

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

3 16 20 30 34

Megamember: 13

Jackpot: \$16 million

FANTASY 5

8 19 26 27 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 5 0

Evening: 1 1 1

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka !

2nd: 01 Gold Rush

3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1.46.73

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Police arrested David Kennedy, 33, in January near Murfreesboro, Tenn., after he accidentally ran other drivers off the road, perhaps from being distracted by the open pornographic magazines that were in his front seat. And on a January afternoon, motorist Stephen Nielsen, 38, was stopped and finally awakened by Suffolk County, N.Y., police, who saw him driving 40 mph on the Long Island Expressway with eyes closed and mouth agape.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 69th day of 2006.

There are 296 days left in the year.

In 1629, England's King Charles I dissolved Parliament; he did not call it back for 11 years.

In 1785, Thomas Jefferson was appointed minister to France, succeeding Benjamin Franklin.

In 1848, the Senate ratified the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the war with Mexico.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Show me a man who claims he is objective and I'll show you a man with illusions."

HENRY R. LUCE,

AMERICAN MAGAZINE PUBLISHER

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Rogue landlord reeled in

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — A judge has fined a local landlord nearly \$50,000 for harassing his tenants and has barred him from having any direct contact with the seven renters who testified against him at trial.

Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Patricia Collins this week ordered Isaac Gabriel, who is in his 70s, to pay \$47,500 in fines and stay at least 30 feet away from seven tenants who rent units at his two apartment buildings.

In an unprecedented move, the consumer protection unit within the City Attorney's Office sued Gabriel in 2004 under California's unfair competition law, which prohibits illegal and fraudulent business practices. Prosecutors said they called upon the law because it allows for stiff penalties and a permanent injunction, which explicitly bans the illegal behavior.

The case marks the first time that City Hall has used the unfair competition law against the landlord of a rent-controlled building.

"We will use the unfair competition law in only the most egregious cases of landlord-tenant violations," said Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky. "It allows for stronger injunctions and higher penalties against owners who commit illegal acts against their tenants."

The lawsuit accused Gabriel of charging too much in rent, illegally entering apartments, using bodily force against a tenant, stealing a renter's satellite TV dish, attempted fraud, and illegally taking away a tenant's laundry facilities and cable TV.

Following a three-day trial held earlier this year, Judge Collins issued a tentative decision on Feb. 2 and this week the judgment became official. The court ruled that Gabriel committed a total of 17 illegal acts against tenants at his

See RENTERS' REVENGE, page 6

Wind-aided time



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daly Press

A sailboat takes advantage of the ample winds in the area to cruise along the Santa Monica coastline. The increased winds are expected to be coupled with intermittent showers through the weekend.

Big Blue suit rests in hands of the jury

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

WEST LA — It's now up to a jury to decide whether or not City Hall will have to pay out millions of dollars in damages to an elderly couple suing Big Blue Bus for negligence following closing arguments on Thursday.

The civil suit was filed in June of 2004 by Haroun Mehdipour, 81, and his wife, Parvin, who claim the quality of their lives together has been severely diminished since a Big Blue Bus operator failed to follow proper operating procedure and ran over Mehdipour's left arm, ripping off the skin and causing severe damage to the arteries.

The man's arm was eventually amputated at the shoulder and his family said he suffers from memory loss. The couple attempted to settle the case for \$7 million, but that offer was rejected, according to a report from the City Attorney's Office.

The jury could render a verdict as early as today.

Lawyers representing City Hall said there is no proof that a Big Blue Bus was even involved in the accident, let alone evidence showing a bus driver was negligent. Deputy City Attorney Lance Gams suggested in his closing statement that Mehdipour was most likely to blame after he tripped while running after a bus that had already pulled away.

"It is very hard for me to say this, but the person who made the decision to chase after the bus was Mr. Mehdipour," Gams said to the jury during his roughly one-hour closing. "He decided, for whatever reason, that he was going to get on that bus."

The accident occurred on May 5, 2004, around 10:15 or 10:20 a.m., on the corner of Barrington Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Attorneys for Mehdipour claim

See BIG BLUE, page 6

STATE

Man's best friend may not be students'

Associated Press Writer

YUCAIPA, Calif. — The school board voted to pay \$4,400 for drug-sniffing dog searches at middle and high schools.

The Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District board voted 5-0 on Tuesday to contract with Houston-based Interquest Detection Canines to provide 11 days of anti-drug searches for about \$400 per day.

The golden retrievers can also detect gunpowder, fireworks and alcohol. The dogs will walk through school halls, parking lots, courtyards and other common areas, sniffing for drugs.

Superintendent Mitch Hovey said there has been a spike in drug-related incidents in the district.

"Like almost everyone else in the country, we have seen an increase," Hovey said. "We're not going in with the expecta-

See DRUG SNIFFERS, page 7

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HOROSCOPES

Homeward bound, Taurus

Santa Monica Daily Press



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)

★★★★★ Extremes go with indulgence. You, my dear Ram, are already in weekend mode. You might not be exactly sure what you want from a situation. Fun surrounds a project. Let your creativity emerge. You will have a better time. Tonight: Christen the weekend.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You come from a grounded spot and understand much more than you realize. Someone close to you could be quite difficult. Know that you don't have to put up with it. Everything can radically change. Tonight: Homeward bound.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Make it OK to be a bit frivolous, while still understanding that you have to work. You might need to put your foot down in a conversation. Structure often allows greater freedom. Don't hesitate to do what's necessary. Tonight: Easy does it.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You might want to go on a spending spree. You also might be justifying this attitude, believing you need to spend a little on sprucing up your image. Be serious before you create an irreversible hassle. Tonight: Fun really doesn't have to cost.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ It's your call what kind of day you'll have. You are more in control than you realize. Still, frivolous behavior might come from you. Do you really care? You could be overly serious and cause yourself a problem. Don't. Tonight: Let your whimsical personality out.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to think before you leap into action. Your personality will melt barriers if you approach situations quietly, with a strong sense of your objectives. Sometimes it is wise to keep your opinions to yourself. Tonight: Easy does it.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your drive helps you hit a home run. There is reason for celebration and relaxation. You might not be in the mood to change directions. Lighten up and understand what makes you happy. Ultimately, you might need to veer in a different direction. Tonight: Easy does it.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Others seek you out and might be more observant than you realize. Decide what is acceptable and what you want to do. Recognize that you might be more of a role model than you might like. Fun and extravagance surround real estate and family. Tonight: Easy does it.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Listen and prepare to make a difference. Your playful attitude could make a difference. Lighten up about what you need to do. Listen to your sixth sense, especially with information and communication in general. Tonight: Go only where you can kick back and relax.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Work with one other person, and you'll get results. If you fragment and try to cover too much territory, your energy will scatter, minimizing your success. Teamwork defines your success right now. Tonight: Easy works.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Others have strong intentions. You have a winning smile and attitude in your court. Though you might appear quite affable, you could be quite the shark if you want something. Loosen up and relax. Tonight: Don't buck trends just to be rebellious, OK?



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ To feel good, you might need to curb a frivolous streak. Focus on getting the job done well. Fatigue will accompany accomplishment, but it is worth it. Feel free not to push yourself too hard, OK? Tonight: Easy does it.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Woman from war-torn Iraq speaks out

By Daily Press staff

An Iraqi woman will be in Santa Monica next week to discuss with Americans their experiences with the occupation of her country.

Faiza Al-Araji will speak on behalf of her countrywomen in Iraq. Al-Araji is an engineer, married, and currently living in Amman, Jordan. She is Shia and her husband is Sunni. Her son Khalid, a student at Baghdad University, was arrested by Iraqi officials from the Ministry of the Interior without ever being charged. The family had to pay ransom to secure his release, and then fled to Jordan. Al-Araji and her sons write a blog called "A Family in Baghdad" (afamilyinbaghdad.blogspot.com).

"It is a rare occasion that we get to hear directly from Iraqis themselves, especially women," reads an announcement by the event's organizers, CODEPINK, the SMC Women's College, and the Associated Students. "They can tell firsthand about the effects of the war on their lives and the lives of ordinary Iraqis. Some have lost loved ones in this war, some are doctors or humanitarian workers who have witnessed the ravages of war. All ardently oppose the presence of U.S. troops."

The women have had to risk their lives getting to Jordan to request visas, and they take great risks just by coming to the U.S. to speak out against the occupation, organizers said.

The discussion, which is free and open to the public, will be held on March 14, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. in room 214 at Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Saving a life is free and open to all

By Daily Press staff

If you don't know how to save someone's life, there's still a chance for you.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica has announced its annual Free CPR Saturday will be held March 25.

Persons interested in cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques can sign up for free, life-saving, adult and child CPR classes by registering in advance and taking the class. Classes are three hours long and will be held at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St. Limited free parking is available.

Participants will learn how to recognize and provide the proper care for life threatening cardio or respiratory emergencies, learn how to apply good CPR techniques and will acquire the skills, knowledge and confidence to be able to act in an emergency situation, possibly saving a life.

In previous years, hundreds of people have taken adult and child CPR for free, thereby saving the typical \$50 class fee normally charged by the Red Cross and other certified providers. The only charge for the Saturday classes is an optional \$10 fee for a personal "Certificate of Completion" that is often required as proof of completed training or required for employment.

Class sizes are limited. Classes are open to anyone in good health who is over 12 years old. The classes are limited to 20 people. Space in a particular class cannot be guaranteed to those who have not registered in advance.

For information and to register, call the Santa Monica Red Cross during business hours, Monday through Friday at (310) 394-3773 and mention "CPR Saturday."

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 60"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 10/12
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 156" - 180"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 30"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 20/28
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 30"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 16	LIFTS OPEN 8/16
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Variable				

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 16"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 0	LIFTS OPEN 3/4
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed				

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 60"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 11/14
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder				

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 24"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 13	LIFTS OPEN 6/11
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 57°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (1-6 FT)

Today fits and starts of this well will diffract into the region with size jumping from waist high to shoulder high at west facing breaks when the tide is right, with mostly wind swell and peaky conditions. Rain chances are right now at 60% as well.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Powerful NNW hits NCal Fri-Sat., but only brushes by SoCal...

Unstable weather later today through weekend...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

THURSDAY	LOW TIDE	1:08PM	-0.41FT	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	5:44PM	4.8FT	7:59PM	3.8FT	
FRIDAY	LOW TIDE	12:42AM	2.3FT	1:40PM	-0.5FT
HIGH TIDE	6:32AM	5.1FT	8:17PM	3.9FT	
SATURDAY	LOW TIDE	1:17AM	1.9FT	2:07PM	-0.5FT
HIGH TIDE	7:10AM	5.2FT	8:33PM	4.6FT	
SUNDAY	LOW TIDE	1:47AM	1.6FT	2:30PM	-0.4FT
HIGH TIDE	7:43AM	5.3FT	8:48PM	3.3FT	
MONDAY	LOW TIDE	12:26	-0.2FT	11:55PM	2.7FT
HIGH TIDE	4:36AM	4.6FT	7:40PM	4.2FT	

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMDP.COM

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The Q-Line

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The Santa Monica community suffered a tragic loss last week when a 15-year-old high school student died at the hands of a suspected gang member. Gang violence continues to plague the Pico neighborhood, and community leaders are grappling with how to address it and prevent future criminal acts.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **"What suggestions do you have for law enforcement, parents, school administrators and community leaders in preventing gang violence?"**

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less.

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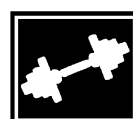
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EDITORIAL

Council has crossed the parallel lines

Like so many other things, we wish our local government would get a move on in finding solutions to our problems. After all, elected officials promised they would when they asked us to vote for them.

For several years now, the results of a City Hall survey show that the top concerns of residents are the growing homeless population, increased traffic and a lack of parking. And yet, it seems little has been done to alleviate any of it.

Last week was just another example of our politicians either unwilling or incapable of making a decision that would advance a solution to a better life for Santa Monicans. The topic up for discussion — and approval — was downtown parking. Close to \$100 million has been set aside for a downtown parking plan, which was first embarked upon in 2000. For two years, a task force comprised of business owners, city staff and elected officials studied the issue and came up with a plan to add 1,712 parking spaces. There was community input, a consultant was hired and plenty of research suggested that 1,712 was the appropriate number of spaces.

