the interest of journalism, as well as my own libido, I pressed on. That's when I met Amanda, an attractive blonde with Rene Russo locks and a mouth that ran a mile a minute — my type of gal. We seemed to hit it off — I say "seemed to" because five minutes is really not enough time to determine if you vibe with someone. She asked me if I wanted to get together again. I said yes, of course, and she gave me her number, providing me with a jolt of confidence and a smile.

IT WAS A GOOD THING I HAD MY QUESTIONS BECAUSE WHAT I DISCOVERED IS THAT WOMEN WOULD MUCH RATHER TALK ABOUT THEMSELVES.

NOT-SO-SLIM PICKINGS

When all was said and done, in five-minute power flirts, I took off, not wanting to spoil a good thing, driving home somewhat content, but in many ways frustrated with the dating scene. There I was paying to meet women, and out of 10, there seemed to be just one that I could see myself with at a roller derby match sipping tall can Tecates with lime.

A number of the ladies lived in the dreaded Valley, or even worse, the conservative OC. Honestly, I just don't see myself driving 30 minutes to an hour (without traffic) for a little lovin' — not gonna happen.

For \$37, I felt like I got robbed. I could have used that money, went out to another bar and bought drinks for a few dames. Granted, my chances of getting them to sit and talk to me for five minutes would have been a lot slimmer, but so would have been the women I would have talked too — ouch. (Sorry, but true.)

In the end, I had fun and met some nice people, but there definitely was no Chuck Woolery "Love Connection." The experience reinforced what I already knew, it is difficult dating in Santa Monica, expensive and I probably won't find the love of my life in a bar (Damn, why does my mother always have to be right?)

For the lonely hearts out there, speed dating is an option and can provide a big boost to those who lack the confidence to do a cold call on the ladies, but at least then you are in control ... and if you feel like you have something good going, it won't be interrupted by a whistle.

kevinh@smdp.com

Beach is widely considered city's most romantic place

FROM ENGAGED PAGE 3

of the beach and luxurious accommodations.

The Viceroy offers the whole shebang. While the couple is away, hotel staff will enter the suite and scatter rose petals on the ground, the bed and in the bathtub. After dinner, a waiter will arrange to place the engagement ring inside of a dessert plate and bring out the best bottle of champagne in the house.

The cost of complete assistance from the Viceroy doesn't come cheap, with the whole package nearing \$1,000.

THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

There is no such thing as a perfect proposal, as each woman, or man, has a different view of how they would like their big moment played out.

"Look at the mate," Piane said. "What would mean something (special) to them?"

For sports fans, a proposal during a sporting event might seem perfect. For recreational couples, a proposal in a hot-air balloon ride or during a hiking trip might be appropriate.

For Piane, family is the most important thing in her life, and her husband, Joe Campanella, knew exactly how to incorporate them into his proposal.

Campanella first asked his future father-in-law for his daughter's hand in marriage and received Piane's mother's old engagement ring.

ONE GUY GOT ON ONE KNEE AND MY ASSISTANT BROUGHT THE RING OUT."

Eddie Guerboian
jewelry store owner

It was at Campanella's parents' 50th wedding anniversary that he made his move, making a toast to his parents and introducing Piane as his future wife. Piane's jaw dropped at the unexpected proposal.

"It was very beautiful to be asked in front of his parents," Piane said.

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Neediest schools get piece of \$3M pie

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — About one in three of the state's worst-performing schools will get a share of nearly \$3 billion in funding dedicated to helping them improve academic achievement.

Although around 1,455 schools are eligible for the money, only 500 will receive funding for the seven-year program so the money can be targeted to the neediest schools for a greater impact, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said Monday.

"This is not the panacea, but this is a targeted, strategic investment in schools that need the most help," O'Connell said.

The \$2.9 billion package is part of a deal

between Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state's largest teachers' union, the California Teachers Association, to help settle a lawsuit over money the governor borrowed from schools to balance the 2004-05 budget.

Most of the money will be used to hire more teachers to reduce class sizes, a strategy O'Connell said has proven to be one of the best ways to raise academic achievement.

But others, including the California School Boards Association, note that while smaller class sizes are popular with parents, most comprehensive education studies have not shown improved student performance based on smaller classes, particularly beyond the third grade.

"Class-size reduction, especially in the magnitude here, just is not an effective intervention," CSBA assistant executive director

Rick Pratt said. "The real key is what are the teachers going to do in those smaller classes."

In a review of education reforms throughout the state, University of California, Berkeley education researcher Bruce Fuller called it a "mistake to tie up most of the dollars in reducing class sizes — which yields achievement gains only under certain conditions."

O'Connell said California is second only to Utah in having the largest class sizes in the country. He pointed to a state program that reduced ninth-grade English classes, in which he said participating schools showed improved test scores over a seven-year period.

The state already spends around \$1.7 billion a year to keep class sizes small in kindergarten through third grade. According to the Department of Education, the average class

size in 2005-06 ranged from 19.2 in second grade to 29.8 in some high school classes.

Schools that get a share of the \$2.9 billion will have to keep class sizes to no more than 20 students per teacher in kindergarten through third grade and no more than 25 to 27 per teacher in core subjects through the 12th grade.

As much as 15 percent of the funding will be available for schools that submit research-based plans to raise achievement scores through other means. Pratt said more than 15 percent of his members were interested in that approach.

The law authorizing the one-time funds, which the Legislature passed last summer and Schwarzenegger signed, includes a requirement for an independent evaluation of the program at least twice.

Off-duty officer prevented larger killing spree in mall

BY PAUL FOY
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Police hunted for a motive Tuesday and more information on what drove a young man to shoot up a shopping mall, killing five people and wounding four, before an off-duty officer engaged him in a gun battle that likely saved other lives.

Sulejmen Talovic was killed in a shootout with police, but details won't be available until an autopsy is conducted.

"We know very little, other than he was a resident (of) Salt Lake City and was 18 years old," Police Chief Chris Burbank said.

The teenager lived with his mother. He was enrolled in numerous Salt Lake City schools before withdrawing in November 2004, the district said in a statement.

Talovic, wearing a trench coat and armed with a shotgun, a pistol and a backpack of ammunition, was intent on a bloody rampage inside Trolley Square mall Monday night, Burbank said.

"He had one thing in mind and that was to kill a large number of people," Burbank said.

Mayor Rocky Anderson offered public words of consolation to a city, population 182,000, that had just eight homicides in 2006.

"This region is a very safe place. This was a very rare incident, the kind of thing we're not used to in this community," he said.

At a midday news conference, Burbank described Talovic's shooting spree and praised the "heroic efforts" of the off-duty officer from Ogden, whose name was not

released.

