



HAPPY TO LEARN
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE BIG LEGAL NEWS ISSUE

Lawsuits back in bloom

Activists successfully force city to hold off on tree removal

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN, L.A. — The Santa Monica Treesavers' quest to curb City Hall's plans to uproot 54 ficus trees was resuscitated on Friday when the state Court of Appeal extended a temporary restraining order halting their removal.

The decision came just one day after the Treesavers filed an appeal challenging an earlier decision by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Ann Jones who ruled the group's lawsuit claiming City Hall had violated state environmental laws actually came more than a year too late.

The October 2007 lawsuit alleged City Hall failed to follow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when it didn't file an environmental impact report about a streetscape improvement project that in addition to removing and transplanting more than 50 trees along Second and Fourth streets, would repair broken sidewalks, improve pedestrian safety and enhance lighting.

In the Feb. 28 ruling, the judge found that the 180 day clock during which time a lawsuit could be filed began ticking in October 2005 when city officials determined the project was CEQA exempt. The Treesavers contend that City Hall had misled the public in stating that the street trees were also exempt, classifying them as facilities in the 2005 report, rather than as trees.

Those were the grounds on which the appeal was filed, according to Treesavers attorney Tom Nitti.

"The [2005] staff report said the street trees are exempt and they are not exempt," Nitti said on Friday. "It's a misrepresentation and that to me vitiates the process."

The decision by the Court of Appeal extends a temporary restraining order that was issued against City Hall on Oct. 5, 2007 until March 21 of this year. The initial restraining order halted the tree removal portion of the project from com-

SEE TREES PAGE 11



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

GATHERING STEAM: The Santa Monica Treesavers held a sit-in at City Hall on Wednesday to drum up support for their cause.

Taking different routes to school

Choosing the right place can be difficult for parents

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE When it came time to choose the right elementary school for her free-spirited daughter, the choice was clear for Rachel Bank.

In the fall of 2006, the Santa Monica mom, attracted to the idea of a progressive-approach to learning, enrolled her child in PS #1, an independent school on Euclid Street that takes a pluralistic perspective to education.

"I know that my child is having an excellent experience," Bank said on Thursday of her 6-year-old daughter. "She loves the school."

Just down the street from the Banks residence is Franklin Elementary School, considered to be among the best primary institutions in what has often been referred to as one of the best public school districts in the state, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD).

So why opt for the private school that comes with a pricey annual tuition?

For Bank, the decision was in the size.

"I think that Santa Monica has excellent public schools

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 14

SPORTS



ONE STEP AWAY

Vikings boys' soccer team plays for a state title

STORY BY JON HABER PAGE 13

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

THAT MUCH CLOSER: Santa Monica High School boys' soccer team on Thursday celebrates their victory over Banning High School as they advanced to the first-ever CIF State Division Championship Game, to be played Saturday night in Downey. Samohi, already champions of the Southern Section, will face off against the Poway Titans of San Diego.

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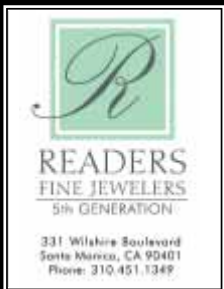
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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Paint the world beautiful

Point Dume Headlands/Westward Beach, 9:30 a.m.

All new or experienced artists working in any media, are cordially invited to join together for a Paint-Out to help capture some of the area's natural beauty in art. The event is sponsored by Allied Artists of the Santa Monica Mountains and Seashore, Inc.

Travelin' Dylan

2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Brentwood, call for times
Skirball's "Bob Dylan's American Journey" exhibit includes handwritten song lyrics, posters, and a recording of his first-ever, never-released concert. Included is an area where you can play drums with Dylan — much like Bono sang with Sinatra. General admission is \$10, \$7 for seniors and students, and free on Thursdays. Visit www.skirball.org for more information.

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, March 9, 2008

Improve eclectically

1323-A Third St. Promenade, Noon — 3 p.m.

Westside Eclectic's Level 1 Improv class is an introduction to the art of improv comedy. The intro covers core improv ideals, concepts and vocabulary such as hyper-listening, give and take, yes-anding, efficient communication and emotional response. The WE teaching staff creates a warm and open learning environment that facilitates establishing the foundation of a seasoned improviser.

For more information, e-mail classes@westsideeclectic.com.

'Vampire Lesbians of Sodom'

12420 Santa Monica Blvd., W. L.A., 8 p.m. — Midnight

The Black Box Theatre presents Charles Busch's camp comedy, "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom." Travel with these lusty ladies through 1920s Hollywood and 1980s Vegas as they learn to redefine friendship. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased by calling (310) 712-5711 or e-mailing jayceeproductions@gmail.com.

Kulturas anniversary

1700 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — 7 p.m.

Transplant second-hand bookstore, Kulturas, is celebrating its first whole year in Santa Monica by having "rolling sales" around different sections of the store. Check out their "sort-of-vintage" clothing corner and the current artist exhibit. For further information, call (310) 450-8707.

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.





REMEMBERING

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

The family of the late Santa Monica Police Officer Ricardo A. Crocker on Friday stands next to a replica of a memorial highway sign that has been placed along the I-10 Freeway in Santa Monica. Crocker's mother Jeanette Garcia (left), his brother Carlos Crocker and his sister Maria Crocker attended the memorial ceremony at the Police Activities League, where the officer was remembered for his dedication to community service. Crocker, a U.S. Marine, was killed in 2005 while serving in Iraq. Crocker's mother said she did not see her son's death as a personal attack, helping her through the grieving process, and she asked those in attendance to not harbor any ill-will toward the Iraqi people, saying, "There are loving people everywhere in this world."

SM nonprofits come together

Local organizations celebrate stewardship

BY NATALIE EDWARDS

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Santa Monica non-profit organizations are having a field weekend with Saturday and Sunday back-to-back festivals celebrating and promoting local stewardship.

The Third Annual Nonprofit Festival, organized by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, will take hold of 3rd Street Promenade from 10 am to 3 pm on Saturday.

"This is a really terrific way to feel the community spirit of Santa Monica, said Laurel Rosen, President and CEO of the chamber.

Over 40 local non-profits will be exhibited, all vying for the attention of residents with booths, brochures, enthusiastic volunteers, and maybe a few surprise draws to educate locals about the widespread and multi-faceted presence of charitable organizations in Santa Monica and inspire them to contribute.

"I think this is a great opportunity for anyone who has been looking for a way to reach out to the community, be a service, and make their lives count in terms of getting back," said Rosen.

The festival originated in 2006. Former head of the chamber Kathy Dodson was trying to brainstorm with her staff members the best way to further service the nonprofit organizations that abound in the city. Many didn't have the marketing funds to reach as

SEE NONPROFITS PAGE 16

A ruff job but some dog has to do it

Editor's note: For the next 10 weeks, Editor in Chief Kevin Herrera will be writing a first-person account of what it's like to be enrolled in the Santa Monica Police Department's Citizen Police Academy, which is intended to foster better communication between Santa Monicans and police officers, while giving residents a better understanding of what it takes to preserve the peace.

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Editor in Chief

CIVIC CENTER I think I've finally met a police officer I like.

OK, that's not entirely true. There are a couple who are pretty cool (here's a shout out to my buddy Lt. Alex Padilla, the hardest working man in the SMPD), but this one definitely ranks up there with John McClain from the "Die Hard" series or Alex Murphy from "Robocop" — two fictional characters that captivated me as a kid.

This officer is loyal, dedicated, friendly, and, dare I say adorable, with eyes that could

melt the coldest of hearts. He also likes to play fetch and obeys every command.

I'm talking about Landor, one of the Santa Monica Police Department's well-trained K-9s who protect and serve right along with their human partners, risking their lives for almost nothing in return aside from some Kibbles 'n Bits and a place to rest their heads.

Landor and his partner, Officer Adam Barry, gave a demonstration before my Citizens Police Academy class this week along with other Belgian Malinois employed by the department to assist the patrol officers with routine calls as well as searches of suspects, narcotics or explosives.

Barry had Landor search the lobby of the Public Safety Facility for explosives, which he found quickly, jumping up and down with his black nose pointed at a defibrillator packed into a case hanging on the wall. A prop with a chemical used in explosives was hidden behind the defibrillator, but that didn't fool Landor, whose strong sense of smell would never lead him astray.

The Santa Monica Police Department

began the K-9 program in 1976 and currently employs a half-dozen dogs, some costing as much as \$9,200. The dogs are imported from Europe, most often from the Netherlands, Barry said, and therefore they are usually trained in another language, forcing officers to learn a few commands in Dutch.

To develop a trusting relationship and to learn specialized police patrol techniques, the officer and his dog first attend a four-week training school together. Upon their graduation the two begin to "work the streets" as partners, training every week to remain sharp. The K-9 program is credited with saving countless work hours for the officers and making their work environment and our community safer.

After watching Landor and his colleague Duke dig through shrubbery or a crowded conference room and come back with a glove, kilo of cocaine or a vile of crack rocks, it became clear to me that the pooches represent money well spent.

"They take some of the danger off us,"

SEE ACADEMY PAGE 17



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

GOOD DOG: Citizen Police Academy participants Patty Gonzalez (left) and Luz Stella Smith gives some love to one of the Santa Monica Police Department's K-9s as the pooch's partner looks on. The SMPD has six K-9s who are trained to sniff out suspects.