That was four years ago.

After a lengthy environmental review process and other bureaucratic processes, the plan finally came before the City Council last week. Its members wanted to debate it ad nauseum and change it significantly.

A suggestion from City Councilman Kevin McKeown to reduce the plan by 1,000 spaces was enough for the rest of the council to at least delay the decision long enough for their colleague Ken Genser, who is recuperating from a kidney transplant, to be part of the decision when he returns to the dais. Genser was on the Downtown Parking Task Force and obviously is highly regarded by his colleagues as an expert on this issue.

We find it odd that the City Council didn't already know Genser's position on the plan. Apparently, there is little communication between the councilmembers. From his hospital bed days after the City Council meeting, Genser told the Daily Press that the plan needs to be approved and the number of spaces can be dealt with later. Time was of the essence.

Touted as an "environmentally superior" plan from McKeown that only 712 spaces should be added — because that's what residents ultimately want — is ridiculous. McKeown argues that residents want less development, which means fewer parking spaces. It might be true that the task force's recommendation was predicated on an additional half million square feet of commercial space downtown, which may or may not happen, but what's wrong with at least having a cushion if in fact the community embraces more development?

Let's not forget that at some point Santa Monica Place mall will be redeveloped, as well as the Civic Center area. And downtowns throughout the country are reinventing themselves to include residential and commercial development so that the hub of activity is in a central location. That could very well happen in Santa Monica.

More development downtown might not be in line with community sentiment or future land use policies, but it could happen nonetheless. It wouldn't be the first time a government decision was made at the displeasure of its citizenry. Wouldn't it be best to at least be prepared? The parking plan allows for it to be reviewed every two years so it can have that flexibility. We agree with City Councilman Herb Katz that it's a lot easier to set a larger number than to add more later.

Besides, we have a lack of parking already. Maybe our City Councilmembers are that out of touch that they don't see the traffic jams on the weekends or at night with people trying to find a place to park. They might not see it firsthand, but the enormous sales tax figures that City Hall collects should be an indication that there are millions of people coming here each year. And while it would be nice to think that they arrived here in alternative transportation, they didn't. They drove their cars and they want an easy and cheap place to put them. Eventually, they'll go somewhere else if their frustration levels get too high in trying to find a place to park.

Don't let this asinine idea of reducing parking spaces hold up a plan already six years in the making, and will take another decade to implement. Approve the plan and start adding the spaces. It's that simple.

The wizard of lies doesn't use curtain



SOAP BOX

BY BENNET KELLEY

Like the scene in the "Wizard of Oz" where Toto reveals that the "great and all powerful Oz" is a fraud, the Bush administration is similarly exposed by the pre-Katrina video of FEMA warning President Bush that a breach of New Orleans' levees was "a very, very grave concern" — four days before he and Secretary Chertoff claimed nobody anticipated such an event. Even though the president's job approval and favorability ratings have reached new lows and 64 percent of Americans already believe that the Bush administration "generally misleads the public on current issues to achieve their own ends," this video could be the proverbial last straw that cements the public's view of the Bush administration as fundamentally dishonest.

The threshold question raised by this revelation is "so what?" As publisher of BushLies.net, the Bush supporters I encounter rarely attempt to refute these claims of dishonesty but instead — when they are not otherwise telling me to "read the Bible" or "move to France" — dismiss them as irrelevant since Bill Clinton and other presidents have lied. While all presidents may have been guilty of "terminological inexactitudes" of various degrees, former Nixon White House Counsel John Dean contends that the Bush administration is the first to elevate mendacity to the level of public policy.

The Bush administration's lies matter because they distort the democratic process by preventing Congress and the people from evaluating critical issues on the merits. As Congressional scholar Thomas Mann notes, "(w)hat's striking is the extent of (manipulation) in this administration (as their) most ambitious and fundamental proposals have been cloaked in language that is designed to mislead." In doing so, they have systematically undermined the principle of majority rule by using deception to advance policies that would not otherwise have majority support.

So what should we do in light of this latest revelation? While discussion of impeachment is academic as long as the Republicans control Congress, the Katrina videotape should spur Congress, the media and the public to reevaluate some of the principal Bush policies advanced by deception — with Iraq being the starting point.

The Bush administration has lied about all aspects of the Iraq war while attempting to stifle debate by stressing that we should simply "support our troops."

Supporting our troops now has a different ring in light of the recent Zogby poll, indicating that more than 70 percent of those serving in Iraq think we should leave within a year. We cannot undue the war or its damage, but we can and must fully evaluate potential exit strategies to permit a proper exit to this debacle.

We also must reevaluate the administration's policy of indefinite detention at Guantanamo bay. The White House characterizes those held at "Gitmo" as being "dangerous enemy combatants (who) were picked up on the battlefield, fighting American forces," but a recent National Journal study found that a majority were not captured on any battlefield at all and less than 20 percent were ever members of Al Qaeda. The Bush administration should be compelled to release all but those it can demonstrate are either prisoners of war or enemy combatants and all remaining prisoners should be treated consistent with the Geneva Convention.

Bush's Medicare prescription drug plan would not have passed the House by a mere five votes but for the fact that the administration falsely claimed that the program would only cost \$400 billion when it knew it would cost 25 percent more — and threatened to fire Medicare's Chief Actuary if he disclosed this to Congress. Given the costs involved and the program's disastrous start, Congress should go back to square one and rewrite the law based on legitimate estimates and in a way that actually benefits seniors and not just HMO's and pharmaceutical companies.

Finally, serious lies must have serious consequences. It does not seem right that a person can get a mandatory five-year sentence for possessing five grams of crack, but those whose lies lead to the death or wounding of nearly 20,000 Americans get a federal pension and a fat book deal. It should be a federal offense with the same penalties as treason to knowingly provide or conspire to provide false or misleading information relating to any Congressional vote authorizing the use of force. Our sons and daughters should not be put in harm's way based on anything but the truth.

By exposing the Bush administration's dishonesty, the Katrina videotape instructs us to abandon the yellow brick road and reconsider all of the errors that have been made based on the Bush administration's reign of deception. This is an opportunity to be seized by Republicans and Democrats alike, since, in the words of an African proverb, an error does not become a mistake until we fail to correct it.

(Bennet Kelley is the former national co-chair of the Democratic National Committee's young professional arm, the publisher of BushLies.net and a Santa Monica attorney.)



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Santa Monica Daily Press

LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Juveniles were headed down the wrong path

By Daily Press staff

On Feb. 25 at 8:45 p.m., a Santa Monica Police officer was patrolling the 1100 block of Pacific Coast Highway when he observed a group of four men walking along the bike path. The men were seen forming circles and surrounding couples walking along the path. The officer could not tell what was said. The four men jumped into a Honda and drove off. They were pulled over by police while on the I-10 Freeway. No one riding in the car had a driver's license. The car was impounded and searched. Officers found a handgun and knife under the passenger's seat. The four in the car were arrested on probable cause for robbery. They were juveniles and were taken to the juvenile detention facility. The adult passenger, identified as Manuel Zepeda, 19, of Los Angeles, was booked for robbery and bail was set at \$5,000. The investigation is still ongoing.

On Feb. 28 at 9:17 a.m., Santa Monica Police responded to the 800 block of Pacific Street regarding a man picking trash in the alley. Officers talked with the man and ran a background check, which showed he was a parolee at-large. He was arrested, and during the search, officers found a large wooden club concealed in his pants. He was transported to the local jail for a parole violation and possession of a dangerous weapon. He was identified as Frank Anthony Cieslak, 33, a transient. No bail was set.

On March 1 at 6:30 p.m., Santa Monica Police responded to the 1800 block of 16th Street regarding a domestic violence complaint. When officers arrived, the victim said her boyfriend accused her of stealing his narcotics and that he choked her. The suspect, identified as Benjamin Gonzalez, Jr., 22, from Lawndale, was placed under arrest for domestic violence. When officers searched him, they found a pill believed to be narcotics. He was booked for possession and assault. His bail was set at \$50,000.

On March 2, at 1.25 a.m., Santa Monica Police responded to the 1400 block of Fourth Street regarding a report of vandalism. When officers arrived, they contacted a security guard who said he was taking out the trash when he saw a man near the alley scratching the hood of a car. The security guard said the man was using the metal handle of a "Swiffer" and smashed out both of the car's headlights and the grill. He was placed under arrest and was booked for felony vandalism. He was identified as Sonny Mask, 41, a transient.

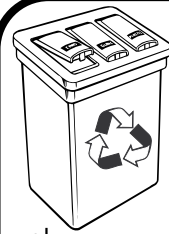
On March 4 at 10:40 p.m., Santa Monica Police stopped a man riding a bicycle at the 500 block of Colorado Avenue. Officers asked the man for identification and tried to issue a citation for a traffic violation. The bicyclist had no I.D. The officers were unable to issue a citation and placed him under arrest. During a search, officers recovered an hypodermic needle in the suspect's possession. They also learned that he had six outstanding warrants for a variety of misdemeanors. He was taken to jail and booked. He was identified as Daniel Damato, 38, a transient. His bail was set at \$13,500.

On March 5 at 5:15 a.m., Santa Monica Police responded to the 1900 block of Lincoln Boulevard after receiving a call that a man was harassing two women at the location. When officers arrived, they spoke with witnesses who directed them to the suspect, who was sitting in black BMW in a nearby parking lot. The officers talked with the man, who did not have a valid driver's license. The women said they did not want to prosecute and the man was allowed to leave, only if he did not drive. Officers watched as the man, identified as Gary Taylor of Inglewood, ignored their order and proceeded to drive away. He was stopped and arrested for driving on a suspended license. While detained, Taylor made several threats towards the officers. He was booked for making threats, driving on a suspended license and for a probation violation. No bail was set.

On Feb. 28, Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 1300 block of Wilshire Boulevard where a man was causing a disturbance at a local movie theater. When officers arrived, they saw a subject running across the street. When officers stopped him, he got very upset and began flailing his arms violently. He spat on the officers and was arrested for assault on a police officer and for a probation violation. He was later identified as James Scott Keegan, 47, a transient. His bail was set at \$36,500.

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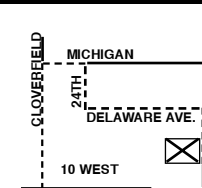


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Landlord told to steer clear of tenants

RENTERS' REVENGE, from page 1

Santa Monica apartment buildings. Those acts included:

- Stealing a TV satellite dish from the roof of a senior citizen tenant's apartment.
- Assaulting a tenant in his kitchen and robbing the tenant of his camera.
- Invading the privacy of a tenant by vandalizing her property while she was away.
- Illegally taking away laundry and cable TV services from tenants.
- Repeatedly serving tenants with fraudulent notices.
- Illegally entering tenants' apartments.

The court imposed on Gabriel the maximum fines allowed by law for 17 violations, in part due to the chronic and serious nature of the violations and the long period of time over which they occurred, Radinsky said. Each illegal act carries a penalty of up to \$2,500, or \$5,000 for acts involving a senior citizen, which was the case in one incident.

As a result, Gabriel must pay the fines and penalties, half of which go to Santa Monica's consumer protection fund and the other half to Los Angeles County.

Radinsky said he decided to pursue Gabriel using the unfair business law because it can be used to address violations of any other state or local laws, like robbery and battery, which isn't covered under the city's tenant harassment ordinance.

Gabriel, who owns a four-unit apartment building at 1007 16th St. and a 10-unit complex at 1035 Fifth St., declined to comment. However, he has told the Daily Press in the past that he is innocent of the charges and accused prosecutors of waging a relentless campaign against him.

Of the 13 rentable units Gabriel owns, all one-bedrooms, three of them are at market rate, ranging from \$1,618 to \$1,977 a month. The remainder range from \$364 a month to \$949.

Both buildings were bought in the summer of 1995, months before vacancy

decontrol went into effect. Before vacancy decontrol, rent control kept rates low even for new tenants. Gabriel estimates his buildings are worth between \$4 million and \$5 million together, but said he doesn't profit from them and is actually losing money because of rent control.

The court-ordered judgment also prohibits Gabriel from entering any of the seven tenants' apartments, or preventing those tenants from having laundry or cable TV services. He also can't evict a tenant who repairs the unit or deducts the cost from rent if Gabriel ignores the repair requests.

