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FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 106



BRITNEY HAS A BLAST
SEE PAGE 15

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE TREES ISSUE



Alexis Hawkins, *news@smdp.com*

UPGRADE: **City officials are considering beautifying a stretch of 20th Street and Cloverfield Boulevard from the I-10 Freeway to Pico Boulevard, two corridors that have long-been considered to be one of the least aesthetically appealing in the city. Plans include new street lamps, trees and extended sidewalks, improving safety and pedestrian accessibility.**

Street proposal hits a roadblock

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD Two heavily traveled corridors long considered to be one of the more aesthetically displeasing streets in the city are about to get a makeover.

City Hall is currently drafting design concepts to beautify both 20th Street and Cloverfield Boulevard between the I-10 Freeway and Pico Boulevard, planting new trees, improving pedestrian safety and enhancing street lighting.

Ah'bé Landscape Architects, the project consultant hired by City Hall, presented the concept designs to the City Council on Tuesday, receiving a lukewarm reception by some councilmembers who said the estimated $6.7 million project has not changed enough since they last saw it in December.

"I'm very underwhelmed," Mayor Herb Katz said. "I don't think you looked at 20th Street for what it really is."

SEE PLAN PAGE 9

Officials reject latest treesavers overture

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

CITY HALL City officials rejected a settlement offer made this week by the Santa Monica Treesavers, who proposed dropping a lawsuit in exchange for preserving 54 ficus trees slated for removal.

treesavers' attorney Tom Nitti, whose offices are located just two blocks away from the ficus trees in question, submitted the offer addressed to the City Council on Tuesday.

"In response to the treesavers' proposal, we intend to wait for the [state] Court of Appeal to hear all the facts and make its decision," City Manager Lamont Ewell said.

The trees are part of an overall beautification plan for Second and Fourth streets, which in addition to transplanting 31 trees and removing 23 identified as structurally deficient, would enhance lighting, repair sidewalks and create a better pedestrian culture on the corridor. The plan also includes the planting of two ginkgo biloba trees in place of each removed and displaced ficus tree.

The group's offer came just days after the California State Court of Appeal extended the temporary restraining order against City Hall until March 21, barring the removal of any ficus tree that doesn't pose an imminent threat to the public. The order was initially issued on Oct. 5, just days before work crews were set to begin removing the trees from the downtown area.

Earlier on Tuesday, City Attorney Joseph Lawrence responded to the treesavers that he interprets the court's decision that the 23 ficus trees, which the city forester identified as dangerous to the public, can be removed as soon as possible.

Nitti disagreed, writing back that the consulting arborist for City Hall,

SEE TREES PAGE 10



GET IT WHILE IT'S HOT

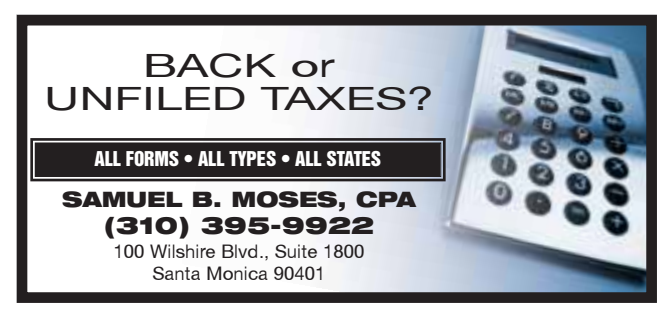
Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

Kathi Tretter serves samples from Jody Maroni's Sausage Kitchen to those attending Planned Parenthood's annual Food Fair event on Thursday at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. Routhly 150 Los Angeles-area vendors participated in the event.



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Become Rental Man

1020 Wilshire Blvd., 2 p.m.

WestsideRentals.com is holding an open audition for the role of Rental Man, the company's mascot. You may have seen him dancing at various events throughout Los Angeles. Do you have what it takes to become the next Rental Man?

Rolling with Ray

Westside, 1 p.m.

Novelist Raymond Chandler gravitated to sin and debauchery, so Santa Monica in the 1930s was a frequent stop for Philip Marlowe, one of his most popular characters. From shady doctors to second wives with pasts to crooked cops with a loathing for a mouthy PI, this tour has it all. Chandler's canonization of sin, wealth and sunshine on L.A.'s Westside fed the abiding myths of the American hard-boiled genre and play into the popular conception of the region. For information, call (323)223-2767.

