



Santa Monica Daily Press

WILL LOHAN WIN A RAZZIE?
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE INTERESTING MIX ISSUE



Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

FALLING ON ABSENT EARS: Ester Schiller speaks to a less than full board of housing commissioners during a meeting at the Ken Edwards Center on Thursday evening.

The missing link

Councilmembers balance work with obligations

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Behind the elected powers that be in Santa Monica city government is a large extended clan of cousins who are called upon to help run the family business called City Hall.

The cousins of the City Council, also known as the boards and commissions, assist the main governing body in formulating policies and procedures that help fuel the operation of the municipal government, providing their input on key issues like airport runway safety and affordable housing.

Much like all families, these cousins don't always have time to see each other.

While the boards and commissions were

created with a slot for a council liaison, serving as the communicative link between the two bodies, the councilmembers' collective attendance at the board and commission's meetings for which they serve as a go-between has dropped over the past few years.

For the councilmembers, the key barrier to making these non-council meetings is time, not a lack of interest, they said.

"Alas I don't attend the meetings," Councilmember Bobby Shriver said last week. "I have two day jobs and a family, but I do feel bad about it."

There are more than 20 volunteer-based boards and commissions that serve either an

SEE BOARDS PAGE 14

Girls' hoops cruising through CIF playoffs

BY JON HABER | Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Santa Monica high school sports are getting a big dose of girl power in the CIF playoffs.

The Santa Monica High School girls' basketball team (24-4) is riding a season-high 11-game winning streak, while the Crossroads High School girls' basketball team (18-7) is coming off their most lopsided victories of the year, winning their first two playoff games by a combined 103 points.

Both Santa Monica teams will try to carry their playoff success with them on the road Saturday.

The No. 3-seeded Ocean League champion Samohi Vikings defeated Blair of Pasadena 61-47 Wednesday and advanced to their second consecutive CIF-SS Division II AA quarterfinals appearance against No. 6-seeded Los Osos (23-5).

"We played a great team game [against Blair]," said Samohi head coach Marty Verdugo. "It was probably the toughest physical game we played all year."

After losing sophomore starting point guard Thea Lemberger in the game's opening minute, the team turned to senior Karlia Batalla to fill the gap.

"True to the character of our team, Batalla came in and took over the leadership role," Verdugo said. "She was able to run our offense brilliantly the rest of the game."

"We had to have a lot of people step up," Batalla said. "We have a great bench and we can all help the team get the win."

Star senior shooting guard Daisy Feder led the team with 20 points, and junior Ellese Brandis anchored the team's post play, grabbing 17 rebounds while scoring 18 points.

After losing on the road to Norco 67-58 in last year's quarterfinals matchup, Samohi sees Saturday's game against

SEE PLAYOFFS PAGE 14

Coming out in force for more

Classified workers demand better wages from district

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Every school day for the past nine years, Kathy Sandoval has been the face behind the counter at Santa Monica High School's Attendance Office, handling matters pertaining to the enrollment of the roughly 3,000-member student body.

While Sandoval has enjoyed the nearly decade-long working relationship with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, she admits that something has been amiss lately.

"I think moral has been down with staff," Sandoval said.

The school veteran referred to the ongoing contract talks between district officials and the Service Employees International Union Local 99, which represents the 700 classified staff in the district, from the maintenance workers to the bus drivers.

The union has been attempting to secure a 6 percent salary increase for the current school year as well as a one-time 6 percent bonus, arguing they have only received a combined total of 4.5 percent in raises since 2002 while the teachers' salary enhancements have surpassed their classified counterparts, according to Joaquin Flores, who sits on the negotiating team for SEIU.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association last year received a 5 percent raise and on Thursday, the school board approved a 3 percent increase for the current school year.

"We think teachers should also get raises, but at the same time, we pay the same for gas, we pay the same for groceries," Carol Skowland, who has worked 10 years in



Photo courtesy Marc Ongaro

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: Nearly 150 members of the Service Employees International Union Local 99 march in front of the Santa Monica-Malibu School District headquarters earlier this week to call on the school board to grant them a raise comparable to what teachers have received over the last few years.

the district headquarters on state-mandated student testing, said. "We don't get a break."

The union's frustrations with the relatively minimal raises spilled over on Thursday at the Board of Education meeting when SEIU representatives and classified staff workers rallied at the headquarters on 16th Street and in front of City Hall, addressing the board during the meeting.

"The cost of living has increased and the school board is sen-

SEE RAISE PAGE 15

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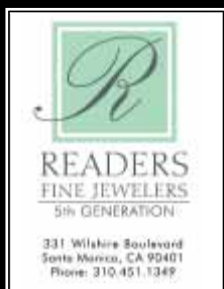
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Calendar

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WEEKEND EDITION, FEBRUARY 23-24, 2008

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008

Info for weather watchers

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — Noon

“What’s Happening to Our Weather?” is an update on the science behind climate change and global warming from Santa Monica College science professor Bill Selby. This free event will be held at the Fairview Branch Library. For more information, call (310) 450-0443.

Downtown on two feet

1436 Second St., 10 a.m. — Noon

In two hours and six blocks, this docent-guided tour explores more than 130 years of Santa Monica history from its wild west frontier beginnings to the metropolis of today. Starting from the 1875 Rapp Saloon, the route includes many landmarks and concludes at the 2003 NRDC building. For information, call (310) 496-3146 or visit their Web site at www.smconservancy.org.

Reach out and touch someone

1341 Lake St., Venice, 2 p.m. — 6 p.m.

Planet Social Sports games and matches are followed by team gatherings at local bars, which include discounted food and drinks, along with social activities. Men and women must be 21 to play. Check the Web site for specific times and locations www.planetsocialsports.com.

Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008

Wild Wild West Side Crime Bus Tour

9341 Venice Blvd., Culver City, Noon — 5 p.m.

In this new true crime tour spotlighting some of the weirdest, most horrific and downright unbelievable crimes of historic West Los Angeles, you’ll thrill and shudder to tales of teenage girl gangs, tortured tots, wicked wives, evil spirits, cults, creeps and assorted maniacs. Seats are \$55 per person; 15% off for KCRW members. Visit www.esotouric.com for more details.

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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.



Razzies shed light on truly bad movies

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

DOWNTOWN For the best of the best there's the Academy Awards. For gritty independent films that do a lot for a little there's the Spirit Awards. Then, there's the Razzies.

For the 28th year running, the Annual Golden Razzie Awards will shed light on movies that its voters believe should have never seen the light of day to begin with. Taking place the same weekend that the Oscars glam up Hollywood and the Independent Spirit Awards bring a little Tinseltown to Santa Monica Beach, the Razzies come to Downtown's Magicopolis to honor the worst of the worst.

While "There Will Be Blood" and "Juno" highlight those other awards shows, gems like "I Know Who Killed Me" and "Norbit" top this year's list of Razzie nominees. Eddie Murphy tallied a record five nominations for his various roles in a film that actually earned a nod from the Academy, but got zilch from the Spirit Awards. Lindsay Lohan earned the dubious honor of being nominated twice in the worst actress category for her dual roles in "I Know Who Killed Me," a film that flopped at the box office and was universally panned by critics.

With the ballots counted and the winners determined, John Wilson, founder and head RAZZberry, has attempted to reach out to a pair of the major recipients to invite them to the ceremony. He isn't holding his breath.

"I do make an effort to find a contact for the main winners. What I was told, the two big winners are not the kind of people that will show up and laugh about it," he said. "Who knows, one of them might show up with a gun."

Of course he was joking about the gun, but it's rare for a Razzie winner to be gracious about winning the award.

"There have only been a handful of times when people actually embraced the situation and had a good time with it," he added.

Wilson recalls the most memorable reaction by a winner with a chuckle and a heavy dose of levity. When 2003's "Gigli" swept the Razzies, Wilson tried to get somebody from the cast to appear to collect the bushel of awards with little success.

"I did what I could to let Ben Affleck [one

SEE RAZZIES PAGE 13

Trees to see another week

Activist group will meet city officials in court next week

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN, LA The ficus saga will continue this Thursday when City Hall and the Santa Monica Treesavers meet in court for a hearing that could determine whether the mature trees on Second and Fourth streets will stay or go.

The hearing could be the Treesavers'

last chance to block the removal of 54 ficus trees as part of a streetscape enhancement project approved by the City Council last summer.

The council earlier this week denied the activists' bid to landmark the trees in Downtown, an attempt by the Treesavers to put a stop to the removal. City Hall was prepared to move forward with the streetscape plan on Friday, but will wait until the hearing is completed.

The hearing was supposed to take place on Friday, Feb. 22, but a new judge was assigned to the case and requested more time to review the facts. City Hall originally agreed to postpone the removal

until that date. When the judge asked for more time, city officials said they were not going to wait.

That forced the attorney for the Treesavers to argue for a new hearing on Feb. 28, which was granted Thursday. City Hall changed its mind at the request of the court and will hold off.

"At the suggestion of the court, we agreed to it," Assistant City Attorney Joseph Lawrence said.

The lawsuit dates back to October of last year when the Treesavers argued that City Hall violated terms of the California Environmental Quality Act when it failed to

SEE TREES PAGE 16



STAR POWER

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com
Actress Kathleen Turner (left) and Author Gloria Feldt (right) sign copies of Turner's new autobiographical book "Send Yourself Roses: My Life, Love and Leading Roles" at the Santa Monica Main Branch Library on Thursday. The signing was held following an hour-long discussion.

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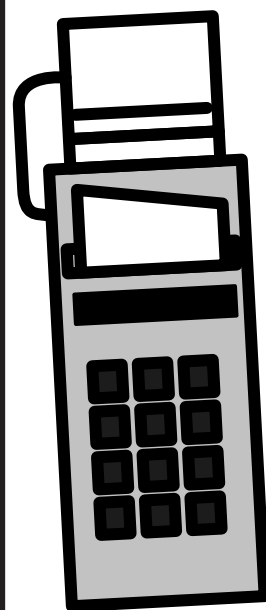
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Watch out for a recall
Editor:

Whoever wrote the editorial “Make like a tree and leave it alone” (page 4, Feb. 21) should sign their name, so I know who I am addressing. I beg to differ with your assessment that our urban forest is in good hands with Walt Warriner. Replacing these fully grown Ficus trees with saplings is like replacing your newspaper with smoke signals

We are not going to drop our efforts to save all the Ficus trees slated for destruction, or removal (which is the same thing as killing them). These trees are too mature to be transplanted, and the ones that are damaged by excessive root pruning (by the city!) need to be kept where they are so they can finish out their shortened lifespan, and then replaced. How would you like to be replaced in the prime of your life, because your toes were amputated?