Gabriel also must pay the city's attorneys' fees and court costs. Radinsky wouldn't say how much those costs might be.

Gabriel's legal problems with City Hall go back many years. In 1998, he was convicted of illegally locking out a Santa Monica tenant and taking the tenant's personal property, both criminal misdemeanors. He was sentenced to 30 days' house arrest and ordered to perform 480 hours of community service.

In 1999, the City Attorney's Office

filed new charges against Gabriel for harassment of a second tenant. The case was settled after a judge ordered Gabriel to perform repairs in the tenant's apartment, forbade him from having further contact with her, and added one year to his probation from the first case.

Gabriel sued City Hall in 2005, but the case was thrown out of court.

In the past several years, the City Attorney's Office had received formal complaints from half a dozen additional tenants claiming a variety of misconduct by Gabriel, which led to the filing of the lawsuit.

The tenants, all of whom live in below-market rate apartments, still live on the properties owned by Gabriel. It will be a challenge for Gabriel, who lives at the 16th Street building, to stay at least 30 feet away from the tenants who sued him.

"The tenants at both properties have always been afraid of retaliation and were victims of retaliation," Radinsky said. "Despite that fear, they came forward and testified."

"They have gone through a lot."

City calls into question credibility of witnesses

BIG BLUE, from page 1

that he was trying to hail down a Big Blue Bus, walking alongside it while banging on the windows and hollering at the driver. Failing to look in his blindspots before pulling away from the curb, the driver, who has not been identified, slammed the bus doors closed.

Somehow Mehdi-pour was knocked to the ground or tripped, hitting his head on the pavement causing a blackout. Unable to react, his arm was run over by what witnesses said was a bus.

Browne Greene, an attorney representing the Mehdi-pours, said at least one witness saw the accident clearly enough to confirm that a Big Blue Bus was leaving the scene of the accident and was most likely involved.

A bio-mechanical engineer hired by the Mehdi-pours testified that injuries sustained were the result of being run over by a bus, or what Greene called "a 40-foot, 29,000-pound instrument of ... death."

"From day one, they (the city of Santa Monica) has not been willing to step up to the plate. They've been in denial," said Greene, who invoked the spirit of former President Abraham Lincoln as he spoke about the need for candor in the courtroom. "While that has gone on, Mr. Mehdi-pour has been deprived of the use of his two arms, arms which he could hold his (six) grandchildren with, get out of bed in the morning with ... eat his meals using utensils, two arms needed for everything."

Greene said that medical care for Mehdi-pour will cost more than \$2.6 million over the next seven years. The Mehdi-pours are asking for the jury to award money for medical expenses, as well as for pain and suffering and the loss of the life they once knew.

Gams said Big Blue Bus never ignored responsibility. He said the agency didn't know about the accident until almost a

month after it occurred, when lawyers for the Mehdi-pours requested city officials save all evidence and surveillance from the day of the accident.

In complying with the request, Gams said the bus company could find no record of the accident and, therefore, City Hall rejected the Mehdi-pours' claim.

In his closing statement, Gams said the jury should be more focused on the credibility of the witnesses brought forth by Greene and his team of attorneys. Gams said statements from the key eyewitnesses taken just after the accident contradict testimony given in court and suggested their recollection of the event could have been influenced by experts hired by Greene.

The witness said he saw Mehdi-pour pounding on the windows of the bus, hollering at the driver to stop. The driver allegedly slammed the bus door on Mehdi-pour, trapping his arm, and drove away, Mehdi-pour was dragged under the bus, where his left arm was crushed, the witness said.

According to statements taken by the Los Angeles Police Department hours after the accident, Mehdi-pour, with his wife and daughter translating, said he was hit by a large, light colored car, Gams said, further evidence that a Big Blue Bus was not involved.

Greene said Mehdi-pour was in shock and under the influence of medication that altered his thoughts. Greene went on to blame the LAPD for a "sloppy" investigation, which he said was conducted 12 hours after the accident had occurred, too late to gather crucial physical evidence. He also said testimony given to the police was, therefore, unreliable.

Gams countered by saying that at no time during Mehdi-pour's conversation with detectives did his wife or daughter tell police that they felt their father was not coherent and that his statements shouldn't be entered into the record of the accident.

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STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Former Pechanga chief finds house always wins

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — The Pechanga Resort & Casino's former financial officer is selling his Murrieta home so he can pay back the nearly \$500,000 he stole from the tribe.

Superior Court Judge James T. Warren agreed Wednesday with a restitution plan calling for the sale of Paul Theodore Del Vacchio's house for \$535,000 to a private buyer submitted by the defense.

Del Vacchio, 40, pleaded guilty earlier to 26 embezzlement-related counts. Prosecutors said he embezzled \$489,000 from the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians and funneled the money into his own bank account.

Del Vacchio isn't a tribal member.

Reserving judgment on endangered species tract

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — County and city officials said it may be too expensive to establish an endangered species reserve as originally planned under a \$30 million growth initiative.

Soaring property values and pressure to build more homes in southwest Riverside County led the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority to authorize a \$150,000 study to see if the reserve can be shrunk and habitat found elsewhere.

The habitat would have to be suitable for the endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly and other rare species protected under state and federal laws.

Some questioned the study, saying the 5,050-acre reserve across parts of Murrieta, French Valley and unincorporated county land is part of a federally approved plan that promised to protect the region's endangered species in established pockets while allowing development to go forward elsewhere.

"It would be a major, major change and they cannot do this," said Monica Bond, a biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity. "We really feel adamant that if they lose this land it could seriously impact the Quino and push it towards extinction."

Murrieta Mayor Kelly Seyarto, chairman of the conservation authority, said the study is crucial because the land has been fractured by development and may no longer achieve conservation goals.

He said the study, which could take 18 months, could show there is no problem.

"We knew going in there were some areas that may not work," Seyarto said. "We need to make sure our choices are environmentally sound."

Riverside County spent about \$11 million to create the multi-species habitat conservation plan, finalized in 2003, to create a system of species reserves so new homes, road projects, and other infrastructure could be built with fewer environmental restrictions.

At issue is a reserve known as Core 2. Purchasing land in the area could cost taxpayers more than \$100 million.

Students being hounded about drugs in more and more schools

DRUG SNIFFERS, from page 1

tion of finding huge amounts of drugs. But we want to be proactive and do what we can to keep our schools safe."

Other school districts also use drug-sniffing dogs, including Inland Empire schools in Alvord, Banning, Beaumont,

Barstow, Corona-Norco, Fontana, Jurupa, Redlands, Rialto, Riverside, Temecula, Upland and Victor Valley.

"Students have to think there is a possibility they will get caught," Hovey said. "You want the searches to be something they think about and expect."

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VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.

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STATE

Justices support Berkeley in penalizing Boy Scouts

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court ruled Thursday that Berkeley did not violate the rights of youth sailors connected to the Boy Scouts of America when it demanded marina fees because the group violates a city anti-discrimination policy.

The city revoked free berthing privileges for the Berkeley Sea Scouts because the Boy Scouts bar atheist and gay members, which violates the city’s 1997 policy to provide free berthing to nonprofits that don’t discriminate.

The free speech case, one of more than a dozen similar lawsuits against the Boy Scouts and their affiliates nationwide, challenged the legality of removing or withholding public subsidies from groups whose ideals run counter to the government.

The unanimous justices ruled Berkeley, celebrated in the 1960s as the home of the Free Speech Movement, could demand that a group receiving subsidies renounce a policy of “invidious discrimination.”

“What the California Supreme Court said was that private clubs can discriminate, but the taxpayers don’t have to fund that discrimination,” Berkeley City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque said.

City officials told the Sea Scouts that the group could retain its berthing subsidy, valued at about \$500 monthly per boat, if it broke ties with the Boy Scouts or disavowed the policy against gays and atheists.

The Sea Scouts, which teaches sailing, carpentry and plumbing, refused to do so and maintained that such an edict was unconstitutional because it compelled speech it did not agree with.

The decision comes after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously Monday that the government can force colleges to open their campuses to military recruiters despite university objections to the Pentagon’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on gays.

The justices rejected a free speech challenge from law schools receiving federal funds that claimed they should not have to associate with military recruiters or promote their appearance on campus.

Thursday’s legal action is among several cases in which federal, state and local governments are distancing themselves from the Scouts and their affiliated groups because of discriminatory practices. Those actions follow a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2000 that said the Boy Scouts have the right to ban openly homosexual scout leaders.

“This is another in a continuing legal

backlash against the Boy Scouts for asserting and winning its constitutional rights in the United States Supreme Court,” said scouting spokesman Bob Bork.

Connecticut, for example, adopted an anti-discrimination law that removed the Scouts from a group of charities state employees could donate to with paycheck deductions. The Scouts are also being sued over a city subsidized campground in San Diego.

And in 2004, the Pentagon agreed to warn military bases worldwide that they should not directly sponsor Boy Scout troops, to prevent an appearance that it was improperly supporting a group that requires members to believe in God.

The Sea Scouts, which received free berthing for seven decades, also contended the group was unfairly singled out because Cal Sailing Club and Berkeley Yacht Club still receive privileges at the city-owned Berkeley Marina.

The Sea Scouts alleged its free speech and freedom of association rights had been violated in light of a 2000 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that said policies regarding the Scouts’ 2.6 million youth and 1.1 million adult members were legal.

Lower courts ruled against the Sea Scouts, which has about 40 members and had as many as 100 before the subsidy was removed. A San Francisco appeals court said Berkeley could use subsidies to further a public agenda.

The Sea Scouts berth one boat at the Berkeley Marina, where the group now pays a \$500 monthly fee. The group removed two others because it could not afford the rent.

The city argued that U.S. Supreme Court in 1984 said the Department of Education could withhold funding to schools that discriminate on the basis of gender, and ruled the year before that Bob Jones University could be stripped of its “charitable” tax status because of its admission policy barring black students.

The Berkeley Sea Scouts argued that the California Supreme Court in 1967 overturned a Los Angeles County ordinance that required prospective municipal employees to take an oath repudiating groups that advocated overthrowing the state and federal governments.

The group also argued that the U.S. Supreme Court in 1972 ruled that a local chapter of the Students for Democratic Society could not be barred from using a Connecticut college’s campus facilities because it was affiliated with what the university deemed a national group “likely to cause violent acts of disruption.”

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Border agents accused of seeking out bribes

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Two U.S. Border Patrol agents were arrested Thursday on charges of sneaking illegal immigrants out of jail in exchange for \$300,000 in cash bribes.

Mario Alvarez, 44, and Samuel McClaren, 43, released inmates from an immigration jail to a smuggling ring that operates in El Centro, about 120 miles east of San Diego, according to a federal complaint filed in January and unsealed Thursday. The smugglers then allegedly took the migrants to Los Angeles.

The agents were assigned to a joint effort between the Border Patrol and Mexico's attorney general's office under which migrants arrested in the United States were deported to Mexico for prosecution, the

complaint said. McClaren ran the program from July 2003 to the end of last year.

Some of the released inmates allegedly belonged to the smuggling ring. The complaint said the Border Patrol agents brought two smugglers across the border into the United States in a government vehicle in September 2004 and arranged the release of one of them from jail three months later in exchange for \$10,000.

In October 2005, Alvarez signed a warrant that falsely stated a migrant was deported, when, in fact, he was dropped off at a Wal-Mart parking lot for \$6,000, according to the complaint.

Both men, of Imperial, were charged with conspiracy, bribery, making false statements, migrant smuggling and filing false tax returns.

Report: Border problems can't be contained by fence

BY JENNIFER TALHELM

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Local officials from the 24 counties along the Southwest border say they want lawmakers in Congress to recognize they face problems much more complex than border walls and guest worker programs.

They say they need federal help fighting grinding poverty, disease and crime. The issues are highlighted in a study they released Wednesday in Washington just as senators are grappling with proposals for overhauling the nation's immigration system.

Researchers found that if the region were a 51st state, it would rank first in federal crimes, second in tuberculosis and near the bottom in education, per capita income and access to health care.

Until illegal immigration became a hot national debate, Congress treated the Southwest border with "benign neglect," said Patrick Call, chairman of the Cochise County, Ariz., Board of Supervisors.

"There are many other significant issues that come as a result of being on the border, and frankly, tremendous opportunities," he said.

