

FREE

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2004

Volume 3, Issue 100

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

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FANTASY 5

21, 13, 18, 34, 19

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 5, 7, 6
Evening picks: 9, 6, 9

DAILY DERBY

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3rd Place: 07, Eureka
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

BRIGHT IDEAS — Albuquerque emergency room physician Sam Sliselman is working to launch his Endorphin Power Co., which is a homeless shelter providing drug rehabilitation based on vigorous exercise at on-premises workout stations. However, Sliselman also wants his center to help pay for itself by selling the electric power that could be harnessed by his down-and-out population's daily workouts (pedaling, lifting, working the treadmills). Endorphin Power, Sliselman says, will be the city's inspirational flagship for "social rehabilitation and renewable energy."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When your neighbor's horse falls into a pit, you should not rejoice at it, for your own child may fall into it too."

— Yoruba Proverb



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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Students load up on carbohydrates with spaghetti and meatballs during their "carbo load" dinner on Saturday at Bucca di Beppo in Santa Monica. Seventeen kids from the Santa Monica Police Department's Police Activities League ran in the LA Marathon on Sunday. Check out Tuesday's paper for the final results.

Young runners hit marathon pavement

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMPD — Seventeen Santa Monica kids broke out their running shoes and their perseverance on Sunday and ran the LA Marathon.

The kids, as young as 11 years old, have been training with the Santa Monica Police Department's Police Activities League since September. In its sixth season, PAL members run the marathon alongside police personnel to test their mettle.

Last year, PAL had 11 kids running. And every year, the SMPD has successfully convinced more PAL kids to join in the race. Six of them are returning, and there are

three sets of siblings running.

It's a test not only physically, but emotionally as well. And for some, it's all about competition.

For veteran runner David Ortiz, 17, and first-timer Sergio Vides, 16, the goal was to finish the race in less than four hours. On Saturday night, while the crew was loading up on carbs compliments of Italian restaurant Bucca di Beppo in downtown Santa Monica, the two Santa Monica High School students were confident they could finish the race at three hours, 30 minutes. It was Ortiz's third race and Vides' first.

See MARATHON, page 6

SM convict hopes 'Animal Planet' will vindicate him

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE — A former Santa Monica gang member convicted of aiding and abetting in an unresolved murder that occurred more than three years ago is hoping footage from an episode of "Animal Planet" will help prove his innocence.

Camera crews for the cable program were on the crime scene in eastern Santa Monica on the night of the murder to film police dogs. Though scent trails picked up by the dogs were used during trial to tie Michael Herrera, 37, to the crime, attorneys on both sides didn't know about the footage until after Herrera was convicted.

Matthew Fletcher, Herrera's lawyer, said a portion of the tape aired on television proves the dogs didn't tie Herrera to the crime. And he's hoping an estimated 38 minutes of outtakes will provide more insight

See CONVICTION, page 6

Linda Lefkowitz: A 'Type A' judge

Community profiles is a weekly series that appears each Monday and delves into the people who live, work and play in Santa Monica.



BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — Santa Monica's top judge didn't finish college until after she'd had two kids, lived for a stint on the east coast and tried her hand as a military researcher with the RAND

Corp., a national think-tank based across the street from here.

"I was just bored, very bored," said Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Linda Lefkowitz, 63, who became presiding judge in January. "And I kind of felt like I wasn't doing anything with any meaning to me, particularly."

The 1958 graduate of Venice High School credits her "Type A" personality with pushing her to finish her undergraduate work at Cal State Northridge and go on to UCLA to earn a law degree. Lefkowitz then embarked on a government career that has her overseeing six courthouses.

Lefkowitz, a native of Ohio who moved to Los Angeles at age 11, worked for 10 years in the LA City Attorney's Office, where she represented the police department. She was appointed to the bench in 1993. Before coming to Santa Monica, Lefkowitz served at the West LA

See PROFILES, page 7

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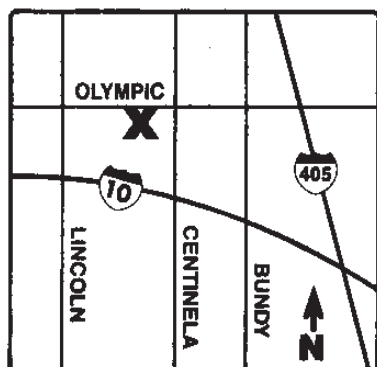
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Whatever you do, you might need to do again later in the afternoon. What seemed clear and easy becomes a new story later on. Tap into your ingenuity and ask others for ideas. End the day with a brainstorming session. Tonight: With a special person.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Slow down and understand what is happening within a special work clique. You could feel out of it. Think carefully about how important it is to feel like part of the group. Let others seek you out — they will. Tonight: Just don't be alone.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your playfulness takes you in a new direction. Are you ready to walk through a new door? Opportunity strikes where you least expect it. Break past preconceived thoughts and beliefs. Let go of past beliefs. Tonight: Relax at home.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You are able to deal with someone on a different level. Your understanding breaks through to a new level, adding to a sense of bonding. Together you become quite a team. Express your ingenuity in a valid form. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Use the morning to effectively communicate with those around you. You can be sure those who care about you will respond. Listen more often to a child or loved one. Sometimes he or she has words of wisdom. Try a new approach with a key partner. Tonight: Happy at home.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Handle finances early in the day, because the pace picks up considerably in the afternoon. You actually could be surprised by someone's reaction. You can work with this situation. Tonight: Hang out.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You feel empowered this morning, coming up with solutions left and right. Later on in the day, you see life from another point of view. In fact, you could be bogged down by money issues and work. You can handle it. Tonight: Your treat.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your energy builds all day long. In fact, by midafternoon, your magnetism, energy and intellect merge. Whatever you're up to, you excel at. Focus on what is important to you as well. A wild idea will work. Tonight: Do what you want.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Do what you must early in the day, because you'll want to maximize the aspects. Adapt your plans accordingly. By the afternoon, a personal matter could preoccupy your thoughts. You might need to pull back some. Tonight: Get some private time.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Take charge of your life, and work with the unexpected. Your ability to flex comes out, helping you get what you want. Don't walk away from chaos, rather walk toward it. Tonight: Get together with a friend.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Do research in the a.m. Others want and demand your attention this afternoon. How you see a personal matter could change a lot with new information coming forward. Still, put that issue on the back burner. Tonight: Work late.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Work closely with an individual. You might not be sure of yourself when dealing with a loved one or a partner. A boss, parent or authority figure could become demanding. Detach from the situation, and you'll gain understanding. Tonight: Hop on the computer or relax to a movie.