There are many other ways to limit liability and make the sidewalks pedestrian friendly without murdering trees that absorb automotive toxins and replenish oxygen downtown.

This city is already doing far too much to attract more commercial development, which in turn creates more traffic and parking chaos. Business and tourism have had a far higher priority than the residents for too long. Higher rents have created more inflation, and driven out the neighborhood establishments that added character to our city. Enough is enough.

Removing these living specimens of arboreal magnificence does not enhance our streetscape. It does the opposite and creates a sterile streetscape, exactly as has been done to Pico Boulevard, which also once had a lush canopy. It is nothing less than mass arborcide of our downtown urban forest.

If this foul deed is carried out then prepare for an electoral recall to remove every elected official responsible.

Jonathan Mann
Santa Monica

The choice is yours
Editor:

When I heard that our council planned to replace our beautiful ficus trees with deciduous trees, I could not believe it. When I lived in Massachusetts, we had no choice. If we wanted flowering or fruit-bearing trees, not to mention our magnificent fall foliage, we had to suffer through a season with dead-appearing trees. Here in California we have a choice. Who would choose a tree on their property that looked dead for months at a time? Just walk along Santa Monica Boulevard between Fifth and Sixth streets, and you will see what I mean. We must stop this ruthless destruction of nature’s way of keeping Santa Monica green and healthy. If we allow this on Second and Fourth streets. Today, it may be your street tomorrow.

Cecilia Rosenthal
Santa Monica

Remember when rock was young
Editor:

Regarding Neil Macaulay’s column (“What about that guy Named Elvis,” page 5, Feb. 15) he gently chides John Whitehead’s column on Buddy Holly about the true genesis of rock ‘n’ roll.

The rockers mentioned in Neil’s column did indeed bring rock to the mainstream, but both Neil and John are forgetting the ones who fully started the whole thing.

Back in the late ‘40s and early ‘50s, in a small town in Illinois, we used to go down to the then-segregated African-American community to the Royal Sports Record Store where we could get the real goods (not the white bread Pat Boone type junk). These artists truly were the forerunners of the rock scene. Great stuff. We could also on particularly clear summer nights tune in a station from somewhere in the deep south to hear this great music. The added bonus to this was that you could send for the records, which we did.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Candidates to Obama:
No more good speeches

FINALLY, JOHN MCCAIN AND HILLARY Clinton have something in common: They are both against good oratory. In fact, the speeches McCain and Clinton gave after winners and losers were declared last Tuesday were pretty similar. Voters were urged not to trust “eloquent but empty” words by one of them, while the other one said, “We need to make a choice between speeches and solutions ...” I don’t remember which one said which, but it doesn’t really matter. The point is that both of them warned the country not to trust language that in a previous time would have been called the “silver tongue” or the “fancy speechifying” of Barack Obama. Somehow this year, it has become a bad thing to be able to make good speeches.

Obviously, this is not the first time in American politics that candidates have pandered to voters by seeming to be anti-intellectuals and “just plain folks.” Andrew Jackson’s campaigns characterized him as a daring adventurer when running against dandies with too much “book learnin’.” Adlai Stevenson was derided by his opponents as being too much of an intellectual, or an “egghead.” More recently, there was Ronald Reagan who made the statement while running for governor of California that “universities should not subsidize intellectual curiosity.” And the books aren’t even closed yet on the president who made “nuclear” a word and has been anything but an eloquent speaker.

Most American politicians have simply feigned this anti-intellectualism and “aw shucks, I’m just one of you” attitude. The current crop has followed in this tradition. Clinton, Obama, and McCain, schooled at Yale, Harvard, and Annapolis, certainly didn’t have an anti-intellectual education. But that doesn’t stop them from trying to be “one of us.” McCain says “my friends” almost as often as he says, “surge.” Clinton and Obama are capable of turning on and off accents and dialects depending upon the group they’re speaking to. But I’ve never heard a candidate criticized before just because he’s good with words.

I’m not a fan of demagoguery, but I don’t think that’s what’s going on here. Obama’s opponents may say that’s the case, but in their doing so, they’re using their own brand of demagoguery. I don’t remember Sen. Clinton criticizing Barack Obama as using empty words back when he made his famous convention speech. She seemed just as excited by his speech as the rest of the Democratic Party.

McCain and Clinton really seem to be trying to convince America that Obama should not be trusted because he is a captivating speaker. One of the strangest aspects of criticizing Obama like this is that it’s acknowledging that he’s a better speaker, a

better communicator than they are. Since so much of running for president is making speeches, is it really a good idea to admit that your opponent is better at it than you? Would any of them admit that the other one was better at kissing babies?

What’s really annoying is the condescension that this criticism of Obama reveals. It’s as if they’re saying that we Americans, we potential voters can’t tell what is meaningful language and what is not. If it weren’t for our good buddies, Obama’s opponents, we might be taken in by all his fancy language. I’m not just engaging in my own demagoguery when I say that I have a lot more faith in the American people than that. I think we know when someone is just trying to manipulate us by his or her language — and that’s exactly what Obama’s opponents are trying to do.

DON’T GET ME WRONG.
EVERYONE RUNNING FOR
HIGH POLITICAL OFFICE
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LISTENING TO SOMEONE
WHO CAN SPEAK IN
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Don’t get me wrong. Everyone running for high political office speaks largely in platitudes. We always have to listen with an appropriate amount of cynicism. But I like listening to someone who can speak in sentences of more than three words. I don’t think there’s anything wrong with inspirational, motivational oratory. It wouldn’t be the end of our country if we had a leader who spoke using proper English. It’s about time for that, ain’t it?

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

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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A newspaper with issues

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The Santa Monica Daily Press
is published six days a week,
Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450
daily readership. Circulation is audited
and verified by Circulation Verification
Council, 2006. Serving the City of
Santa Monica, and the communities of
Venice Beach, Brentwood, West L.A.
Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC,
Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica
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Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Your column here

Chuck Underwood

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Seven dirty words to every baby boomer

THEY ARE THE FOREVER-YOUNG Generation.

How did that happen? They came of age during perhaps the greatest time in American history to be a kid: The '50s, '60s, and '70s. As their generation was molding unique and lifelong core values, their nation was taking on its biggest problems and solving them — finding cures to disease, confronting and erasing its own unfair prejudices, landing men on the moon.

Neighborhoods were safe, families were strong, jobs for dad were secure, commercial radio and television were upbeat and clean-talking. Neighbors helped neighbors. As the opening sequence of the TV sitcom "The Wonder Years" accurately describes it, it was "a golden age for kids." And beyond their control, they are the generation that would enjoy the remarkably good fortune to arrive on the planet just then.

The Baby Boomers. When they passed through their formative years, anything seemed possible in this magnificent country called America. Norman Rockwell was illustrating, and idealizing, day-to-day American life in terms of two constant themes — love and hope — on the covers of Saturday Evening Post.

And it is that sense of love and hope, burned forever into their brains, that will keep Boomers a Forever-Young Generation. Oh, they know they'll "age" because aging is unavoidable, but they'll never "grow old." Boomers have decided growing old is an option, and they've pretty much decided against it.

They'll always be peeking around that next corner in life with excitement and anticipation and optimism. For Boomers, life is always about tomorrow.

With this generation, never say never. And that explains why marketers who try to lure Boomers with their advertising messages now recognize the Seven Dirty Words To Never Link To Boomers:

1. Senior Citizen: A noble label for mom and dad, but not for Boomers.
2. Retiree: Boomers will never retire. This generation defines itself by its work, by its contribution. They might retire from career-number-one, but promptly begin career-number-two, perhaps in volunteerism or starting their own

business or going back to school to learn a new trade.

3. Aging: Oh my gosh, donnnnnnnnnnn't!!

4. Golden Years: Ditto!

5. Silver Years: Good rule of thumb? No references to any precious metals.

6. Mature: Never insult Boomers by calling them mature. Regardless the wrinkles on the outside, they will always be Mouseketeers on the inside.

7. Prime Time: To describe their future as the "prime time" of their lives is to discount their past. Boomers feel they've been in Prime Time every second of their lives, squeezing each day for all of its satisfactions.

This is the generation that has re-written that good ol' "book of life" just about every day of their lives. They have done so many things so differently from the ways they had always been done before.

And for those other generations who assumed — or at least hoped — that those crazy Boomers would one day slow down, grow a bit more conservative, and go gently into their next passage?

Guess again.

Example: Boomer mothers are forming their own rock 'n' roll bands around the country and scheduling Saturday night gigs around their mommy and career schedules. Among the names of their bands — from Detroit, The Mydols; from New York City, Housewives On Prozac; and only from our sisters out in wonderfully wacky California would we get a Boomer-mother band that chooses to call itself The Lactators.

Boomers will continue to re-write that book of life, and at every future age marker they will drastically alter the consumer model, career model, and lifestyle model from what they have always been before. All because of the hope and love that surrounded the formative years that would mold them for life.

Forever young.

CHUCK UNDERWOOD, founder and president of generational consulting firm The Generational Imperative, is the author of the book "The Generational Imperative: Understanding Generational Differences In The Workplace, Marketplace, And Living Room." His company's website is www.genimperative.com.



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The Q-Line

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Caring for the elderly

It seems that nursing homes are becoming an endangered species these days.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you feel that there's a shortage of nursing homes in the city and if so, what do you feel can be done to encourage operators to move into Santa Monica?

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED ACTION PLAN FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN SANTA MONICA AND ANNUAL REVIEW OF COORDINATED DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO THE HOMELESS

The City Council of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.69.030 to receive public comment on the Annual Review of the City's Plan for Homeless Services for FY 2006-07 and the proposed Action Plan for Addressing Homelessness in Santa Monica. The City's Plan for Homeless Services for FY2006-07 reports on the performance of the homeless service system. The Proposed Action Plan for Addressing Homelessness in Santa Monica proposes refinements and changes to the current service delivery system. Copies of the Annual Review of the City's Plan for Homeless Services for FY 2006-07 and the proposed Action Plan for Addressing Homelessness in Santa Monica are now available to the public on the web at smgov.net, or you may contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696.

The Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 5:45 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

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The QLine

FILLING THE NURSING HOME GAP

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you feel that there's a shortage of nursing homes in the city and if so, what do you feel can be done to encourage operators to move into Santa Monica?

Here are your responses:

"YES THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF NURSING homes in Santa Monica, and there will continue to be. This city administration deemed Santa Monica land only appropriate for high priced condominiums, low-income housing and corporate America's whatever. No room for the elderly citizens who are now beyond their youthfulness. There is little respect for the elderly in today's youth-orientated society anyway, never mind the sick or handicapped elderly."