Talovic drove to Trolley Square, a historical brick building, and immediately shot two people, followed by a third victim as he entered the west door, Burbank said.

Five people were subsequently shot in a gift shop, he said.

The off-duty officer was in the mall having an early Valentine's Day dinner with his wife. He heard shots, rushed to the scene and "distracted" and "contained" Talovic in a shootout until other police arrived.

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North Korea agrees to disarm for a price

BY AUDRA ANG

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — North Korea agreed Tuesday to shut down its main nuclear reactor and eventually dismantle its atomic weapons program in exchange for millions of dollars in aid, just four months after the communist state shocked the world by testing a nuclear bomb.

The deal, reached after arduous talks, marks the first concrete plan for disarmament in more than three years of six-nation negotiations. The plan also could potentially herald a new era of cooperation in the region with the North's longtime foes — the United States and Japan — also agreeing to discuss normalizing relations.

"These talks represent the best opportunity to use diplomacy to address North Korea's nuclear programs," President Bush said in a statement read by his spokesman. "They reflect the common commitment of the participants to a Korean Peninsula that is free of nuclear weapons."

Making sure North Korea declares all its nuclear facilities and shuts them down is likely to prove difficult, nuclear experts have said. In a sign of possible tensions to come, North Korean state media said the pact required only a "temporary suspension" of the country's nuclear facilities.

The country has sidestepped previous

agreements, allegedly running a uranium-based weapons program even as it froze a plutonium-based one — sparking the latest nuclear crisis in late 2002. There are believed to be countless mountainside tunnels in which to hide projects.

"We don't have an agreement at this point even on the existence of this program but I certainly have made very clear repeatedly that we need to ensure that we know precisely the status of that," said Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, the American envoy to the talks. "It's a very solid step forward."

The North would receive initial aid equal to 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil for shutting down and sealing its main nuclear reactor and related facilities at Yongbyon, north of the capital, within 60 days, to be confirmed by international inspectors.

For irreversibly disabling the reactor and declaring all nuclear programs, the North will eventually receive another 950,000 tons in aid.

One million tons of oil would be equivalent to more than two-thirds of North Korea's entire oil consumption in 2004, according to figures in the CIA Factbook. Hill said the aid package was worth about \$250 million.

The agreement, which also requires that North Korea state all its nuclear programs including plutonium already extracted, was read to all delegates in a conference room at a Chinese state guesthouse.

Iraq war debate is at hand, with Dems balking at surge

BY ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Almost four years into the Iraq war, the House began a historic and emotional debate Tuesday on whether President Bush's decision to add more U.S. troops to the bloody conflict is a mistake that has to be reversed.

Democrats won control of Congress in last November's elections and were determined to pass a resolution disapproving of the president's decision to deploy more than 20,000 additional combat troops.

"This is the debate that many of us have yearned for for four years," said Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y.

The measure, expected to be approved by the House on Friday, was nonbinding. But the message was unmistakable, said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who maintained that Bush's policies "have not worked, will not work and must be changed."

Republicans, in the minority for the first time in 12 years, issued emotional warnings of the consequences of undermining the president's policies in Iraq. "We will embolden terrorists in every corner in the world. We will give Iran free access to the Middle East," said Republican leader John Boehner, R-Ohio. "And who doesn't believe the terrorists will just follow our troops home?"

Boehner teared up before reporters as he listened to Rep. Sam Johnson, R-Texas, describe being a prisoner of war in Vietnam and learning of U.S. protests back home.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., insisted that they had no intention of impeding the mission of those in Iraq.

"There will be no defunding of troops in the field. There will be no defunding which will cause any risk to the troops," he said at a news conference.

The House rejected, on a 227-197 vote, a Republican procedural attempt to force a vote on a proposal that would have barred Congress from cutting off funding for American troops in harm's way.

Democrats expressed confidence the measure would prevail and said they would attempt to use it as the opening move in a campaign to pressure Bush to change course and end U.S. military involvement in the war. More than 3,100 U.S. troops have died in nearly four years of fighting.

As the House moved toward debate this week, Senate Republicans opposed to Bush's Iraq plan sought to revive a vote on a similar resolution.

Democrats called on several freshmen who served in the military to make their argument against further commitments in Iraq.

Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Pa., a captain in the Army 82nd Airborne, said that "three years after I left Iraq, Americans are still running convoys up and down Ambush Alley and securing Iraqi street corners."

Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif., stressed that "we go to war to win, we go to war with a mission." He said "we dishonor the lives of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice if we in fact abandon that mission. We have a duty to pursue nothing less than victory."

Republicans conceded that the measure was headed for approval and said a few dozen members of the GOP were likely to break ranks and vote for it.

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ALEX OWNS A COUPLE OF INCOME properties in trendy Venice. He bought them way back, in undesirable days, for \$75,000 apiece. Each property is now worth \$950,000 or more. Alex is 61 years old. He thinks about selling off some of his holdings and traveling. But he has questions. He needs to know what his tax obligations are once he sells a property?

Should Alex decide to pay capital gains tax, and pocket the rest of the gain, the terms have become more desirable. For property sales transactions which conclude between May 6, 2003, and Dec. 31, 2008, the capital gains tax rate has been reduced from 20 percent to 15 percent. For taxpayers in the lower brackets of 10 percent or 15 percent, the tax will only be 5 percent of the gain.

As for what to do with your money, you have a number of options. Before taking any action, be sure to consult your financial advisor. Benny Kass, senior partner with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Kass, Mitek & Kass, PLLC and a specialist in real estate observed that property options can include:

1) Sell and pay the tax: Assume Alex has depreciated the property by \$30,000 over the



Days on the Market
Jodi Summers

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

years. His basis in the property will be \$45,000 (\$75,000 — \$30,000). If he were to sell the property for \$1 million, he will have made a profit of \$955,000 (\$1 million — \$45,000). This does not take into account other costs and expenses which may reduce his gain — fix-up costs, closing fees and real estate commissions. For federal tax purposes, Alex will owe Uncle Sam \$143,250 (at the 15 percent rate), not including state taxes and other prizes. Any remaining mortgage fees will have to be paid off at settlement.

2) Do a Like Kind exchange: Under section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code, Alex can exchange his property for another piece of property that will be equal to or more expensive than his current property, deferring his capital gains tax obligation along the way.

"If you want to learn how to build your real estate investment wealth without owing

capital gains tax as you do so, the secret is tax-deferred exchanges, as authorized by Internal Revenue Code 1031," confirms noted real estate columnist Bob Bruss. "The simple tax rule for avoiding capital gain tax when disposing of a rental or investment property is that the investor must trade 'equal or up' in both price and equity for one or more qualifying 'like-kind' properties."