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LOCAL



Whipping it out for women



Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press
Raelin women, Crystal Kang, Galig Georgieva, Debbie Weaver and Nadine Gary, march down the Third Street Promenade on Saturday with their breasts exposed in honor of International Women's Day, which is celebrated today. The women exposed their breasts "to symbolically reclaim their sensuality, stolen by puritan guilt-filled dogma crippling American women and men today," according to the group's literature. They say the march is part of a protest "against the repressive myth of God," and the group encourages women to become atheists.

surf report

Today look for small NW wind and ground swell to be joined by a steep, new NW swell. Spots will stay shadowed so wave heights will stay in the 1-2' range, with maybe a few bigger sets at best breaks. Other spots will see mainly 1-2' surf, with waist to waist+ sets at best breaks.

Look for the surf to stay small into Tuesday morning, with another NW pulse coming up by the afternoon and best on Wednesday.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

58°

	LOW TIDES		HIGH TIDES	
	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
SATURDAY	11:21 AM	N/A	2:33 AM	N/A
SUNDAY	12:11 PM	11:06 PM	4:04 AM	7:42 PM
MONDAY	12:49 PM	N/A	5:12 AM	7:48 PM
TUESDAY	12:04 AM	1:22 PM	6:02 AM	8:05 PM
WEDNESDAY	12:43 AM	1:46 PM	6:39 AM	8:18 PM
THURSDAY	1:17 AM	2:16 PM	7:18 AM	8:40 PM
FRIDAY	1:45 AM	2:37 PM	7:50 AM	9:00 PM

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The QLine

The criminal cases, including all of City Hall's prosecutions for misdemeanors, will soon be moving from Santa Monica to the Airport Courthouse near LAX in an effort to save the county \$500,000 a year.

But the move will increase costs for City Hall and the local police department. Though the costs are unknown, it could be upwards of \$300,000 to place lawyers full time at the Airport Courthouse and transport prisoners from Santa Monica

Jail to the new location.

So this week Q-line wants to know, "Do think it's fair that Santa Monica should absorb the costs in an effort to balance the county budget?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Friday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in the March 13-14 weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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THINKING
ABOUT EATING
RIGHT?



OPINION

LETTERS

Blame Bush for the strike

Editor:

The supermarket strike is over. All this time we have heard from the strikers, shoppers and management. There is one more group involved in all that. The replacement workers. The replacements were not as good as those they replaced, but they were almost as good. The strikers should have realized that their jobs were not that hard compared to others, and so could be replaced by someone of normal intelligence and with some training. Fighter pilots, brain surgeons and other jobs requiring years of training can not be filled by replacements on a few days' notice. A lot of jobs can, as the strikers have learned. Only the drop in business persuaded the market chains to negotiate. If customers had kept on coming at the pre-strike levels, the markets would have had no need to negotiate. So why did people take the jobs? Knowing the jobs would last only while the strike was on, nobody with a permanent job would have wanted to give it up to take a temporary job. Perhaps as a second job though. Or like myself, being out of work for a year made me want a job, even if it is to be temporary. So many people in this country are out of work. Thanks to President Bush, the Republicans and their corporate pals who never met an American worker they didn't think of replacing with a low paid foreign worker, many Americans are out of work. Many see very little possibility of getting a job soon either. Yes, I worked at a market during the strike. While I will not apologize for doing so, I would agree that the strikers should have had jobs, but so should the rest of us. And thanks to Bush and his policies, many of us don't. If strikers want to be mad at someone, be mad at Bush. I sure am. And I am still (but not for long) a Republican.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

Unions' days are numbered

Editor:

In John Wood's March 3 article regarding the end of the grocery workers strike Richard Cowan, the secretary and treasurer for the UFCW, states workers who broke the picket line "likely will be hired back at their old wages." Richard Cowan should not allow anyone back into the union at their previous seniority level that broke the picket line. Those workers should now be categorized as new hires at the new, lower pay scale and reduced benefit package. Anything less is a slap in the face to every union worker that braved nearly five months on the picket lines to protect their wage scale and health benefits from the soulless corporate "Wal-Mart-izing" of the grocery industry.