"SANTA MONICA IS NOT AN IDEAL PLACE for a senior nursing or rest care facility. The reason being is the space required to offer comfortable conditions is too pricey in Santa Monica and other beach area cities. An ideal senior facility has landscaped grounds, gardens and a view, as well as medical capabilities. I am aware that health care will always render down to monetary costs. There are magnificent inland cities north of Bakersfield where the air is clean and the stars can be seen in abundance at night with expansive, reasonably priced land ideal for senior rest care facilities begging for development expansions. Still, families want their eldest close by. It will eventually render down to only the financially wealthy being capable of affording that luxury."

"NOBODY WANTS TO LIVE NEAR ONE of those nursing homes. They're like the most depressing places around. Once you go in there, you're dying, you're not going to come out unless it's on a gurney or in a body-bag. They should call it waiting-to-die homes. In the old days people like that would be taken care of by their families. Nowadays people are too lazy to do it. So that's what we should be encouraging. I'd rather go down in a hail of bullets than live in a nursing home."

"YES, REGARDING NURSING HOMES IN the city of San Malicious (Santa Monica), I think we need to have a nursing home that caters more with organic food, because, being a resident of a current nursing home here in the city of San Malicious, there's not organic food, and I'd love to see more organic food. More food from vegetables, tabouli, things like that."

"WITH THE BABY-BOOMER GENERATION, 1946-1964 starting period, seniors from this group will soon need care. First, why does it cost \$50,000 a year to care for a senior? Second, why are half the seniors

from Santa Monica nursing homes not from America, let alone from Santa Monica? The cretins on the City Council need to enact a lower tax rate for nursing home providers, thereby ensuring an incentive to care for the aged rather than selling out to the council friendly developers, thereby guaranteeing another prison-looking condo and low-income housing development."

"I WORK FOR TWO NURSING HOMES IN this city, Berkeley East and Berkeley West. I also live in the city and I walk to work. However, there are only three employees of more than 200 that live here in Santa Monica that work at these facilities. It is a difficult business to attract workers. Most nurses can earn more money at acute hospitals. Most employees that I work with cannot afford to live in Santa Monica. These nursing homes were built many years ago and have limited parking. Preferential parking in the hospital zone discourages employees, and thus they take jobs elsewhere. Most funding from nursing homes comes from federal and state funds. It is unlikely the Medicare or Medicaid programs will increase reimbursements to nursing homes this year. Thus local government needs to relax some laws, and other governments need to increase funding if you wish to see more nursing homes in our city."

"IF I NEEDED A NURSING HOME FACILITY, do you really think I would want to be around all these bums and transients? I don't think so."



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Making the pitch for better care

Health commission to advocate on behalf of urban N.M.'s indians

BY FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. Keith Franklin has made numerous pitches to state, federal and tribal governments to help improve health care for urban Indians, particularly in Albuquerque.

"Every time we go to somebody, even to the tribe, they say 'Who's your leader, who's running this thing,'" said Franklin, president of the Albuquerque Metro Native American Coalition. "They feel they have a governor, but all we have is a bunch of people running around out here."

That's how it has been for years, people from different groups seeking help for a group of American Indians they say are falling between the cracks in an underfunded health care system.

Franklin is hopeful a bill passed by New Mexico legislators will help unify those advocates. The measure allows for the creation of nine-member commission that would track the number of Indians living in Bernalillo County, inventory sources of non-emergency health care for them and work to find funding for health care needs.

A spokesman for Gov. Bill Richardson, Gilbert Gallegos, said Friday the governor will sign the measure.

American Indians are covered under the federal Indian Health Service, which oversees more than 30 clinics nationwide that provide free or discounted medical services to those who have moved off the reservation and into urban areas.

However, Ralph Forquera, who heads the Urban Indian Health Institute in Seattle, said the IHS budget for urban Indian health care is small — about 1 percent of the agency's total budget, or \$35 million a year — and repeatedly is threatened with elimination.

Federal law also allows tribes to take their shares of the IHS budget and establish their own clinics, and Forquera said some tribes have elected to limit health care coverage to members of their respective tribes.

As a member of Oklahoma's Sac & Fox Nation, Franklin said he particularly is concerned over the trouble that American Indians who live in New Mexico but are not registered with a New Mexico tribe have getting health care.

"We're finding that when they get here and leave their service area, they can't get any catastrophic health care," Franklin said. "If they come down with a kidney disease or have to have a liver transplant, they can't get it because they are outside of their coverage area."

The IHS hasn't changed its policies to address that, he said.

"So when you get into that realm, all you can get is primary care," he said. "And then you become like everyone else. You have to get in line with the indigents to get care."

Bernalillo County, home to some 50,000 American Indians, has one of the top-five urban Indian populations in the

country. Despite the lack of data on urban populations, Forquera said the disparities stick out — poverty, infant mortality, diabetes, teen pregnancy, violence and inadequate education.

"It calls into question why this group is being ignored or not adequately supported," he said. "I think that (the commission) can have an impact on the local political climate that might be more inclusive in the future."

Funding for the commission was cut out of the bill, but legislators have included \$60,000 in the so-called junior budget bill that Richardson has signed.

The health care bill sets deadlines for commission members to determine the number of urban Indians in Bernalillo County, their tribal affiliation and the amount of money available to the population for health care services.

Within three years, the commission is to present a recommendation to the Legislature on how to restructure state and local budgets to provide for urban Indian health care.

The IHS currently provides health care at two facilities in Albuquerque — First Nations Community Healthsource and the Albuquerque Indian Health Center — and dental care at the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute.

IT CALLS INTO QUESTION WHY THIS GROUP IS BEING IGNORED OR NOT ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED."

Ralph Forquera
Head of the Urban Indian Health Institute

Advocates say the facilities struggle to obtain and maintain the funding, resources and infrastructure needed to serve the urban Indian population.

The urgent care unit at the Albuquerque Indian Health Center shut down in 2005 because it was receiving only half the money it needed.

As a result, many urban Indians are forced to travel long distances to seek health care in their home communities, said Roxanne Spruce Bly, coordinator of the Native Health Care Council of New Mexico. Others opt to go to University of New Mexico Hospital in Albuquerque.

Sam Giammo, a spokesman for the UNM Health Sciences Center, said the university has had an agreement with IHS for decades that allows for urban Indians to receive specialty care at the hospital. The hospital then bills the contract office for the services, he said.

"We have a very special relationship with the Native American population," Giammo said. "We provide health care when needed. We believe it's our obligation."

But Bly contends that relationship also is underfunded, since IHS ultimately is responsible for payment.

"What happens is these physicians at IHS know this, and they have relationships with these patients, so they kind of balk at doing these referrals," she said.

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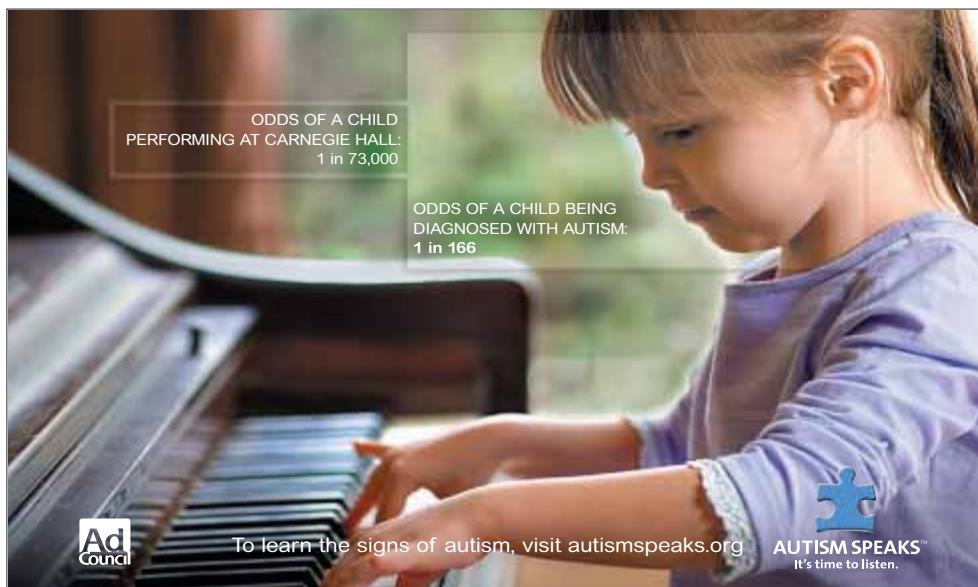
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Many worry about Obama's safety

BY DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK For many black Americans, it's a conversation they find hard to avoid, revisiting old fears in the light of bright new hopes.

They watch with wonder as Barack Obama moves ever closer to becoming America's first black president. And they ask themselves, their family, their friends: Is he at risk? Will he be safe?

There is, of course, no sure answer. But interviews with blacks across the country, prominent and otherwise, suggest that lingering worries are outweighed by enthusiasm and determination.

"You can't have lived through the civil rights movement and know something about the history of African-Americans in this country and not be a little concerned," said Edna Medford, a history professor at Washington's Howard University.

"But African-Americans are more concerned that Obama get the opportunity to do the best he can," she added. "And if he wins, most of us believe the country would do for him what it would do for any president, that he will be as well protected as any of them."

Clyde Barrett, 66, a longtime U.S. Labor Department employee now retired in Tampa, Fla., says he often hears expressions of concern for Obama's safety. One young acquaintance, Barrett said, declared he wouldn't even vote for Obama for fear of exposing him to more danger.

"To me that's a cop-out, where you can't take a stand and support someone because you fear for his safety," Barrett said. "I don't

have any apprehension ... We've got to go ahead and persevere."

For many older blacks, the barometer for gauging hopes and fears is the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

But concern about Obama's safety transcends racial lines. He has white supporters who see him as an inspiring, youthful advocate of change in the mold of Robert F. Kennedy, and they are mindful of Kennedy's assassination just two months after King's.

YOU CAN'T HAVE LIVED THROUGH THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN THIS COUNTRY AND NOT BE A LITTLE CONCERNED."

Edna Medford, History professor at Washington's Howard University

Pam Hart, the principal of a multiracial elementary school in the Philadelphia suburb of Cheltenham, said she is struck by the contrast between some of the black students there, innocently excited about Obama's candidacy, and the more anxious perspective of older people who lived through the violence of the 1960s.

"My 70-year-old aunt — every time I call her, she says she's really afraid Obama is going to be assassinated. She is so worried that history will repeat itself," said Hart, who is 40. "I understand why she's afraid, but I feel we live in a different world now."

Bruce Gordon, a New York-based busi-

ness leader and former president of the NAACP, also feels the climate has changed dramatically — as evidenced by the strong nationwide support that Obama is receiving from whites as well as blacks.