Getting wild on the Westside

Noon — 5 p.m.

For the first time, the true crime archeologists of the 1947project have set their sights on points west of Robertson Boulevard, and the results are truly astonishing. In this new tour spotlighting some of the weirdest, most horrific and downright unbelievable crimes of historic West Los Angeles. Seats are $55 a person. For more information, call (323) 223-2767.

What's in this Black Box?

12420 Santa Monica Blvd., West L.A.,
8 p.m. — 12 a.m.

Black Box Theatre presents Charles Busch's legendary camp comedy, "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom," follows two vampire lesbians through time. We're not kidding, that's really the plot. For information, call (310) 712-5711.

Saturday, March 15, 2008

Travelin' Dylan
2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Brentwood, call for times

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

Reach out and touch someone

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

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

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



Home prices continue slide

BY ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Median home prices plunged in many of California's most populous counties in February, with Southern California leading the slide with an overall drop of 17.9 percent compared to a year earlier, according to new housing data released Thursday.

The drops reflect a deepening housing crisis in the state, which saw home values soar during the housing boom then decline sharply in most areas.

Median home prices fell this year in 15 major counties, DataQuick Information Systems said.

The median price in a six-county area of Southern California fell to $408,000 — the lowest level since October 2004, when it was $402,500. That median is 19.2 percent below the region's peak price of $505,000 last summer, and it's 1.7 percent below January's median, the firm said.

In the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area, the median price fell 11.6 percent to $548,000 compared to a year earlier and 17.6 percent from the region's peak median price of $665,000 last summer. Bay Area prices were essentially flat from January.

Home sales volume also kept sliding last month.

Sales fell 39 percent from a year earlier in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. In all, 10,777 homes were sold in February in those six counties, up 8 percent from January, DataQuick said.

Southern California's home sales volume has hit new lows every month since September.

The nine San Francisco area counties saw a similar slowdown, as sales dropped 36.7 percent last month from February 2007.

Some 3,989 homes were sold in San Francisco, Marin, San Mateo, Napa, Alameda, Sonoma, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and Solano counties. That was up 11.2 percent from January.

Even as prices fall, buyers remain slow to dive into the market, with many waiting for prices to fall further.

Others have been unable to find affordable financing because lenders stung by soaring mortgage defaults and foreclosures have cut back on the easy lending that helped propel the housing boom.

The dynamic has worsened the prospects for many homeowners desperate to sell as falling home values drain their equity.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

WORKING IT: **Vons employee Susan Ison collects scattered carts at the store on Wilshire Boulevard. The Los Angeles Superior Court ruled recently that the Grocery Worker Retention Ordinance passed in Los Angeles was unconstitutional. A smilair law in Santa Monica could be challenged next.**

Ordinance facing challenge?

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE A state grocers association that just won a legal battle challenging a Los Angeles law protecting grocery workers after a change in store ownership could target Santa Monica's ordinance next.

A Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge ruled on March 4 that the L.A. law is unconstitutional because it conflicts with statewide food safety and handling laws and discriminates against grocery stores based on their size and whether they have collective bargaining units, violating equal protection guarantees of the state and federal constitutions.

Santa Monica city officials passed a similar grocery worker retention law in 2006, mandating that grocers over 15,000 square feet in size retain their employees for up to 90 days after a change in ownership.

Attorneys with the California Grocers Association (CGA), which represents more than 500 retailers operating more than 6,000 stores in California and Nevada, said they could challenge the legality of Santa Monica's ordinance.

"They're considering their options right now," Nathan Spatz, a CGA attorney from the firm of Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw and Pittman LLP, said last week. "The ordinances are practically identical."

How the Los Angeles ruling would affect Santa Monica remains to be seen. City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, who said in 2006 that the Santa Monica ordinance would be upheld if challenged in court, did not return several requests for comment.

Councilmember Kevin McKeown, who sponsored the law, said last week that when the ordinance was introduced, there were plans to convert a Santa Monica grocery store into another brand with new employees. That transfer in ownership never occurred.