Your writer also quoted cashier Gerren Evanson, who quit the union and crossed the picket line claiming he "couldn't afford not to work," and now was concerned about his future. Well, poor Mr. Evanson is in no position to whine about things. Disloyal actions like his prolonged the dispute and damaged many union workers' lives who also "couldn't afford not to work." Families were split up when workers sent children to live with relatives, some people lost homes, many lost apartments, cars and health care. In my opinion, if Evanson can face his fellow workers after stabbing them in the back, he has no shame, and he certainly has no claim to the benefits

he walked away from when he crossed the picket line.

Your writer ended the article with a quote by Randy Babb, who stated "we got away with it for a long time," regarding the decent wage scale and health benefit package of union grocery workers. Mr. Babb, you didn't "get away" with anything. The modest middle class wages (most top tier, full time grocery workers' net incomes are in the \$30, 000 per year range) and health benefits were the result of decades of collective bargaining. Your union, in negotiations for your health care, conceded wage increases and other benefits over the years to get a decent health package for its members. If anyone "got away" with anything it was the grocery chains that propagated the impression that retail grocery clerks were coddled, overpaid and not deserving of the wages and benefits that they'd worked for.

We are witnessing an end of an era of American history. At one time nearly 30 percent of American workers were unionized. Now it's down to approximately 11 percent. The 40-hour work week, paid overtime, health care, pensions and worker safety protections were not benevolently bestowed on the American worker by corporate owners. On the contrary, workers endured firings, lockouts, beatings and killings by hired thugs (and even police) to prevent unions from forming in the early and middle decades of the 20th century. Every worker benefit and protection of the young and evidently ignorant Mr. Evanson enjoyed as an employee of Von's was earned by the blood, sweat and tears of prior generations of Americans fighting for justice and the right to raise their families with dignity and decent wages.

A union grocery clerk (which I was at one time) is one of the last few jobs in retail that provided a somewhat middle class income. I am angry and saddened that the grocery chains have pretty much succeeded in undermining the union. The two-tiered wage system now in place will cause rancor and resentment between long term employees and the new ones. In 20 years, there will be no difference between a grocery clerk job and a burger flipper at McDonald's.

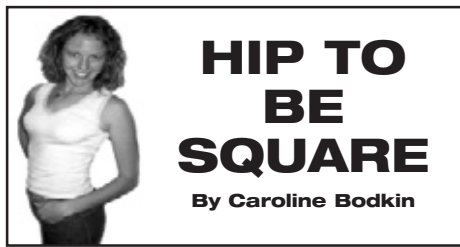
Derek Loughran
Santa Monica

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City dwelling will either deaden or liven the spirit



I visited my brother and his wife, Gretchen, in San Francisco over the weekend. They live in a small single in an area that cannot be considered the greatest neighborhood. It's not newlywed ideal, but these newlyweds are just idealistic and energetic enough to be happy there. It's where they work, live, love.

They are artists, educated — my brother is a writer and philosopher, my sister-in-law is a painter, drawer — and their home is a nest of creativity, complete with all the chaos and clutter of creation. Everything inside the apartment is either made by them (oil paintings, mobiles, poems), is used for making (brushes, pots, paper, books), or is for play (games, cards, tape recorder).

They bake their own bread, make their own yogurt, knit their own scarves, find

their furniture, hem their pants, hang-dry their clothing. They own a television that gets no reception but screens the few DVDs they've carefully selected to own: "Winged Migration," "Twin Peaks" (season one), "Spirited Away."

They do not waste, they do not want, and they are masters at entertaining themselves.

When I go there I find myself moving between two strong and conflicting sets of emotions toward my brother: I am proud of, admiring of, joyful for him. And I am sad for, protective of, anxious for him.

Because the world around them seems so dissimilar to, so disinterested in the world they've created for themselves.

Although my brother's home life is alive, his daytimes are spent at a bank, where he's worked for the past couple years to help Gretchen get her MFA as an illustrator. This place makes him miserable, though he'd only ever say that he looks forward to leaving after she graduates in May.

What he will do then, what she will do then, I don't know. And if they know, or even have an idea, they don't say so.

While waiting for fresh bread to bake, my brother and I started talking about this summer, their San Francisco end date, and

what they might do then. Among other things, he's considering moving to Los Angeles. So he asked me about the city's theater life, the writers who work here, the communities that surround them or, better, support them.

I froze. I don't want to see them living in another small studio apartment (before San Francisco, it was NYC for three years). I want them to have space, a garden, a whole room for painting.

Their apartment is home to two creative and loving people. It is a bubble and seems totally separate from the harsh street and city that surround it. It is the opposite of a bank. My brother lives opposite himself in this way. Inside and outside seem opposite. I want people in the outside world to know how special my brother is — to know what's going on inside.

I paused before I responded. "Move to New Mexico!" I thought. "Or central Oregon! Learn to build straw-bail houses! Don't hole yourself up again sucking smog, watching rich people valet park." It's a survival instinct, I guess, that we have for our siblings — we want our genetic kin to succeed.

I just want those I love to be happy.