Gordon felt differently back in the mid-1990s, when Gen. Colin Powell was weighing a run for the presidency, and Powell's wife, Alma, was among those voicing concern about his safety.

"When Powell decided not to run, I said

to myself, 'Good,' because I thought someone would kill him," Gordon recalled. "This time, I think that if, out of fear, we keep our most talented people from running for office, it will never happen."

"Yes, there's a risk, but I would never want it to be in the way," Gordon added. "In running, Barack Obama has to accept the fact that he faces a risk. And yes, we pray for him."

Obama received Secret Service protection last May — the earliest ever for any presidential candidate. At the time, federal officials said they were not aware of any direct threats to Obama, but Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin — who was among those recom-

mending the Secret Service deployment — acknowledged receiving information, some with racial overtones, that made him concerned for Obama's safety.

Obama's campaign, invited this week to comment on the concerns felt by many blacks, referred to a speech given by the candidate's wife, Michelle, to a mostly black audience in South Carolina last fall.

"I know people care about Barack and our family. I know people want to protect us and themselves from disappointment," she said, before urging people to cast fear aside.

"If you're willing to heed Coretta Scott King's words and not be afraid of the future ... there's no challenge we can't overcome," she said.

Obama himself, while acknowledging that his family and friends are concerned about his safety, has drawn a contrast with King.

"He didn't have Secret Service protection," Obama told TV host Tavis Smiley last fall. "I can't even comprehend the degree of courage that was required, and look what he did."

Sherry Miles, 45, of Madison Heights, Va., said she's had sobering talks about Obama's safety with her friends and her mother.

"People who want to bring drastic change bring a certain fear among those who don't want change," Miles said. "You look back at our history, and all of the people who tried to bring about change were killed or threatened."

Miles, who works for Virginia's Department of Mental Health, said she was troubled listening to a recent local radio show in which one female caller termed Obama "the devil."

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Quake-damaged town cleans up

BY MARTIN GRIFFITH | Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons declared a state of emergency for the remote high-desert town of Wells on Friday, a day after it was rocked by what seismologists are calling the state's most destructive earthquake since 1954.

Dozens of aftershocks continued to rattle the crossroads town near the Utah border after the magnitude-6.0 quake damaged hundreds of homes, reduced part of its historical district to rubble, and closed businesses and schools. No one was killed and no serious injuries were reported.

"The earthquake caused considerable damage in the city of Wells and surrounding areas," Gibbons said. "I am working to ensure that the families and businesses get the help that they need in a timely manner."

Officials from the state Department of Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency were completing a request for a presidential disaster declaration, which would make residents eligible for federal relief, the governor said.

Elko County Undersheriff Rocky Gonzalez said eight residents spent the night at an emergency shelter while "a number of others" stayed with friends and family after their homes were deemed unsafe.

Gonzalez said "a good majority" of the town's 700 residential structures had at least some damage, and local and state officials were going door to door Friday to assess conditions.

"Right now, we're double-checking every residence to get a better assessment of what took place," Gonzalez said. "We're seeing chimneys that have fallen to the ground, damage separation of additions from homes and a lot of damage within houses."

While most businesses remained closed, life was returning to normal at one of the town's two legal brothels, said Donna Bowers, a bartender at Donna's Ranch.

All but one of Donna's nine working girls were asleep there when the quake struck at 6:16 a.m. Thursday,

Bowers said, adding the temblor damaged most of its 12 "session" rooms and destroyed "everything that wasn't nailed to the wall."

"It looked like a tornado came through here on the inside and turned things upside down," Bowers said. "It seemed to shake forever. All you could hear was the girls screaming."

While none of the buildings in the town's heavily damaged historic district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, they were eligible for such status, said Ron James, the state's historic preservation officer.

The town never made an effort to secure the listing for the buildings, he said.

"We all share the loss," James said. "It's part of Nevada's collective heritage, and it's a terrible loss. From the photos, it's easy to fear the worst."

The quake was Nevada's first of a magnitude of 6 or greater since a 1994 temblor estimated at 5.9 to 6.0 near Minden and a 1966 quake near Caliente, said Glenn Biasi, associate research seismology professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. Neither of those quakes caused major damage.

The Wells quake, the 15th of a magnitude of at least 6 in the state's 143-year history, caused the most property damage since a series of powerful temblors around Fallon in 1954, including one of magnitude-7.1, Biasi said. A magnitude-7.4 quake south of Winnemucca in 1915 is the most powerful in state history.

The latest quake is a reminder that Nevada is the third most quake-prone state in the nation, behind California and Alaska, Biasi said. The activity hasn't caused much damage because most of the state is sparsely populated.

"A lot of the state lives near faults," Biasi said. "But we have a lot of these quiet faults, and we just had one come active again yesterday. It's difficult to know just where to expect them, but they'll happen again."

The probability of a major quake is higher in western Nevada, including along the eastern Sierra, Biasi said.

Chances of a temblor with a magnitude of 6 or greater striking somewhere around Reno and Carson City with-

in the next 50 years is 34 percent to 98 percent, according to a study released in 2006 by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. The Las Vegas area faces a 10 percent to 20 percent probability of a similar quake in the same period, the report said.

Thirty-five aftershocks of 3.0 or larger, including one of magnitude 4.8, have rattled the Wells area since Thursday morning. The quake was centered six miles northeast of Wells along the Independence Valley fault system that runs east of the town of 1,600 and near the Pequop Mountains, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.



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Rocky Gonzalez, Elko County Undersheriff

There's a one-in-20 chance the quake could be a precursor to a larger temblor over the next few days, but that probability decreases over time, said John Anderson, director of the Nevada Seismological Laboratory at the university.

Wells' two schools suffered damage and will not reopen until Monday, Gonzalez said, but normal water service has been restored to almost all of the town.

The eastern end of the town featuring two major service stations was reopened Friday to Interstate 80 motorists, he added.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Photo courtesy DreamWorks

INCOGNITO: Eddie Murphy tallied a record five nominations for his various roles in 'Norbit.'

Razzies honor the worst of the worst

FROM RAZZIES PAGE 3

of the film's leads] know that I wanted him to attend. The day after our ceremony he held a press conference saying he wasn't invited," Wilson recalled with a laugh.

A few days later, Affleck was scheduled to appear on CNN's Larry King Live and Wilson made arrangements through a member of the Razzie Foundation who worked at the network to have King give the award to the actor during the broadcast. When King handed the golden statuette to Affleck, it broke into pieces in his hands. After his appearance, the actor left the remains of the award behind.

"I went back to CNN and retrieved it. It sold on eBay for so much money that it paid for the rent of the hall for next year's ceremony," Wilson said.

While Wilson would love another dust up to occur on that magnitude, he said this year's ceremony should be relatively straight forward. Taking place this morning at Magicopolis, the Razzies will honor bad performances in 11 categories which includes

honors for worst achievements in screen-writing, worst excuse for a horror movie, worst director and worst screen couple.

One of the most noteworthy and off-beat categories is worst remake or rip-off. Nominees include "Bratz," "Epic Movie," "I Know Who Killed Me" and "Who's Your Caddy."

The awards ceremony is regrettably not open to the general public with just voting members of the Razzie Foundation in attendance during the press conference. Wilson likes to cite that there are nine times as many people who vote for the Razzies than cast ballots for the Golden Globes. He said that people get caught up in the glitz of the Golden Globes show and forget that a relatively obscure group of people actually determine the winners. Wilson said it was fitting that the Golden Globes were relegated to handing out its awards during a humble press conference due to the writers strike.

"For once they were even lamer than we were and we're trying to be lame," he said.

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Some boards struggle to connect

FROM BOARDS PAGE 1

advisory or quasi judicial role to the City Council, ranging from well-known bodies like the Planning Commission, one of the few that actually have powers to effect decisions and regularly attracts a crowd, to some of the smaller profile groups, like the Commission on the Status of Women.

“Boards and commissions are basically our lifeline to the public,” Mayor Herb Katz.

The minimal attendance of several council liaisons to their respective board and commission meetings sparked a shift in tradition last year when the council decided that instead of appointing councilmembers, they would be encouraged to attend the meetings on a voluntary basis. A few of the commissions did receive liaison appointments, including the Airport Commission, Architectural Review Board and the Landmarks Commission.

The reason, according to Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom, who served as the mayor when the decision was made last January, was because it was getting increasingly difficult to fill all the slots.

“I really thought that it wasn’t fair to the boards and commissions to set up an expectation that wasn’t being met,” Bloom said last week. “I encouraged all the councilmembers to attend boards and commissions if they could.”

While Bloom isn’t certain that attendance to the boards and commission meetings has dropped off any more since the change in practice, he doesn’t get the sense there is much voluntary attendance either.

“To some degree that is regrettable in a sense if the board and commission would like to see someone there,” Bloom said. “I would like to be there for them.”

Bloom said that because of familial and work obligations during the day, it’s been difficult for him to make it out to any of the boards and commission meetings.

Katz was among the councilmembers that supported the change last year, noting that attendance at the board meetings was becoming less and less frequent, a combination of time constraints because of other obligations and the time of day when the

meetings were scheduled, some occurring in the afternoon.

The mayor added that he plans to encourage his fellow councilmembers to try and make their presence at the non-council meetings.

“We try and spread out where everyone’s interest is and I’m going to start going to more and more commission meetings,” Katz, an architect, said.

The shift to a voluntary-based relationship to the boards and commission wasn’t universally supported on the council. Councilmembers Ken Genser and Kevin McKeown, who both regularly attend about seven commissions between the both of them, said they believe the link between the council and the commissions needs to remain active.



THEY OFFER EXCELLENT INSIGHT INTO HOW THE CITY WORKS AND HOW THE CITY COUNCIL WOULD VIEW PROPOSALS.”

Mark Young, Airport Commission Chairman

“I think in general the amount of time individual people who have day jobs can devote to council responsibilities is finite,” Shriver said. “It’s pretty difficult to get ready for meetings and get to know about the issue.”

THE ROLE OF A COUNCILMEMBER

It’s a fine line that councilmembers face when they attend a commission or board meeting, providing their expertise on city-related matters and providing advice when solicited, but being careful not to influence the course and outcome of a discussion.

Gwynne Pugh, the chairman of the Planning Commission, said the advantage of having a councilmember present at a meeting is to provide background or insight of previous council actions that might be related to the discussion at hand.

“They can give us a history of what the council has done and why the council had done something for specific projects, or in the case of the fences and hedges (issue),

why they had come around to a particular route,” Pugh said on Friday.