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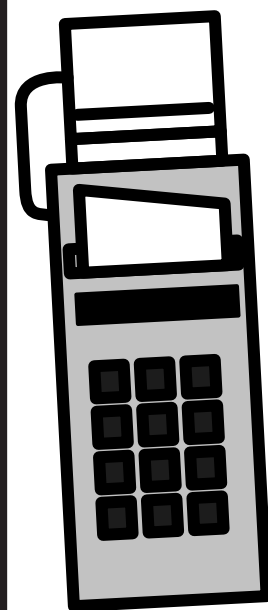
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hillary isn't very honest

Editor:

Meredith Carroll's article ("Time for Women to start fighting back," page 5, March 6) is semi-amusing yet remarkably incorrect in almost every way. First of all, Hillary is not a target "because she's a strong woman." Hillary is a "target" because she is dishonest, far less accomplished than she pretends to be, and would be nowhere politically if she (did) not marr(y) Bill, who is the one genius in the family. She is anything but "extraordinarily qualified," except to the extent that she is very well-qualified to suck in millions of female voters simply because she would be the first female president. Also, as a confirmation of Hillary's value system, she is running a very sleazy campaign right out of the Rove playbook. Any other candidate from either party would be a far better president and God help us all if Hillary manages to sleaze her way into the White House. If that red phone rings at 3 a.m. and Hillary answers, we had better all head for the border.

Dewey G. Andrews

Santa Monica

Paying taxes isn't punitive

Editor:

If it were not for the dire consequences of his kind of thinking, I would have laughed at the assertions made by Steve Breen in his column ("The Inside Scoop on Obama-nomics," page 4, March 5). Unless and until we get our heads around what taxes are and are not, his views, and those of other(s) in the radical anti-tax camp, will continue to pollute the public discourse on how government ought to be funded and by whom.

Breen asserts that some of the economic policies being espoused by Sen. Obama amount to a system "whereby you punish the Bill Gates', the Warren Buffets' and the Oprah Winfrey's..." Since when is a tax a strictly punitive measure? Paying taxes is an important civic and public obligation. It is a price of citizenship in this great land.

The moguls he cites in his piece (and others of that that 2 percent who own 98 percent of this country) got rich of their own sweat, dedication and enterprise, no doubt. But they also did so in this country, which, through its policies, laws and rights (and often various tax breaks) enabled them to amass such staggering fortunes.

I applaud their success, which embodies the heart of the American dream. Asking them to pay a bit more in taxes, however, is not asking too much. A higher rate of taxation for folks who've become billionaires will not, as the likes of Breen often contend, become a disincentive to enterprise. It's better to pay 38 percent on annual income of, say, \$500 million than it is to pay 30 percent on \$45,000 per year. One can assume the mogul paying at a higher rate wouldn't want to trade places with the stiff (a "bottom-feeder" in Breen's assessment) on a work-a-day salary.

Too many of the richest in this country have found ways to privatize profit but socialize risk. When they make money, it is all theirs. When they end up in the red, the taxpayers are supposed to bail them out.

Finally, Breen chose poorly when picking those he used to personify his point. Bill Gates has often spoken about the need for the wealthy to do more, while Warren Buffet is opposed to repealing the estate tax. And Oprah actually supports Obama in a big way. She either likes being punished or knows a thing or two about civic duty.

Chris Ruh

Canoga Park



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What could you do with \$600?

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE just about over. As we get closer to April 15, I'm getting more and more excited about the administration's "economic stimulus package." I know it includes incentives to businesses and other things that I don't understand, but the most exciting aspect of the "package" is the \$600 "recovery rebates." That may seem like a drop in the bucket for people in financial trouble, but it's better than nothing, isn't it?

Of course, the naysayers are cynical about the plan. They point out that the idea is to give money to those who need it most in the hope that they won't save it. Government economists want people to spend it — buy things whether they can afford them or not. Get that money into the economy. The doubters ask, "Isn't that how people got into debt in the first place?"

Putting that bit of killjoyism aside, let's not look a gift rebate in the mouth. Not everybody is going to get \$600. Some married couples will get \$1,200. Higher income people will get less, and some won't get any at all. But the money will be given to the lucky people with low enough incomes to qualify. And since the figure of \$600 is the one we keep hearing about, let's just deal with that.

People are soon going to have this influx of cash, and they will be overwhelmed. The cry of, "What am I supposed to do with all this money?" is going to echo across this land as an estimated 130 million people utter it simultaneously. I've done a little research, and I think I can help them with this problem.

For \$600, you could get a nice, big HD TV — if you can get together with four friends who also have refunds. Maybe you could have a rotating system so each of you gets the TV for a month or so, then it goes to the next friend, then the next. That seems a lot more practical than putting the TV outside, midway between all the owners.

In Santa Monica or West L.A., you won't be able to pay for an entire annual physical with all the tests for \$600, so just hope there's nothing wrong with you in the areas that the doctor won't be able to examine.

I just checked, and you can buy about 395.70 Euros with \$600. Oops! I checked again. It's down to 395.26.

You can get the cheapest iPhone and still have \$200 left for accessories. So, if you don't actually call anyone or use the Internet on it, you'll be able to afford one with the \$600.

You can buy a new washing machine, but you'll still have to use the old dryer. You can fill up your car with gas about 12 times. You could buy 60 home bedpans or six Shiatsu massage cushions.

You can buy 300 Viagra pills. Or you could buy 300 condoms. Maybe the sensible way to go would be 150 Viagras and 150 condoms.

You can get one or two dents fixed on your car. You won't be able to buy an entire new mattress, but again, if you're willing to share with some others who got the \$600, you'll be fine.

Whoa! Now, you can only get 395.00 Euros for your \$600.

FOR \$600, YOU COULD GET A NICE, BIG HD TV — IF YOU CAN GET TOGETHER WITH FOUR FRIENDS WHO ALSO HAVE REFUNDS. MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE A ROTATING SYSTEM SO EACH OF YOU GETS THE TV FOR A MONTH OR SO ...

Maybe you'd like to buy a lot of little things with the \$600. You could buy 200 jars of pickles. You could buy 60 of those light bulbs that stick on the wall without having to be plugged in. You could buy 100 12-packs of toilet paper, about 600 containers of Tic Tacs, or if you're feeling festive, you can get 870 packs of those Easter "peeps."

The point is, it doesn't matter what you buy as long as you buy. And spending all that newfound money is somehow supposed to help everybody economically. I know it doesn't seem to make sense, but I guess we're supposed to just accept what these professional economists tell us. Although, I do wonder what they're buying with their money. Oops! I just checked again, and now that \$600 will only get you 394.66 Euros.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com.

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STRAY talk

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

“My early friends in New York like Bob Duval and Gene Hackman and other great actors who live here like Tony Hopkins and Annette Benning were trained for the stage, so it remains a vital part of who we are. They want a first-class theater. This is who you are going to get — all the great artists.”

Dustin Hoffman, regarding the Broad Stage at Santa Monica College, which will open in September.

“We’re just so thrilled we’re going to have such nice neighbors.”

Barbara Cullom, neighbor of a modern house on the corner of Seventh Street and San Vicente Boulevard.

“For what it’s worth Michael J. Fox and I have differing opinions about just where Alex is today. I believe he does pro bono legal work for The Children’s Defense Fund. Mike thinks he’s just now getting out of prison.”

Gary David Goldberg, The founder of UBU Productions, which produced nine television series including “Family Ties” and “Brooklyn Bridge,” in a guest SMDP commentary.

“It’s no longer cute for parents to laugh and giggle about how tech savvy their kids are. It’s affecting kids as they’re growing up and they need to know they can go to their parents about something as serious as cyber bullying.”

Candice Kelsey, a Venice resident and author of “Generation MySpace,” on the recent phenomenon of cyber bullying.

“Despite graduating from college with a minor in Women’s Studies, I’ve never been too quick to wave a burning bra (especially when having a door held for me if my arms are full or being offered a free drink on Ladies Night).”

SMDP columnist Meredith C. Carroll in her weekly column Meredith Pro Tem.

“From what I’ve heard from my foodie friends who’ve actually been to Spain, tapas bars allow you to just throw things on the ground. I don’t get it.”

SMDP food columnist Maria L. Rohloff in The Marinade.

“Is this what we are about? Letting government act as they please. NO. Now that the apartment owners are gone, the voices of the free market are banished; SMRR rules the city un-opposed. Who will stand up for you when they come after you? And they will. History is clear that unchecked government grows more powerful and enjoys its power and thirsts for more.”

Robert Kronovet, who’s running for a seat on the Santa Monica Rent Board.



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STASH OR TRASH?

This past week, Q-line asked:
What do you do with your plastic bags once you get them home from the store?
Here are your responses:

"I USE THE PLASTIC BAGS FOR COLLECTING garbage or for use the next time I shop. But the plastic bags are not the only source of pollution in this city. The vagrancy and bums leave tons of garbage around our sidewalks, parks, beach, etc. The city administration is in total denial about this growing hazardous problem. It gets worse everyday."