Los Angeles. I felt that first set of emo-

tions kick in: sadness, protection, caution. I wanted to protect him from another stretch of years in a city — especially Los Angeles, which even I've seen slowly deaden idealistic, creative people like my brother. So I answered his inquiry by first talking about the traffic, then the rent prices, the industry ... I so wanted him to stop living opposite himself. I suggested the rural destination. Somewhere he could write or even think, I suggested something of a break ...

And then I stopped.

The other set of emotions kicked in. The envy and the admiration, the pride and the awe I have for him took over. I could think of nothing but the way he's proven he can live his chosen life anywhere. I marveled again, briefly, at the integrity with which he does that. Maybe he's not suffering inside the cities, maybe he's beaten them.

If you want someone to survive, then support them in their survival.

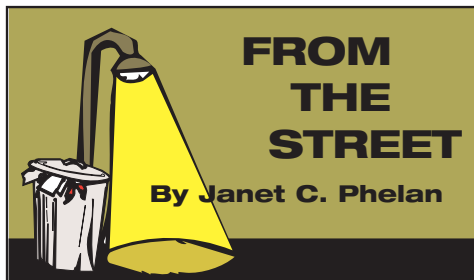
I told him, you'll be fine wherever you go. I see it. You'll be more than fine.

(Caroline Bodkin lives in Los Angeles and wonders daily if she'll miss her calling. You can e-mail her at hiptobesquare-bybodkin@yahoo.com).

OPINION



Belly of the beast: Higher powers lurk on the street



I am lying in my sleeping bag and listening to the staccato of rain hitting the roof of the Inglewood Armory. Like so many others, I have lost my imminent Section 8 voucher due to the impounding of funds by the federal government. According to the pundits, more money is needed for our military efforts — in Iraq, now Haiti, soon Iran.

The irony of warehousing the homeless in a military weapons bin is not lost on me. Vietnam vets, former professionals with graduate degrees, drug addicts, the mentally ill — we all came in tonight to stay dry. Thank you for the roof, mother government.

I am reluctant to use the cot and proffered blanket, as so many shelter denizens have recently come down with scabies. I prefer my own clean sleeping bag on the floor, as it is probably more sanitary. The woman

sleeping next to me reeks of urine. One row over, another woman murmurs incessantly in her sleep about "Joey" who did her wrong. I hope I can get some sleep tonight.

Linda (not her real name) was subdued this evening. She had confided in me that she would not be pursuing her lawsuit against the Aryan Nations cop who handcuffed her, took her to a small room in Men's Central Jail, and injected her with a substance that produced a series of convulsions. She had recognized the officer as a reputed founder of that racist group, and had confronted him with his associations. His resultant actions impacted more than her health. As a result, she became unhoused. Having suffered nearly fatal police abuse myself, I know the difficulties and pitfalls in redressing an action of that sort. When I called the Long Beach Police Department to inform Internal Affairs of the officers' aggression, I was told I was "not allowed" to contact IA.

Linda and I are sisters in the spirit. On release from the hospital to which I had been transported unconscious as a victim of overzealous police officers, I returned to my Long Beach apartment to find, incomprehensibly, some one else living in

my home. I have since been homeless.

Linda is a well-grounded and sensible woman of color who "knew something" and spoke out. She is a talented writer who won national essay contests in high school but did not pursue her gift. As the daughter of a well-known investigative reporter and best-selling author, I followed my promise. I was attempting to address a nefarious matter at the time that the officers became "concerned."

The Aryan Nation officer who so violated Linda was probably protecting himself.

The lead officer in Long Beach said he was "protecting the president."

The operative lingo is "suicide by cop." Having noted other suicides by those attacking the current administration — Jim Hatfield, the author of "Fortunate Son"; Vince Foster, who aided Hatfield with his book; David Kelley, a scientist who granted an interview to the BBC about the real nature of intelligence concerning "weapons of mass destruction" in

Iraq — I know I am linked in destiny to the informed, the decent, the outraged.

I spoke to a friend in Iowa City several days ago. She wanted to know if it was "all right" to keep silent when threatened.

Acknowledging that this is the most personal of decisions, I replied that, by my lights, it is not "all right." "You don't buy your own safety on the backs of others' mortality," I told her. "The price is irrelevant. Eventually, we all return to dust. What distinguishes us is what we do with our lives, our free will."

The rain is still coming down. With its cavernous size and the beams ribbing the ceiling, the Armory resembles a huge whale, and I feel almost like Jonah. Inside the belly of the beast, the homeless will stay dry tonight.

(Janet C. Phelan is a university graduate and a freelance writer who has been published in several publications including the Los Angeles Times. She has been homeless in Santa Monica for a year).

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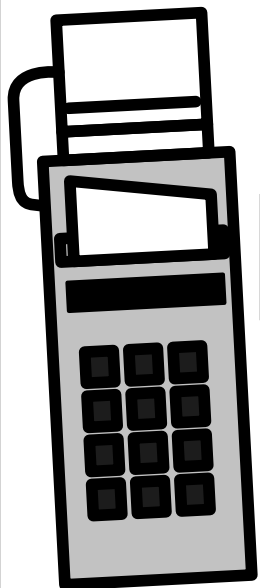
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LOCAL

Lawyers for 'Animal Planet' to be subpoenaed

CONVICTION, from page 1

into the contested matter. Prosecutors and police declined to comment on the matter other than to say their case is strong. Neither side has seen the footage.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Antonio Barreto, Jr., on Thursday said it seemed as though lawyers for Animal Planet were trying to evade a court appearance and directed Herrera's attorney to serve them with a subpoena, forcing them to show up.