The liaison is also important in explaining to their fellow councilmembers why a commission reached a certain decision, said Nina Fresco, the chairman of the Landmarks Commission.

Landmarks related matters have been prevalent at council meetings the past few months where various appeals to the commission’s decisions, such as the ficus trees and development in the Third Street Historic District, have made their way to the dais.

“They are an incredible voice explaining why we want something and how we got to that (decision),” Fresco said on Friday. “Our council liaison can also bring up issues and initiate discussion on council on our behalf.”

The go-betweens also often provide insight into how the City Council would view certain issues, according to Mark Young, the chairman of the Airport Commission, which Genser serves as the liaison.

“They offer excellent insight into how the city works and how the City Council would view proposals,” Young said.

For the commissions that seldom see a councilmember at their meetings, the line of communication still remains open, thanks to e-mail.

“We recognize the time for city staff and councilmembers can be challenging,” Andrea Lipton, the chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, said, adding she has difficulty attending meetings during the day.

The Disabilities Commission, whose liaison is Katz, frequently sends their recommendations and requests to the mayor via electronic mail. While not all of the recommendations are always put into place, the commission feels that it has a good relationship with the council, Knauf said.

“It certainly would be great to see the issues we address in person, but I understand they are extremely busy,” Knauf said last week. “As long as I feel I am being heard by them, that’s sufficient for my purposes.”

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Crossroads, Samohi girls advance in postseason

FROM PLAYOFFS PAGE 1

the Grizzlies as a chance to erase last season’s failure.

“We know this is kind of a hump we have to get over,” Feder said. “We want to go further than last year, and it’s definitely possible. Everyone’s very motivated.”

The game is set to be played on the road in Rancho Cucamonga at 7:30 p.m. And while the road atmosphere was one of the key factors that led to the Vikings’ early playoff exit last year, Verdugo said this year’s team has learned how to play away from Santa Monica.

“When we beat [No. 9 nationally-ranked] Ayala, it proved we know how to play against good opponents on the road,” the coach said. “We’ve been here, and we know what it takes to win. Now, we just have to carry out our plan.”

The team knows a key to that plan is stopping the Grizzlies’ 6’4” junior center Cierra Warren, who averages over 20 points and 10 rebounds per game.

“We’re expecting a physical game from an inside presence,” Verdugo said. “They’re not a real strong outside shooting team, so our strategy will be to try and stop their post play, then adjust from there.”

“We’re going to have to back off the perimeter and pay more attention to the post,” Batilla said.

Although the team plans on using some different defensive strategies against the Grizzlies, not much else will change. After winning 11 games in a row, the team has full confidence in their game plan.

“We just need to go in there and play our game, the hardest we can” Feder said. “When we come out and play our game, we can beat anyone.”

CROSSROADS

The Roadrunners girls’ basketball team has been making some noise of its own in the CIF-SS Division V A playoffs.

After a first round buy, the No. 1-seeded Delphic League champion Roadrunners blew out Noli Indian of San Jacinto 71-11 in the second round of the playoffs. Crossroads followed that win with 65-22 stomping over Sacred Heart of Jesus of Los Angeles.

“Right now we’re playing pretty good basketball,” Crossroads head coach Kevin Cormier said. “Our senior leaders have done a great job in getting the girls in the right frame of mind to be focused at this point.”

The wide margin victories have come as a pleasant surprise to the Crossroads’ coaching staff.

“We were shocked Noli Indian didn’t pose much of a challenge,” Cormier said. “[Before Wednesday’s game] my assistant and I watched Sacred Heart ... We thought they were a scare. We told the girls to get at them early and get them out of their rhythm.”

And that’s exactly what the Roadrunners did, opening the game with a 12-2 burst that buried Sacred Heart from the tip off.

Crossroads sophomore shooting guard Megan Baer and sophomore small forward Shannon McQueen have been the

two go-to-players all season long. Baer has led the team in points, rebounds and assists all this season, and McQueen overpowers her opponents.

“Baer has been phenomenal all year,” Cormier said. “McQueen is just a matchup nightmare for other teams due to her size and strength.”

Cormier will be looking to those two players and help from his supporting cast of upper-classmen Saturday when the Roadrunners prepare to take on No. 4-seeded Los Angeles Baptist of North Hills at Bishop Alemany High School — a neutral sight — at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday’s game will mark the third meeting between the teams this season. Crossroads won both matchups convincingly — 53-31 in Santa Monica and 46-38 in North Hills — during the regular season, but Cormier knows the playoffs represent a different story.

“We have to go in [Saturday] and be ready to battle them for the full 32-minutes and even overtime, who knows?” the coach said. “We’re in for a tough challenge.”

Despite the atmosphere and L.A. Baptists’ familiarity with the Roadrunners style of play, Cormier said his team’s strategy won’t change.

“We’re gonna play what got us there. We’re real disciplined as far as getting the ball up the floor and looking for any fast break opportunities,” Cormier. “Our whole mantra in the playoffs is that our defense is our offense.”

news@smdp.com

Union wants district to consider pay hike

FROM RAISE PAGE 1

sitive to our working men and women who are having a hard time making ends meet," Oscar de la Torre, the board president, said on Friday. "I hope that we can find a reasonable solution that sends the message that all employees are equally valued in our school district."

Some union members say moral has been low among workers, some struggling to make ends meet on their wages as they try to keep up with the cost of living increases, many saying they feel they are being neglected and disrespected.

"We cover the nurses office, we help students learn to read, we're there to make sure the kids are fed and we make sure the kids get to school," Dolores Gonzales, a 31-year veteran who works as an administrative assistant at Roosevelt Elementary School, said. "We all work hand-in-hand."

Deputy Superintendent Tim Walker confirmed on Thursday that the district's negotiating team did present its proposal to SEIU last month, which the union responded with a counter offer. Walker declined to disclose the terms of the contract, citing confidentiality in the collective bargaining process, but according to Flores, the district offered a 3 percent increase with no bonus.

"We are 3 percent away from making something happen for this year and with the one-time bonus, we're farther apart because they're saying zero," Flores said.

Negotiations are expected to continue next week.

"We continue to work collaboratively with them to identify what costs the district

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

COMING TOGETHER: Members of the Service Employees International Union Local 99 met at City Hall on Thursday afternoon.

can incur within our availability given the situation that exists in our budget at the moment," Walker said. "We will continue to negotiate in good faith to resolve issues for both parties and come to a mutual contract."

SEIU's contract with the district expired

on June 30 and staff has been working on a month-to-month contract extension, Flores said. Both parties have been negotiating a contract on and off since October.

As negotiations continue, union members remain hopeful for a favorable out-

come, saying this isn't about workers versus the district.

"We're hoping something will come out of this," Sandoval said.

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GETTING SERIOUS

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Natalie Kelley, a member of the Santa Monica College womens' tennis team, chases a ball during a game against Bakersfield College's Katie O'Leary at Reed Park on Thursday. SMC hosted Bakersfield College for a conference match and were losing 3 to 1 before matches were called due to rain. The contest will be made up at a later date.

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Groups will meet in court next week

FROM TREES PAGE 3

submit an environmental impact report outlining the effects of removing the trees from Second and Fourth streets. Lawrence said at the time that an EIR was conducted twice — in 1996 and again in 1997.

I'M GLAD THEY'RE BEING RESPECTFUL OF GIVING US MORE TIME."

Jerry Rubin
Santa Monica Treesaver

The trees are part of an \$8.2 million streetscape improvement project that includes lighting improvements and pedestrian enhancements along Second and Fourth streets from Colorado Avenue to Wilshire Boulevard.

Judge John P. Shooks issued a temporary restraining order against City Hall in early October, halting the tree removal portion of the project from moving forward just days before it was set to commence. That order has since expired and in late October, the Treesavers filed an

application nominating all of the ficus trees in the project area as landmarks. If the trees were landmarked, they would be protected from removal.

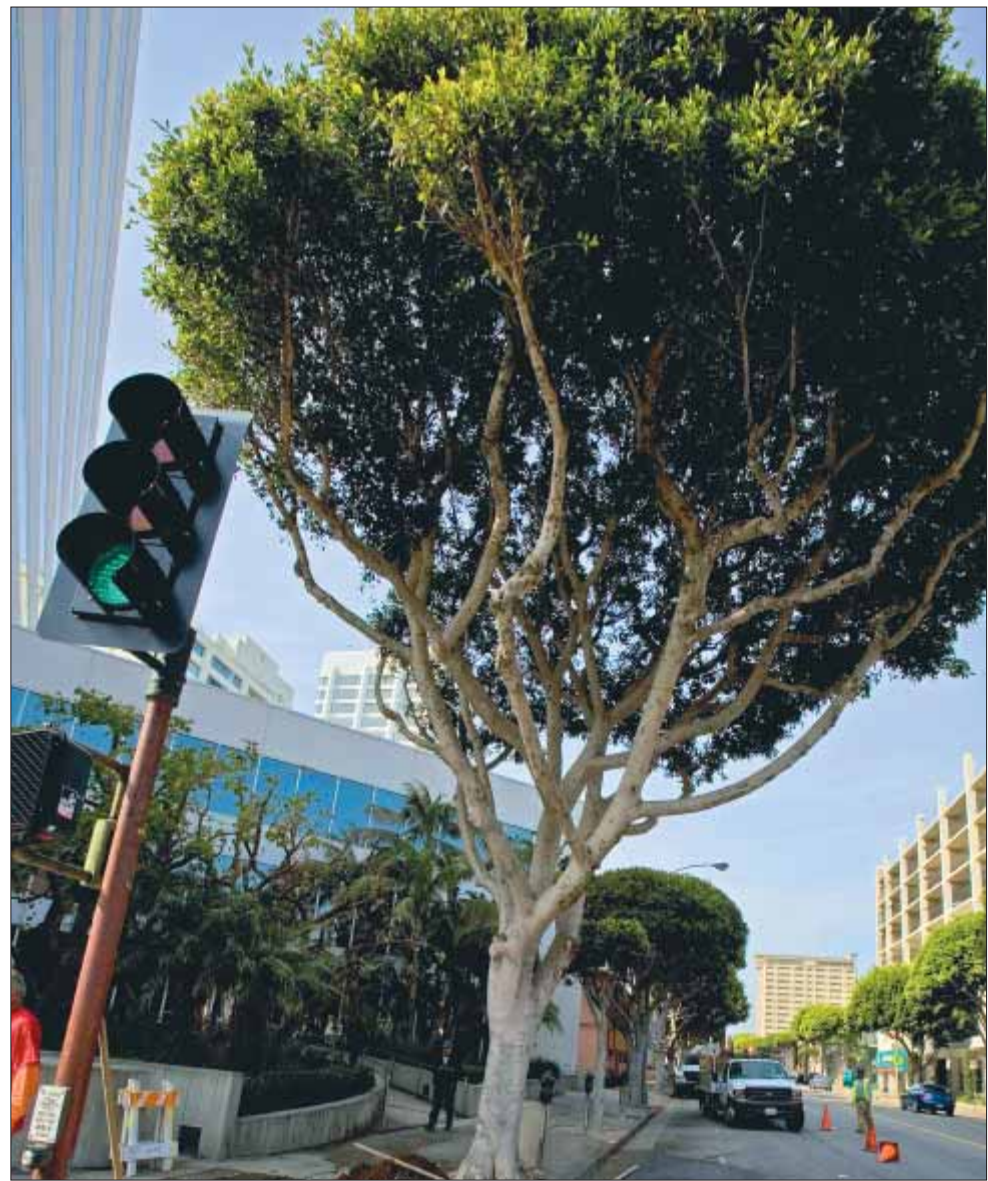
The Landmarks Commission rejected the application at its meeting in January. Commission Chairwoman Nina Fresco, who was among the members that voted against designation, told the council earlier this week that while she doesn't believe the trees qualify for landmark status, she believes councilmembers should revisit their decision from last summer before moving forward.