There are specific rules applicable to 1031 exchanges. Net sales proceeds must be held by a neutral intermediary. Replacement properties must be identified within 45 days after the sale of the relinquished property, and the sale must close within 180 days.

3) Installment Sale: Alex can defer — but not avoid — paying capital gains tax if he sells the property and carries back a mortgage. This is known as an "installment sale." Under this arrangement, one pays a portion of the capital gains tax as the moneys come in each year.

4) Donate the property to a charity: FYI, there are restrictions and limitations on such donations which Alex should fully understand before deciding to go this route.

5) If the property is worth keeping in the family, Alex can sell it to a family member and carry back the financing. Let's say Alex sells the property for \$1 million to his children and agrees to carry back the entire purchase price. His lucky kids sign a promissory note in the amount of \$1 million — there will be a deed of trust (mortgage) on the property in this amount. If Alex is married, he and his wife can each gift back \$11,000 to each child per year, tax free — that's \$44,000 of the balance of the note each year. Thus, in the first year, the note balance will be reduced down to \$956,000 (\$1 million — \$44,000), and so on each year for the next 22.7 years.

There are a number of ways in which you can sell your rental properties. Speak with your financial advisors before making any final decisions.

JODI SUMMERS negotiates investment properties for Sotheby's International Realty. She can be reached at Jodi Summers at jodis@verizon.net or (310) 260-8269. Visit her Web sites at <http://www.SoCalInvestmentRealEstate.com> and <http://www.santamonicalandmarks.com>.

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Fingerprints hold the key: Smart homes on the way

BY DAVID BRADLEY

Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO — The homebuilding industry has made great strides overall toward so-called "smart homes" — but progress is measured in many small steps.

At the recent International Builder Show in Orlando, home builders saw some of the new products that continue to push the technology envelope in housing.

Fingerprint-readers that activate doorway locks are among the latest developments in high-tech home security. To set them up, homeowners scan the fingerprints of family members, housekeepers and contractors. Then a swipe of your finger is all that's needed to open the door — but if the system doesn't recognize your scan, you're shut out, literally.

The entry system is based on biometrics, the ability of machines to scan and recognize human features such as fingerprints or retinas.

One example of such a system is the SmartScan lock from Kwikset that activates the deadbolt lock on an entry door. The homeowner uses a computer keypad on the interior side of the door to program the scan system. The less technically savvy can use a key to turn the deadbolt, too.

According to Walt Strader, research and development chief for Kwikset, there's plenty of upside for homeowners who install this new generation of door locks.

"If the housekeeper comes on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m., you can set the system to limit her to that time frame," Strader said. And children returning home from school will have fewer keys to lose.

The \$200 locks aren't available everywhere yet. Kwikset plans a national rollout in early summer, but for now the locks are available in home stores in Orlando, New York and San Diego.

Cooks have long wrestled with the task of cleansing kitchens of aromatic leftovers of their handiwork. Broan has introduced Italian-designed vents that automatically sense airborne particulates — and the system quietly removes the offending smell.

It also features an "Air Refresh" mode that turns on fans in 10-minute spans each hour until the user switches them off. If the odors are especially onerous, the system can crank up to scrub 1,500 cubic feet of air per minute.

The handsome, stainless-steel ceiling- or wall-mount vents range in price from \$2,700 to \$3,000. Good-looking vent hoods of this kind are gaining ground as artwork in some

research and development chief for Kwiksetfine kitchens.

For cooking-challenged homeowners, new wall convection ovens remove the need for guesswork, by making temperature and cooking-time decisions for the user.

Thermodor has preprogrammed into its Masterpiece series' ovens the settings for 20 popular recipes, from poultry and casseroles to bread. The ovens also store up to four temperature and cooking times, for four of the homeowner's personal recipes.

Stephan Zipper of Thermodor says consumers on the go can also program start and stop times for virtually any dish. But cooks can override the system to finagle temperatures and times more closely to their cooking preferences. Stainless-steel single ovens with the EasyCook features start at \$2,500; prices top out at \$5,000 for double ovens with a microwave.

And since the refrigerator is also the posting place for much household information, from daily schedules to to-do lists, why not make it an electronics center, too?

That's Whirlpool's thinking. The manufacturer has developed a cradle that latches to the top of the refrigerator door. Homeowners can fit digital photo albums, DVDs or satellite radio players into the cradle. Matt Newton of Whirlpool says the \$50 cradle — DVD, digital photo album and radio are purchased separately, from electronics stores — may also be configured as a cell-phone charging station, as well as for other electronics functions.

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com



In your Space

Christina S. Porter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Find the asset class that works for you

Investment real estate comes in all shapes and sizes. These “shapes and sizes” can be broken down to basic asset classes, each with a unique set of characteristics addressing a range of investor needs.

Asset Classes can be classified by use and include Residential Rental Housing, Office, Industrial, Hospitality, Land and Retail.

This week, we'll take a look at Retail investments. Key considerations when reviewing retail properties are the demographics of their location, such as forecasted employment, household growth, vacancy rates, personal income, new home construction and rent growth.

As with any investment, balance between supply and demand is the difference between success and failure.

■ **DEMAND:** Demand for retail space is dependent on demand for the goods being sold in that space. Demand for those goods is largely dependent on how well they meet the needs of the surrounding population. The ability of the surrounding population to produce the personal income to pay for those goods is buoyed by job stabilization and growth.

■ **SUPPLY:** Current and future market supply is driven by vacancy rates, competing projects, current projects under construction, zoning and possible future zone changes in addition to land available for future competing projects are major factors affecting market supply.

Awareness of current and upcoming economic cycles plays a significant role when choosing an investment. As the economy expands and contracts, the supply and demand of/for each asset class changes. Clearly, the demand for retail space increases

es with the expansion of the economy as consumers have more spendable income.

Tenant mix (if multi-tenant) should also be reviewed. When evaluating a neighborhood strip center or a much larger power center/mall, tenant mix is key to attracting consumers. The tenants and goods/services they offer need to complement each other. Tenant quality and terms of the leases play a big part in the risk reward ratio. In general, a high quality “credit” tenant and favorable lease terms go with a lower rate of return as these investments are considered more secure. The opposite could be true, but cannot be trusted. A low rate of return does not mean that the quality of the tenant is good or that the risk is lower.

Location is a key consideration. Proximity to larger or smaller highways/freeways or a major boulevard has a direct relationship to the amount of people that visit and subsequently to the size of a retail center. Parking is a major concern; the amount of land relative to the size of the improvements is key. A good rule of thumb is that there can never be too much parking. A careful look at how the traffic flows in and out of the center (ingress and egress) should also be considered.