"It's beyond me," Judge Barreto told Herrera, whose friends and family watched the proceedings at the Airport Courthouse near LAX. "I thought there were only three rings in a circus. In this case, there's a fourth ring."

Herrera, a former member of the 17th Street gang and known on the street as "Pee Wee," has maintained his innocence since the Dec. 27, 2000, shooting. On that night, Benjamin Medina, a member of the Sotel gang, was fatally shot as he drove near the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Cloverfield Boulevard. Herrera claimed he was inside his nearby apartment at the time and ran outside to see what was going. He said he shot his gun into the ground to scare away the gang members.

But prosecutors argued at the trial that

Herrera helped plan the gang-style shooting and said he changed his story to authorities several times. They admit Herrera didn't fire the fatal shot but said he watched from across the street. They also argued Herrera didn't shoot his gun into the ground but rather at friends of Medina after they got out of Medina's car.

The shooter hasn't been caught. Aiding and abetting in a homicide is considered the same as murder.

Herrera was convicted by a jury in 2002 and faces 50 years to life behind bars. He has delayed his sentencing numerous times while attempting to have his case re-heard. It's unclear whether the Animal Planet footage will be enough to force a second trial.

Fletcher said he thinks Herrera, who has several tattoos, was convicted because of his appearance and his former gang affiliation. He added that Herrera, who has three daughters, had turned his life around before the shooting and was helping to broker peace agreements between other gang members.

"It's one of the hardest realities to deal with in criminal defense," Fletcher said. "White, black, yellow, brown, red — when we see someone that looks like our worst nightmare from the barrio or the ghetto, they're going to get convicted."

PAL kids push until the bitter end at marathon

MARATHON, from page 1

Ortiz, a soccer player at Samohi, said his first year he finished at five hours, 30 minutes. Last year, he shaved his time by an hour. Ortiz, who was running six-minute miles during training, was hopeful he could do that again this year.

For Vides, who is on the cross country team at Samohi, he wanted to prove he could finish with Ortiz even though he had never competed in the race. But the real reason he signed up was to get in shape.

That also was the reason Mahealani Barr, 16, decided to run.

"My dad said I needed to lose weight," she said, later admitting she hasn't shed a pound since her training began last fall. She said training was difficult, especially the 18-mile run in February.

For Vides' sister, Emma Vides, 17, just showing up for the training was difficult.

The long route for the PAL runners went from Ocean Avenue to San Vicente Boulevard to Federal Avenue and then down Wilshire Boulevard, back to the PAL facility at 14th Street and Olympic Boulevard. The short training took the young runners from PAL to the Santa Monica Pier.

Sunday's race was the fourth year for Bryant Villa, 14, who was hoping to finish under four hours.

"Anything can happen at the marathon," he said, adding he participates because of the friends he's made. "It's fun to be with my friends, and it keeps me healthy."

Villa, who said the highlight of the day would be the Japanese band playing at the start of the race, said he prepared the past week by drinking a lot of water, eating pasta and resting.

The runners met at PAL at 5:15 a.m. and were at the race site in downtown Los Angeles by 7 a.m., with plenty of time to

spare for the 8:30 a.m. start.

Karina Oblea, 11, decided to make Sunday's race her first marathon experience because she too wants to be healthy. But the sixth grader at Saint Anne's realized quickly that the training wasn't exactly what she signed up for.

"I thought it was going to be easy, but it was hard," she said. During the beginning of training, she ran with Emma Vides, but that soon faded.

"She was too slow," Emma Vides joked.

So Oblea began training with Don Condon, 45, a support staffer at PAL and a veteran LA Marathon runner. And although he has run the race before, it doesn't necessarily mean he's fast.

"(The kids) hold up, we're the ones that break down," Condon joked. "They keep us going."

For Karen Humphrey, 43, also a PAL staffer, Sunday's event was her eighth marathon. Last year, she finished just under seven hours.

"When you get to be our age, you just want to finish," she said, adding this year she has learned to trim her toenails because she has lost the same one every year due to running.

The training and overall experience for the kids is memorable not just because it's physically challenging, but also because it teaches them to set goals and achieve them.

"It builds confidence and self-esteem," Humphrey said. "They are dedicated, and they learn it's important to stick with something."

Condon said many of the kids start out questioning their own abilities.

"When they start, they say, 'No way, I can't run that far,'" he said. "But they'll come back to us (during the marathon) and push us to finish."

LOCAL



PROFILES, from page 1

Courthouse, both criminal and civil courts in downtown LA, and in 1998 spent eight months as presiding judge at the Beverly Hills Courthouse.

"It's very hard to get to this courthouse," said Lefkowitz, who lives with her husband in the Pacific Palisades. "It's a very popular courthouse. You tend to move west, usually."

Her first two months on the job have been anything but easy, said Lefkowitz, who replaced the retired Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Alan Haber. The local courthouse is in a state of flux — it's undergoing a \$4 million remodel, even while suffering from extensive budget cuts handed down from the state.