The Treesavers argued the historical significance associated with the trees — planted thanks to the efforts of former resident Jacqueline Girion and Clo Hoover, the first female mayor of Santa Monica. Their efforts represent the women's and environmental movements in Santa Monica, the Treesavers asserted.

One of the leaders of the grassroots campaign, Jerry Rubin, said on Thursday he was pleased to hear the trees would get another week, though he again expressed desire to meet with city officials outside of the courtroom.

"I'm happy they agreed not to start on Friday," Rubin said. "I'm glad they're being respectful of giving us more time."

news@smdp.com



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

STILL STANDING: The disputed ficus trees on Second and Fourth streets will remain in place for now.

Do you have rheumatoid arthritis?

Have you been taking a stable dose of Methotrexate for the past 3 months and still suffering from pain?

Impact Clinical Trials is conducting a study on a new medication for patients who suffer from Rheumatoid Arthritis and are looking to try something new.

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:

- Physical and lab exams
- Medication
- Compensation up to \$450 for time and travel.

If interested in knowing more about the study or would like to participate, please call Edgar at 310-289-8242 ext 127.

Get Connected!

...at the City of Santa Monica's Leadership Series 2008

Find out how to keep connected at our next Leadership Series Class, focusing on the city's multi-faceted award-winning web services!

**Tuesday, March 4
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Santa Monica Public Library**

Led by staff from the City Manager's Office, Information Systems Division, Cultural Affairs Division and the Library, this free two-hour course will take a look at how the city's website connects citizens to their local government - and what the future holds!

Course and materials are free but advance registration is requested! Please register online at www.smgov.net/leadership or call 310-458-8301 for more information



City of
Santa Monica

Santa Monica's Leadership Series courses are offered throughout the year on a wide variety of city government-related topics to inform and engage Santa Monicans. Join Us!

www.smgov.net/leadership

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM PIER
Calling all artists

The Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation is once again seeking talented student, amateur and professional designers to create a poster for the 24th Annual Twilight Dance Series this summer.

The winning design becomes the primary communications piece for the 10-week concert series, used in display advertising, posters, flyers, banners and more.

The artist who creates the winning design will receive \$750 and their design becomes a collector's item and keepsake from the 24-year-old series. In addition, the winner will receive a VIP package for the summer including a backstage pass to the concerts. All designs will be on display in the Santa Monica Pier Carousel from March 20 through April 10 to recognize the hard work of all the entrants.

This year's winner will be chosen via a secure Internet poll on www.santamonicipier.org. Visitors to the site will only be able to vote one time, for one poster. Voting will take place throughout mid-March and early April.

All entries are due on March 7. Contest rules, design specifications and entry forms are available at www.santamonicipier.org. A gallery of past posters is available for viewing at www.twilightdance.org.

The concert series kicks off in June. Past performers include: Patti Smith, Pancho Sanchez, Suzanne Vega/Marc Cohn, and Arrested Development.

For more details, contact Anne Railsback at (310) 458-8786.

DAILY PRESS

SMMUSD
Getting ahead during the summer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation is piloting a fee-based, for-credit summer school at Santa Monica High School. Teachers are said to be enthusiastic. Now it's time to see if students and their parents are, too.

Preliminary Details:

- Monday, June 30 - Friday, Aug. 8 (July 4 off).
- 8 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- \$600 tuition; textbooks provided.
- Limited amount of scholarships are available; based on free and/or reduced-fee lunch qualification.

• Courses will be challenging - an entire year curriculum taught in six weeks.
• Attendance is mandatory; a student can miss no more than three days.
• The grade received is binding unless the class is dropped by end of first week; there are no refunds.

- Students may audit the class at the teacher's discretion.

Classes being considered include: Algebra I, biology, chemistry, creative writing (for elective credit), geometry, government, physical education, physics, physiology, psychology, social sciences, social studies, sociology, and Spanish.

Jump Start College (no credit): Students can sign up for one of three two-week classes where students will learn to navigate a college search, complete the common application for UCs, write their college essay, create a resume of activities, and organize a personalized calendar and filing system for tracking their applications.

For more information and a copy of the summer school survey e-mail the foundation at smmefhsss@smmusd.org

DP

SMMUSD
School board to get schooled in reading

The Board of Education plans to hold a public workshop on Feb. 26 to inform the community about efforts to improve literacy in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. A presentation by the Educational Services Department will include a review of student achievement data district-wide, intervention programs and services, and future recommendations.

The study session will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the district headquarters at 1651 16th St.

DP

SM BEACH
Rain advisory for all county beaches in effect

Due to current rainfall, polluted run-off is likely to enter ocean waters in the Los Angeles County area. Because of this, the county health officer is advising residents not to go into the ocean either to swim, surf, or play in the waves for at least 72 hours after rainfall ends.

The risk is elevated in all beach areas but is highest where the storm drains and creeks enter the ocean. These elevated bacteria levels may cause some people to become ill.

This advisory will be in effect until Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 7 a.m. This advisory may be extended should rainfall continue this weekend.

Recorded information on beach conditions is available 24-hours a day on the county's beach closure hotline: (800) 525-5662. Information is also available online at our website: <http://www.lapublichealth.org/beach>.

DP

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 19!



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The time to book your
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Santa Monica Daily Press

is offering a weekly camp guide that will run every Tuesday for four weeks.

4 weekly camp guides in the Santa Monica Daily Press: March 18, March 25, April 1, April 8

Reach informed, affluent
parents on the Westside.

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QUARTER PAGE
\$225.75/Camp Guide
\$152.50/Pick-ups in SMDP

HALF PAGE
\$451.50/Camp Guide
\$315.00/Pick-ups in SMDP

FULL PAGE
\$903.00/Camp Guide
\$630.00/Pick-ups in SMDP

Additional rates apply for color

Advertising space reservation
deadline: March 12, 2008





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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 56°

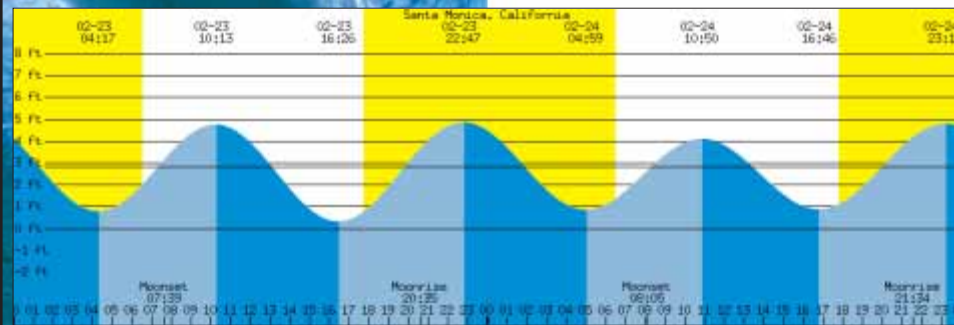
SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)

Saturday the 23rd looks to be a tad bigger as the passing storm leaves some near-shore fetch in its wake. Conditions aren't looking pretty, although weather should clear out for the AM. Another storm should pass through the region by nightfall though. Bacteria levels will continue to be a concern from runoff. Winds will likely remain somewhat southerly. The tide will continue to level off to more normal levels.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SOUTHERN HEMI SW SWELL TO HIT MIDWEEK

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



Santa Monica, California

Time	02-23 04:17	02-23 10:13	02-23 16:10	02-23 22:17	02-24 04:59	02-24 10:50	02-24 16:46	02-24 23:12
High	8 ft	7 ft	6 ft	5 ft	4 ft	3 ft	2 ft	1 ft
Low	0 ft	1 ft	2 ft	3 ft	4 ft	5 ft	6 ft	7 ft



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 12, 2008

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

QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 1

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 2

Number of wet days -- 13

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 14

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 28

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
Las Cañitas Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (beacantilla)	A+	C	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	D	Will Rogers State Beach at Palen Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Alitas creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	F
Enchil Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chantreaga)	F	F
Bread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	F	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	F	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	D
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	F	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Mariner storm drain	B	D
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	C	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	F
Ladigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	C	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	A
Selkirk Canyon at San Blocker County Beach	A+	B	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	D
Puente State Beach at creek mouth	B	F	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	B
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puente Beach, at 24572 Mullins Rd.	A+	B	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	B	A+
Sunbiter Beach at Malibu Calvary fence	A+	D	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	A
Sunbiter Beach (beach location) - daily	F	D	Venice Beach - projection of Topical St.	A+	B
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	F	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower	A	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	C	Deckweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	B	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (joint zone)	A+	A+	Deckweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 15948 PCH storm	B	B	North Westchester Storm Drain at Deckweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunes County Beach	A+	A+	Deckweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+	Deckweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	D
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	C	Deckweiler Beach - opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A
Cadwick Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	D	Deckweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	m	F			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	F			

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

no -- 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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MLB

Angels’ Rodriguez loses arbitration

BY KEN PETERS
AP Sports Writer

TEMPE, Ariz. This time, the Los Angeles Angels got the save: \$2.5 million.

The Angels beat All-Star closer Francisco Rodriguez in salary arbitration Friday, and he will receive \$10 million this season rather than his request for \$12.5 million.

The 26-year-old Rodriguez, whose 132 saves over the past three years are the most in the majors, took the arbitration defeat in stride.

“It’s a situation you can’t control. In the meantime, I’m happy because I’m here and I’ve just got to move on and make sure to be ready for the season,” he said at spring training. “I’m a Halo, still a Halo for this year. I’ve got to represent my team. I’ve been here since I was 16 years old.”