"A BETTER QUESTION FOR THE magnificent Santa Monica Daily Press to ask would be how many readers use the plastic shopping bags for cat and dog poop receptacles. Plenty I bet, including me. If I had \$5 for every pound of cat poop that I have sent to the city dump in plastic bags, I could spend a nice weekend in Las Vegas, stay in a good hotel and sit in the Keno parlor all day long. Often, when I drive the 405 freeway, I look upward to the old Mulholland city dump sight, and I am honored that those magnificent residential estates there on Mulholland Drive are setting on at least a ton of my kitty cat's poop."

"I USE THE PLASTIC BAGS TO LINE MY garbage can. I put two of the grocery store bags in there. And, it seems that if I didn't have the use of those I would have to go and buy garbage bags, which would sort of defeat the purpose. Also, when I had a dog, I used them to clean up after the dog."

"THIS LEADS ME TO A VERY IMPORTANT question. My mother used to dump pieces of garbage in newspaper and roll them up and take them out when I was a little kid. Is that what we're going to have to do? I wonder what we'll do without plastic garbage bags. Thank you."

"THOSE CRAZY OLD BAGS ON OUR CITY Council already passed a law that requires dog owners to carry plastic bags and now they want to outlaw plastic bags. First, repeal the doggie-bag law. We poorer residents will be forced to pay more for food, and we've been using the plastic bags for our garbage. Now, we will have to buy garbage bags and doggy-bags and pay extra for the bags at the store."

"YES, NOW THAT I'M A MEMBER OF A convalescent home, I use plastic bags even though they're not environmentally friendly. I use them to store food. But, I'm going to try and start using bags that are environmentally friendly."

"SOME OF THE BAGS, I USE FOR TRASH, to put trash into, and others are the bags I put into the trash. This environmentally politically correct stuff is just bandage on a hemorrhage. Everyone's garbage has to go somewhere. If you want less garbage, you have to stop encouraging, subsidizing, spawning litters of kids."

"I USE MY PLASTIC BAGS TO THROW OUT my trash everyday, And sometimes I take them with me when I go out shopping and use them again."

"I WAS DISTRESSED TO SEE A LOT OF HIGH school students marching down the promenade and the Co-Opportunity in different stores supporting this idea of not giving us plastic bags when we go shopping because most of us take them home and use them for our trash to pick up our pets' droppings. We recycle them people. We don't take the stuff out and let go of the bag to blow into a tree. We recycle them, we use them. So what it's going to do to me personally is cause me to go out and buy plastic bags to pick up pet droppings or to put my trash in. So, I find it just insane that a bunch of children and eco-warriors feel it's responsible to stop having us have our groceries bagged. People, we need trash bags. So this is just going to create a new income stream for people

who produce plastic."
"THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO THE PRACTICAL side of plastic bags: There is none. It is not practical for the U.S. to import billions of gallons of oil to make plastic bags. Oil wars and security interest are not practical. There is no practical side to plastic bags. There are alternatives to plastic bags. We do not need them."

"YOU HAVE MISDIRECTED AN IMPORTANT question, bypassing a lot of anger at another small and stupid issue. This tempest in a tea pot comes courtesy of the socialist loonies on the City Council and their assorted non-taxpaying brethren of the environmental alarmists like Heal the Wallet. Again, allow the market place to decide. A brave city government will let people choose to support paper or plastic, rather than resorting to a Stalinist edict. Otherwise, our future councilmembers' slogan may be: Today plastic bags, tomorrow the world."

"WE FIND MANY WAYS TO REUSE OUR plastic bags. We mostly recycle them by filling them with our newspapers, food cans, plastic and glass juice bottles and milk and juice cartons. They are useful to line or trash cans and also to pick up doggy poop. Eliminating the bags will not solve the problem. You still have plastic baggies, plastic wrap, plastic trash bags and leaks in garbage bags sold in the stores, plastic bags over the clothes from the cleaners, plastic over bags from the department stores, and all the plastic bags for department store purchases. Better to just shut down the plastics industry."

"REGARDING THE PLASTIC BAGS, I USE them for booties for workmen or people who don't want to take their shoes off in my house. Most of them get used as garbage bags, and if they stop them I have to buy garbage bags, which is certainly no more environmentally friendly because they have more packaging. And, I have to earn the money for them. But for booties, they work quite well, too."

"I USE MY PLASTIC BAGS FOR TRASH ALL the time. I never throw them away. I'm thinking of leaving Santa Monica when I go shopping so I can get plastic bags at outlying areas. I think City Hall should not be so liberal on this issue."

"I GAVE UP MY GYM BAG FOR FOUR grocery bags. I carry books and magazines when I want to go out and want to read. I carry five or six folded-up grocery sacks rolled up with a rubber band in my purse. They're small and useful. You can't do that with paper sacks or canvas bags in your purse, but you can with your plastic bags. I love the plastic bags."

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L.A. Fashion Week highlights tension

BY SOLVEJ SCHOU

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Just as L.A. Fashion Week took a step forward, the celeb-as-designer trend seems to have sent it two steps back.

Though the presence of bigger and more legitimate designers has grown over the past few years, fashion regulars Sue Wong, Kevan Hall and Ed Hardy are not showing Fall 2008 collections at Culver City's Smashbox photo studios next week.

So as Fashion Week gets under way Sunday, the spotlight turns to the likes of "The Hills" star Lauren Conrad, Nicky Hilton and the Pussycat Dolls.

Yes, the Pussycat Dolls.

Hey, it's just Hollywood, right?

Wong, for one, calls the emerging trend "absolutely bogus."

But Smashbox co-founder Davis Factor says the week "is for everybody," from established designers to show biz types. Even the burlesque-inspired singing girl group.

"Sure, every celebrity and his brother wants to be a fashion designer," said Wong, who has been designing since 1968. "It's not like anybody can pick it up and do it. It's a science. You need to know fit and construction."

Wong, a dependable draw for the past six years at Mercedes-Benz L.A. Fashion Week, said she plans to show there again next season.

This season, however, she will stick to an ornate '20s and '30s inspired collection at her restored historic mansion The Cedars "to do something different," she said.

"I don't believe in reality TV stars turning into designers or a music mogul or a flash-in-the-pan turning into a designer," Wong said, acknowledging lines by Sean "Diddy" Combs and Jennifer Lopez. "It's all about merchandizing and them trying to capitalize on their 15 minutes of fame. I don't think those kind of houses can be taken seriously. What can be taken seriously is a real, bona fide talent."

Factor, though, gushed that he has always wanted to bring entertainment and music to L.A. Fashion Week, and emphasized that "the fashion we steer to our event is all very serious."

"A lot of what I see these celebrities doing, like Gwen Stefani with L.A.M.B., they're also passionate about designing. ... I would like to see more celebrities showing in Los Angeles," he said.

But is Conrad, in Wong's words, a "real, bona fide talent"? Only her upcoming Fashion Week debut will tell.

The 22-year-old petite blonde, known for starring roles on hit MTV reality shows "Laguna Beach" and "The Hills," has cast her style influence long and wide this year on the red carpet and with her own casual Lauren Conrad Collection, available online. Magazine covers have sailed her way — the kind of exposure not normally available to up-and-coming designers.

"I think my involvement in reality television has played a bittersweet role in my career," Conrad said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "If I wasn't on TV I wouldn't have my line, but because I'm on TV people don't take me seriously."

And there's the rub.

"People in the entertainment industry try to capitalize on their 15 minutes in every way possible," she continued. "The difference is I want a line that lasts longer than 15 minutes. It's what I've always wanted to do and what I hope to continue with when I'm

done with entertainment."

Conrad, who has trained at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, said the additional pressure thrust upon her Fashion Week debut made her nervous while working on the line. She described it as "California chic," basing this season on a recent trip to Paris reflected in simple, clean pieces accessorized with berets, netting, leather gloves, bows and lace.

"I will probably never have the respect I want in the fashion industry, but I can work hard every day to try and prove myself," Conrad said. "Can I really be criticized for taking advantage on an opportunity that allows me to have what I've always wanted?"

Wong still voiced her skepticism.

"Let's see whether she can survive and thrive. It takes so much dedication," she said. "You gotta really pay your dues to be a serious artist."

A LOT OF WHAT I SEE THESE CELEBRITIES DOING, LIKE GWEN STEFANI WITH L.A.M.B., THEY'RE ALSO PASSIONATE ABOUT DESIGNING. ... I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE CELEBRITIES SHOWING IN LOS ANGELES."

Davis Factor
Smashbox co-founder

This season's 22 shows include Paris Hilton's sister Nicky's high-end Nicholai line, Ukrainian designer Veronika Jeanvie in collaboration with '60s hotshot Paco Rabanne, and artsy L.A. based Whitley Kros, designed by Sophia Coloma and actress Marissa Ribisi, the wife of alt-rocker Beck.

In an unfortunate blow, Hall, another established Fashion Week mainstay, at the last minute pulled out from headlining one of the week's prime nights, leaving a gaping hole in the couture department.

Hall is known for his elegant, red carpet-worthy gowns popular with the Hollywood set (he dressed nominee Ruby Dee in ruby red at last month's Oscars), and he closed Fashion Week's Fall 2007 season last year.

That closing slot, though, will be filled this season by more saucy fare: a Pussycat Dolls lingerie line designed by their founder Robin Antin, who headed up a reality TV show last year involving the group.

In his own defense, Hall said that having his small staff concentrate on licensing projects was "more important than doing a fashion show," especially with a brand new, 5,000 square-foot space under renovation.