"The L.A. court ruling doesn't directly apply to Santa Monica's ordinance, though we'll watch what happens on appeal," McKeown said. "Santa Monica's law protects community health against sudden shifts to new, untrained food handlers at supermarkets, so on behalf of everyone who shops here we'd hate to lose that protection."

McKeown added that though the ordinance focused on the health aspects of ownership changes, it was based on the same store size thresholds with which the judge had issues in the Los Angeles ordinance. As a result, Santa Monica city officials might have to revisit that element of the ordinance, McKeown said.

If Los Angeles city officials do appeal the judge's ruling, those who originally supported the ordinance say they believe the city will prevail.

Roxana Tynan, spokeswoman for the

SEE ORDINANCE PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Police academy praise

Editor:

My husband and I recently completed the Santa Monica Police Department's Citizen Police Academy and we are enjoying reading your account of the same program we just experienced. We were privileged to meet the chief of police on the first night and to learn of his background growing up in a small town and the same type of trust he hopes to engender between the citizens of Santa Monica and its police officers. After completing our 13 weeks, we came away with a profound appreciation of our police department and we truly saw how hard working, enthusiastic, and caring every individual officer was that we met personally. They are all truly dedicated and a reflection of the entire department, and we know our safety is in capable hands.

The equipment the officers wear must weigh a ton. I don't see how they can even walk, let alone be so agile in carrying out their duties. Each week we learned many new things about how the police department protects and keeps the city safe for us. Nothing can equal the Ride Along Program which enabled us to see a police officer in action. There is just one citizen appointed to one officer for a full day's shift. It's an incredible experience. These officers are putting their lives on the line with every encounter day in and day out. The officer I rode along with was very courteous and caring with every human being he came in contact with. He is a military reservist and has recently been called to Iraq to serve his second tour of duty.

At the Academy we saw first hand how the communications department functions. We learned a lot about domestic terrorism and how it's handled. We learned about domestic violence and about gangs. The set demonstration was marvelous as was the DUI presentation. I put on a pair of goggles that simulated drunkenness and tried to drive a golf cart around the lot. I said "no way" will I drive, I can't see an inch in front of me. We learned about gun safety and narcotics and toured the jail. We had some hands on work in the forensics lab lifting fingerprints, etc.

One of the highlights for us was meeting and interacting with Buddy, the K9. I will never forget his sweet loving nature and his ability to immediately jump into action on command to do his job. What a loving and loyal dog. Forgot to mention the Harbor Patrol Cruise which was another highlight. We covered many more areas that are just too numerous to mention, but you will experience them all as you continue each week in the academy. We got to meet up again with Timothy Jackman at our graduation and enjoyed our interaction with him even more than the first night we met in class. He is a marvelous chief of police and runs a very efficient and respectful department. Everyone should enroll in the Citizen Police Academy – they owe it to themselves.

Doris Stegall
Santa Monica





Your column here

By Mark Klein **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Working helps the mentally ill

WORK IS IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE, including the mentally ill. Work is of special interest to me because I am a recovered mental patient returning to the workforce.

I recently interviewed Dr. Robert Liberman, director of the UCLA Psych Rehab Program and distinguished professor of Psychiatry at UCLA. Dr. Liberman believes that work is a key prescription for wellness for people with mental illnesses. Besides providing income, work contributes to our personal sense of identity and self-esteem and provides opportunities for socialization. What we accomplish in a job, no matter how menial or challenging, contributes to our morale and positive feelings.

Finally, a job brings structure to our lives-participating in a daily routine combats boredom, apathy, indecisiveness, and "naval-gazing." The presence of mentally ill people in the workforce also helps break the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Dr. Liberman says that current evidence from vocational rehabilitation programs shows that with the proper help, many individuals with disabilities can find jobs and gain the benefits that come from a working life. When mental health professionals communicate their belief that persons with mental illness can't work, they are perpetuating a myth, increasing the stigma, and undercutting the motivation of the mentally ill for employment. More and more psychiatric rehabilitation experts believe that with the proper help, many people diagnosed with psychiatric illnesses can find a place in the workforce.