Retail property investments, when done carefully, can provide steady growing cash flow and appreciation opportunities. Investors can reap the benefits of retail property ownership by either buying entire properties or by purchasing a fractional interest using Tenant in Common ownership.

Contact **CHRISTINA PORTER** at (877) 4TM-1031 or Christina@tm1031exchange.com. TM 1031 Exchange assists investors and planning and executing real estate investment strategies.

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With some brokers, you're borrowing time

WITH ALL THE REGULATION AND government oversight of the real estate industry, it seems many consumers are still in the dark about many aspects of its operations. One of these mysterious areas are fees paid during the closing of the sale of a property, fees that include payment to people such as the mortgage broker. Consumers who choose mortgage brokers want to know how they are paid if the broker does not charge an upfront fee. This is where lender rebates come into play.

First, let me define a mortgage broker. If you are busy or do not want to shop for a loan yourself, you could hire a mortgage broker to locate and apply for the best loan for you. In theory, the mortgage broker would try to find you the best rate and terms for your specific needs. The mortgage broker would also do the paperwork (i.e. — help you fill out an application and package the loan for the lender). However, the reality is that some mortgage brokers do not look out for their client's best interests. A mortgage broker is in the business of making money by placing the right person with the right loan. He or she is paid through escrow by the borrower directly or by the lender in the form of a rebate.



Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mortgage brokers can place what is known as a fee demand letter into escrow. A fee demand letter is signed by the client or borrower and usually states that the client will pay the broker 'x' amount for services

However, in the near past, lenders have come up with an interesting way of paying mortgage brokers. Lenders began offering brokers rebates. A lender rebate can work many different ways. However, the basic premise is that the lender pays the broker through escrow under a category known as POC — paid outside of closing costs. Nevertheless, when the lender pays out a rebate, the borrower pays an increased interest rate on their new loan. The rebate may

gage broker, based on the increased interest rate.

As you can see, the borrower's best interest may not be on the mortgage broker's mind.

Some states allow brokers to close the loan in their name, which legally makes them the lender. The actual lender becomes a secondary market purchaser. When the broker sells the loan back to the lender, the rebate is concealed. For example, if a lender offers a broker rebate of 2 percent on a loan with a 7.5 percent rate, the deal would be funded in escrow under the broker's name and sold back to the lender at 98 percent of the loan amount, thus eliminating the rebate from the closing statements.

Like any sales position in any industry, some people are professional and honest at what they do, while others are not. Mortgage brokers do serve an important purpose for some borrowers and the good ones stay in business because they do a great job for their clients. However, it is a good idea to make sure you get all the facts before getting a loan from a mortgage broker.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342 or michael.heayn@wamu.net.

**LIKE ANY SALES POSITION IN ANY INDUSTRY,
SOME PEOPLE ARE PROFESSIONAL AND HONEST
AT WHAT THEY DO, WHILE OTHERS ARE NOT.**

rendered. Usually, a broker demand letter will state that the mortgage broker is paid even if he/she does not locate the loan for the borrower. The reason brokers do this is to protect themselves from unscrupulous borrowers. The last thing someone wants to do is waste his or her time on a deal that is not going to happen.

change as the rate increases. For example, a lender may offer a mortgage broker a 1 point or 1 percent rebate if the borrower takes a loan rate of 6.75 percent. If the borrower takes a rate of 7.5 percent, the lender may offer a rebate of 2 percent to the broker. Over time, the lender will usually more than makes up any rebate that was paid out to the mort-

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Total recall? Don't bet on Beckham in England

BY ROBERT MILLWARD
AP Soccer Writer

LONDON — If David Beckham can score on his surprise return to Real Madrid's lineup, why not a recall for England?

His move to the Los Angeles Galaxy is months away, and England is in trouble in qualifying for the 2008 European Championship.

England coach Steve McClaren still hasn't worked out his best midfield and there's every chance the English (2-1-1), who already trail Croatia (3-0-1) and Russia (2-0-2), will slip behind Israel (2-1-1) and Macedonia (2-2-1) after qualifying resumes on March 24. Only two teams advance from each group.

Judging by England's performance in last week's 1-0 loss to visiting Spain in an exhibition game, McClaren has big problems. So why not swallow his pride and recall the free kick specialist who has played 94 times for England — 57 as captain?

Don't bet on it.

The problem for Beckham is that McClaren is not the sort of coach who can admit he was wrong. The England coach also believes he has plenty of reasons not to bring him back. Despite his free kick equalizer in Saturday's 2-1 win over Real Sociedad, Beckham had been out of the loop for six games — since about the time he announced his five-year deal with the Galaxy, a deal said to be worth about \$50 million.

A move to Los Angeles puts Beckham 5,500 miles out of McClaren's range and effectively with little chance of playing again for England.

Madrid coach Fabio Capello said he wouldn't select the English midfielder, partly because of his form and partly because of the distractions of his big money move to Major League Soccer. Eventually he relented

and Beckham rewarded him with a come-back goal.

How England could do with a free kick goal against Israel.

Beckham's last England goal was at the World Cup in the second round against Ecuador, when he curled a free kick over the wall and inside the near post for the only goal of the game.

Six days later, however, his England career seemingly came to an end.

Nursing ankle and Achilles' tendon injuries, he was taken out in the second half and sat tearfully watching his teammates lose a penalty-kick shootout to Portugal in the World Cup quarterfinals. That was July 1 and McClaren, who took over from Sven-Goran Eriksson after the World Cup, immediately made it clear that the Real Madrid star was not part of his England plans.

McClaren didn't see Beckham fitting in with Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard, Owen Hargreaves and Joe Cole in the England midfield and preferred natural wingers who dribble past defenders, which Beckham doesn't do. Hargreaves and Cole have been sidelined for several months, and McClaren still won't pick Beckham.

The England coach says he has not “shut the door” on the former captain, but refuses to say whether he has widened it a little.

Even with the problems currently surrounding the England team, McClaren would be unhappy by Beckham's lack of game time for Madrid and alarmed at the media melee that a recall to the national lineup inevitably would create.

McClaren has also been at pains to create his own team rather than the one handed down by Eriksson, who regarded Beckham as his trusted captain.

Capello now says that Beckham is well integrated to the Madrid lineup and he is happy with him.

Man who hit Pacers' Jackson faces eight years behind bars

BY TOM MURPHY
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — A man who hit former Indiana Pacers guard Stephen Jackson with a car during a fight outside a strip club last fall was convicted Monday in a ruling by a judge.

Deon Willford waived his right to a jury trial, allowing Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford to render a verdict. She found the 23-year-old man guilty of felony battery and failure to stop at a scene of an accident, a misdemeanor.

He will be sentenced Feb. 28. He faces two to eight years in prison for the felony and up to a year for the misdemeanor.