He emphasized the decision "wasn't a reflection on anyone," and dispelled rumors that he had lost sponsors. Hall's sudden dropout pointed to the absence of another mega line, Christian Audigier's tattoo-inspired Ed Hardy label, which was a hit at Fashion Week last Fall.

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A map of downtown Los Angeles showing the Mid-City, Downtown, Main Street, and Venice areas. The map is divided into colored regions: Mid-City (red), Downtown (teal), Main Street (blue), and Venice (light blue). A thick black line runs vertically through the center, separating the Mid-City and Downtown areas from the Main Street and Venice areas. The text 'MONTANA AVE.' is written vertically on the left side, 'MID-CITY' is in the red area, 'DOWNTOWN' is in the teal area, 'PICO/SUNSET PARK' is in the yellow area, 'MAIN STREET' is in the blue area, and 'VENICE' is in the light blue area.

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File photo

SAFE FOR NOW: City officials must hold off on plans to remove 54 trees from Second and Fourth streets in downtown.

Struggle to save trees continues

FROM TREES PAGE 1

menching as scheduled just three days later. The rest of the project has proceeded and city officials have stated repeatedly in the past that further delays to the beautification project could jeopardize state and federal funding.

“We are following this court order and we expect to prevail,” City Manager Lamont Ewell said on Friday. “The facts have not changed and delay is costing the taxpayers.”

The streetscape project calls for the destruction of 23 ficus trees that have been identified as structurally unstable and the transplantation of up to 31 trees to elsewhere in the city, including parks and parts of Second and Fourth streets. Each tree identified for removal will be replaced with two ginkgo biloba trees. About 100 ficus trees in the project area, defined as between Colorado Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard, will remain.

“This means that over 200 trees will be in the eight block project area,” Ewell said. “Two independent arborists and our community forester have agreed this meets with best practices of urban forestry.”

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Filmmaker forced into the fray

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
MANAGING EDITOR

DOWNTOWN Some stories were just meant to be told.

In the case of the South Central Farm, it was the 350 families that depended on the 14-acre plot to help sustain themselves that moved many to throw themselves into the fray to save it from being redeveloped.

One such individual was Sheila A. Laffey, a Santa Monica College professor and documentary filmmaker, who upon hearing the clamor, was forced into action. Having chronicled and championed environmental issues in the past on film, she realized that there was something she had to offer to help further the cause of the ill-fated patch of land in South Los Angeles that will eventually be transformed from a patch of agrarian heaven into a commercial development.

"I wear two hats. One as an ardent conservationist and one as a documentary filmmaker," Laffey said. "My major initial goal in making the film was to try to help save the farm, hoping that potential funders for the property might see the film and be moved to action."

Her film, "South Central Farm: Oasis in a Concrete Desert," tells the story of an ad-hoc group of activists that came together to fight what they believed to be a noble fight. Some were celebrities, some community activists — they were all united by an overriding belief that the farm must be saved at all costs.

The film, which has been broadcast on PBS as part of the "Natural Heroes" series, is part of the Fifth Annual Pacific Palisades Film Festival, which concludes today at the



Photo courtesy J. McIntosh

A LITTLE HOPE: Robert Caveros holds out a handful of seeds during the documentary 'South Central Farm: Oasis in a Concrete Desert.' Sheila A. Laffey, an SMC professor, directed the film. Theater Palisades in Pacific Palisades.

While most films of this ilk tend to be one-sided, Laffey thought that the story needed to be told through both sides involved in what would become a nationally televised event.

"As a documentary filmmaker I wanted to tell the powerful story of the farmers and their connection with the land and any of the other side that we could get to try to understand how this thriving farm came to be and how it could be threatened," she said.

film, it was the actual issue at hand that was the primary reason for getting involved.

"When I first heard of the project, my initial reaction was probably not that much different than most Angelenos," Pepos said. "While on the surface, sure, one could say that it's about the farmer against the developer or the other way around and leave it at that. But, the issues we raise in the film have a wider impact as well."

The film's inclusion in the festival that showcases independent filmmakers was somewhat of a fluke. The film was part of the recent American Film Institute's recent festival and caught the eye of Bob Sharka, who runs the Pacific Palisades Film Festival.

"Bob saw the film at AFI and asked me if he could show it. He had showed one or two of my [previous] films in the past and knew my work," she said. "He's all over the place. He sees what good films are out there and tries to include them in his festival."

The film, which wrapped production in July of 2007, is currently available on DVD. Laffey secured a distributor and is currently receiving requests from a number of educators that would like to show the work to their students.

Laffey secured funding for the short film by way of grants and donations from various sources, but she hopes to take the idea and expand on it in the future.

"Since this documentary is a short we had to leave fascinating footage on the cutting room floor," she said. "We are currently fundraising to do a longer (film) on the controversy and the importance of urban farms."

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DREAM SEASON: Santa Monica High School soccer players Ricky Martinez (#7 left) and Eddie Delgado (#17 right) push the ball down Corsair field on Thursday night in a semi-final match against Banning High School. Samohi won, 3-0, and will play the Poway Titans of San Diego Saturday at Warren High School in Downey in the first-ever CIF State Division Championship Game.

State title on the line

BY JON HABER

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN The Santa Monica boys' soccer team is on the verge of making history yet again just a week after celebrating the program's first ever undefeated championship season, taking home the California Interscholastic Federation, Southern Section Division IV championship.

The Vikings (28-0-1) will take on the Poway Titans of San Diego (20-2-4) Saturday at Warren High School in Downey in the first ever CIF state division championship game.

"Right now, we're feeling really good," said Nick Ferro, senior defender for the Vikings. "We're confident coming into this game. We know if we play our game, we can beat anyone out there."

CIF officials implemented the state division tournament in 2008, allowing top Southern California teams to compete for a state title. Samohi defeated Newbury Park High School, 2-1, and Banning of Wilmington, 3-0, this past week to advance to the finals match.

Although Samohi has dominated opponents all season long, head coach Frank Gatell knows a tough challenge lies ahead for his boys.

"Poway is a very strong defensive team," he said. "They have physical size, and I'm expecting a very good match Saturday."

But Samohi players feel their offense can execute a game plan to beat the Titans.

"We're going to play aggressive and try to settle the ball. We can use our skill to our advantage because we do have it," Ferro said.

The Vikings' victory over Banning Thursday came without the Vikings' defensive leader on the field.

All-CIF senior goal keeper Alex Kovacs was not allowed to play after receiving a red card in the match against Newbury Park for kicking an opposing player in the back of the ankle. Although the play appeared accidental — Gatell says Kovacs was going for the ball, not the player — new FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football) rules state any collision initiated by a goal keeper will result in an automatic red card.

Because of the incident, the Vikings had to rely on sophomore goal keeper Michael Freedman to anchor the defense, and he did not disappoint. He had four saves and helped lead Samohi to its eighth shutout victory in its last nine games.

"(Freedman) couldn't have done a better job," Ferro said. "He played a flawless game."

Senior lock-down defender Chris De La Rosa was also a big factor in the Vikings' defensive scheme. The senior shutdown the Pilot's leading scorer, junior forward Guillermo Beltran, who scored 23 goals on the season.

"(De La Rosa) played Beltran very physical. He took him to the wings and did not allow Beltran to get around him," Gatell said.

The rest of the defense focused on keeping the Pilots toward the outside of the field. Banning is known as a very strong team up the middle, so Samohi worked hard to expose the Pilots on the wings.

**RIGHT NOW,
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REALLY GOOD.
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COMING INTO THIS GAME.
WE KNOW IF WE PLAY
OUR GAME, WE CAN BEAT
ANYONE OUT THERE."**

Nick Ferro

Senior defender for Samohi

Gatell said, "We used [junior midfielders] Ricky Martinez and Juan Magana on the wings and made it very clear to the midfielders not to hold onto the ball in the middle of the field."

Samohi's offense was led by its trio of senior forwards. Alessandro Canale focused on passing the ball out to the wings to open the offensive attack, while Eddie Delgado scored twice and Artur Jozkowicz scored the final goal.

The execution didn't surprise Ferro, whose seen his forwards lead the offensive charge from day one.

"Our offense has been amazing all year," he said. "Everyone's stepped up when we needed them to. It's amazing to see."

The Vikings' offense and defense is going to have to step up one last time Saturday to bring Santa Monica a state championship. The game is set to begin at 1 p.m.

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Santa Monica parents met with solid choices

FROM SCHOOLS PAGE 1

... and we have many friends whose children go there and they all speak highly of it," Bank said. "We felt we wanted a more intimate place and in our choosing, we really embraced the philosophy of PS #1."

It's a difficult, albeit lucky, decision that many parents residing in Santa Monica have to face as their children approach school age, grappling with decisions as to whether to send their kids to a private or public school.

In just 8.3 square miles, Santa Monica is stacked with a seemingly endless supply of educational options for parents, from the 12 public schools, to an array of private school choices, each offering a different educational mission, from the religions side with St. Monica Catholic High School and the Pilgrim Lutheran School to the secular with institutions like New Roads and PS #1, to the arts and science-based curriculum of the Crossroads School.

More options are better than none at all.

"There's a kind of (mentality) of individualism in Santa Monica, just as a community, and schools tend to reflect that," Jim McManus, the executive director of the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), said. "People value education and they have multiple pathways to pursue in educating their kids."