Starting this summer, all criminal cases will be sent to the Airport Courthouse near LAX, meaning only civil matters will be heard at Santa Monica Courthouse. The move is expected to save the county \$500,000 in security expenses, but will be costly for local police and a detriment to the community, officials say. The move also was prompted by a major renovation taking place at the courthouse and because the security area used to hold prisoners was aging.

"There is an urban legend that it is so bad there was a judge that was stuck in there over the weekend and he was able to break off — but that's just an urban legend," Lefkowitz said.

Here, the Daily Press sat down with the top judicial officer of the local courthouse and asked her how she's holding up under all the pressure.

Within weeks of taking over as presiding judge, you've been tasked with moving the criminal cases out of Santa Monica. What's that been like?

"I had not expected it. I told someone the other day, 'The first month I thought this was really an OK job,' except I miss the cases."

"It was a difficult kind of job because you're dealing with people's problems all day long. (The move) has been less of a problem than I'd anticipated. There have been a lot of meetings, but everyone has been very responsible and we have worked together."

"I have never sat down with a group of people ... that more sincerely felt they had a responsibility to do the right thing. It's just been a remarkable process to see."

"But it's been difficult ... and as a result of that, sometimes you come home at the end of the day, and you just want to stare at the television for three hours."

How do you explain to residents that we can't afford to keep the criminal courtroom here, but can afford a \$4 million renovation of the courthouse, especially after a \$2 million jury room was recently completed last year?

"This building was 50 years old, so it needed substantial rehab. I don't think anybody needed to apologize for the jury room. It was a cafeteria area, it was a health disaster — it was falling apart."

"The trailers (temporary courtrooms)

have been here, and I may be wrong, for something like 20 years ... and they were falling apart. They were leaking, they were rusting. There were odors coming out of the vents ... There were animals living in them and under them. At one point, one day, a rat just basically ran across the courtroom while the jury was in session. They were really just uninhabitable."

"It's just an issue of government finance that there are funds that are earmarked. There is a county courthouse construction fund that can only be used for construction. They cannot be used for sheriff's salaries or for anything else."

"In addition, the initial stages (of planning for the renovation) was at about, or just before, the dot-com crash, and I don't think we had any idea of the extent of it."

Will the new courthouse have any added amenities?

"We will have the same number of courtrooms that we had earlier. We are also putting in a waiting room for children whose parents are here in family law litigation, because currently they're kind of at the end of the hallway ... really in an unsatisfactory environment."

"The supervisor felt strongly that there should be a safe and secure area that's really colorful, where the children can go and there are toys and books."

"In addition, there'll be a self-help center mainly for victims of domestic violence ... to help people, most of whom can't afford an attorney, with preparing the legal papers to get restraining orders against those who are committing or

threatening domestic violence or other violence against them."

Some workers have said morale is down at the courthouse — why is that?

"Judge Haber is kind of my mentor judge ... He's a larger-than-life figure. He's been managing this court for six years, and it's almost a larger-than-life role to follow. It's kind of like following Johnny Wooden."

"Also, the court is going through some severe problems ... We have been a county court for years and suddenly we became a state court. There are a lot of changes because you're moving, for many of the workers, from a small management to a management system where the direction is coming not even from the county but, in many cases, from San Francisco."

"Then there is the budget ... Where we had six people, for example, doing a job in the clerk's office, we now have two. It's kind of like Lucille Ball always trying to keep up with candy line ... We have court reporters now taking one Friday a month off without pay ... And when you have that kind of work situation, it doesn't take much stress to bring morale down. These are very real problems — the reality of the work setting has changed."

"I haven't yelled at anybody."

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See PROFILES, page 12

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LISA GRACE-KELLOGG, SBN 191988, Attorneys at Law 210 S. Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012 Telephone: (213) 628-4384 Attorney for Petitioner, SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES IN RE THE PETITION ROSS FURUKAWA TO ESTABLISH THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION and No. 85087128 NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO ESTABLISH A NEWSPAPER AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES (Government Code §6000) NOTICE IS GIVEN that on March 17, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. or as soon after that time as the matter may be heard, petitioner Ross Furukawa, will move for an order pursuant to Government Code §6000 adjudicating The Santa Monica Daily Press as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. The hearing will be held in Department 45 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The Petition sets forth the following: 1. Petitioner, Ross Furukawa, is editor of the newspaper known as The Santa Monica Daily Press, which is seeking adjudication under Government Code §6000 as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. 2. The Santa Monica Daily Press is published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character in the County of Los Angeles, California. It is not devoted to the interests, or published for the entertainment or instruction of a particular class, profession, trade, calling, race, or denomination, or for any number thereof. 3. The Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers numbering 26 in the County of Los Angeles for a total of 26 bona fide paying subscribers. 4. For more than one year preceding the filing of the petition, the petitioning newspaper has been established and has been printed and published at regular intervals in the County of Los Angeles. 5. During the whole of such one-year period, the mechanical work of producing the petitioning newspaper, that is, the work of typesetting and impressing type on paper, has been performed in the County of Los Angeles; the newspaper has been issued from the same county where it is printed and sold; it has been both printed and published in the County; and it has been published as a daily newspaper on each weekday and Saturday and has a daily paid circulation of 26. WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that The Santa Monica Daily Press be adjudicated pursuant to Government Code §6000 as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, State of California. DATED: January 13, 2004 LISA GRACE-KELLOGG Attorney for Petitioner