Jackson, who now plays for Golden State, left the courtroom to catch a flight to Denver. He showed up at halftime of the Warriors-Nuggets game Monday night and was on the court when the second half started.

“I leave everything in God's hands and continue to work on playing basketball,” he said.

Jackson was booked into jail Oct. 12 and has been free since on \$10,000 bond. He has pleaded not guilty to a felony charge of criminal recklessness and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct in the fight outside Club Rio on Oct. 6. His trial

is April 12. The criminal recklessness charge carries a prison term of six months to three years.

Willford's car hit Jackson after the fight started. The defendant testified Monday that the 6-foot-8 player was walking toward his car and pointing a gun at him.

“I thought he was trying to kill me,” Willford said.

Other witnesses said Jackson was walking away from Willford's car and had no weapon out at the time. Jackson said he was hit by the car after he fired shots in the air from his pearl-handled 9 mm pistol to try to break up the fight. He had chipped teeth and bruised knees and needed plastic surgery on his lip after being hit by the car, he said.

Jackson testified that when he was walking from the club to his car, a man approached him shouting, “dump, dump!”

“Where I'm from, ‘dump’ means pull out your gun and shoot,” he said.

Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley testified that he also grabbed his gun and put it in his pocket when he heard “dump.” He did not fire any shots and was not charged.

Jackson said the man, identified by prosecutors as Willford's cousin, Quentin “Fingers” Willford, had one hand in a back pocket and another in his shirt.



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SURF CONDITIONS

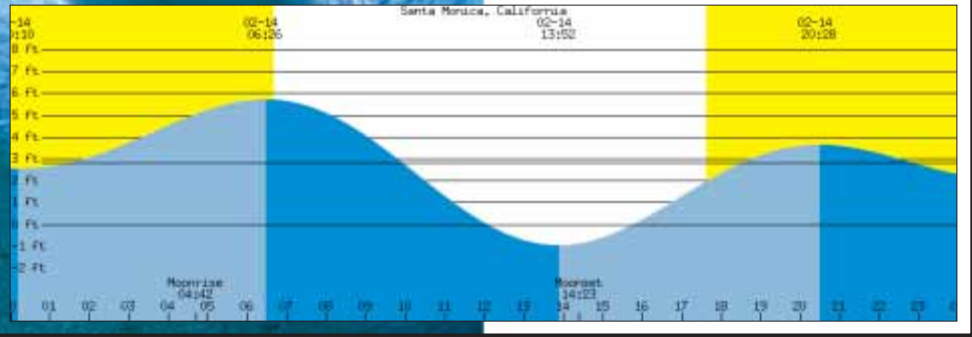


WATER TEMP: 59°

SWELL FORECAST (4-6 FT)
Today is when our next NW swell is due. This isn't much from a system coming at us from the western Pacific. The problem with this system and ones coming in behind it is a weak jetstream being pushed to the north from high pressure coming in from the south. This has taken the storm track higher, resulting in less surf for SoCal. As a result, size on Wednesday will only be around chest high at best for west facing breaks.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
TRACKING NW FOR WEEKEND...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **February 6, 2007**

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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 17
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 4
- Number of wet days -- 7
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 30
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 13

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	D	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	D	B
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	D
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	B	A+	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	C	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	A+	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	B	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F	Venice Beach--projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	F	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	C
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	D	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	C
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	B	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	A+
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			

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

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

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Heal the Bay's Beach Report CardSM 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.

Follow through, Capricorn

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)
★★★★ Take a step forward. You are responsible and want to smooth out a problem. You understand much more than you realize about an authority figure or someone in charge. Act on your inner knowledge. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ The unexpected earmarks your day. Someone you least expect remembers you. Reach out for someone you really care about. Detach and gain perspective. Tonight: Hop on the computer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Someone wants your attention and only yours. You'll radiate with happiness if you follow your heart. A close associate could be off about something he or she feels strongly about. Tonight: It's Valentine's Day, so act like it!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Deferring to others could make a big difference. You cannot always have situations your way. Your sense of direction could easily be thwarted by someone who acts as if he has a fire under him. Tonight: To be happy, go with the flow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ If you are focused properly, your achievements could be many. Right now, while others flirt with what Leo knows and understands well -- romance -- you seem determined to clear your desk. What gives? Tonight: Your favorite spot.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your creativity could astound some, maybe even you. You have a way of handling what could be an awkward situation. Your lively style and happy manner draw many right now. Tonight: Make the most of the mood.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Basics count. If you are comfortable with someone, you'll be happy. Check out an investment with care, especially if real estate is involved. There might be a lot more going on with this proposition than you realize. Tonight: Entertain at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Sometimes your well-intended gestures fall flat. At other times, you hit the mark and delight not only you but also others. You might flip from one mode to the other if you don't stop and think. Romance and caring will build if nurtured. Tonight: With the apple of your eye.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
HHH You of all signs can easily go overboard. You do need to understand, though, the act or gesture might go a long way, and it might not be worth the long-term damage. Think positively about a family member. Tonight: Make an effort rather than a gesture.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Though you might have an uncomfortable moment or two, you hit one of your power days where your magnetism emerges, as well as your happier side. You do make a difference -- just look around! Tonight: What would make this time perfect? Follow through.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Keeping your opinions and feelings private could be most appropriate, especially if you feel uncomfortable with the intensity. Still, let a key loved one know what's up if you don't want him or her to withdraw even more. Schedule a private talk. Tonight: You don't need to tell everyone what you are up to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ A meeting or conversation helps you keep your eye on the big picture. How you deal with someone could radically change because of a different perspective. Realize how changeable others see you. Tonight: Exactly what you want.

Born Today

Singer Rob Thomas (1972)
Football player Drew Bledsoe (1972)
makeup artist Kevyn Aucoin (1962)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Happy Birthday!

Much occurs behind the scenes this year. Many will make assumptions about your choices and direction. As you zoom in and grab what you want, others might not always understand the planning and forethought involved. Easily, you could veer in a new direction. Networking might be key. Learn to express your anger before it becomes a problem this year. If you are single, romance could include some mystery or someone who could be quite different. Make no commitments until you are sure you know each other well. If you are attached, expect some strange, if not awkward, moments with your sweetie. Don't make a big deal out of it.

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Not walking

Screen legend Bacall, 82, isn't ready to fade to black

LAUREN BACALL says she doesn't believe in retirement, but after more than 60 years in movies, she's not impressed with the state of the business.

Bacall, 82, came to the Berlin film festival Tuesday to present Paul Schrader's "The Walker." She stars as one of a

group of rich, influential Washington wives who are clients of a high-class escort, played by Woody Harrelson.

"I have too much energy to stop working and I don't believe in retirement," Bacall said. Making films, she added, "means to me mostly ... staying alive."