The 246-page report, by researchers at the University of Texas at El Paso, examines the social, public health, criminal and environmental challenges facing the immigration-stressed region, which includes the sprawling urban communities of San Diego and El Paso, Texas, and the desert and ranch country of Arizona and New Mexico.

Local elected officials formed the U.S./Mexico Border Counties Coalition a decade ago to push Congress for money for law enforcement, health care and other problems related to illegal immigration, which local governments consider a federal problem.

The group says the report examines in detail problems they've been talking about for years. Chief among them, members say, are the high rates of disease and lack of access to health care and insurance.

The study found the region ranks last in access to health care compared to the rest

of the states and 50th in the number of residents with insurance. Yet the prevalence of people with tuberculosis is twice that of the United States as a whole. Residents also have high rates of AIDS, hepatitis and adult diabetes.

Local hospitals are straining to cover the cost of treating uninsured patients, said San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox, the border group's president.

"You have seen a lot of our hospitals reach the breaking point," Cox said. "Some of them are on the verge of bankruptcy, and that's a very, very, very scary scenario."

The local officials will take the information with them as they meet with members of Congress this week and later.

The study's author, Dennis Soden, said members of Congress have reason to listen.

"The Southwest is what the rest of the country is going to look like in five, 30 years: Hispanic majority, very young population, immigrant population," he said. "That places a burden on the school systems, on the health system."

Although many of the problems highlighted in the report are related to the large numbers of migrants passing through their communities, many of the border officials in Washington this week said they don't support walls and other hard barriers to immigration proposed by members of Congress.

Manny Ruiz, a Santa Cruz, Ariz., county supervisor, said businesses in his community and across the country thrive because of the border traffic. In the winter and spring, about half of the fresh produce sold in the U.S. enters the country through Nogales, Ariz.

Ruiz and Call, the Cochise County official, say they worry lawmakers from heartland states don't understand the complex region. They hope the report will change that, too.

"The unintended consequences are very scary for us," Call said. "We certainly appreciate the help, but we think we're better judges of what we need than someone who isn't here."

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Entertainment

‘Failure to Launch’ fails to hit the three ‘Cs’

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Failure to Launch
THE DIRECTOR: Tom Dey
THE STARS: Matthew McConaughey, Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Bates, Terry Bradshaw

American moviegoers generally don’t expect much out of the average romantic comedy: An allegedly mismatched couple who are obviously perfect for each other spend most of the film grappling with relationship issues everyone knows

will eventually be resolved. There’s gonna be a few kooky friends, a montage or two, and somewhere around the 90-minute mark the director will cue sappy music (something by Counting Crows or Aimee Mann) then push in for a close-up of the Big Kiss. Roll credits (with bloopers!)

What separates good rom-coms from bad ones are the Three C’s: Chemistry, Comedy, Credibility. “Failure to Launch” — a title that may very well portend the film’s fate at the box office — has only one “C” going for it, courtesy of charismatic stars Matthew McConaughey and Sarah Jessica Parker. While the comely couple certainly give it their all, the end result is an unsatisfying mess that

reminds us that sometimes, in movies as in love, your best just ain’t good enough.

McConaughey is way in his element as Tripp, a fun-loving 35-year-old boat salesman with a serious Peter Pan complex. Tripp and best buddies Ace (Justin Bartha) and Demo (Bradley Cooper of “Wedding Crashers”) are part of a subculture of 30-something dudes who still live with their parents — a phenomenon we’re to believe is so widespread it spawned a unique cottage industry. Enter the irresistible Paula (Parker), a professional consultant who’s been hired by Tripp’s long-suffering folks (Kathy Bates and Terry Bradshaw, the most appealing characters in the movie) to pretend to fall for Tripp in order to extricate him from the nest — the dumb idea being that love of a woman will trump his love of mom’s home cooking. Apparently, it’d be too much to just ask the guy to move out!

Hard as it is to get past the ludicrous premise, it’s damn near impossible to see Paula and the ’rents as anything other than what they are — a paid escort and the lying liars who hired her. Dey and scribes Tom Astle and Matt Ember throw in some lame contrivances at film’s end designed to plug gaping holes in reason and absolve the guilty parties of their ethical malfeasance. It’s too little, too late for “Failure to Launch,” a film that never really gets off the ground.

(Rated PG-13. Running time: 97 minutes)



Ask the cheese

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Ask the Dust
THE DIRECTOR: Robert Towne
THE STARS: Salma Hayek, Colin Farrell, Donald Sutherland

Based on the late John Fante’s novel of same name, “Ask the Dust,” set in a handsomely recreated Depression-era Los Angeles, chronicles the tempestuous affair between a pair of star-crossed lovers in a city where neither feels welcome. While he looks a bit too pretty

for the part, Irish actor Colin Farrell acquits himself well enough as Arturo Bandini, a rough-hewn son of Italian immigrants who migrated from Colorado to a flophouse in LA’s Bunker Hill neighborhood with designs on becoming a famous writer married to the Barbie archetype. Salma Hayek, who’s never looked finer, is scintillating as the tough-as-nails Mexican waitress on the hunt for a WASP-y hubby who can provide her unborn brood with opportunities she feels she never had.

These two butt heads from the get-go, knowing that neither fits into their idealized future, yet the attraction is undeniable. Some curious developments and too many cheeseball lines mar their explosive mating dance (“Are these shoes too good for my legs?” she asks. “Your legs are too good for those shoes,” he replies breathlessly), but all in all the actors manage to sell their troubled pairing as a metaphor for racial tension in the City of Angels. By the way, as an LA-resident, I must say that race relations here aren’t nearly as contentious as films such as this one and newly-crowned Best Pic “Crash” would have you believe.

Those hoping writer-director Towne might work the sort of magic found in his most celebrated screenplay, “Chinatown” are bound to be disappointed by this uneven effort. The dialogue is clunky; character development given short-shrift; and the racial tension that Towne asserts is keeping the lovers apart never really substantiated. Those hoping to see the stars naked, however, are in for a treat. I, for one, may never enter the Pacific Ocean again without thinking about Hayek.

Wait for the snap in ‘Evil’

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Evil
THE DIRECTOR: Mikael Hafström
THE STARS: Andreas Wilson, Henrik Lundström, Linda Zilliacus

If you’ve ever wondered what “School Ties” would have been like in Swedish with subtitles, the folks at Magnolia Pictures have got a film for you. “Evil,” director Mikael Hafström’s (“Derailed”) disquieting adaptation of Swedish author Jan Guillou’s 1981 novel, was nominated for an Academy Award in the foreign language category two years ago, and is just now arriving in American theaters.

It’s the story of Erik Ponti (Andreas Wilson), a bright, good-looking kid with anger management issues stemming from the beatings he regularly endures at the hands

of his abusive stepfather. After getting tossed from public school for his own violent outbursts, Erik is sent to a prestigious boarding school where he’s determined to set himself on the straight and narrow. The school is controlled by upper-crust upperclassmen whose arbitrary and vicious bullying is not just condoned by administrators, but encouraged. Erik ain’t down with the abuse that the Aryan monsters led by the menacing Silverhielm (Gustaf Skarsgard) are dishing out, and spends the bulk of his time there attempting to resist nonviolently (his nerdy roommate turned him on to Ghandi). That doesn’t work out so well, though.

While guilty of cliché overkill and peddling one-dimensional characters (especially the bad guys), Hafström deserves kudos for a fine job steadily increasing the tension leading up to the inevitable snap. When it happens, there’s a powerful sense of release and relief. Strong performances all around are complemented by technical elements.

(Not rated. Running time: 113 minutes)

With dogged determination

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: The Shaggy Dog
THE DIRECTOR: Brian Robbins
THE STARS: Tim Allen, Robert Downey Jr., Kristin Davis

Little kids and ‘tweeners should warm to this remake of the 1959 Fred MacMurray vehicle (Disney’s first-ever live action flick), which has Tim Allen delivering an inspired performance as a dog-detesting DA who is magically transformed into a butt-sniffing mutt.

Robert Downey Jr. is equally fun to watch as the mad scientist performing illegal tests on animals at the behest of

a big bad pharmaceutical company. “Sex and the City’s” Kristin Davis is radiant as Allen’s loving, oft-neglected better half, and youngster Spencer Breslin comes through in the movie’s most chancy role — as Davis and Allen’s swishy “Grease”-loving son (about as “Brokeback” as the Mouse House is likely to get).

Anthropomorphic gags are predictable, yet undeniably charming. Allen is doggedly determined to get laughs, and manages to do so frequently scampering about on all fours, but what really makes his a winning performance is a surprising tenderness, particularly evident in a lump-in-the-throat scene with Davis at an anniversary dinner. Surely, Allen will be at the top of the list to star whenever they get around to remaking “The Ugly Dachhund.” (And they will!)

(Rated PG. Running time: 98 minutes)



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ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Crossroads concert will take cell phone requests

By Daily Press staff

Cell phone interruptions have now become part of the performance for one improv artist.

Crossroads School will present music department faculty member Richard Grayson in a program of classical keyboard improvisation on March 19. As he did for the first time last year, he will take his themes from the audience members’ cell phones — which he’s asked them to bring — a concept prompted by frequent cell phone interruptions during concerts. After audience members phone each other at the start of the concert, Grayson will take a half-dozen of the best cell phone tunes to improvise on.

Grayson received his Ph.D in composition from UCLA and from 1969 to 2001 was on the faculty of Occidental College in Los Angeles. His specialties include keyboard improvisation and live electronic music.

The free show will begin at 5 p.m. at Crossroads School’s Roth Hall, 1714 21st St. There is limited street parking.

Crossroads School is considered one of the leading college preparatory schools in the nation. In its 34-year history, Crossroads School has developed a reputation for academic excellence with virtually 100 percent of its students graduating to distinguished colleges.

Crossroads School was founded upon five basic commitments: to academic excellence; to the arts; to the greater community; to the development of a student population of social, economic, and racial diversity; and to the development of each student’s physical well-being and full human potential.

Gay play delves into bigger issues

By Daily Press staff

Larry Dean Harris’ “The Prodigal Father,” a comedic drama of a gay man’s struggle to understand his Alzheimer’s-stricken father who comes to live with him, will be presented as a staged reading on March 15.

The new play will be presented at 8 p.m. at the Powerhouse Theatre, 3116 Second St., between Rose and Marine, just off Main Street in Santa Monica. The reading is free and open to the public. A reception with food and refreshments follows.

“Prodigal Father” is the second in Playwrights 6’s 2006 staged reading series, dubbed “Play Night with the Playwright.” Playwrights 6 is the critically acclaimed and only playwright-managed theater company in Los Angeles.

Harris is an L.A. Weekly Best Playwriting nominee for his second play, “Bible Stories.” His first play, “Inverted Pyramid,” was a winner in the Midwest Playwrights Festival and named Best Original Play and Best Drama of the Year by the Ann Arbor News. His fourth play, “Like an Old Song,” was named Best Gay-Themed Play of the Year by Backstage West. His new musical with collaborator Mark Winkler, “Play it Cool,” will make its world premiere at Celebration Theatre in Hollywood in June 2006. His essays are frequently published on the online literary site FreshYarn.com.

Founded in 1999, Playwrights 6 is the only playwright-managed theater company in Los Angeles. In its short history, Playwrights 6 productions have earned several L.A. Weekly Theatre Award nominations and Backstage West Garland Award honorary mentions. Playwrights 6 productions have also made several “Critics Top 10” lists and garnered several “Critic’s Picks.”

For information, call (323) 860-6625.

Laughing out loud can be magic

By Daily Press staff

Stand-up comedy will appear at Magicopolis Theater on St. Patrick’s Day.

On March 17, the stand-up comedy show entitled “Love Me” written and performed by two young stand-up comics, Hans Kulla-Mader and Eamon Cannon, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. at the theater, 1418 Fourth St. Tickets are \$7.

For more information, log onto hansandeamon.com.

Gallery serves up an eclectic trio of artists

By Daily Press staff

Three artist receptions and exhibits open this weekend at a local art gallery.

“Estranged” is the name of Lori Earley’s new body of work exhibiting at CoproNason gallery.

Her oil paintings are a combination of classical realistic rendering with a personal element of distortion. Their distortion is derived from her innate desire to render the world she feels as opposed to the world she sees before her. The exhibit will run from March 11 through April 8. An artist reception will be held on Saturday, March 11, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Copro/Nason Gallery, 2525 Michigan Ave.