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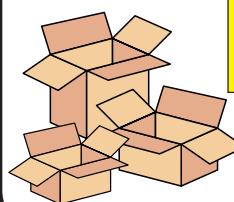
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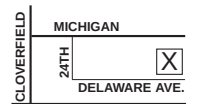
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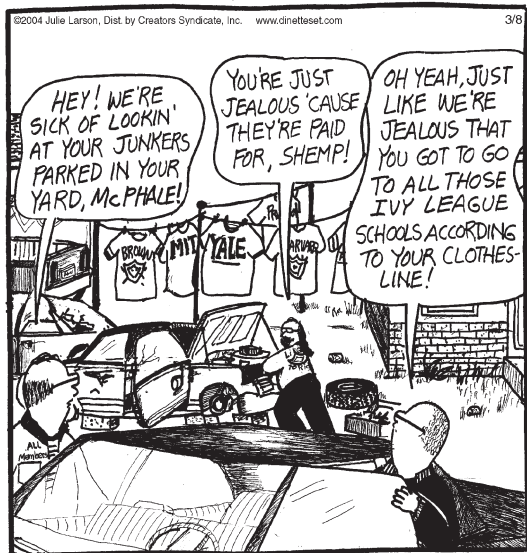
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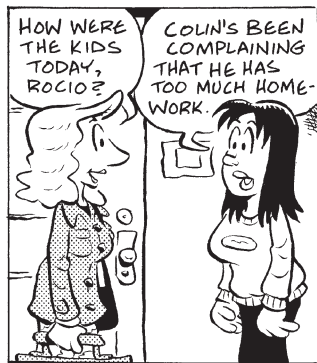


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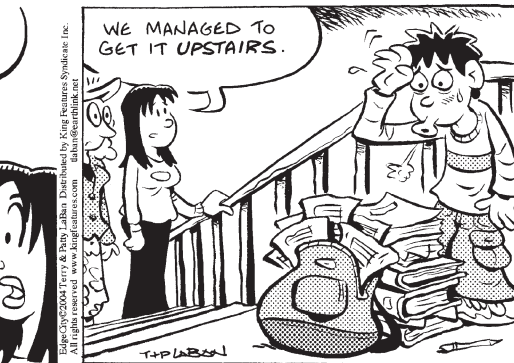
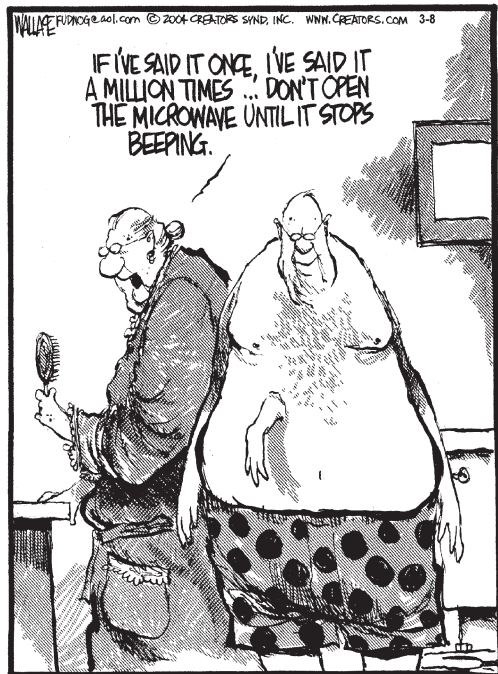
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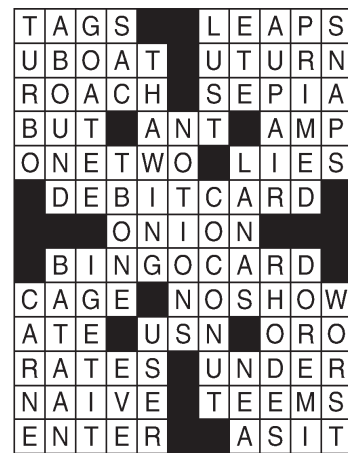
ACROSS

- 1 Hawk
- 5 Marsh croaker
- 9 Pluck
- 10 Beginning
- 12 Leek's cousin
- 13 Joe of "Good-fellas"
- 14 Procrasti-nator's phrase
- 16 Snack
- 17 "— bien!"
- 18 David Janssen TV series
- 21 Pos-sessed
- 22 Boun-daries
- 23 Hummer's instrument
- 24 Smug looks
- 26 Pigeon sound
- 29 Rum cocktail
- 30 Sudden shock
- 31 Maximum amount
- 32 "I won't discuss that"
- 34 Work crew
- 37 Vibrant
- 38 Choir member
- 39 Pit worker
- 40 "Finding Nemo" character