He sat through the arbitration hearing, which lasted some four hours.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” Rodriguez said. “Of course you heard things that you don’t want to hear, but that’s part of the negotiations.”

Asked if he had any hard feelings toward the Angels, he shook his head and said, “No, no, no. It’s a part of the process. You cannot take anything personally.”

Tony Reagins, who became the Angels’ general manager last October, and Rodriguez are friends and both said that had not changed. When he got word that the Angels had won the case, Reagins immediately walked to the practice field in the back of the spring complex and told Rodriguez.

“We go back a long way, back to a time when he was just feeling his way in the States,” Reagins said of the pitcher from Venezuela. “I think there’s a trust there. This was just a part of the business that was collectively bargained.

“I think it’s good to have this behind us. We want to win a world championship and being able to put potential distractions behind us is important.”

SOCCER

Ronaldo undecided on future

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press Writer

PARIS AC Milan striker Ronaldo is unsure whether he’ll be able to play after needing surgery to repair a ruptured tendon in his left knee.

“Physically it will be difficult and mentally it will be very difficult,” said Ronaldo, who was released from the Pitie-Salpetriere hospital on Friday after undergoing surgery a week ago.

Hospital officials said the operation went well, but the three-time FIFA player of the year said it was too early to tell if he would return to the field. Ronaldo is not expected to play again for at least eight or nine months.

“I have not decided what should be done,” said the 31-year-old Brazilian striker. “My will is to keep on playing. My heart tells me this, but my body is showing me signs that it’s tired, that it is asking for rest.”

Ronaldo was injured in AC Milan’s 1-1 draw with Livorno in the Serie A last week.

The top-scorer in World Cup history with 15 goals for Brazil, Ronaldo had a 2-hour operation at the end of last week and followed

Despite the loss, Rodriguez tied the record for the highest salary in an arbitration decision, a mark he shares with Alfonso Soriano, who lost his case against Washington in 2006, and Ryan Howard, who beat Philadelphia on Thursday.

Asked if someone had told him when he was a 16-year-old coming out of Venezuela that he someday would make \$10 million a year, Rodriguez grinned and said, “I would have laughed in his face.”

The decision on Rodriguez was made by arbitrators Stephen Goldberg, Elizabeth Neumeier and Steven Wolf, who heard arguments Thursday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Owners won six of eight cases that went to hearings this year.

Rodriguez made \$7.1 million last year, when he tied for second in the AL with 40 saves. He is eligible for free agency after this season and recently indicated that he might leave the Angels, expressing dissatisfaction that they haven’t offered him a long-term deal that suits him.

They have made several proposals for longer contracts, including one believed to be for around \$34 million for three years, but he has opted to sign for one year each time.

Asked about the possibilities of still reaching a long-term agreement, Rodriguez said: “The door is open and it’s going to stay open.”

By his high standards, Rodriguez is coming off a so-so season. He had a 3.45 ERA in the second half to finish with a 2.81 ERA, his highest since 2003. He had six blown saves in 46 chances.

He also gave up a game-ending homer to Manny Ramirez in the second game of the AL division series, when the Angels were swept by Boston.

Rodriguez was an October star for the Angels in 2002. A 20-year-old with just five major league appearances, he went 5-1 in the postseason to help the club win its first World Series title.

that with eight days of physical therapy.

“If, at the end, I am back in shape physically and I can play, so much the better,” Ronaldo said. “Otherwise, it will be a difficult decision to take, but that will be the decision.”

He has played only sporadically since joining Milan a little more than a year ago, but his scoring rate of nine Serie A goals in 16 starts showed that — when fit — he had lost none of his finishing skills.

Ronaldo scored twice in a 5-2 win over Naples on Jan. 13, where his play with 18-year-old Brazilian Alexandre Pato had Milan fans dreaming of things to come.

He lost his place in the Brazil team after the 2006 World Cup, but managed three goals during the competition to increase his international total to 61 in 97 games.

Ronaldo has sustained serious injuries throughout his career, and eight years ago had a career threatening right-knee injury when playing for Inter Milan. He missed the following season, but came back strong at the 2002 World Cup, guiding Brazil to its fifth title with eight goals, including two in the final against Germany.

Twins! Lopez gives birth to a boy and a girl on New York’s Long Island

JENNIFER LOPEZ gave birth to twins early Friday, making the singer and husband Marc Anthony the parents of a boy and a girl after one of pop music’s most closely watched

pregnancies. Lopez representative Simon Fields told People magazine the babies were born shortly after midnight on New York’s Long Island, with the 5-pound, 7-ounce

girl arriving first, followed by her 6-pound brother minutes later. The location was not identified. “Jennifer and Marc are delighted, thrilled and over the moon,” Fields told the

magazine. Lopez’ publicists and agent did not return telephone calls from The Associated Press early Friday.

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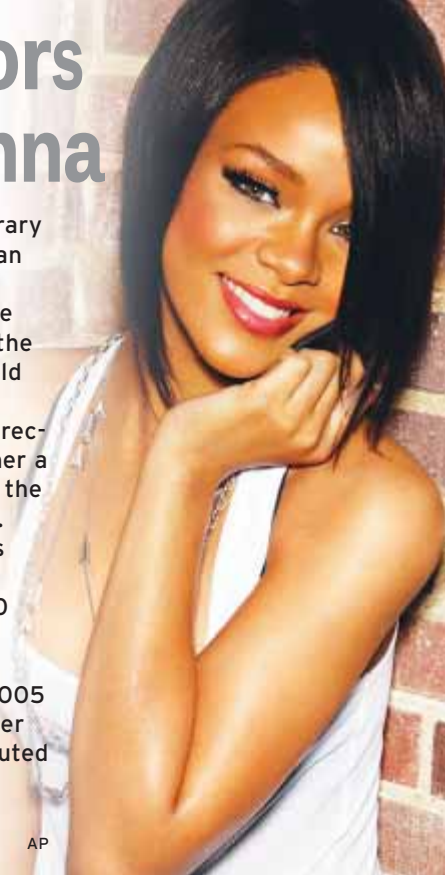
Lawyers for WILL SMITH say a British media group has apologized for a story that falsely claimed the U.S. actor said Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler was a good person.
Smith’s lawyer, Rachel Atkins, said, “The defendant published an article about the claimant entitled Smith: Hitler was a Good Person. The article alleged that the claimant had declared in an interview that Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler was a good person.”
“It wholly misrepresents the claimant’s actual words, given in an interview to the Daily Record, a Scottish newspaper and Web site,” Atkins said.

AP

Barbados honors R&B star Rihanna

Barbados has named RIHANNA as an honorary cultural ambassador for her native Caribbean island.
Prime Minister David Thompson made the announcement at a rally Thursday night in the capital, Bridgetown, to honor the 20-year-old singer, born Robyn Rihanna Fenty.
Thompson said the government also was recognizing Rihanna’s contributions by giving her a “piece of the rock” – a plot of real estate in the exclusive Apes Hill area of St. James parish.
Other honorary ambassadors for Barbados include Obadele Thompson, an island-born sprinter who won the bronze medal in the 100 meters at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.
Rihanna burst onto the music scene in 2005 with her debut album “Music of the Sun.” Her megahit “Umbrella,” released last May, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and stayed there for seven weeks.

AP



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Make it casual, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Others make demands that you might not want to meet. The ramifications of saying no might need to be weighed. Tonight: Say yes to a partner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Complete rather than begin. You will feel so much better once you can look toward relaxation and not worry. Tonight: Make it casual.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your creativity peaks, especially if a partner or friend says the word “impossible.” Tonight: Your job is to have a good time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Plan on spending time with family and those you care about. Invite some friends over for an easy get-together. Tonight: Ever playful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Speak your mind, though someone will find a reason for controversy. Tonight: Let others see that big personality your sign is known for.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ The instinct to indulge comes forward, and taming this desire might be difficult. You understand ramifications and options. Tonight: Treating can happen in many different forms.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Spontaneity is always fun, especially if positive results occur. You might be able to express the depth of your feelings more easily. Tonight: Just wish upon a star.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ If you want more downtime or privacy, you will have to create it. Tonight: Understand that you don’t need to blab about everything, everywhere.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Surround yourself with friends. You could feel that you might not be able to do everything you want to because of finances. Tonight: Make It OK.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ If you want a job done a certain way, then you need to do it yourself. You might find that many people expect a lot. Tonight: A must show.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Go past your normal limits if need be. You might want to understand an uncomfortable situation. Tonight: Be adventuresome.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Slow down and relate to a special person. Nothing needs to happen. You don’t need to make plans. Be ready to reveal more of yourself than in the past. Tonight: One on one.

Happy Birthday

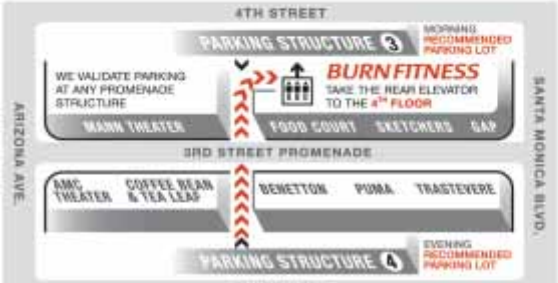
This year you might opt for a lower profile. If you are single, ask yourself if you are ready to give up that status. Certainly you will meet many people this year. A friendship acts as the key to romance. If you are attached, as a couple you will want to socialize more. Together you are a force to be dealt with. LIBRA knows how to bring you in....