Also running from March 11 through April 8 is an exhibit from Audrey Kawasaki, who lives in the ordinary world with rules and etiquette. But with a pencil and paintbrush in hand, she creates a fantasy land with no rules or restrictions. Kawasaki’s images come to her when she gets a piece of wood, cuts it down and sands it. She stares into the wood grain and soon it comes alive. She paints in oil so she can smear and rub it into the wood and prefers earthly subtle colors toned down and not too bright.

An artist reception will be held on Saturday, March 11, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The final exhibit is from artist Yosuke Ueno, who originates from Japan. His themes are very cosmic and his alias is SpaceEgg77. His palette of colors is other-worldly and his themes range from Anne Frank looking down on earth from the heavens to cosmic ducks and magic mushrooms. Bizarre, surreal and thought provoking, conjuring images from another galaxy are words that come to mind.

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SANTA MONICA ART PALETTE
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Welcome to the Santa Monica Art Palette, created by City Hall's cultural affairs division, for the weekend of March 9. This week's palette provides a peek at what a wide assortment of cultural opportunities we have in Santa Monica with an evening of stunning contemporary dance, a traditional theatre opening, and an exhibition of one of our local artists' work in ceramics. Each of these offerings showcases an aspect of what makes Santa Monica such a great place to live!

Highways presents the second event of its annual pan-Asian festival, Treasure in the House, with funding from the Santa Monica Community Arts Grant Program. Curated by Dan Kwong, one of Santa Monica preeminent performance artists, the annual festival series explores the traditions of Asian and Pacific Island cultures through contemporary arts. This weekend, Li Chiao-Ping and her company will premiere new dance works incorporating text, slides, original music, and inventive choreography.



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Opening this weekend at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre is Steel Magnolias, the story of a small circle of friends who come together every Saturday morning for their weekly appointments at Truvy's Beauty Parlor in Nachitoches, La. The third production of the Santa Monica Theatre Guild's 60th season mixes tragedy with a healthy dose of southern eccentricity. Steel Magnolias opens March 10 with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through April 8.



Steel Magnolias
by Robert Harling

Santa Monica Theatre Guild
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd.
(310) 828-7519
info@morgan-wixson.org
<http://www.morgan-wixson.org/index.cfm>

And in an ongoing exhibition spotlighting the works of its talented faculty, Santa Monica College will be presenting the ceramics of Richard McColl and Franklyn Phillips from March 10 through March 25 in the SMC Photography Gallery in Drescher Hall at 1900 Pico Blvd. Join students and faculty at the college on Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for an opening reception. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For additional information, call (310) 434-3434 or (310) 434-8204.



If you would like to subscribe to the Santa Monica Arts Palette via e-mail, please send a blank e-mail with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net

No strings attached
for Mozart's birthday

BY D'LYNN WALDRON
Special to the Daily Press

There may be nothing more relaxing than listening to the classics of Mozart, especially if it is free.

A free gala concert by the acclaimed Santa Monica Symphony under the baton of its music director and conductor, Allen Robert Gross, will celebrate Mozart's 250th birthday, on March 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. The program will feature the new star of opera and concert stage, Jessica Rivera.

The audience is invited to dress up, remembering the era when the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium hosted the red carpet Academy Awards. For the British in the crowd, "decorations can be worn." Members of the audience also are welcome to come in their usual California casual.

The concert will open with Mozart's popular Symphony No. 36, the "Linz." The prodigious Mozart wrote the symphony in four days when he unexpectedly had to give a concert in Linz. The symphony reflects his happy mood at being able to marry the woman he loved and being a new father. It is supposed that he was already working on it in his head and hurriedly wrote for the occasion.

After the intermission, Rivera, a soprano, will join the orchestra for Mahler's Fourth Symphony. In that symphony, Mahler, who grew up in a troubled family, depicts a child's vision of an ideal world where the physical and the spiritual are one. The symphony opens with sleigh bells and melodies reminiscent of the songs and excitement of childhood. Then in a heart-stopping crescendo, the gates of heaven open for the child and Rivera sings the boy's poetic description the wonders within, where musicians play and the saints give the children delicious things to

eat. At the end of the symphony, the listener is left to decide if Mahler says the child's description of heaven is just the illusion of innocence.

Reviewers have praised the scope of Gross' musical knowledge and his ability to impart his own enthusiasm to an orchestra and polish its performance. In the Mahler Fourth, Gross fully brings out the subtle complexities of the dynamics in this symphony, which is both dramatic and melodic.

Rivera's 2005-2006 season is highlighted by her acclaimed performance as Nuria in the world premiere of Osvaldo Golijov's "Ainadamar" with the Santa Fe Opera. She recorded the role for Deutsche Grammophon with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and portrayed Nuria in the Peter Sellars' staging of the opera at the New York Lincoln Center in January.

Rivera, who is a native of Southern California, has appeared this season with the LA Philharmonic, the BBC Orchestra, the Auckland Philharmonia, the Los Angeles Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, the New West Symphony, the Ravinia Festival, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Ojai Festival the Cerritos Center, the American Youth Symphony, the Fort Worth Symphony, and the Santa Monica Symphony.

The popular pre-concert talks are given by UCLA's Professor Raymond Knapp in the meeting room of the Civic Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

The highly praised Santa Monica Symphony is in its 61st year. It is able to continue giving free concerts, thanks to the generosity of its sponsors and the city of Santa Monica. The concerts attract an audience of all ages and last spring's free performance filled the 3,000-seat auditorium to capacity, with many young people in the balcony. Seats are not reserved.

The auditorium is located at 1855 Main St. For more information, call (310) 395-6330.



Raising money proves elementary for John Muir school

BY JUNE STODDARD
Special to the Daily Press

Supporters of a local school raised more than \$30,000 in one night. On Feb. 24, John Muir Elementary held its most profitable fundraiser ever. The Ocean Park elementary school, with just 360 students, is a well-kept secret haven for children to learn and grow. It was their first year holding the "Watch Us Soar" Annual Silent Auction at the Victorian, down the block from Muir at Main Street and Ocean Park Boulevard.

More than 325 auction items went on

the block, both silent and live. The venue's layout is a two-story, sprawling Victorian home, built in 1894 and decorated by Louis Marx with authentic pieces from the period. The ambiance of the gala event was set just walking in the door. The 170 guests felt instantly at home and went to work discovering auction items both up and downstairs, with bidding starting as low as \$10, while enjoying the hosted wine bar and appetizers created by DuckDuckMousse Catering. Favorite bidding items every year are: "Principal for the day," "time with favorite teachers," as well as certificates for restau-

rants, spas, massages, hotel stays, vacations in far off places, among hundreds of others. The silent auction ended just as the buffet dinner downstairs began surrounded by the art, and live auction pieces. After dinner, the live auction trip to Hawaii — including a seven nights stay in a penthouse beachfront condo, half-day fishing charter, scuba dive, and fresh-caught dinner — went for \$2,800. In a "live ask" school supporters raised approximately \$3,500 for their library renovation. As a result of approaching local businesses to underwrite this year's auction, all of the funds raised are going directly

toward school programs. The event netted more than \$32,000 for John Muir's library, science, technology, and art programs, thanks to dozens of sponsors. John Muir is a Title One school, meaning many of its students are low income. Meighan McGuire spearheaded the fundraising effort this year after serving as PTA president for the last two years. She was supported by auction helpers: Jane Bordial, Clara Sturak, Lauren Lambert, Betty McNamura, Bonnie Bennetts, Karla Klarins, Liz Gutierrez, Chris Dickenson, Martha Duran-Contreras, Thea Mercouffer, Lorelle Carter and Nicole Picard.

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'Other' film fest promises forum for directors of all walks in Venice

BY JEREMY MEYER

Special to the Daily Press

Seventy-five filmmakers from the area and abroad — including Australia, England and Germany — will be arriving in Venice this week for the third annual independent film festival known as "The Other Venice Film Festival."

The festival is a community event that was developed to give filmmakers young and old an opportunity to get their films screened in their full-length, short and animated versions.

The Other Venice Film Festival, held from March 16 through March 19, will take over two locations in Venice this year — The Electric Lodge and the Switch Studios.

"We're extremely excited about the third annual Other Venice Film Festival," said A.J. Peralta, the festival's co-founder. "Following on the success of our first two sell-out seasons, we've added an additional screening night, and for the first time will be awarding a grant to a local filmmaker from a portion of festival ticket sales."

This season will include special films featuring everything from women director shorts; multicultural filmmakers; political films; music videos; experimental; youth filmmakers; documentaries; feature and short film premier events; a benefit screening for the Cheshire Project (a summer camp for the mentally disabled); and a grant which will be awarded to a local filmmaker to help complete his or her project.

This year, the Other Venice Film Festival also will kick off a very special Local Maverick Spotlight Screening in which Roger Corman will be awarded.

Corman, who has 458 feature films and television credits to his name, many of which were developed at his Venice-based studio. Corman's classic film "The Masque of the Red Death," starring Vincent Price, will be shown. The director will participate in a question and answer session with the audience before being presented with the special award by the 2005 recipient, Stacy Peralta. The doors for the event will open at 7 p.m. on March 16 and

will start with a happy hour, with food provided by celebrated chef Hans Rockenwagner's new Venice eatery, 3 Square.

Over at Switch Studios there will be a special benefit screening of "The Return of the Muskrats," a pirate movie that defies all norms, directed by Andrew Mudge and starring a cast of mentally disabled actors with a cameo appearance by Peter Bergman of "The Young and the Restless." All proceeds from the screening will go to the Cheshire Project summer camp for the mentally disabled.

The festival will conclude with the award ceremony for the Abbot Award, named after Venice founding father Abbot Kinney. The event, free to the public, will conclude with a closing party. Cellist Shaun Darius, who has played with k.d. Lang, will perform at 6:30 p.m.

Audience Choice and Most Excellent Abbot awards will be given to the most popular and best films from the 2006 festival, and an honorary Abbot will be awarded to Vidiots Video Store of Santa Monica in recognition of its contributions as an excellent community resource for local filmmakers and film fans for more than 20 years.

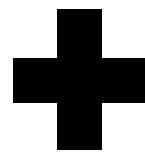
"It feels good to be able to give back to the community that has shown so much support for our growing event," said Ruby De La Casas, a festival co-founder. "We hope everyone will come out and enjoy all that The Other Venice Film Festival has to offer — from thought-provoking and fun films to live music, art and more — it's a great way to connect with and foster the creative spirit of our city by the sea as Venice embarks on its second century."

Tickets are available online at www.othervenicefilm-fest.com. Previous festival events have sold out, so advance tickets sales are recommended. Ticket prices are: \$15 for Thursday, March 16; \$20 for Friday, March 17, with after-party; \$10 for individual screening events; and \$60 for an all-access festival pass.

The Abbot Awards Ceremony at the Electric Lodge is free and open to the public. Call (310) 823-0710, ext. 1, for directions.

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Federal lab gives off some serious energy

BY SUE MAJOR HOLMES

Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The particle accelerator at Sandia National Laboratories has created an ionized gas that reached more than 2 billion degrees Kelvin, hotter than the interior of stars and hotter than any other known temperature on Earth.

Scientists working with Sandia's Z machine said the discovery could lead to smaller, less expensive nuclear fusion plants — if they can understand what happened and harness that energy.

Ordinarily, non-nuclear reactions produce less energy than goes into the reaction, but Sandia's experiment produced up to four times more energy than expected.

"At first, we were disbelieving," said Chris Deeney, head of the project for Sandia. "We repeated the experiment many times to make sure we had a true result and not an 'Oops'."

Scientists have dreamed for decades of learning how to harness fusion for unlimited energy.

"It's the same principle as the hydrogen bomb," said

Neal Singer, a spokesman for Sandia. "Researchers know they can do that. The problem is ... can you do it in a controlled way?"

Sandia's experiment, which held up in tests and computer modeling in the 14 months since it was done, was outlined in the Feb. 24 Physical Review Letters. The authors also presented a possible explanation of what happened and why by Sandia consultant Malcolm Haines, who has worked in the field at the Imperial College in London.

The achievement will not mean fusion in the near future, but it's another step toward that goal, Singer said.