Santa Monica is among several cities that have a high number of schools within its city limits. The city of Pasadena, in addition to the public school system, has about 12 or 13 inde-

pendent schools that are members of the CAIS. Santa Monica is unique in that for its size, it has a dense concentration of schools, McManus said. The CAIS in Santa Monica has three member schools, including Crossroads, PS #1, Carlthorp and New Roads.

Nearly half of all students that attend private schools go to Catholic schools, McManus estimated.

In Santa Monica, more residents opt for the public school system with roughly 85 percent of the city's school-age population enrolled in the SMMUSD in 2005. That number is up from 5 years prior when only 80 percent of the city's children attended a public school, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The percentage of students enrolled in public schools gradually declines from elementary school onward — only 79 percent of Santa Monica children attend a public high school, a drop from 82 percent in grades five through eight and even more substantial drop from 83 percent in first through fourth grade, according to 2000 census data. The number is significantly lower in kindergarten where only 73 percent of the city's children attended a public kindergarten.

The city is below the national average of 89 percent of school-aged children attending public schools, according to Jose Escarce, the vice president of the SMMUSD Board of Education.

In affluent communities like Santa Monica where residents can often afford the pricey tuition that comes with an independent school, the percentage of children opting for



Photos by Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE: Santa Monica has one of the densest concentrations of exceptional schools, both public and private, giving parents in the affluent community options as to where their children should receive their education. Among the schools in the local educational pack are Santa Monica High School (opposite page), the flagship secondary school in the public school district, and St. Monica Catholic High School (above).

private school is usually higher, Escarce added.

Some of the most notable differences between private and public schools seem to fall under two categories — funding and accessibility. While private schools don't rely on state and federal funding, many do have a high tuition that can rival that of a private university, making public school a more affordable and feasible options for many families, enhancing the economic and cultural diversities of public schools. Due to the fact that private schools don't receive state and federal funding, those schools are not tied up by stringent testing standards set

under No Child Left Behind, giving teachers considerably more time to just focus on the curriculum itself, educators say. Private schools also tend to have smaller class sizes.

"One of the most atrocious things to happen to public schools is No Child Left Behind," Roger Weaver, the headmaster at Crossroads, said. "That piece of legislation has created an almost test-driven culture that takes out of the mix the opportunity for the teachable moment with kids."

It's the same battle cry heard by NCLB opponents since the legislation was instituted, arguing that public school teachers spend countless

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hours preparing their children for tests.

"I understand why legislators and the public in general feel (schools) should be accountable for public education, but what they've done is create a structure ... that creates more complicated requirements that get in the way of what the educational possibilities really are," Weaver added. "On top of that, they don't give them enough money to do the job and on top of that, they test them to death and if they don't do well on testing, they take away more money."

Linda Streaan, the managing editor of GreatSchools.net, a site that compares different public and private schools, said that there tends to be less credentialed teachers at private schools where there isn't a requirement like in public schools. Private schools also tend to have fewer programs that specifically address students with learning disabilities,

which is a required service in public schools, she added.

"You need to look at your child and see what is the best fit," Streaan said.

While it's widely stated that one of the advantages of a private school is its ability to offer more electives and AP classes than public schools, the SMMUSD is perhaps unique in its ability to offer just that, with an elementary music program and a wide array of honors and college preparatory courses.

"I've worked in other districts before, but the emphasis in art and music is just immense," SMMUSD Chief Academic Officer Sally Chou said.

Another key difference between public and private schools is diversity in the former, not just in racial, but economic and religious, Chou said. Such diversity often leads to a development of tolerance, Chou said.

Escarce echoed Chou's sentiment, adding that the district is able to draw from a wide cross-section of the community.

"This is what real life is like," Escarce said. "Real life is living in a diverse world, not everyone is perfect and not everyone is rich, that is what is great about our public schools."

Diversity was among the reasons why Rebecca Kennerly, the president of the district's PTA Council, chose SMMUSD for her kids.

"It isn't just the top kids who are hand-picked to go to college that are allowed within the walls," Kennerly said. "Our kids are learning with kids from struggling families, of English language learners, students with special needs."

Though competition is always healthy, school heads in Santa Monica insist that the relationship between the various public and private schools is not adversarial, but rather collaborative, with the same goal of educating children.

"We always supported the public school system," PS #1 headmaster Joel Pelcyger said. "Often times, we recommend that kids, after they graduate from our (elementary) school, go to public school system."

DIVERSITY IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The private schools in Santa Monica are not cookie cutter, which is one of the reasons why they are so attractive to the residents here, giving them different options to serve their children's needs, McManus said.

Founded in 1971, Crossroads is a K-12 independent school serving about 1,130 students. With an emphasis on the arts and science, the private school's curriculum taps into the student's internal creative and expressive imagination and uses that to generate an interest in certain subjects.

"We feel it provides them more of an education and balance of them and those two components actually complement each

other," Weaver said.

The general assumption is that arts and science is usually enjoyed at the expense of academics, but the school has been able to incorporate the two ends of the spectrum into a harmonious relationship.

"If you validate and value arts and make a place for that, you actually strengthen the child's connection," Weaver added.

Located a few blocks away, PS #1 is an independent elementary school founded by Pelcyger more than 37 years ago. The school takes a progressive approach to learning, mixing students of all ages together in various classrooms, which are divided by grade or intellectual level. The "P" in PS #1 stands for pluralistic.

"We don't offer grades, we don't have straight-graded classes like kindergarten or first grade," Pelcyger said. "It's all about how kids learn, being with people different than yourself."

The school has small class sizes with a total enrollment of about 200.

"We think of ourselves as a private school with a public purpose," Pelcyger said.

Santa Monica mom Emanuela Boni, chose PS #1 for her son because its approach to education mirrored the Reggio-method, which was developed in Reggio, Italy. The method involves the teacher listening to the children's ideas.

Boni lives in the McKinley Elementary School zone, but opted for a private school because of the smaller class sizes.

Now her son is 12 years old and about to enter middle school. Boni said she isn't considering enrolling her son in a public school and is instead applying for Crossroads as well as Harvard-Westlake.

"We're hoping to remain in a smaller school and we're hoping to remain in a somewhat progressive school," Boni said.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Nonprofit bonanza comes to town

FROM NONPROFITS PAGE 3

many people on their own as they needed to remain active and visible.

"This event just made sense. The festival is a tool for them to reach a wider audience," said Sheila Estaniel, Director of Marketing and Events for the chamber.

The festival differs from past years by the introduction of special presentations. The Orang Utan Republik Education Initiative, a non-profit organization that sells Indonesian products in Santa Monica to support efforts to protect the endangered Sumatran orangutan, will introduce its new full-size orangutan costume and host a naming contest.

A fashion show hosted by the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop and a song and dance performance by the Church of Scientology are also planned.

Heal the Bay, the organization behind the Santa Monica Aquarium and efforts to clean and protect Southern California coastal waters, will be one of the non-profits featured at the festival.

Randy Parent, Community Outreach Coordinator for Heal the Bay, sees the festival as an opportunity for increased exposure.

"We're hoping in a few minutes time, when people stop at our booth, to educate them about the storm drain system, the way it pollutes the Bay, and measures they can take to combat that.

"We'll also have information about Santa Monica's proposed ban on plastic bags, a drive we're pleased to have dis-

cussed in another forum," Parent said.

The concept of a non-profit festival also resonated with the chamber because it elicited an exchange of ideas between the non-profits, a boon aligned with the chamber's mission of facilitating local business growth.

"Anytime you get a group of business

Business Screen Programs Director.

Exposure to stewardship opportunities will be possible the following day at Virginia Avenue Park, where the Second Annual Unity Resource Festival will showcase a slew of non-profits — some of the same featured Saturday — alongside keynote addresses and entertainment.



THIS IS A REALLY TERRIFIC WAY TO FEEL THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT OF SANTA MONICA."

Laurel Rosen, President and CEO of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

leaders together, no matter the sector, they are going to have a forum for sharing experiences," said Rosen.

Sustainable Works is a non-profit organization funded by the City of Santa Monica's Sustainable City Plan.

In addition to promoting their Green Living Workshop Program, a series of 6 workshops that teach how to simultaneously live a greener lifestyle and reduce utility bills, the organization plans to connect potential volunteers with other non-profits.

Sustainable Works maintains a Student Screen Program that finds community service opportunities for Santa Monica College Students and keeps a network of non-profit organizations.

"At the festival, once we've established a relationship with a non-profit and we learn that one needs a volunteer, we'll help them," said Susy Holyhead, Sustainable Works'

Hosted by Santa Monica College and the Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council, the afternoon event, from 1 pm to 6 pm, is meant to share with residents the resources available to them.

The first festival came about "as a result of information gleaned from community surveys performed by the City that suggested that residents were unaware of services provided for their benefit," said Betty Macias, Virginia Avenue Park Senior Administrative Analyst.

The festival, with a community information booth representing over 40 non-profit agencies, including local agencies, youth groups, faith groups, and city services, is meant to both combat that ignorance and celebrate the community.

The theme of the festival is "United Youth and Families," and the event caters to young and old alike by featuring keynote addresses from both Santa Monica-Malibu United

School District Superintendent Dianne Talarico and Pro-Skateboarder Terrell Robinson.

Unity Awards will be presented to a handful of "community members who work behind the scenes, the unsung heroes, to thank them for the work they've done on behalf of youth and families in Santa Monica," said Macias.