A prerequisite to a successful job search is the individual's motivation to work. Approximately 66 percent of mentally disabled persons express a desire for work and 50 percent are willing to join a rehabilitation program called supported employment, the most effective approach for obtaining employment in the competitive sector.

Supported employment is a team approach. The client, an employment specialist, the employer, the psychiatrist, and the case manager work together to help the client get and keep a job. The employment specialist works closely with the client to identify the kinds of jobs that fit his interests and abilities and to steer him away from jobs that may be too difficult or stressful. The client gets placed then trained on the job, unlike with traditional rehabilitation approaches, which include long periods of "pre-employment" training before job placement. The employment specialist, the employer, and the employee collaborate to develop a training plan and solve any problems that may interfere with success. The employment specialist sticks with the client for as long as necessary, even if he or she loses a job and needs to find another one.

One of the biggest issues mentally ill people face in going to work is their fear of going off public assistance. Over 90 percent of these individuals never get off these entitlement programs. Long-term reliance on the public assistance can make the challenges facing the mentally ill even worse. Already stigmatized with a label, the feeling of being dependent, or even parasitic, can do even more damage. A blow like this on self-image need not happen. Going to work is part of the solution.

FINALLY, A JOB BRINGS STRUCTURE TO OUR LIVES-PARTICIPATING IN A DAILY ROUTINE COMBATS BOREDOM, APATHY, INDECISIVENESS, AND 'NAVAL-GAZING.'

Despite my being diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, I have successfully held down several jobs. I have worked as a security guard, a barista, social services director at a retirement hotel, and a manager in a retail department store. When I had a job, I felt better about myself and this opened other doors for me. Socialization was easier. Work gave me conversational topics to talk about with co-workers, family, and friends. Being able to describe my work life was especially important when I met new people. In addition, the money I earned gave me more freedom to live independently, choose my activities, and increase my comfort.

I am currently devoting my time and energy to my lifelong dream of writing for a living. I encourage others who suffer from a mental illness to hold fast to their ambitions. I believe it is possible to recover. I am a living example.

I feel there is something noble about work and giving back what one has received in life. Those who consistently put in years of employment are my heroes. I have a good friend, for instance, who makes close to $50 per hour and gives a significant portion of his check to others who cannot survive without some extra help. I am turning my own life around and look forward to making such a positive impact.

MARK KLEIN is a member at Step Up on Second, a Santa Monica-based organization that involves individuals with severe and persistent mental illness in developing opportunities to reintegrate into the community. Mark is a regular contributor to Brainstorm, a newspaper featuring articles written by Step Up members. For more information about Step Up on Second and Brainstorm, go to www.stepuponsecond.org.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Good-bye client No. 9, hello to the big dance

YOU THINK YOU'VE HAD A BAD WEEK? How about Eliot Spitzer? One day he's a crime-fighting New York governor and the next he's identified as a high-priced hooker's "Customer No. 9." Spitzer's resignation comes only 16 months after he received 70 percent of the vote. As popular as Reagan was, he never even got 60 percent.

What's being little reported is Spitzer was about to go after the banks in the sub-prime scandal. Instead the Feds are bailing out these companies. Whereas Spitzer was using his own money with call girl Kristin, the Federal Reserve is using ours. But with sex we are shocked and outraged! Only in America. In Italy it's a scandal if the president doesn't have a mistress.

We have no shortage of sex scandals. Within the last year there was Larry Craig (R-Idaho) in a public bathroom soliciting gay sex (plead guilty to disorderly conduct) and David Vitters (R-La.) who used a D.C. madam prostitute to put him in diapers. Yikes. Both senators still maintain they're strong family values Republicans. Evidently there's a certain amount of wiggle room in the term "family values."

Spitzer used a prostitution ring known, ironically, as "The Emperor's Club." His personal paramour, Kristin charged $1,500 an hour. At the height of Spitzer's political popularity, some predicted he might become the first Jewish president. As a Jew myself, I have only one comment: $1,500 an hour?! Are you kidding?

I'm no expert but Kristin's rates seem a little high. But maybe she was a college graduate? You see, kids, whatever field you go into, it pays to stay in school.