The Z machine, in a warehouse-size laboratory, is a giant circular accelerator which focuses 36 electrical-energy beam lines on a tiny target at its center. It produces energy — heat — in the form of X-rays.

The machine normally passes 20 million amps of current through a spool-size core of tungsten wires, each thinner than a human hair. The current vaporizes the wires, turning them a cloud of ions, called a plasma. The powerful magnetic field that surrounds the electrical current grabs the ions, squashing the plasma to the thickness of pencil lead at a velocity so rapid it

would send a plane from New York to San Francisco in seconds.

Sandia reached its high temperatures in part by substituting steel wires around a coffee cup-size core. Increasing the size of the core increased the distance the ions traveled, giving them more time to gain velocity and therefore energy.

The steel allowed more detailed measurements than tungsten would have.

But the larger size of the core didn't account for all the heat generated or the fact everything should have stopped once the ions reached the center — sort of like a car stopping when it hits a wall.

Instead, for about 10 billionths of a second, some unknown energy pushed back against the magnetic field.

Haines theorized that the Z machine's magnetic energies created microturbulences that increased the energy of ions caught in the magnetic field. The extra jolt of kinetic energy produced hotter temperatures.

The Z machine was created about a decade ago from an earlier pulsed power machine at Sandia. It will be renovated this summer and its output will be increased dramatically.

Under federal watch, troubled prison begins reform

BY ALEXANDRE DA SILVA

Associated Press Writer

KAILUA, Hawaii — The abuses were described in youngsters' letters that were forwarded anonymously to the ACLU: Boys and girls were beaten, locked alone in cells for days and denied medical care by untrained guards at Hawaii's only juvenile prison.

Now, nearly three years after the tip helped expose mistreatment of teenagers at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, the federal government is forcing the state to clean up its act.

Under an agreement reached Feb. 7 with the U.S. Justice Department, two outside experts will draw up plans for reforming the prison over the next three years,

and the state must file updates on conditions there every four months.

The 75-bed, \$6 million prison is in one of the most attractive settings in the nation, in a grassy green valley on Oahu. The place can be reached by a narrow road that takes drivers past cows and horses. On a recent weekday, some of the 62 teenage inmates played basketball in a gymnasium and waved to patrolling guards.

"From the outside, it looks fine," said Lois Perrin, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, which exposed misconduct in 2003 after someone sent the organization letters from inmates. "It's strikingly gorgeous. But that's what is deceiving about it."

Page after page of court records, full of explicit language and detail, depict a prison where inmates tried to commit suicide by hanging or mutilated themselves, and where inexperienced guards let teens fight and harass each other.

Guards also were described as brutally knocking teens to the ground. When asked about the use of force, one replied, "For juveniles, anything goes."

Federal investigations have exposed similar problems in a dozen states from California to New Jersey.

"It's unfortunately not an isolated instance," said Sue Burrell, an attorney at the Youth Law Center, which investigates child abuse in welfare and juvenile justice systems. "The kinds of issues that have come up are very similar to the kinds of issues that have resulted in lawsuits in other parts of the country."

The ACLU faults Gov. Linda Lingle's administration for not taking action sooner. Lingle, a Republican, took office in 2003.

"There was a lot of work that could have been done to avoid a full-blown investigation," Perrin said.

State officials said conditions at the prison resulted from years of bad management and noted that improvements have been made already. Bars from which youths could hang themselves have been removed, the number of inmates has been reduced from a peak of 101 in 2003, and the staff is getting more training.

The inmates are 13 to 18 years old and are locked up for everything from truancy to rape, though most of their offenses were nonviolent. From 1994 to 2002, 62 people under 18 were arrested on murder charges in Hawaii. During that eight-year period, there were 4,539 juvenile arrests for vandalism and 6,462 for drug abuse.

Kaleve Tufono-Iosefa, who took over the juvenile prison in 2004 amid allegations of overcrowding and unsanitary conditions under the previous boss, attributed some of the abusive practices by guards to the 1991 transfer of the institution from the Corrections Department to the Human Services Department.

"The mentality and practices were still under the adult corrections model, which is more punitive as opposed to rehabilitation," she said. "That's what we are trying to establish here: a philosophy of rehabilitation."

Israel looks to set borders by 2010

BY AMY TEIBEL

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Israel expects to draw its permanent borders by 2010 and build a controversial settlement outside Jerusalem as part of the effort, acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said in an interview published Thursday.

Olmert, whose Kadima Party is the clear front-runner in March 28 elections, told The Jerusalem Post daily that within four years he intended to "get to Israel's permanent borders, whereby we will completely separate from the majority of the Palestinian population and preserve a large and stable Jewish majority in Israel."

Olmert's chief security adviser, Avi Dichter, had disclosed the time frame earlier this week, but it was the first time the acting Israeli leader publicly discussed it.

Olmert said Israel would act unilaterally to set its borders if Hamas militants — poised to take control of the Palestinian Authority — don't renounce their violent campaign against Israel and accept the guidelines of an internationally backed peace plan within a "reasonable time."

Olmert said his broad guidelines for Israel's borders included its three major settlement blocs — Maaleh Adumim and Gush Etzion outside Jerusalem, and Ariel,

deep inside the West Bank. Borders would also include Jerusalem and its immediate environs, and the Jordan River Valley, which Olmert characterized as a "security border."

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat urged Olmert to return to talks with the Palestinians. "Unilateralism and dictation will only add to the complexities and will not solve problems," Erekat said.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, a political moderate, has stated his interest in resuming long-stalled negotiations. But Olmert told The Jerusalem Post he had no intention of meeting Abbas after Israel's elections because he sees him as part of a Palestinian Authority dominated by Hamas.

The militant group, which won Palestinian parliamentary elections in January, expects to install a Cabinet within the next few weeks. A Hamas spokesman in Gaza, Mushir al-Masri, said the group would take over the key ministries — finance, foreign affairs and the interior, which oversees some of the security forces.

Last year, Olmert confirmed Israel had frozen plans to build 3,650 housing units on land between Jerusalem and Maaleh Adumim, Israel's largest West Bank settlement, because of pressure from Washington, which sees the construction as an impediment to peacemaking efforts.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Dylan hungry to play Danish fest

By The Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Bob Dylan will perform at Denmark’s annual Roskilde Festival as part of his “Never Ending” Tour.

Other artists scheduled to appear at the June 29-July 2 festival include Guns N’ Roses, Morrissey and Deftones, organizers said Wednesday.

First held in 1971, the festival in Roskilde, 25 miles west of Copenhagen, was inspired by the 1969 Woodstock Festival in upstate New York.

The Danish event, which in recent years has been shown on MTV, attracts visitors from throughout Europe and the United States.

NEW YORK — Sen. Barak Obama, Tim Russert, Dave Barry and John Updike are among the scheduled speakers for BookExpo America, publishing’s annual national convention, to be held in May in Washington.

The guests were announced Wednesday by the convention’s organizers, Reed Exhibitions.

Two years after Al Franken and Bill O’Reilly memorably clashed at BookExpo, left and right again will face off. A Saturday luncheon will feature liberals Frank Rich and Arianna Huffington against conservatives Andrew Sullivan and Pat Buchanan.

Others expected at the convention, which will run May 19-21, include CNN’s Anderson Cooper, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Ford and actor Jim Belushi.

NEW YORK — Paul McCartney, in a letter to the governor of Arizona, says he doesn’t want drug developer Covance Inc. to open an animal testing lab in the state, where he owns a ranch.

Covance submitted plans in October to build a 400,000-square-foot facility for clinical animal testing on a 38-acre parcel in Chandler. The company says the testing is mandated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for new drugs.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), however, claims that an undercover video filmed last year shows abuse of monkeys in Covance’s Vienna, Va., laboratory. That video is posted online at <http://www.Covance-Cruelty.com>.

“Arizona has a special place in my heart,” McCartney writes in the letter to Gov. Janet Napolitano. He explains that his Arizona ranch is where his wife Linda spent her last days before she died of breast cancer in 1998.

“It is for her and all of us who want to protect animals from harm that I am writing to ask you not to let Covance, an animal testing labo-

ratory, set up shop in Chandler,” the former Beatle writes in a letter dated March 3.

McCartney also cites a health concern. Covance operated under the name Hazelton Research Products in 1989 when several hundred primates at a Virginia lab were killed by the Ebola virus.

Laurene Isip, a spokeswoman for Covance, responded to McCartney’s letter with a statement sent to The Associated Press on Wednesday.

“It is unfortunate that PETA is using Mr. McCartney to spread their false allegations against our company. Covance conducts government required medical research to find medicines for diseases like breast cancer, diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer’s and many others.”

Jeanine L’Ecuyer, a spokeswoman for Napolitano, said the letter was received, but it was a matter for the city of Chandler. She added, “It’s a situation that the governor’s office will continue to monitor.”

LONDON — The Duchess of Cornwall joined Kate Moss and Naomi Watts on Tatler magazine’s top 10 list of British “fashion icons” of 2005.

Moss, with her seemingly effortless style, was ranked No. 1. Watts, in the No. 2 spot, was cited for bringing “natural grace to the red carpet.”

The 58-year-old duchess, who is married to Prince Charles, was No. 10. She “wowed us in her red engagement dress, Philip Treacy hats and Robinson Valentine wedding outfit,” the magazine said. “Camilla is suddenly stunning.”

The list, released Wednesday, also includes Peaches Geldof, the 16-year-old daughter of Live Aid founder Bob Geldof; artists Tracey Emin and Sam Taylor-Wood; model Yasmin Le Bon; stylist Charlotte Stockdale; actress Rosamund Pike; and socialite Daphne Guinness.

Geldof, the editors said, epitomized the “scruffy, teenage King’s Road thing,” referring to the hip London shopping street where outfits usually cost more than the average allowance.

NEW YORK — Jason Ritter, the actor-son of the late John Ritter, has been presented with the Martin E. Segal Award for outstanding achievement by Lincoln Center.

Xian Zhang, the first woman to hold an official conductor title at the New York Philharmonic, also received the award. She served on the conducting faculty of Beijing’s Central Conservatory before coming to the

United States in 1998.

Zhang and Ritter each received \$5,000 for future study and career advancement. The awards, given annually to two rising young artists, were presented Monday.

Ritter, 26, made his Lincoln Center debut in Wendy Wasserstein’s “Third” last November. This fall, he will appear in the new CBS comedy “The Class.”

His father, best known as Jack Tripper on the long-running sitcom “Three’s Company,” died in September 2003.

The China-born Zhang, 32, was appointed associate conductor of the New York Philharmonic by Music Director Lorin Maazel last July. She was co-winner of the Maazel-Vilar Conductors’ Competition in 2002.

LOS ANGELES — Less than a month after filing for divorce, the estranged wife of David Hasselhoff has filed for a court order on a claim of domestic violence by the former “Baywatch” star, according to court records.

Actress Pamela Bach, 42, made the filing Monday against Hasselhoff, 53, in Los Angeles Superior Court, summary records on the court’s Web site show.

At a private hearing, Bach also asked for a temporary restraining order against the actor, but a judge denied the request, instead instructing the two to stay away from each other.

“The court indicated that she should stay where she is, and he should stay where he is,” Hasselhoff’s attorney, Melvin Goldsman said by phone Wednesday, declining to comment on the allegations.

Documents pertaining to the hearing have been sealed by the court to protect the pair’s two teenage daughters and their privacy, Goldsman said.

Bach was granted custody of one daughter while Hasselhoff was given custody of the other, publicist Judy Katz said Wednesday.

Hasselhoff filed for divorce Jan. 12, citing irreconcilable differences after 16 years of marriage. Bach filed her own divorce papers a day later, also citing irreconcilable differences.

Messages left Wednesday at the office of Bach’s attorney were not immediately returned.

Hasselhoff played lifeguard Mitch Buchannon in “Baywatch” from 1989 to 2000. He also starred in the 1980s TV series “Knight Rider,” in which his character, Michael Knight, teamed with a talking Pontiac Trans Am sports car to fight crime.

Bach appeared in the soap opera “The Young and the Restless” and in numerous episodes of “Baywatch” and “Knight Rider.”