There will also be a number of musical performances spanning reggae and soul with La.Dee.Dred, jazz with Coop Inc. and the John Adams Middle School Jazz Band, hip hop with SoulReal, and traditional drumming with the UCLA Hanoolim/Poonhmul Drummers; and arts and crafts activities for children.

The festivals were not originally slated for the same weekend. The Non-Profit Festival was rescheduled from Feb. 23 due to rain.

Macias recalls unexpected rain at last year's Unity Festival did nothing to dampen the mood of the festival.

"The atmosphere was wonderful despite the fact that it started to rain in the middle of the festival. People stayed. There was dancing and some people were dancing in the rain. We had such a broad cross-section of attendants: from children to seniors, and everybody enjoyed every aspect of the festival."

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Learning to appreciate law enforcement

FROM ACADEMY PAGE 3

said Officer Mike Von Achen, who not only works with Duke, but lives with him, as do all the officers in the K-9 Unit, something which helps build that strong bond between the two partners.

The K-9s are often the first line of defense, sent out into the darkness to search for suspects who might be hiding with a weapon, looking to harm anyone who comes near. While officers would never send their canine partners into a "suicide situation," they are bred and trained to be put into dangerous situations and perform at a high level, Von Achen said.

The harsh reality is these dogs are not considered to be on the same level as their human counterparts by the law. One can be punished for harming a police dog, but the penalty is not as severe as when someone harms a cop. The dogs are simply tools of the trade in the eyes of the law, but for their partners, the dogs are definitely much more. They are like family, and when one dies in the line of duty, it hurts just the same as losing a fellow officer.

"You spend more time with them than you do with your own family," Von Achen said with a tinge of sadness in his voice, recalling memories of his former partner who passed away. "When they die, it's devastating. It's like losing a child."

But the officers allow themselves to get attached anyway, knowing full well that one day their partner will pass on. It was nice to see the dogs and their partners in the spotlight.

YOU'VE GOT TO EARN IT

While the K-9 Unit was the highlight of

the recent class, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the other presenters who took their time to educate us about the process. They included officers Kim Sloane and Capris Redondo, who are in charge of finding the next batch of recruits, and Sgt. Henry Ramirez of Internal Affairs, who is in charge of investigating complaints against officers.

Sloane and Redondo started off their one-hour session with the SMPD's recruitment video, which was enticing, all except for the music. That was kind of cheesy but what are you going to do?

After that, they laid out how difficult it is to find quality candidates and how it's a challenge to get them through the academy. It is a grueling process. Cadets are put through military-type training with drill instructors screaming in their faces. Aside from marching and going through physically grueling drills, these cadets also must write several papers during their six months of training, and must study constantly, leaving them little time for family or friends. It's a test of their commitment, and many fail.

"You have to learn time management," Sloane said. "Besides the physical fitness part of it, there's the educational aspect, and that can trip many people up."

Sloane said 50 to 60 percent of those recruited don't even get to the academy for training. They are weeded out through a series of tests and background checks that are extremely thorough. Sloane and Redondo will contact a potential cadet's family, friends, ex-girlfriends and high school principals to get an idea of their moral character. Oftentimes, it is little lies told by the recruit that gets them disqualified.

All of the hard work and scrutiny made me wonder why someone would want to go through it. Then I saw how much a rookie cop makes — \$65,000 plus benefits and overtime. I know it's not all about the money. Wanting to serve one's community is by far the most attractive part of being a cop, but the ducats don't hurt. All I know is, I wouldn't want Sloane or Redondo combing through my past. These ladies mean business, and they are very enthusiastic when it comes to their jobs. They enjoy finding new recruits and helping maintain a department they have come to love. The passion is clearly there, and being a background investigator is a great way to move up in the ranks.

No offense to Sgt. Ramirez, but the Internal Affairs portion was a little dull. It's not his fault, it's just that his job is all about procedure, making sure things are done correctly so that no mistakes tarnish the process. I have to give him credit for working in IA. It's not the most attractive job given the negative stigma attached to it. You've seen the movies. IA is often the subject of scorn, with good cops like Michael Douglas' character in "Black Rain," getting hit by "the suits."

Santa Monica is different. Everyone knows everyone because the department is so small. Cops come up together. They know who is working IA so there isn't any animosity, Ramirez said.

Luckily for him, Santa Monica has a very professional police department that is rarely, if ever, mentioned in news broadcasts for officers going overboard. There have been some allegations of misconduct, but nothing as major as what happens in departments in other area

cities. There aren't officers raiding the evidence room, at least none that we've heard of.

One problem I had with the presentation was that those who make complaints about officers are not allowed to see what kind of punishment is dished out if the officer is found to have broken the law or the code of conduct. To me, that's wrong. It doesn't foster trust between the community and the department and perpetuates this sense of departments being closed off and somewhat above the law.

Ramirez explained that the law dictates the privacy and is not something unique to the SMPD. He said the department has a great relationship with the community as a whole and ensured us that if the conduct of an officer was so egregious, or if there was a pattern of abuse, they would no longer be employed. I guess I'll have to take him at his word. I know officers have a right to have their personal information protected, but they are public servants with the duty of protecting us — the public. They should be held to a higher standard and if they do not perform as they should, I think we should know about it, but that's just me.

I've always been somewhat leery of law enforcement. Perhaps it's because I'm a cynical reporter at heart who got his feet wet in South L.A., where there were accusations of misconduct flying left and right. But since coming to Santa Monica, my attitude has changed dramatically as I've gotten to know officers on a more personal level. Thanks to the academy, I'm starting to see a person instead of just a badge. I'm seeing some personality — and that goes for the dogs, too.

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SURF REPORT



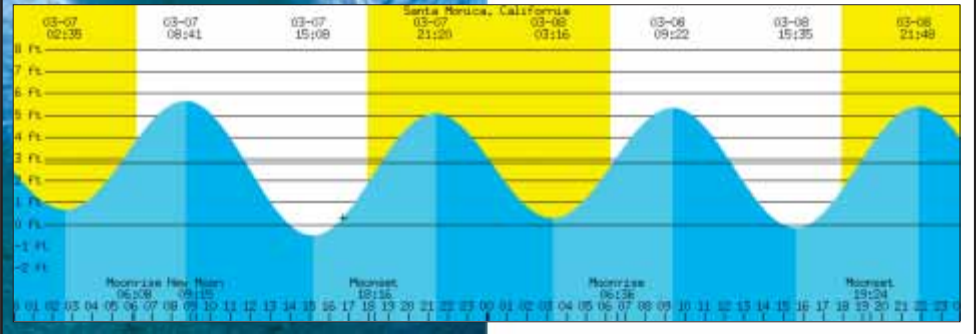
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 57°

SWELL FORECAST (4-6 FT)
Saturday, the NW swell will peak with size expected to increase to chest high at most west facing breaks, head high at times at standouts. Southern hemi energy should back off to around waist high. Sunday, a bit more activity from the Gulf should keep west facing breaks in at least chest high surf, head high at times at standouts.

LONG RAANGE SYANOPSIS
TRACKING SOUTHERN HEMIS AND NW FOR NEXT WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **March 5, 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 -- 2

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

Number of wet days -- 10

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 21

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 24

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Bruins prepare to take on Cal

By the Associated Press

WESTWOOD Now that UCLA has clinched the Pac-10 regular-season title, it can focus on continuing its run toward securing a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

The third-ranked Bruins look to close out the regular season with a seventh straight victory when they host California on Saturday afternoon.

UCLA (27-3, 15-2) won 77-67 in overtime at home over No. 7 Stanford on Thursday to clinch its third consecutive regular-season conference title and secure the No. 1 seed in next week's Pac-10 tournament at nearby Staples Center.

"It feels great. We're going to soak it all up," said 6-foot-10 freshman Kevin Love, who had 17 points and 10 rebounds for his 19th double-double.

The victory also put the Bruins in solid position to earn a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament, meaning UCLA can't afford to take California (15-13, 6-11) for granted as it tries to sweep the season series from the Golden Bears, who have lost four in a row.

Any slip-up leading up to the announcement of the NCAA field could be costly for the Bruins, who lost 76-69 to California in the quarterfinals of last year's Pac-10 tournament and were given a No. 2 seed, but still reached the Final Four.

Though UCLA has won four straight regular season contests against the Bears - including a 70-58 road win on Jan. 5 - the Bruins look to avoid a letdown after the hard-earned victory over Stanford.

The win made Ben Howland the first Bruins coach since John Wooden to win three straight league titles. UCLA won three consecutive Pac-10 titles from 1995-97, with Jim Harrick winning two titles and Steve Lavin the third.

Darren Collison had 24 points as UCLA overcame a season-low 18-point first-half performance to outscore the Cardinal by 12 in the in the second half and 14-4 in overtime.

"When you want to win something so bad, everything works in your favor," said

Collison, who is averaging 17.0 points in his last six contests.

Russell Westbrook scored 19 points, while Luc Richard Mbah a Moute had 10 and 11 rebounds for the Bruins, who set a school record for most regular season wins.

"We kept pushing past the adversity," said Love, the team's leading scorer and rebounder who is averaging 18.5 points and 12.0 rebounds in his last four contests.

Love had 19 points with 14 boards, while Collison added 14 points and five assists in UCLA's win over California in January.