Fortunately, this Sunday might overshadow the sleazy Spitzer saga as it's the beginning of a riveting event — and no, I'm not talking about Nordstrom's Easter Sale. "Selection Sunday" marks the unveiling of the NCAA brackets, which reveals which 65 teams will make a run for the collegiate national basketball title in a sports drama known as "The Big Dance."

This tournament is such a part of the culture that it has its own vernacular. A "bracketologist" (not to be confused with a proctologist) is an expert in analyzing the brackets and predicting who will win in what round. A "bubble team" (nothing to do with baths or gum) is a college right on the edge of getting into the tournament. A "Cinderella team," is often a bubble team that, against all odds, makes a run toward the championship (Don't hold your breath as almost all Cinderella teams eventually turn back into pumpkins).

Indicative of the popularity, (or maybe the reason) is the fact that the NCAA tournament is the most heavily wagered sporting event in the U.S. It's bigger than the Kentucky Derby, the World Series and the NBA playoffs combined.

Teams come from small college towns as well as big universities. Fans in each city enter betting pools, camp out overnight for tickets and otherwise go insane. They call it March Madness. On Monday after the 65 teams are announced, at offices all across the country, so many brackets are Xeroxed, that there are reports of copy paper and toner shortages.

People go so gonzo that a urologist in New York advertises that the tournament is the perfect time to get that vasectomy you've been putting off. His post-operative instructions include legs propped up on the couch in front of the TV, one hand holding a bag of ice strategically placed and the other hand on the remote.

The NCAA tournament is actually a throwback to a more innocent time. Students at some small colleges are ecstatic just to "be dancing." At major schools like UCLA, however, it's serious business. Keep in mind the tournament follows a 30 game season filled with injuries fatigue and frustrations — and I'm talking about for the fans! For UCLA in this single loss elimination, anything less than a Final Four appearance might be considered a failure. Mary, a reader of mine and lifelong parishioner at St. Monica's Church confesses (pun intended) that during the tournament she has occasionally prayed to Saints Jude and Anthony, the patron saints of hopeless causes. Maybe that explains how two years ago UCLA came from nowhere to beat Gonzaga in the last seconds.

I see now all over the Internet are Kristin's photos, only she's Ashley Alexandra Dupre. The name alone sounds like $1,500. I say watch basketball. We always have sex scandals, but the Big Dance only comes once a year.

When **JACK NEWORTH** isn't glued to the NCAA tournament on TV, he can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.

The Q Line

Learning the right choice

Santa Monica is blessed to have both public and private schools that are considered some of the best in the state.

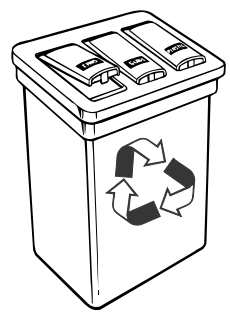
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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance which would, in part, amend Article 9 (Planning & Zoning) of the Santa Monica Municipal Code, by modifying the landscape maintenance and protection regulations and by relocating standards concerning irrigation and water conservation to the Green Building Ordinance, SMMC Chapter 8.108**

APPLICANT: City of Santa Monica
LOCATION: Citywide

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following proposed text amendment:

Amendment to the City of Santa Monica Zoning Ordinance Sections 9.04.10.04.100 and 9.04.10.04.110 to modify landscaping maintenance and protection regulations and to relocate standards that pertain to landscape irrigation and design for water conservation to the Green Building Ordinance, Section 8.108 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code. The proposed new language in the Green Building Ordinance would apply modified standards to reduce water use and waste to all zoning districts, including R1 (Single Family), which was previously exempt. The ordinance under consideration by the City Council would also update and amend the current Green Building requirements set forth in Chapter 8.108 and modify and relocate the construction and demolition material waste management requirements from Chapter 7.60 to Chapter 8.108.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2008 AT 6:45 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Landscaping and Irrigation Standards
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project, please contact Brenden McEneaney, LEED AP, CGBP, Green Building Program Advisor at (310) 458-8549, or by e-mail at brenden.mceneaney@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutiérrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Broken bottle theory

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from police reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, AT 12:15 P.M.,

Santa Monica police officers responded to the 1100 block of Palisades Park after receiving a report about a man who was throwing rocks and bottles at vehicles parked along Ocean Avenue. When officers arrived, they made contact with the suspect, who was yelling and acting irrationally, police said. Officers were able to detain the suspect, who was still holding a bottle in his hand at the time of his arrest. Officers determined that the suspect hit at least three cars causing over $400 in damage. The suspect was arrested for malicious mischief/vandalism. He was identified as Sherome Purcell, 26, a transient. His bail was set at $23,422. The suspect had outstanding warrants, police said.