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11:15am 1:45pm 4:30pm 7:15pm 10pm
The Hills Have Eyes
11:45am 2:15pm 5:15pm 8pm 10:30pm
Curious George
1pm 3:30pm 5:45pm
Night Watch (Nochnoi Dozor)
7:45pm 10:15pm
Transamerica
11am 1:30pm 4:15pm 7pm 9:45pm

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Aquamarine
11:40am 2:10pm 4:40pm 7:10pm 9:40pm
Ultraviolet
12:30pm 2:50pm 5:10pm 7:30pm 9:50pm
Firewall
4:50pm 10:10pm
Munich
11:30am 3pm 6:30pm 10pm
The Pink Panther
11:50am 2pm 4:30pm 7pm 9:20pm
The Libertine
2:20pm 5pm 7:40pm 10:20pm
Syriana
1:50pm 7:20pm

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Eight Below
1:20pm 4:25pm 7:30pm 10:20pm
16 Blocks
12:15pm 2:45pm 5:15pm 7:50pm 10:30pm
Date Movie
12:30pm 2:40pm 4:45pm 7:15pm 9:20pm
Dave Chappelle's Block Party
2:10pm 4:50pm 7:20pm 9:50pm
Failure to Launch
12pm 2:20pm 4:50pm 7:20pm 9:45pm 11:40pm
The Shaggy Dog
11:45am 1:40pm 2:30pm 4:20pm 5:05pm 7pm 7:40pm 9:30pm 10:10pm 11:45pm

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Brokeback Mountain
12:15pm 3:45pm 7pm 10pm
Tsotsi
12pm 2:30pm 5pm 7:30pm 9:55pm

Laemmle 4-Plex Theatre
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Mrs. Henderson Presents
1:50pm 4:25pm 7pm 9:35pm
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada
4pm 9:35pm
Coachella
12am
Ask the Dust
1:20pm 4:10pm 7:10pm 9:55pm
Good Night, and Good Luck
1:35pm 7:20pm
Duck Season
12:45pm 3:05pm 5:25pm 7:45pm 10pm

Questions or comments? Email calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1864, Ulysses S. Grant became commander of the Union armies in the Civil War.

In 1949, Nazi wartime broadcaster Mildred E. Gillars, also known as “Axis Sally,” was convicted in Washington, D.C., of treason. (She served 12 years in prison.)

In 1965, Neil Simon’s play “The Odd Couple,” starring Walter Matthau and Art Carney, opened on Broadway.

In 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis, Tenn., to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. (Ray later repudiated that plea, maintaining his innocence until his death.)

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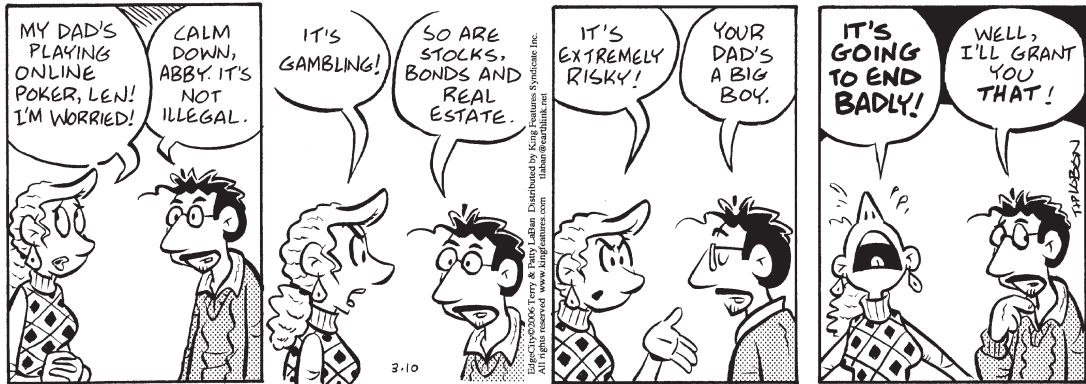


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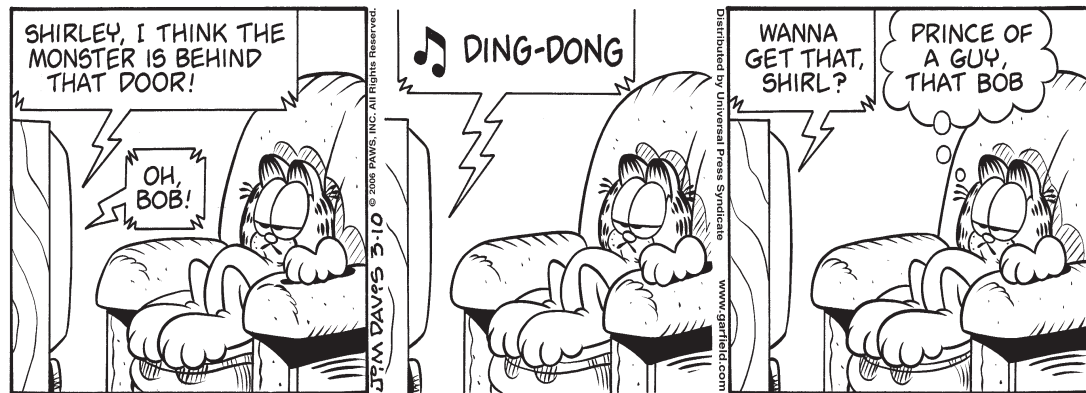
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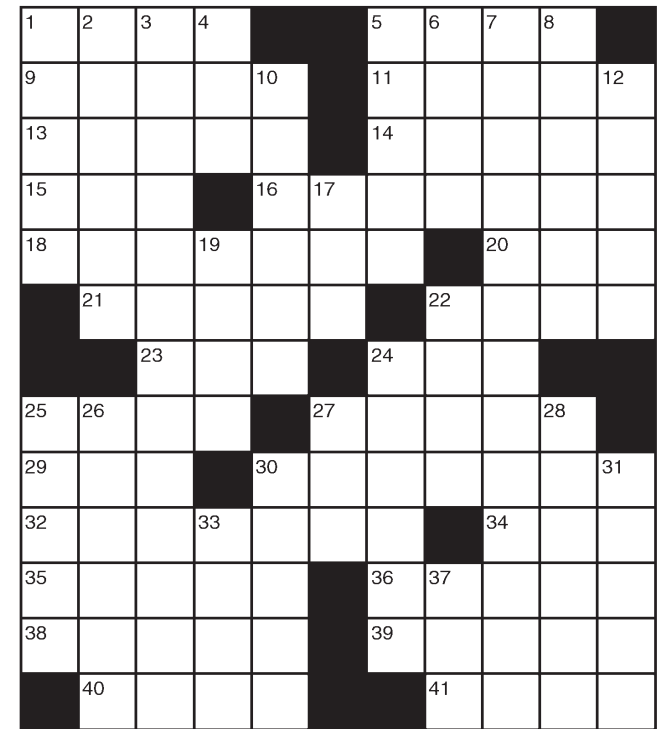
- 1 Relaxing spot
- 5 Plops down
- 9 Theater worker
- 11 Needs a massage
- 13 Play part
- 14 Davis of "Com-mander in Chief"
- 15 Huck's pal
- 16 "Darn!"
- 18 Hits the books
- 20 Singer Orbison
- 21 Digging tool
- 22 Content-ed sound
- 23 Score-board amts.
- 24 Scot's cap
- 25 Scope
- 27 Take wee bites out of
- 29 Diet no-no
- 30 Woody Allen movie
- 32 Facing the audience
- 34 Chem. or biol.
- 35 Earthy color

- 36 Friend of Aramis
- 38 Rose feature
- 39 Hotel units
- 40 Possesses
- 41 Removed

DOWN

- 1 Some statuary
- 2 Fancy ties
- 3 Jim Henson series
- 4 Chick's mother
- 5 Long stories
- 6 Tops a cake
- 7 Jim Carrey film
- 8 Grad-to-be
- 10 Bridge acts
- 12 Reveler of myth
- 17 Director Ang
- 19 Almanac fill
- 22 One of the Bears
- 24 Musical insensitiv-ity
- 25 Underway
- 26 Western spread
- 27 Old horse
- 28 City near Mt. Rainier
- 30 Rural sights
- 31 She played Carrie
- 33 Seabird
- 37 Suit — T

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SANTA MONICA \$1450/mo 2bedrooms/2Baths. Carpet Floors, laundry, stove, very spacious, large closets. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1549/mo 2bdm/1bath parking, laundry, quiet neighborhood, Bright, sunny upper. Quiet building (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1550/mo 2bdrms/1Bath, refrigerator, new dishwasher, remodeled bathroom and kitchen, cable ready. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$2440/mo 3bdrms/2.5Bath, Pet ok with deposit, Hardwood/Carpet Floors, Parking, balcony. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$675/mo Bachelor/1Bath, No pets, Carpet Floors, Parking, laundry, quiet. Available now! (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$875/mo Single/1bath. Completely remodeled. semi-private backyard. Full kitchen. Cabin style. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$990/mo 1bdm/1Bath, Carpet Floors, parking, gated building. 1/2 block from SMC. (310) 395-RENT. www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA 3bdrms/2.5bath \$2250/mo patio, controlled access building, central air, fireplace, washer/dryer hookups. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

For Rent

SANTA MONICA, North of Wilshire, \$1650/mo 2bdm/2bath Upper; balcony, carpet, stove, refrigerator, new blinds, laundry, parking, no pets (310)456-5659

SANTA MONICA, North of Wilshire, \$1250/mo 1bdm/1bath. Lower, carpet, stove, refrigerator, laundry, blinds, parking, no pets. (310) 456-5659.

SENIORS- AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Live in a BEAUTIFUL apt/suite in Beverly/Fairfax or Santa Monica: **Starting at \$400/month** (323) 650-7988

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YOUR AD
COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US TODAY AT
(310) 458-7737

SM GREAT Ocean View, newly renovated, 2bdm/1bath, bright and sunny, fireplace, balcony, stove, dishwasher, ref., microwave, outside laundry, pet friendly, 1 year lease, \$3250/mo (310) 458-6760

VENICE, CRAFTSMAN single 1/2 block from Boardwalk. Includes hardwood floors, stove, & fridge. Water & Trash included. 1 year lease, no pets \$1095. (310) 466-9256

VENICE, VERY Large 2bd, 1ba upper with mountain views. Hardwood floors, offstreet parking, laundry. 1 year lease, No Pets. \$1295. (310) 466-9256 ellyn-sis.com

Houses For Rent

BEL AIR House: 11797 Bellagio Rd. 2+21/2, \$4250/mo., \$500 off move-in. Stove, blinds, carpets, hardwood floors, washer-dryer hookups, fireplace, walk-in pantry, sunroom, large unique gardens, garage parking, no pets. (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

Roommates

FREE HOUSING SERVICE

⇒ Need a little extra income?
⇒ Need help around the house?

We help match seniors with other seniors or mid-age/younger people.

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Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

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A Non-Profit of 26 years

PRIVATE ROOM for Rent, Marina adj. in a home, \$750/mo. Hardwood floors, laundry, kitchen pet o.k. Professional male preferred (310) 699-0483.

Commercial Lease

MASSAGE SPACE in Santa Monica downtown to share Safe pleasant garden complex \$35/half day Call (310) 930-5884 r.nydoo@comcast.net

SANTA MONICA 1452 2nd Street. Very charming building, small offices. Between \$700/mo & \$1200/mo. Includes utilities & cleaning. (310) 614-6462

Commercial Lease

SANTA MONICA. Medical Building, 9th and Wilshire. 2500 square feet, fourth floor, patio. Also third floor, 2400 square feet, can reduce to two 1200 square ft. offices (must see). Dual elevators, 3 levels of underground parking. Will construct two specs upon acceptable lease. (310) 923-8521 or (310) 260-2619.

SM SMALL office space for lease. 2665 30th St. at Ocean Park Blvd. 550 sf at 1,375. 740 sf at 1,850. Par Commercial (310)395-2663 ext101

VENICE, INCREDIBLE Campus Entire Property inc. office, garden and parking areas! Historical 1919 Craftsman house which was torn down in 2005 and rebuilt from the foundation up. Everything is first class and authentic. The space has wood ceilings, brand new antique style moldings, windows, electrical, plumbing, ethernet, communication, DVR with cameras, gated parking, storage basement, central AC & Heat, incredible gardens, 60+' of Lincoln frontage, lots of street parking on San Miguel. 853 Lincoln Bl. \$6,500 NNN (310) 396-4443 x 2006.