IN THE END, THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE, YOUR PRIDE, YOUR FIGHT, YOUR EFFORT. THIS GROUP WILL COME TOGETHER."

Ben Braun
California coach

The Bears lost 93-89 in overtime at Southern California on Thursday for their sixth loss in seven games. Patrick Christopher scored 24 points and Pac-10 scoring leader Ryan Anderson added 22 and 12 rebounds for California, which has lost three of its last four on the road.

"In the end, that's what you have, your pride, your fight, your effort," California coach Ben Braun said. "This group will come together."

Anderson, the 6-10 sophomore who's averaging 21.5 points and 10.0 rebounds per contest, was held to 12 points and eight boards against UCLA earlier this season.

California is 2-5 against ranked opponents this season with victories over then-No. 22 USC on Jan. 3 and on the road against then-No. 9 Washington State on Jan. 31.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Wooden's condition improves

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES John Wooden's condition improve again Thursday, and it appears the former UCLA basketball coach will be released from the hospital soon.

"Dad looks better than he did yesterday," daughter Nan Muehlhausen said in a statement. "He is in good spirits. He has been up walking and he had a shave this morning. We are optimistic that he will leave the hospital in the next few days."

The 97-year-old coaching great fell at his

home Feb. 28, breaking his left wrist and collarbone. He was hospitalized the following day. His wrist is in a cast and his arm will have to be in a sling when he leaves the hospital.

Wooden coached the Bruins to an unprecedented 10 NCAA championships in a 12-year span before retiring after the 1974-75 season. His teams also had an 88-game winning streak.

The family has requested that people do not attempt to call or visit the hospital or mail items for autographs.

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End game

Boy band mogul Pearlman pleads guilty to charges

For years, **LOU PEARLMAN** wowed banks and investors with slick talk and a lavish lifestyle. But when the one-time architect of the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync set his hand on a courtroom Bible, he set the act aside.

Pearlman pleaded guilty Thursday to federal charges of conspiracy, money laundering and making false statements during a bankruptcy proceeding. The plea was the result of a lengthy federal probe alleging he bilked investors and banks out of more than \$300 million.

Pearlman's Transcontinental Airlines Inc. didn't have 41 airplanes, as he represented to investors. He had two, he said in court.

And he didn't have a German investment partner with a \$50 million line of bailout capital, he acknowledged. In fact, that

guy was also trying to get money out of him.

"I'm accepting full responsibility," Pearlman said in a roughly 50-minute change of plea hearing.

He will be sentenced May 21, and faces up to 25 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

Pearlman also pledged to help prosecutors locate coconspirators and any remaining assets, but couldn't explain to U.S. District Judge G. Kendall Sharp where the money went.

Pearlman acknowledged setting up a fake accounting firm to create business documents and tax returns for himself and his companies. He also admitted using the signature of a deceased former associate, Harry Milner, to push off anyone seeking repayment.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PERLMAN CALLS IN SICK

ITZHAK PERLMAN has canceled a concert because of a shoulder injury.

The 62-year-old Israeli-American violinist, who in 2003 was treated for a rotator cuff tear on his right shoulder, was to perform Sunday at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

On Thursday, his agent called to say he needed to cancel because of shoulder inflammation, said Kimberly Mouser, assistant director of the Concert Series.

"We are canceling the performance this weekend but are looking for another date with the hope of rescheduling as soon as possible," said Elizabeth Sobol, Perlman's manager.

Perlman's recordings have won 15 Grammy awards. Last month, he won a Grammy Award for lifetime achievement. He was the soloist in John Williams' Oscar-winning score for "Schindler's List."

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Try something new, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Complication could be the name of the game unless you decide to let go and run in a new direction. Tonight: You choose.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Know when to back off and not get into difficult situations. Tonight: Just for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Zero in on what you want. In the background, a partner could be whispering: "Careful. Easy. I don't agree." Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Others seem to be in the business of dropping mini bombs. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Events, people and situations will challenge your ability to take the high road. Tonight: Try something new.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Examine and look past the obvious when dealing with a partner. Tonight: Go along with a close friend's plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Don't try to fight city hall. Let others do what they need to do, whether you agree or not. Tonight: Say yes to an invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ How you see the world could make you aware of what needs to happen. Tonight: Choose relaxing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Tune in to necessities and what is important. Tonight: Say when you have had enough. Now go have fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ Could you be causing yourself a lot of the problems that are bubbling up? Tonight: Close to home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ As you reach out to others, you might have a little disruptive voice in your brain making comments. Tonight: A favorite place with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You could see that a friendship might be more of a problem than a positive element in your life. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to cost.

Happy Birthday

This year you will have the ability to meet changing goals and needs. Focus on building financial security. Your immediate circle of friends changes as you change. Those you network with could become demanding and touchy. Know when to walk away from situations. If you are single, romance easily could knock on your door. This bond could be a very different experience. Understand the role that fighting plays in your life. Do you use it to distance yourself? If you are attached, the two of you need to stay focused on the same big picture. Share and agree to disagree in the process. ARIES can be helpful financially.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

Bridging the PAST to the FUTURE

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Santa Monica Public Library Martin Luther King Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, 90401

Moderator: Joseph Deering, Senior Arts Foundation
Panelists: Richard Baum, M.D. — African Art Collector
Virginia Field — Curator, LACMA
Yvonne Szafran — Conservator, J. Paul Getty Museum
Ho Nguen — Director of Operations, Santa Monica Historical Society Museum

The Senior Arts Forums are free to the public and no reservation is required. Seating is available on a first-come first-served basis. Parking is available in the structure beneath the Library and at meters on the surrounding streets. Visit us at www.seniorartsfoundation.org

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

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

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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

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

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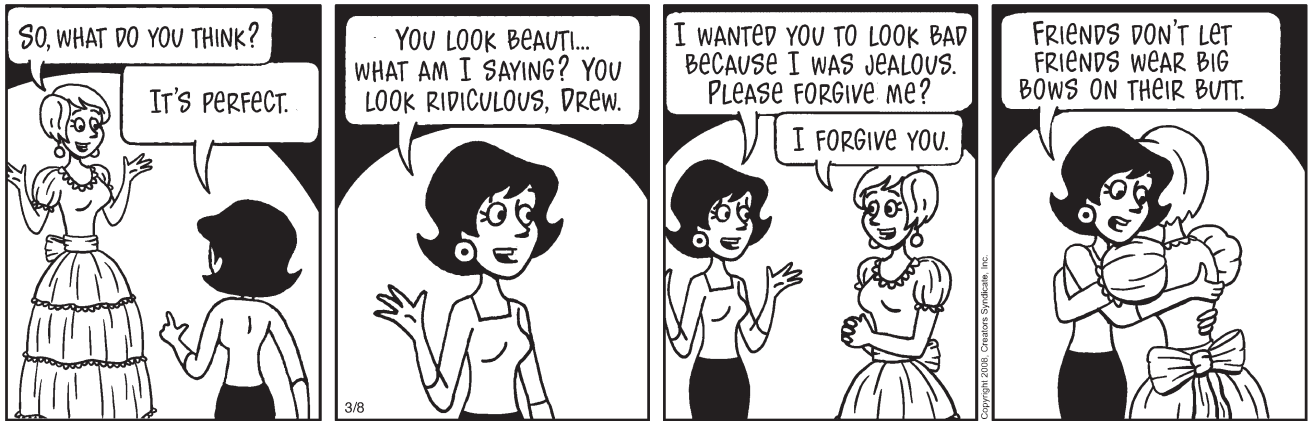
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



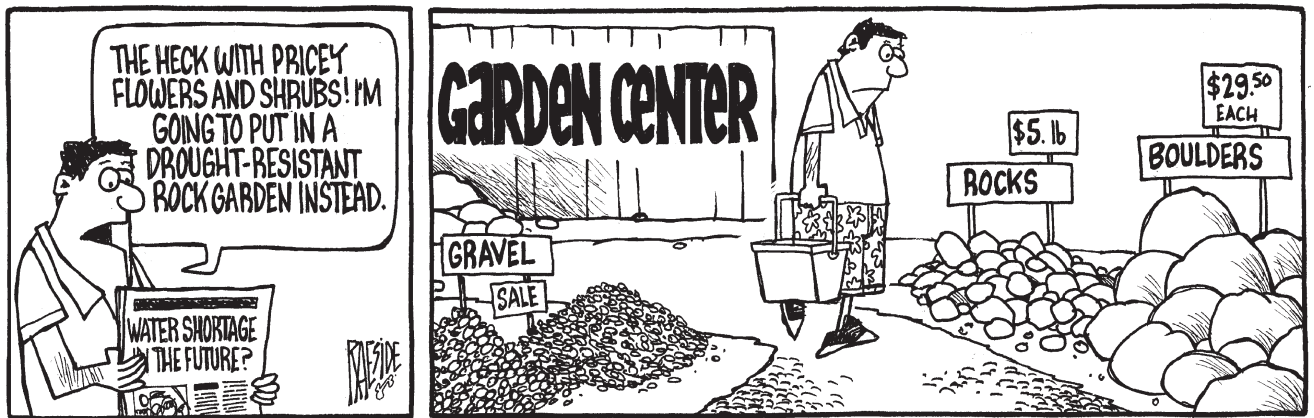
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