Bacall, who began her acting career in the mid-1940s, was nominated for an Oscar for her role in 1996's "The Mirror Has Two Faces." Her screen credits also include "The Big Sleep" and "Key Largo."

She argues that television has dragged down the stan-

dard of films.

"I think there are still people who really want to do good work," Bacall said at a news conference.

"Unfortunately, in television, sometimes they want to do good work but a lot of the time they're doing terrible work - and I think that has affected moviemaking badly,"

Actors, she said, "basically are fairly insecure people."

"At the end of every movie, always I'm feeling, 'You're never going to work again,'" Bacall said. "That's going to happen one day, but I hope I'm not alive."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BARRYMORE EXHAUSTS NAKED AMBITIONS

DAVID LETTERMAN can't forget the night Drew Barrymore flashed him nearly 12 years ago.

In a "Late Show" appearance in 1995, the actress famously danced on Letterman's desk for his birthday and briefly bared her breasts with her back to the camera.

Letterman reminded her of this when they chatted on Monday's CBS late-night talk show, saying, "You've got a birthday coming up. ... You know, I've got a birthday coming up as well."

"I remember celebrating your birthday one year," said Barrymore, who turns 32 on Feb. 22.

"That was great," replied Letterman, who will be 60 on April 12. "Now is

there a chance that you might do anything like that again?"

Barrymore said that's not likely.

"Turning 32, I think I'm not a different person 'cause I'm certainly, you know, as wild and free-spirited as ever, but I'm just really glad I had that opportunity and got that out of my system, because I'm not so sure if ..."

"... You don't think you'd do it now is what you're saying," Letterman said.

A seemingly wistful Letterman thanked Barrymore for the water cooler moment. Barrymore stars in the new romantic comedy "Music and Lyrics," a Warner Bros. Picture release.

AP

Lee gives voice to Katrina survivors



LEE

SPIKE LEE handed video cameras to New Orleans area high school students and told them to capture their lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for the world to see.

"Let them know what's happening down here, that everything isn't okey-dokey," said Lee, who directed "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts," a four-hour documentary chronicling the Katrina disaster.

The teens' footage will air monthly as part of a special CNN series "Children of the Storm." The first segment, in which Lee and host Soledad O'Brien handed cameras to 11 students, aired Friday morning.

The series will run until

the second anniversary of Katrina in August.

Students will document how the hurricane affected their lives and neighborhoods while also sharing their thoughts about the city's recovery and their future in New Orleans, O'Brien said.

"You're doing this for the world," Lee said in the first segment. "Remember it's

AP

This will cost Sharif a lot of euros

OMAR SHARIF pleaded no contest Tuesday to misdemeanor battery and was ordered to take an anger management course for punching a parking valet who refused to accept his European currency.

The Egyptian-born actor, known for his roles in "Doctor Zhivago" and "Lawrence of Arabia," wasn't required to be in court and the plea was entered on his behalf by attorney Harland Braun. Sharif, 74, was in Egypt on Tuesday.

Superior Court Judge Richard A. Stone placed Sharif on two years' probation and ordered a 15-hour anger management program, which he can take in Egypt. Sharif was also ordered to stay 100 yards away from the victim, witnesses and the restaurant where the incident occurred.

The judge set an April 18 hearing to determine the amount of restitution to the victim. Outside court, Braun said the victim was asking \$17,000 for a broken nose.

"It's a trial over a nose," Braun said.

A no contest plea is the same as a guilty plea for sentencing purposes in a criminal case, but it can't be used as an admission of guilt in a civil case.

A civil lawsuit filed by valet Juan Anderson alleged Sharif and a female companion were leaving Mastro's Steakhouse in Beverly Hills on June 11, 2005, when the actor became upset that his Porsche sport utility vehicle wasn't waiting.

According to the lawsuit, Sharif was belligerent and intoxicated and called Anderson, a Guatemalan

immigrant, a "stupid Mexican" when he refused to accept a 20 euro note.

Anderson alleged Sharif then punched him.

Braun said Sharif decided to plead no contest because it would cost too much to fly to Los Angeles and testify.

"It didn't make much sense to try the case," Braun said, stressing the actor continues to deny wrongdoing. "He's maintained that he didn't do it - but it's really difficult to come here to testify."

As for Sharif's reaction to the case, Braun said: "He was just disgusted with the whole system."

In August 2003, Sharif was convicted of striking a police officer at a casino near Paris. He received a one-month suspended sentence and a \$1,700 fine.

AP

McGraw and Hill's house in Hollywood burglarized

The Hollywood Hills mansion of **TIM MCGRAW** and **FAITH HILL** was burglarized over the weekend, police said Tuesday.

The home was broken into between Friday and Monday when no one was home, said police Sgt. Lee Sands. A person arriving at the house Monday morning discovered the crime and called police, he said.

Police would only say an unspecified amount of money was taken and they had no immediate suspects.

The house is not the couple's principal home, said Paul Freundlich, Hill's publicist. The singers, who live in Nashville, Tenn., were not in Los Angeles for Sunday night's Grammy Awards, he said.

McGraw and Hill, both 39, are among the biggest stars in country music, separately and as a duo. Between them, they have won numerous honors including Grammys, American Music Awards, and Academy of Country Music Awards.

AP

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Babel (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:05
Because I Said So (PG-13)
1:35, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
Blood Diamond (R)
4:10, 9:45
Breaking and Entering (R)
1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
The Queen (PG-13)
1:25, 7:10

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Casino Royale (PG-13)
4:30, 10:00
Catch and Release (PG-13)
2:00, 7:35
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)
1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:25
The Messengers (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

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Letters From Iwo Jima (R)
1:20, 4:45, 8:00
The Lives of Others
(Das Leben der Anderen), (R)
1:10, 4:35, 8:15
Venus (R)
1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
Volter (R)
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

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

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
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Freedom Writers (PG-13)
11:10am, 4:40, 10:10
Hannibal Rising (R)
1:00, 4:10, 7:10, 10:20
Last King of Scotland, The (R)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
Norbit (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
Norbit (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
The Pursuit of Happyness, (PG-13)
1:50, 7:30
Smokin' Aces (R)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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