Real Estate

FIXER UPPERS
Bargains

Call for a free list
Free recorded message.
1-800-969-8257 ID #4648
www.LaFixerUppers.net

Storage Space

LARGE 2 Garage with storage one block from the beach. \$300 (310) 396-4443 x 2002 ellyn-sis.com

Vehicles for sale



'00 CIVIC EX Call for Price, Mnrf, CD, Auto, Ld'd, 59Kmi, Ends 3/13 (001307) (800) 406-7782

LEXUS SANTA MONICA PRE-OWNED CENTER



'00 FORD FOCUS Only \$7995 Auto, Low Miles, Priced to Sell! (Vin228413) 866-VW DEALS

Volkswagen Santa Monica



'01 BEETLE GLX Only \$10,995 + Fees Low Mileage, Leather, Loaded, PRICED TO SELL (402938) 866-VW DEALS

Volkswagen Santa Monica



01 FORD EXPLORER 2dr Sport \$8995 + fees Low miles, Clean (Vin1VB53573) 866-VW DEALS

Volkswagen Santa Monica



'01 JAGUAR XK8 \$33,981 Conv, Nav, Chromes (1NA22084) (800) 784-6251

www.wisimonson.com



'01 NAVIGATOR \$19,995, Beautiful Car, Ends 3/13 (U10300) (800) 406-7782

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Volkswagen Santa Monica



'01 YUKON XL SLT
\$Call, Blk, Lo miles,
Loaded, Leather,
Ends 3/13 (141232)
(800) 406-7782

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02 BOXSTER \$26,981
Steel Grey/Black, 6 Speed
(2U620852)
(800) 784-6251
www.wisimonson.com



'02 CABRIO GLS
\$15,995 + Fees
(Vin805479)
866-VW DEALS
Volkswagen Santa Monica



'02 GS300 Low Miles
\$26,995 Loaded,
Leather, Moonroof,
Ends 3/13 (053115)
(800) 406-7782

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PRE-OWNED CENTER



02 LEXUS LS430 \$35,981
Desert Silver/Tan, Only
24K mi (20057375)
(800) 784-6251
www.wisimonson.com



'02 LS480 Low Miles
\$32,995 Leather,
Moonroof, Ends 3/13
(071902)
(800) 406-7782

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PRE-OWNED CENTER



02 PASSAT
\$15,995 + Fees
Premium Sound, C/D
(Vin449752)
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Volkswagen Santa Monica



'02 PASSAT GLS 1.8T Wgn
\$14,995 + Fees
Perfect Color, Mint
(Vin304180)
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'02 SLK320 Roadster
\$26,995 w/Low Miles,
Sharp, Ends 3/13
(253993)
(800) 406-7782

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'03 325IA
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(VinH33335)
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03 CLK55 \$47,981
Blk/Blk, Only 9300mi,
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03 G35 SEDAN
\$23,995
Loaded, Dark Blue
Ends 3/13 (333836)
(800) 406-7782

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'03 LX470 25Kmi
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Lexus Certified,
Ends 3/13 (529708)
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(39K02785)
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94 ES300.Only
65Kmi! \$9,995
Leather, Moonroof, Per-
fect, Ends 3/13
(031897)

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\$32,995 + Fees
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(VinA66108)
866-VW DEALS
Volkswagen Santa Monica



04 CAYENNE S \$45,962
White/Tan, Tip
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www.wisimonson.com



04 TL 3.2 \$27,981
Gold/Tan, Low 11Kmi
(4A003736)
(800) 784-6251
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clean (Vin415714)
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Volkswagen Santa Monica



05 545IA \$54981
Black/Black, Sport, Navi-
gation (SCN63998)
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'05 E500 5K Mi
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Loaded, Ends 3/13
(606688)
(800) 406-7782

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\$27981 Conv't, Sport, Hot
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r.nydoo@comcast.net

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Furniture Including beds, couches,
armchairs. Also some Herman Miller
stuff but asking full market value.
Antiques piece of all kinds, including
oriental rugs, glass wares and such!
Books of all kinds, Jewelry, kitchen
stuff, and much much more.



**Sat. 3/18 10am-4pm,
724 Pacific Ave.,
Santa Monica.**

All proceeds support
Volunteer efforts in Africa.
Lots of fun stuff. Books, music,
knick-knacks, etc.

SAT 3/11 1015 California Santa
Monica Trinity Baptist Annual Char-
ities Rummage 8:30am-2pm.

Lost & Found

GENEROUS REWARD!! For return of
RED Organizer aprx. 5x8. last seen
3-7-2006. Please call 310-395-1010
or 310-739-4039.

LOST PINK leather eye glass case
with prescription sunglasses inside. If
found please call Laurie
(310) 922-2408

Personals

MY NAME is Robert and I want any
woman to write me. Where it is really
at so far. Robert Greene 1328 Second
St. Apt 408 SM, CA 90401

Notices

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF GARY
KOHKE**

Case No. BP097144

To all heirs, beneficiar-
ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
and persons who may otherwise be
interested in the will or estate, or
both, of GARY KOHKE

A PETITION FOR PRO-
BATE has been filed by Cathy
Thomer in the Superior Court of Cal-
ifornia, County of LOS ANGE-
LES.

THE PETITION FOR
PRO-BATE requests that Cathy
Thomer be appointed as personal
repre-sentative to administer the es-
tate of the decedent.

THE PETITION re-
quests authority to administer the
estate under the Independent Ad-
ministra-tion of Estates Act. (This
authority will allow the personal rep-
resenta-tive to take many actions
without obtaining court approval.
Before taking certain very important
ac-tions, however, the personal re-
pre-sentative will be required to give
notice to interested persons unless
they have waived notice or con-
sented to the proposed action.) The
independent administration authority

Notices

will be granted unless an interested
person files an objection to the peti-
tion and shows good cause why the
court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the peti-
tion will be held on April 5, 2006 at
8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at
111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA
90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the
grant-ing of the petition, you should
ap-pear at the hearing and state
your objections or file written objec-
tions with the court before the hear-
ing. Your appearance may be in
person or by your attorney.

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

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

Attorney for petitioner:
DANIEL B HERBERT ESQ
SBN 149301
MANNING & MARDER, KASS
ELLROD RAMIREZ LLP
660 S FIGUEROA ST 23RD FLR
LOS ANGELES CA 90017
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN747863 KOHKE Mar 10,11,17, 2006

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF ALICE
M. RYDGREN aka ALICE
MARIE RYDGREN**

Case No. BP097121

To all heirs, beneficiar-
ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
and persons who may otherwise be
interested in the will or estate, or
both, of ALICE M. RYDGREN aka
ALICE MARIE RYDGREN

A PETITION FOR PRO-
BATE has been filed by Karl B. Ryd-
gren in the Superior Court of Califor-
nia, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR
PRO-BATE requests that Karl B.
Rydgren be appointed as personal
representative to administer the es-
tate of the decedent.

THE PETITION re-
quests the decedent's will and codi-
cils, if any, be admitted to probate.
The will and any codicils are avail-
able for examination in the file kept
by the court.

THE PETITION re-
quests authority to administer the
estate under the Independent Ad-
ministra-tion of Estates Act. (This
authority will allow the personal rep-
resenta-tive to take many actions
without obtaining court approval.
Before taking certain very important
ac-tions, however, the personal re-
pre-sentative will be required to give
notice to interested persons unless
they have waived notice or con-
sented to the proposed action.) The
independent administration authority
will be granted unless an interested
person files an objection to the peti-
tion and shows good cause why the
court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the peti-
tion will be held on April 10, 2006 at
8:30 AM in Dept. No. 11 located at
111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA
90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the
grant-ing of the petition, you should
ap-pear at the hearing and state
your objections or file written objec-
tions with the court before the hear-
ing. Your appearance may be in
person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDI-
TOR or a contingent creditor of the
deceased, you must file your claim
with the court and mail a copy to the
personal representative appointed
by the court within four months from

Notices

the date of first issuance of letters
as provided in Probate Code section
9100. The time for filing claims will
not expire before four months from
the hearing date noticed above.

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

Attorney for petitioner:
MARC A BRONSTEIN ESQ
SBN 75933
MARC A BRONSTEIN
A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPO-RATION
3205 OCEAN PARK BLVD STE 200
SANTA MONICA CA 90405
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN747858 RYDGREN Mar 10,11,17,
2006

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
EDNA STEWART**

Case No. BP096974

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

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has
been filed by MILES KENNETH
MUMFORD in the Superior Court of
California, County of LOS ANGE-
LES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE re-
quests that MILES KENNETH
MUMFORD be appointed as per-
sonal representative to administer
the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the deced-
ent's WILL and codicils, if any, be
admitted to probate. The WILL and
any codicils are available for exami-
nation in the file kept by the court.

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

A HEARING on the petition will be
held on 03/28/06 at 8:30AM in Dept.
5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS
ANGELES, CA 90012

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

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

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by
the court. If you are a person inter-
ested in the estate, you may file with
the court a Request for Special No-
tice (form DE-154) of the filing of an
inventory and appraisal of estate as-
sets or of any petition or account as
provided in Probate Code Section
1250. A Request for Special Notice
form is available from the court
clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner
WYSHAK, LILLIAN W.
8907 WILSHIRE BLVD., #204
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211
3/3, 3/6, 3/10/06
CNS-932953#
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

Notices

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF SYL-
VIA J. CIERNY**

Case No. BP097013

To all heirs, beneficiar-
ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
and persons who may otherwise be
interested in the will or estate, or
both, of SYLVIA J. CIERNY

A PETITION FOR PRO-
BATE has been filed by Carolyn J.
Bird in the Superior Court of Califor-
nia, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR
PRO-BATE requests that Carolyn J.
Bird and George Cierny, III be ap-
pointed as personal representative to
administer the estate of the deced-
ent.

THE PETITION re-
quests the decedent's will and codi-
cils, if any, be admitted to probate.
The will and any codicils are avail-
able for examination in the file kept
by the court.

THE PETITION re-
quests authority to administer the
estate under the Independent Ad-
ministra-tion of Estates Act. (This
authority will allow the personal rep-
resenta-tive to take many actions
without obtaining court approval.
Before taking certain very important
ac-tions, however, the personal re-
pre-sentative will be required to give
notice to interested persons unless
they have waived notice or con-
sented to the proposed action.) The
independent administration authority
will be granted unless an interested
person files an objection to the peti-
tion and shows good cause why the
court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the peti-
tion will be held on March 29, 2006
at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at
111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA
90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the
grant-ing of the petition, you should
ap-pear at the hearing and state
your objections or file written objec-
tions with the court before the hear-
ing. Your appearance may be in
person or by your attorney.

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

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

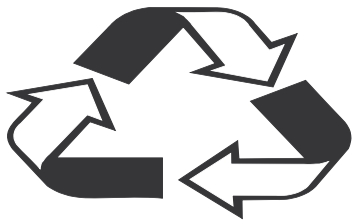
Attorney for petitioner:
DAVID WHEELER NEWMAN ESQ
MITCHELL SILBERBERG & KNUPP
11377 W OLYMPIC BLVD
9TH FL
LOS ANGELES CA 90064
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN747971 CIERNY Mar 3,4,10, 2006

DBAS

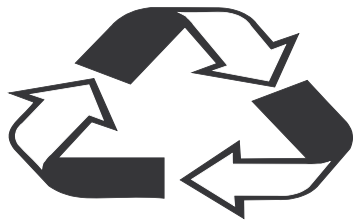
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 06 0403091 FIRST FILING. The following per-
son(s) is (are) doing business as M J Mortgage,
634 W. 22nd St. San Pedro, CA 90731. The full
name of registrant(s) is/are : Melvina J Brogan,
634 W. 22nd St. San Pedro, CA 90731 This Busi-
ness is being conducted by, an individual. Signed:
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business
under the fictitious name or names listed herein..
/s/: Melvina J Brogan

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 2/23/06. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTI-
TIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE
FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this
statement does not of itself authorize the use in
this state of a fictitious business name statement
in violation of the rights of another under federal,
state, or common law (see Section 14411et
seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA
MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 2/24/2006,
3/3/2006, 3/10/2006, 3/17/2006

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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