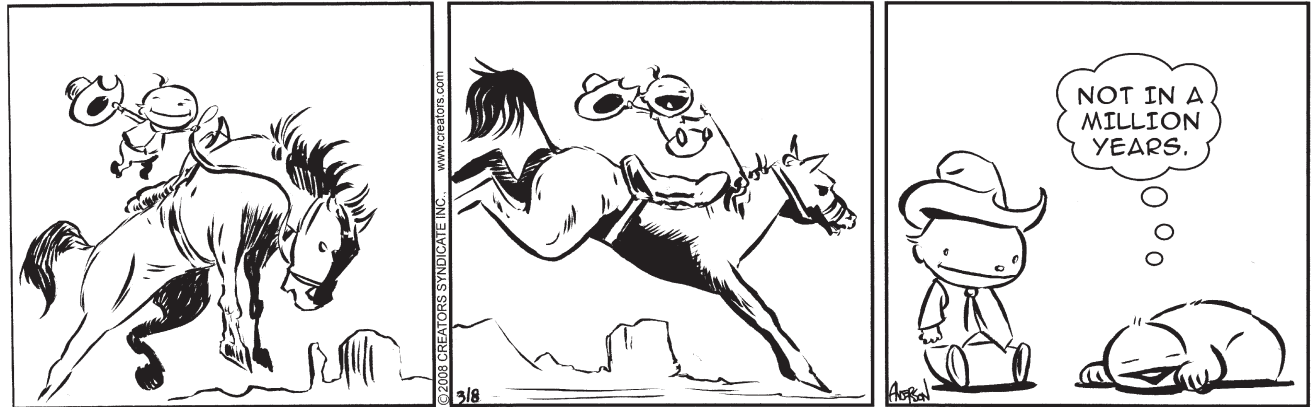
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

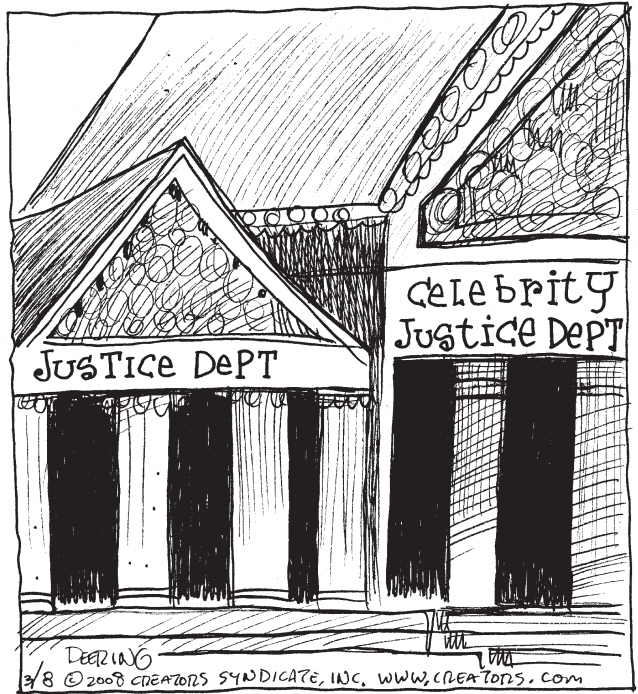


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



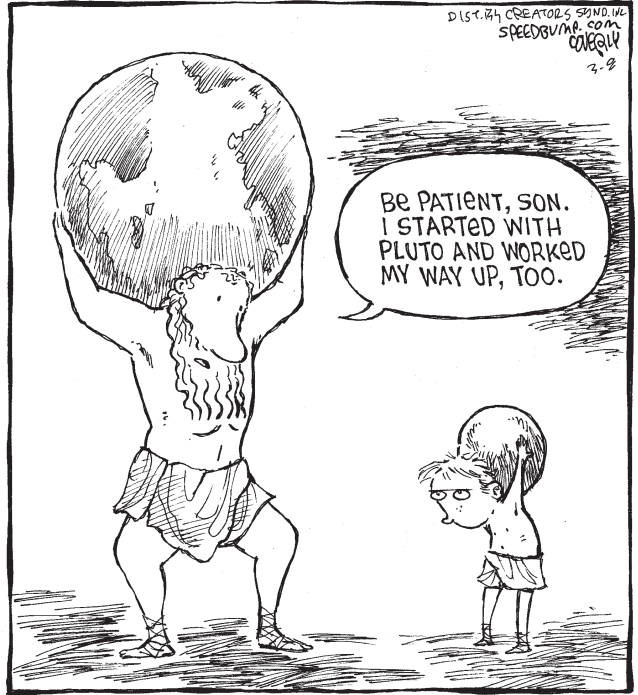
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By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Take exception
- 1 Un-exciting
- 42 Did yard work
- 5 Toot one's own horn
- 43 Ohio team
- 9 Caterpillars, e.g.
- 44 Took in

- DOWN**
- 1 Elvis' birthplace
- 2 Moon mission
- 3 Earth's neighbor
- 4 Tallinn's nation
- 5 Pentagon bigwigs
- 6 "Gnarly!"
- 7 On the train

- 22 Bad time for Caesar
- 23 Devoured
- 25 Reach across
- 28 Punctual
- 32 Soaking spots
- 34 Negative link
- 35 Cabinet wood
- 36 Capitol worker
- 38 — Island
- 40 Not out of it

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

Yesterday's answer

- 8 Kind of risqué magazines
- 9 Lose it
- 11 Valleys
- 15 Unfulfilled
- 19 Color
- 21 Spring period
- 24 Catch
- 25 Pottery piece
- 26 More luxurious
- 27 In
- 29 Con-sumption
- 30 Tied fast
- 31 Went awry
- 33 Manual readers
- 37 Traveling
- 39 Failure

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

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Super LOTTO 4 10 20 34 47
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$11M

Fantasy 5 3 7 17 21 26

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 7 5 7
EVENING: 7 5 9

DAILY DERRY 1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1.41.13

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

■ **Undignified Deaths:** (1) A 25-year-old woman jumped to her death from a department store roof in Tokyo in November and, as sometimes happens with such suicides, she landed on a pedestrian (who was hospitalized in serious condition). (2) At least five people choked to death in Japan over New Year's, as usual, from eating the extremely sticky "mochi" rice cakes that are a staple of the holiday. (3) In Ogden, Utah, in December, a 73-year-old woman was accidentally fatally run over by a motor home. It was unclear whether the first pass over her was fatal, but the driver behaved as others have: After feeling a thumping sound, he said, he stopped and backed up to see what he had hit, thus driving over the body a second time.

■ **Latest Alarming Headlines:** (1) "Jilted Lesbian Rugby Player Killed Herself After Brutally Beating Lover Who Had Webcam Affair" (Daily Mail (London)). (2) "Man, 75, Hurt While Riding Pet Buffalo" (MSNBC.com version of an Associated Press story). (3) "Boy Glues Hand to Bed to Avoid School" (MSNBC.com version of an Associated Press story).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1862 during the Civil War, the ironclad CSS Virginia (formerly USS Merrimack) rammed and sank the USS Cumberland and inflicted heavy damage on the USS Congress, both frigates, off Newport News, Va.

1702 England's Queen Anne acceded to the throne upon the death of King William III.

1782 the Gnadenhutten massacre took place as more than 90 Indians were slain by militiamen in Ohio in retaliation for raids carried out by other Indians.

1854 U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry made his second landing in Japan; within a month, he concluded a treaty with the Japanese.

1874 the 13th president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, died in Buffalo, N.Y.

1917 Russia's "February Revolution" (so called because of the Old Style calendar being used by Russians at the time) began with rioting and strikes in Petrograd.

WORD UP!

cabal \kuh-BAHL; kuh-BAL\, *noun*: 1. A secret, conspiratorial association of plotters or intriguers whose purpose is usually to bring about an overturn especially in public affairs. 2. The schemes or plots of such an association. *intransitive verb*: 1. To form a cabal; to conspire; to intrigue; to plot.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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GIVE OF YOURSELF volunteers wanted at the discovery shop. Help us contribute to the American cancer society by spending 4 hours per week assisting in our resale shop in Santa Monica. Contact Terry or Shaunna at (310)458-4490

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Term: through July 2011. Please call 310-922-4060 for more details.

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

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Day Light Savings Reminder



When you go to bed Saturday night, **March 8th**

Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour.

As promised, I will remind you twice a year to take care of these important safety issues:

Inside your home:

- Change the batteries in all of your smoke detectors
- Clean and/or change the filters in your furnace.
- Clean out any lint and/or fabric from the vents of your clothes dryer.
- Check electrical outlets for potential fire hazards such as frayed wires or loose fitting plugs.
- Check for overloading of electrical outlets, fuse boxes, extension cords etc.
- Keep a filled and ready-to-use, multi-purpose fire extinguisher accessible.
- Check water heater for leaks and corrosion.

In your yard:

- Remove all dead trees & keep healthy trees & shrubs trimmed & away from utility wires.
- Remove dead leaves and all debris from your gutters and downspouts.
- Repair driveway & walkways that are cracked, broken or uneven to provide a level surface.



Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Early March 2008

		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,341,750	\$ 1,300,000
North of Montana	=	\$ 3,796,333	\$ 2,162,714
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,675,625	\$ 1,039,613
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 932,316	\$ 762,197
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,473,059	\$ 676,281
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,919,800	\$ 1,031,234

Statistics updated every Friday

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This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.