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

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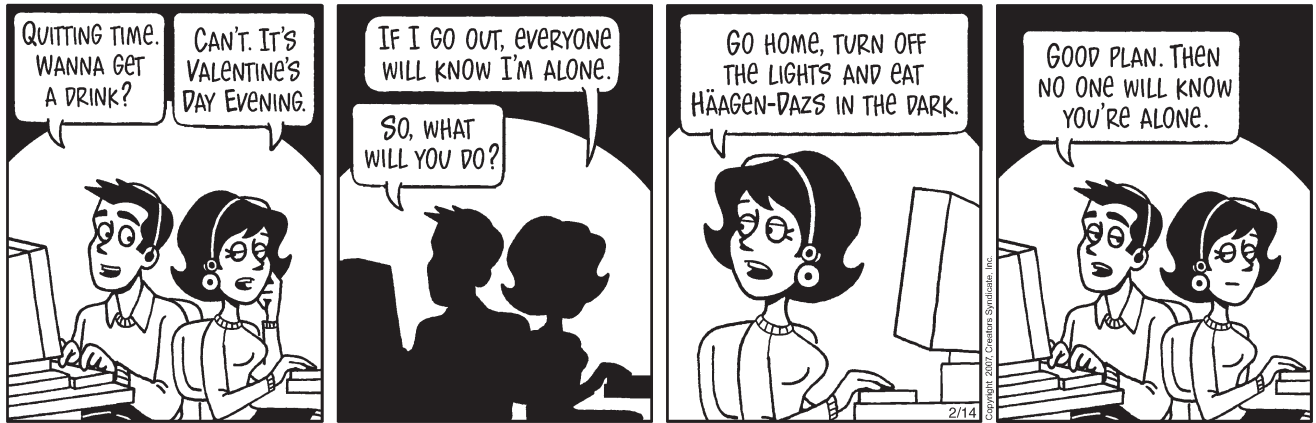
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



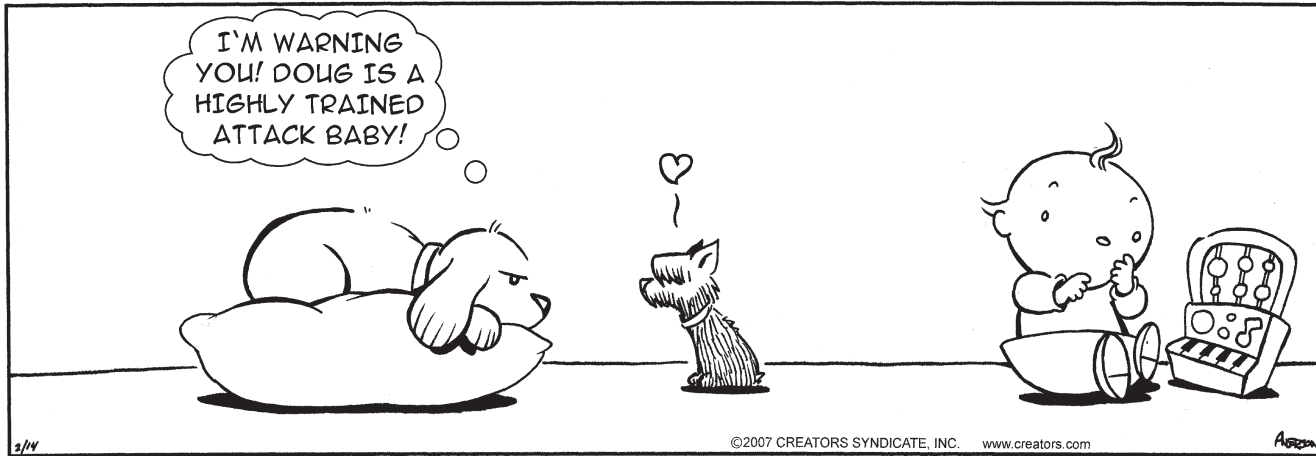
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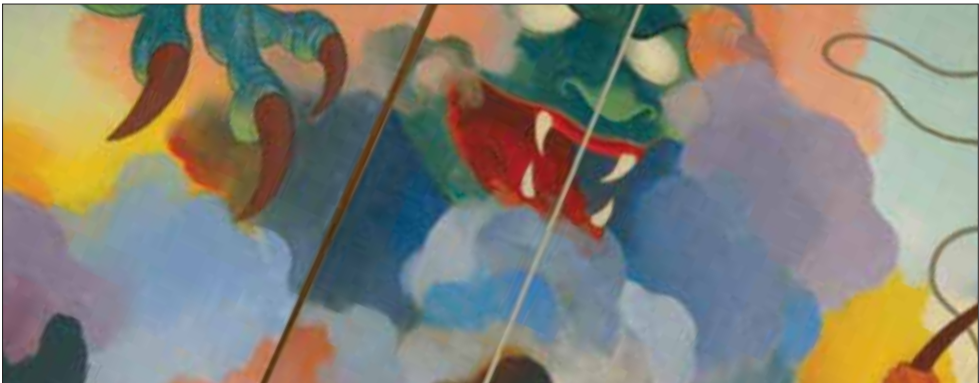


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 - 11 Island south of Sicily
 - 12 Politico's concern
 - 13 Dizzying designs
 - 14 Home, informally
 - 15 Down Under denizen
 - 16 Geologic period
 - 17 High times
 - 18 Suffered from
 - 19 Cave feature
 - 22 Den
 - 23 Mystique
 - 26 Cave feature
 - 29 Mornings, for short
 - 32 Through
 - 33 Scrooge cry
 - 34 Shepherdess of rhyme
 - 36 Poet Teasdale
 - 37 Perfect
 - 38 Arose
 - 39 Loved ones
- 40 Designer Simpson**
- 41 Antlered animals**
- 42 Nebula makeup**

DOWN

- 1 Stole from
- 2 Fleet leader
- 3 River from Lake Erie
- 4 Frat-party sights
- 5 Take to court
- 6 Easy targets
- 7 Conflict
- 8 Parts of hearts
- 9 Assessed
- 11 Eggplant dish
- 15 Clumsy fellow
- 17 Comes apart
- 20 Tease
- 21 Light source
- 24 Money-back offers
- 25 Generally
- 27 Quick taste
- 28 Molds
- 29 Stomach
- 30 Paragon
- 31 Command to Fido
- 35 Rabbit features
- 36 Scotch mixer
- 38 Comic bit

G	O	T	H	S		S	E	E	P	S
A	P	R	I	L		U	N	L	I	T
P	R	I	C	E	F	R	E	E	Z	E
E	A	T		E	L	F		G	A	P
S	H	E	A	V	E	S		I	R	S
			M	E	W		Z	E	R	O
N	O	S	E	S		M	A	S	O	N
O	V	E	N		D	I	P			
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B	R	A	I	N	F	R	E	E	Z	E
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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9
10						11			
12						13			
14					15				
16				17			18		
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29	30	31		32				33	
34			35				36		
37						38			
39						40			
41						42			

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 3 9 24 29 41
Meganumber: 41
Jackpot: \$106M

Super LOTTO 24 26 30 32 45
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: \$31M

Fantasy 5 8 12 16 17 38

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 0 9 7
EVENING: 0 8 7

DAILY DERRY 1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 07 Eureka!
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1.45.11

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

■ After Emmalee Bauer, 25, was fired by the Sheraton hotel company in late 2006, she sought unemployment compensation from the Iowa agency that offers benefits to employees terminated through no fault of their own. However, the judge noted that Bauer had written a 300-page journal, during office hours, chronicling her efforts to avoid work. Among her entries: "This typing thing seems to be doing the trick. It just looks like I am hard at work on something very important," and, "Once lunch is over, I will come right back to writing to piddle away the rest of the afternoon," and, "Accomplishment is overrated, anyway." (Her claim was denied.)