MONDAY, MARCH 3, AT 4 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade – Barney's Beanery – regarding a report of suspicious people inside the bar who were allegedly overheard talking about a possible rape. When officers arrived they made contact with the suspects. During the investigation, officers determine that one suspect was under the influence of drugs while the other was under the influence of alcohol. Officers searched one suspect and found a syringe , while the other had some marijuana. That suspect was placed under arrest for being under the influence of alcohol and for possession of a narcotic while the other suspect was charged with being under the influence of a controlled substance and for possession of drug paraphernalia. The first suspect was identified as Jeffrey Alan Destefano, 53, a transient. His bail was set at $20,000. The second suspect was identified as Patricia Lee Newton, 41, also a transient. Her bail was set at $10,000.

MONDAY, MARCH 3, AT 12:24 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade after receiving a report about a man masturbating in public. When officers arrived they made contact with two alleged victims who said they were sitting down at the food court eating when they looked across the room and saw the suspect masturbating. Officers arrested the suspect for lewd conduct. He was identified as Reynald Elphage Chabot, 52, a transient. His bail was set at $500.

MONDAY, MARCH 3, AT 9:55 P.M.,

Police responded to the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade – Famima – regarding a strong arm robbery that just occurred. When officers arrived, they spoke with store employees who said the suspect walked into the convenience store and started to place candy bars in his pocket. He then allegedly walked out of the store, failing to pay for the items. One employee called police while the other went after the suspect. Once outside the store, the suspect turned toward the employee and began throwing oranges at them employee. After he ran out of oranges, the suspect got into a fighting stance and then walked away. Officers detained him in the 1400 block of the promenade. He was arrested for strong arm robbery. He was identified as Ricky Smith Davis, 36, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, AT 10:45 A.M.,

Officers on routine patrol in the 1700 block of Hill Street noticed a man riding a bicycle who failed to stop at a stop sign. Officers recognized the man from prior contacts and decided to pull him over and interview him. It turned out that the man was on parole and in possession of a controlled substance – methamphetamine. He was arrested for possession of a controlled substance. Officers said they also found small baggies that were empty in his waist band, indicating an intent to sell the drug. The suspect was identified as Bryant Kurtis Bracy, 44, a transient. No bail was set.

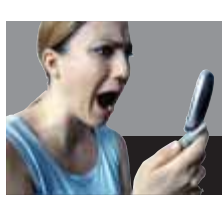
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, AT 1:50 P.M.,

Officers with the Special Enforcement section were on routine patrol on Lincoln Boulevard when they noticed a female walking up and down the busy thoroughfare waving at cars driving by. Suspicious, undercover officers approached the woman. They engaged in a conversation, at which point the woman asked the officers if they would like to have sex with her for money. The officers arrested the suspect for solicitation of prostitution. She was identified as Maggie Melba Conners, 18, of Los Angeles. Her bail was set at $2,000.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, AT 4:38 P.M.,

Police responded to the 2900 block of Ocean Park Boulevard – Wells Fargo –regarding a forgery suspect on the premises. When officers arrived, they made contact with bank employees, who said they noticed the suspect from a previous encounter at another branch. Employees were informed of the suspect, who had cashed bogus checks at other branches. When a teller saw the suspect walk into the branch, they notified police, who placed him under arrest for an outstanding warrant in connection with forgery cases in Santa Monica and other areas. The car the suspect was driving was reported stolen from a rental car agency, police said. Inside the car officers found evidence linking him to a fake ID scam. The suspect was identified as Kevin James McGlory, 40. No bail was set.

Editor in Chief Kevin Herrera compiled these reports.



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End of an era

State's nonpartisan fiscal watchdog retires

BY AARON C. DAVIS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California's independent fiscal watchdog will retire later this year after more than two decades of trying to keep governors honest about how they spend taxpayer money.