- 41 Cribbage markers

DOWN

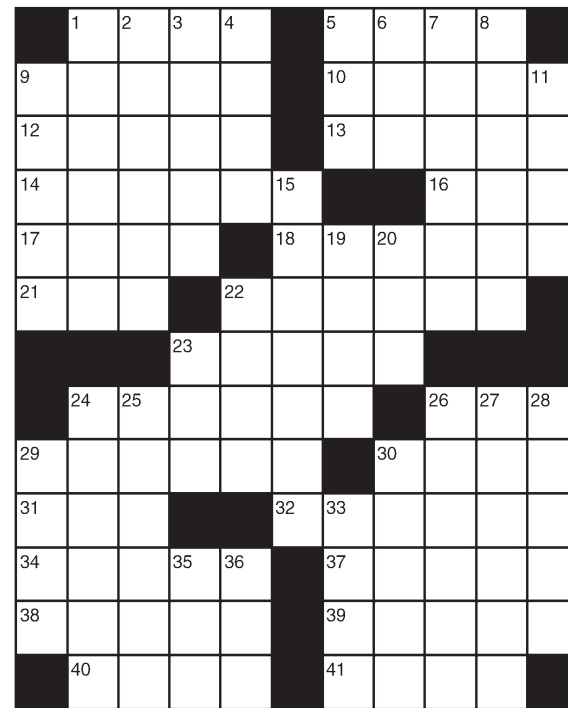
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- 2 Left
- 3 Pride members
- 4 Carson's successor
- 5 Acme
- 6 Count start
- 7 Declare
- 8 Rots
- 9 Calendar page
- 11 One of the Jacksons
- 15 Clever youngster
- 19 Singer
- 20 Carnival city
- 22 "Tomb Raider" heroine
- 23 Young fox
- 24 Like some peanuts
- 25 La Scala setting
- 26 Getting by
- 27 Relish tray items



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- 29 Ship pole
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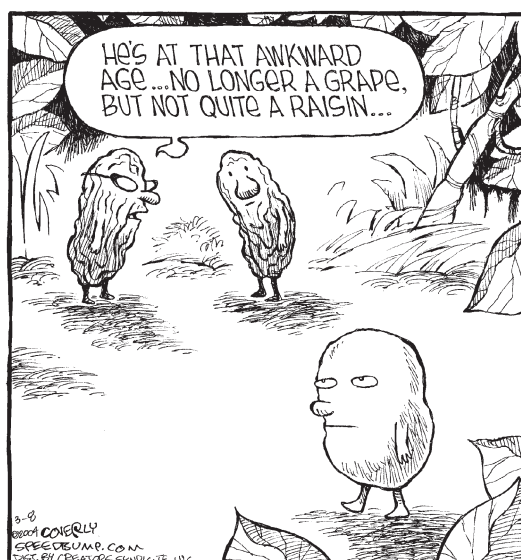


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LOCAL



PROFILES, from page 7

"I represented the Los Angeles Police Department, in some cases representing their anti-terrorism unit ... and had an opportunity to address constitutional issues at a level that probably only ACLU lawyers ever deal with.

"I represented the police department in a case involving the Jewish Defense League where there was an undercover officer that had been placed in the Jewish Defense League for years. It was just a fascinating case, because of all the constitutional issues.

"The privacy of the individual versus the need of the police to protect the public, and how you, in agony, balance all those conflicting needs. Now, we hear about these things all the time, but at the time it was a very unique and different thing."

"I've had a number of medical malpractice cases, and they're just fascinating. There's a certain drama about them ...

"I thought the Holiday case (where a couple sued City Hall and won after a

Eucalyptus tree fell on their car and injured them) was just fascinating ...

"I find myself driving around town on rainy days, looking at the trees (lawyers for the Holidays argued the concrete around the trunk choked the tree, which weakened its roots and led to it toppling over in a rainstorm) ...

"It goes back to the balance the jury had to make in my mind for the responsibility you give the city for keeping care of thousands of trees versus the responsibility the city has for the extreme damage that can occur when a mammoth tree falls."

You seem to be a very disciplined, driven person with a strong history of civic service. Do you have a philosophy on life or a guiding principle?

"I think lawyers tend to be driven personalities. And I suspect that I must be a very driven, 'Type A' person because I chose to go back to school after having kids.

"I grew up in the, and this is really going to show how old I am, in the John Kennedy era. And I grew up in a time when my friends and I really thought that public service was a great thing to do. It was right before Vietnam, and it was a time that people had a strong sense of optimism in the future."

If you weren't presiding judge of the

Santa Monica Courthouse, what would you be doing?

"Well, if I wasn't presiding judge, I would hopefully be in my courtroom doing jury trials. But if I weren't a judge or a lawyer? You know, I love what I'm doing and, you know, I chose it mid-life.

I can't imagine doing anything else ... I really do love it.

"I do have a grandson who is a juvenile diabetic, and I suspect I would be giving some assistance to children's hospitals if I had all the free time in the world to do so."

Linda Lefkowitz

The daughter of a men's clothes salesman and a housewife who later worked in an accounting office at UCLA, Lefkowitz credited Dr. Price, a constitutional law professor, for sparking her love of the law. She had planned to become a teacher.

Born: In Cleveland, Ohio, in 1940.

Raised: Lefkowitz moved to LA when she was 11 and graduated from Venice High in 1958.

Education: She spent one year at UCLA before marrying and dropping out of college. She later finished her degree at Cal State Northridge and went on to UCLA law school.

Background: After being married, Lefkowitz worked at the RAND Corp. as a researcher on military troop movements, where she said she was impressed by the number of professional women. She later worked for the LA City Attorney's Office for 10 years.

Salary: \$137,500.

Family: Husband Frank is an engineer. Daughter Terri is 37, son John is 34.

Residence: A house in Pacific Palisades.

Hobbies: Reading mystery books, gardening in her backyard and hiking. "My husband describes it as hiking — best downhill," Lefkowitz joked.



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