■ In January, a hospice in Britain run by Sister Frances Dominica approved the wish of a 22-year-old man (born with Duchenne muscular dystrophy), who wanted to lose his virginity before he died. The Douglas House hospice arranged for a prostitute to visit him at his family's home, and the man said afterward, "It was not emotionally fulfilling, but the lady was very pleasant."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1812 Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry signed a redistricting law favoring his party _ giving rise to the term "gerrymandering."

1847 American inventor Thomas Alva Edison was born in Milan, Ohio.

1858 a French girl, Bernadette Soubirous, claimed for the first time to have seen a vision of the Virgin Mary near Lourdes.

1861 President-elect Abraham Lincoln departed Springfield, Ill., for Washington.

1929 the Lateran Treaty was signed, with Italy recognizing the independence and sovereignty of Vatican City.

1937 a six-week-old sit-down strike against General Motors ended, with the company agreeing to recognize the United Automobile Workers Union.

1972 McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. and Life magazine canceled plans to publish what had turned out to be a fake autobiography of reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes.

1979 followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini seized power in Iran.

1986 Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky was released by the Soviet Union after nine years of captivity as part of an East-West prisoner exchange.

WORD UP!

slaver \SLAV-uhr; SLAY-vuhr\, *intransitive verb*: 1. To slobber; to drool.



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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

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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

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APR 7.0%

5.75%**

3 YEAR/1 ARM

APR 7.0258%

5.5%**

1 YEAR/1 ARM

APR 7.1%

5.25%

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APR 7.24%

5%

1 MO./1 MO. ARM

APR 8%

1%**

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* As of January 31, 2007

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\$10-17 for 15 min.

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Notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. HC-95846-C Loan No. 0391619103 You are in default under a Deed of Trust dated 1/30/2004. Unless you take action to protect your property, it may be sold at a public sale. If you need an explanation of the nature of the proceeding against you, you should contact a lawyer. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by the duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. Trustor: Juan Carlos Ramirez, a married man, as his sole and separate property Recorded 2/26/2004 as Instrument No. 040448294 in Book -, page - of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: 3/7/2007 at 10:30 AM Place of Sale: At the west side of the Los Angeles County Courthouse, directly facing Norwalk Blvd., 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA Property Address is purported to be: 1217 20th Street 303 Santa Monica, CA 904040000 APN #: 4276-014-039 The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is \$60,148.53, which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Date: February 08, 2007 Executive Trustee Services, LLC 15455 San Fernando Mission Blvd Suite #208 Mission Hills, CA 91345 818-361-6998 Ileanna Petersen Trustee Sale Officer ASAP# 824445 02/14/2007, 02/21/2007, 02/28/2007

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DORIS LEVY

CASE NO. SP007061

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of DORIS LEVY.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by RONALD R. LEVY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that RONALD R. LEVY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The 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 with limited authority. (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 03/09/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Date of Filing Application: February 8, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: Big Deans Ocean Front Inc.

The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:

1615 Ocean Front Walk, Santa Monica, CA 90401-3119

Type of license(s) applied for: 41 On-Sale Beer and Wine - Eating Place

2/14/07

CNS-1088413#

SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: EILEEN KLUNE

CASE NO. BP102820

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of EILEEN KLUNE.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by A. STEVEN BROWN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that A. STEVEN BROWN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for exami-

Notices

nation 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 03/06/07 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 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 A. STEVEN BROWN HOLLEY & GALEN 800 S. FIGUEROA ST., #1100 LOS ANGELES, CA 90017 2/13, 2/14, 2/20/07

CNS-1087051#

SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DORIS LEVY

CASE NO. SP007061

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of DORIS LEVY.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by RONALD R. LEVY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that RONALD R. LEVY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The 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 with limited authority. (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 03/09/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

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

Notices

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 WASSERMAN, TERRY K. A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORP. 3800 HIGHLAND AVE., #300 MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266 2/14, 2/15, 2/21/07

CNS-1087864#

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First American Title #3078251 Trustee Sale # 06-3028 Trustee Sales Line: 714-573-1965 Notice of Trustee's Sale YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT LIEN DATED 6/27/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that on 2/28/2007, at 11:30 AM At the front entrance to the Pomona Superior Courts Building, 350 West Mission Blvd., Pomona, CA under the power of the sale pursuant to the terms of those certain covenants conditions and restrictions recorded on 07/8/2003 as instrument number 03-1946848 which reinstates original CC&R's recorded 6/24/62 Book M1553 Page 153, of official records of Los Angeles County, S.B.S. Lien Services fka California Association Lien Collections, LLC., as duly appointed trustee under that certain Delinquent Assessment Lien, recorded 6/30/2006 as document number 06-1449108 in book page of the official records of said county, and pursuant to Section 1367 of the Civil Code of the State of California will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for lawful money of the United States, all right, title and interest in the following commonly known property known as: 930 3rd Street, Unit 306 Santa Monica CA 90403 with the Assessor's Parcel Number of 4292-023-041. Said property is legally described as: Legal unit consisting of Parcels 3-F, and G25 and G-26, Lots F and G, in block 49 as per map recorded in book 39 page 45 of miscellaneous records. The owner(s) of said property as of the date of the recording of said lien is purported to be: Thomas Black, an unmarried man The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The sale will be made without covenant or warranty regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by the lien. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$8,024.89 Payment must be in cash or a cashier's check drawn on a State or National Bank, a check drawn by a State or Federal Savings and Loan Association, Savings Association or Savings Bank specified in Financial Code Section 5102 and authorized to do business in the State of California. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The Notice of Default and Election to Sell the described property was recorded on 8/31/2006 as instrument number 06-1947755 in the official records of Los Angeles County. S.B.S. Lien Services is a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated: 1/26/2007 S.B.S. Lien Services fka California Association Lien Collectors, LLC 31194 La Baya Drive Suite 106, Westlake Village, CA 91362 (818) 991-4600 By: Cherie Steinberg, Trustee Sale Officer P274261 2/7, 2/14, 02/21/2007

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