Elizabeth Hill — sometimes known as the state's "budget nun" — announced Thursday she will retire after 22 years as head of the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

Hill is only the state's fourth budget analyst and the first woman to hold the job since the Legislature created the post in 1941. She led the office through the terms of four governors — George Deukmejian, Pete Wilson, Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Hill's announcement surprised some members of her own staff and followed an unprecedented move last month to go beyond her normal role of analyzing the governor's annual budget. She published her own, competing plan for the Legislature to consider as it debates the deficit-plagued budget for the fiscal year that begins in July.

She said Schwarzenegger's plan, which relies on across-the-board cuts to balance the budget, was irreparably flawed because it failed to set priorities or correct the state's chronic imbalance between spending and revenue.

Hill said the state should impose both tax increases and cuts to close the estimated $16 billion shortfall. Lawmakers have made cuts and authorized borrowing they hope will halve the deficit by summer.

On Thursday, Hill said her tough analysis last month had nothing to do with her decision to retire after 32 years at the office. She said no one pressured her to leave.

"The time has just come for a new chapter in my life," Hill said during a news conference at her office across the street from the Capitol.

She said she wants to travel with her husband and play golf.

Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, both Democrats, issued statements praising Hill as a tireless public servant who will be a tough act to follow.

"Her dedication to examining the policies — not the politics — of issues was remarkable," Perata said. "I and my colleagues will sorely miss her thoughtful analysis and sound advice. It is truly the end of an era."

Speaking to reporters, the 58-year-old Hill did offer a few reflections about the state's fiscal condition.

She said the growing demands on state government and the many ballot initiatives voters have passed with fiscal strings attached have made it more difficult for lawmakers to balance the budget each year while ensuring California's long-term fiscal solvency.

> **"THE TIME HAS JUST COME FOR A NEW CHAPTER IN MY LIFE."**
>
> **Elizabeth Hill**
> Legislative Analyst's Office

She also said voter-approved term limits that have led to a revolving door of lawmakers and an increasingly partisan environment in the Capitol have compounded the work the office needs to do to make sure lawmakers perceive it as neutral.

"We needed to call it as we see it — speak truth to power," Hill said. "I'm confident (that) in the future the office will continue to play a really key role in keeping the governor accountable and helping the Legislature."

Her biggest regret?

"The budget remains unbalanced and that the state of California faces a challenging fiscal future," she said.

Hill nonetheless said she was proud of her record and, for all its trials, considered the analyst's post a "dream job."

"I get really jazzed about analysis," she said.

Hill said she expects the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to hire an outside firm to search for her replacement, as it did when she was named to the job in 1986.

Third man arrested in San Diego sea rescue

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO Three of the 15 people who were stranded on a boat for three days off the Pacific Coast have been arrested on suspicion of smuggling illegal immigrants.

Others aboard the rickety vessel told investigators they had agreed to pay $4,000 each for the illegal trip from Mexico to California, said Lauren Mack, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The three suspects were due in court Thursday.

Four women and 11 men were rescued from the boat Wednesday about 12 miles off the San Diego coast and 20 miles north of the Mexican border.

Aside from the suspects, three passengers were being held as material witnesses, while the rest were being sent home to Mexico or El Salvador.

The trip started in a Mexican fishing village south of Tijuana and near Playas de Rosarito, said Mike Unzueta, the lead ICE investigator in San Diego.

The smugglers switched boats on Mexico's Coronado Islands but the boat's engine died about 20 minutes after they left; it may have had engine trouble or run out of fuel.

"They say they had been dead in the water for three days," said CBP spokesman Vince Bond. "No reported injuries. They were just hungry, thirsty and sunburned."

The rescue comes amid a spate of smuggling attempts on California's Pacific waters.

ICE agents have identified about 20 boats used for human smuggling in the San Diego area since August, Mack said. Those makeshift watercraft were found adrift, washed ashore or carrying illegal immigrants.

No deaths or serious injuries have been reported in those attempts.

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Katrina victims vexed by red tape

BY JOHN MORENO GONZALES
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS Two and a half years after Hurricane Katrina, tens of thousands of miserable homeowners are still waiting for their government rebuilding checks, and many complain they can't even get their calls returned. But the company that holds the big contract to distribute the aid is doing quite well for itself.