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com> (c) 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

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


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Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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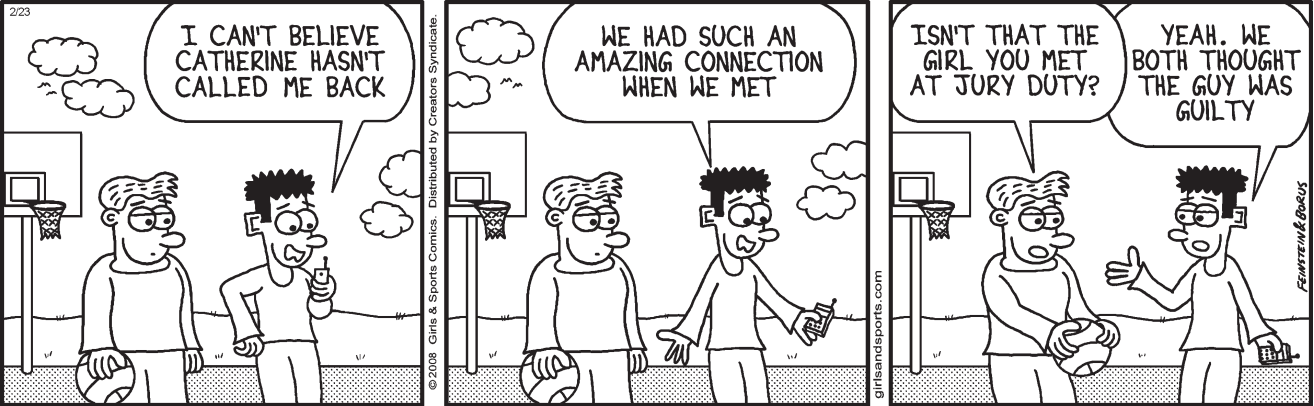
Residential

Interiors

Commercial

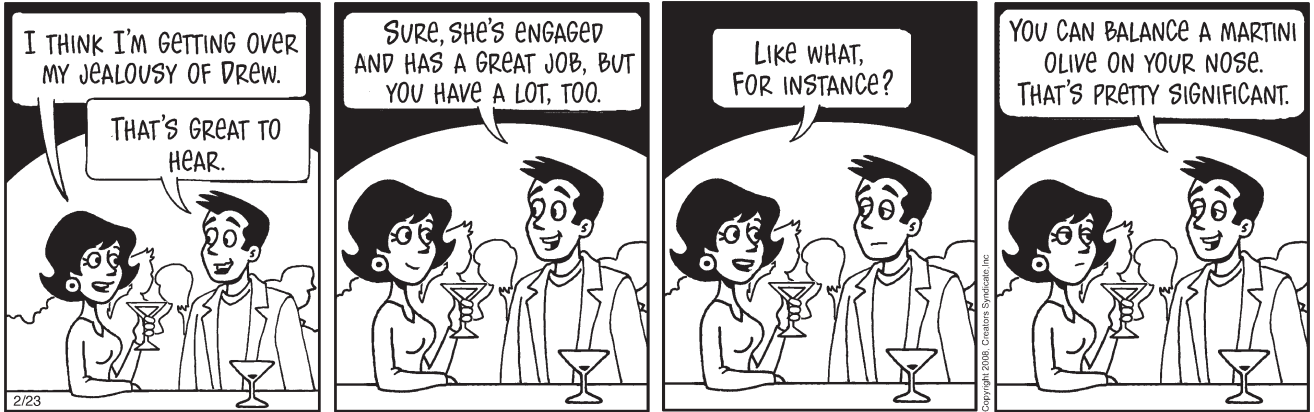
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



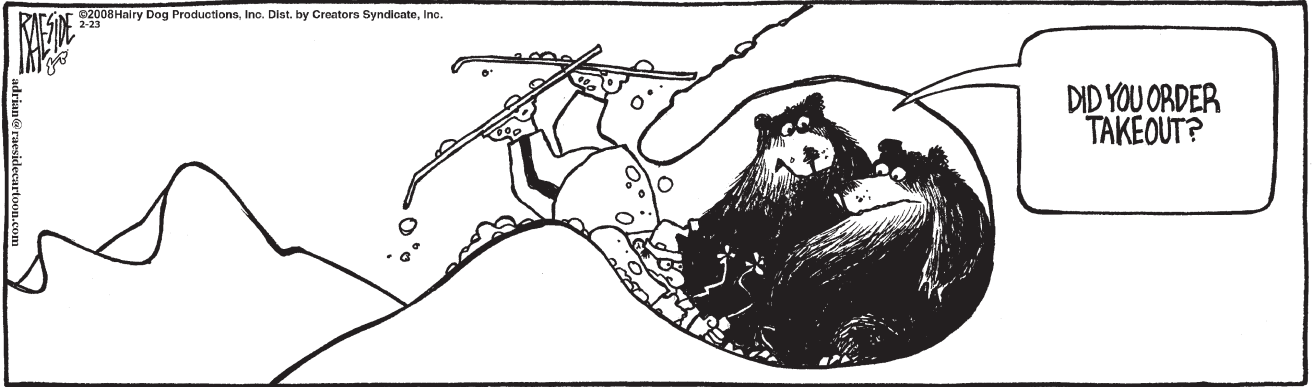
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

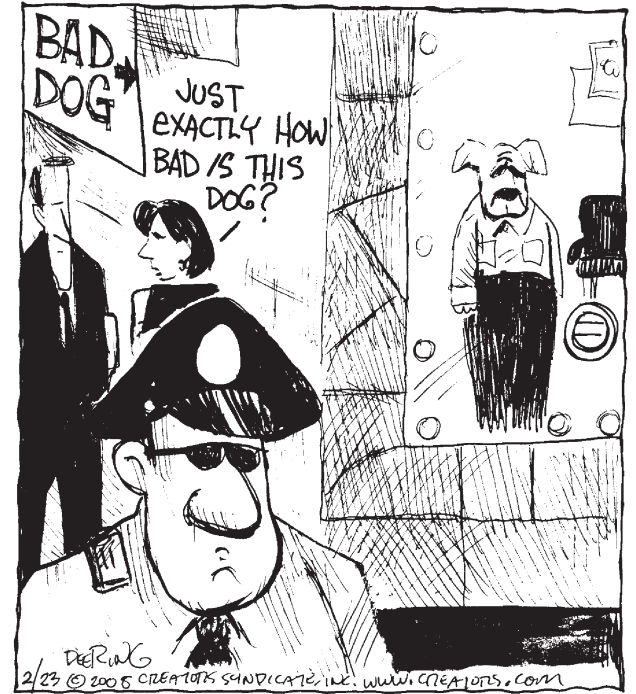
By Brian Anderson



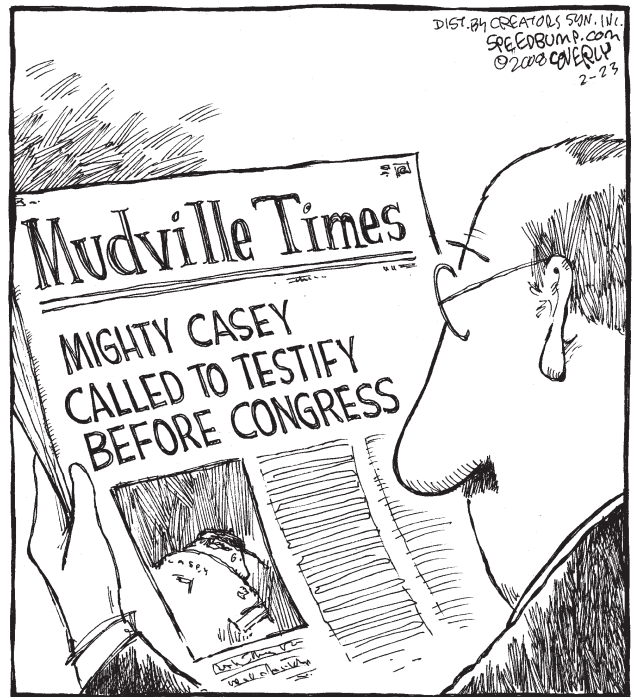
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew By John Deering



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- 41 Fight
 - 42 Makeshift abodes
- DOWN**
- 1 Layers
 - 2 Sounded the hour
 - 3 Entertain
 - 4 Whole range
 - 5 Complicated situation
 - 6 In favor of
 - 7 Compass pt.
 - 8 Way
 - 9 Tomei of "In the Bedroom"
 - 10 Waive one's rites?
 - 11 Greek letter
 - 12 "Barry Lyndon" star
 - 13 Austerity
 - 14 So out, it's in
 - 15 Stunned
 - 16 Library stamp
 - 17 Stylish
 - 18 Bus. card abbr.
 - 19 Common sugar
 - 20 Lookout's spot
 - 21 Campaign
 - 22 Sports drink suffix
 - 23 Poet Pablo
 - 24 Enticed
 - 25 Vacillate
 - 26 Floral garland
 - 27 Course goal
 - 28 Brit's billboard
 - 29 Della and Pee Wee
 - 30 Some hits
 - 31 Pindar poem
 - 32 Tale
 - 33 Salad base
 - 34 Hamlet, for one
 - 35 Underway
 - 36 Giant Mel
 - 37 Overly
 - 38 Lets up
 - 39 Disney dog
 - 40 Sleep sound

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35			36	37		38			
39						40			
41						42			

DAILY LOTTERY

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Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$270M

Super LOTTO 2 6 17 41 45
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: \$7M

Fantasy 5 6 9 16 23 39

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 5 2 6
EVENING: 8 8 7

DAILY DERRY 1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1.49.73

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

■ **Too Late:** According to police in Honolulu in January, it was Ellis Cleveland who robbed four banks within a five-day span, and that's what an officer said to him as they arrested him. Responded Cleveland, "Four. I didn't do four. I only robbed three banks. But it doesn't matter because I'm not talking to you guys. I want a lawyer." Police later said that Cleveland was not counting the attempted robbery on Dec. 31 of the Bank of Hawaii because, after three different tellers tried unsuccessfully to decipher his holdup note, Cleveland gave up and walked out empty-handed.

■ In January, former Skokie, Ill., eye doctor's assistant Joseph Vernell Jr. was sued after a patient complained that, in a dark room "exam," Vernell was detected licking her toes (but then explaining that he was actually "checking (her) sugar level").

TODAY IN HISTORY

1633 English diarist Samuel Pepys was born in London.

1836 The siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio.

1847 The Battle of Buena Vista took place during the Mexican-American War. U.S. troops led by General Zachary Taylor fought Mexican General Santa Anna's forces, who ended up withdrawing.

1848 The 6th president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, died in Washington, D.C., at age 80.

1861 President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington to take office, following word of an assassination plot in Baltimore.

1870 Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.

1927 President Coolidge signed a bill creating the Federal Radio Commission, forerunner of the Federal Communications Commission.

1954 The first mass inoculation of children against polio with the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh.

1981 An attempted coup began in Spain as 200 members of the Civil Guard invaded the Parliament, taking lawmakers hostage. (However, the attempt collapsed 18 hours later.)

1997 Scientists in Scotland announced they had succeeded in cloning an adult mammal, producing a lamb named Dolly. (Dolly, however, was later put down after a short life marred by premature aging and disease.)

WORD UP!

dissolute \DIS-uh-loot\, *adjective*: Loose in morals and conduct; marked by indulgence in sensual pleasures or vices.

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Full Page	\$1438.00	\$1610.00	\$598.00	\$556.00	\$483.00
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		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	=	\$ 3,798,500	\$ 2,177,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,450,556	\$ 1,006,837
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 932,316	\$ 785,849
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,418,294	\$ 574,292
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,885,750	\$ 1,026,945

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