ICF International of Fairfax, Va., has posted strong profits, gone public, landed additional multimillion-dollar government contracts, and, it was learned this week, secured a potentially big raise recently from the state of Louisiana.

In the waning days of Gov. Kathleen Blanco's administration, state officials increased the management contract ceiling from $756 million to $914 million — this, after the Legislature wanted to fire ICF over its handling of the homeowner recovery program, called Road Home.

"I'm flabbergasted that this company could be so inefficient and could mess up so consistently and for so long," said Bill Yurt, 57, who has been living in a FEMA trailer for 2 1/2 years.

He said ICF hasn't sent an appraiser to determine the grant amount that will resurrect his gutted house in Gentilly. And his calls to an ICF caseworker have gone unreturned for a month.

Road Home was created in June 2006 as a state-run, federally funded plan to compensate homeowners for the breach of New Orleans' government-run levees. Homeowners can apply for grants to repair their homes, or obtain buyouts if they don't want to fix things up.

Yet, 56,000 applicants — nearly 40 percent of the qualified total — had yet to receive a cent as of last month. Plagued by cost overruns and delays, Road Home is expected to cost the taxpayers $10 billion in federal money and has become another glaring symbol of frustration and red tape in post-Katrina New Orleans.

"Supposedly they had the expertise, but what we've learned ever since is it's been on-the-job training," said Frank Silvestri, co-chairman of the Citizens Road Home Action Team, or CHAT, a community group that was formed in anger over ICF.

ICF spokeswoman Gentry Brann blamed the state's ever-changing rules and political meddling by officials and community groups for many of Road Home's difficulties.

She complained that Road Home has come to be regarded as an entitlement program, and said the company must carefully evaluate 157,000 applications to guard against fraud.

"The state essentially redefined the goal of the program from rebuilding to relief in midstream," Brann said.

She said the $914 million that the company could earn is to cover the costs of the program and was approved by public officials.

"It's very important to note this is not a `pay increase.' It's not actually even `pay' to ICF. Rather it is an increase in the contract ceiling to cover the additional unit price costs incurred by our subcontractors," Brann said.

The state got tough with ICF last year, threatening to terminate its contract, and but ultimately set benchmarks to force it to "close," or decide, cases more quickly.

However, ICF now stands accused of inflating its closing figures by deliberately using red tape, confusion and delays to get applicants to settle for low grant amounts.

"They have been pressured into signing closing documents," said Melanie Ehrlich, the other chair of CHAT, who has documented nearly 1,000 such disputes. "We know that this includes applicants who had obvious mistakes in the calculation of the grant."

Ehrlich said more than half of the Road Home applicants who have contacted CHAT say they are appealing their awards. Some report getting letters from ICF telling them they were not eligible for a grant, followed by letters congratulating them for receiving one.

Dorcil Albair, a resident of Cameron Parish, said she got $9,800 from Road Home for damage estimated by her insurer at $49,000. She said she signed Road Home papers with hundreds of others at a local hotel.

"They just shoved the paper in front of us," said Albair, 65. "It was like an assembly line."

The company had the inside track from the start, critics say. It won the Road Home contract from a committee of housing experts and a state agency pressed by Blanco to jump-start the rebuilding. A few companies submitted bids. But ICF, which counted a $23.6 million Department of Housing and Urban Development contract as its previous experience, had already designed the Road Home template.

The relationship alarmed a state ethics board. But ICF was not dropped as the contractor.

ICF timed the Road Home contract with the launch of its initial public stock offering, triggering millions in bonuses and options for its top executives, and has bought out four other companies to tap the deep well of government contracting work.

It counts among its recent deals a $15 million Homeland Security agreement to protect chemical installations from terrorists, and a $10 million contract to help the Environmental Protection Agency preserve the ozone.

ICF reported a profit of $40.6 million in 2007, up from $11.9 million a year earlier. The company's stock price has at times doubled since the Wall Street offering.

Severed fingers of Americans sent to U.S. military officials

BY RASHA MADKOUR
Associated Press Writer

Severed fingers of five Western contractors were sent to the U.S. military in Iraq, giving the men's relatives hope that they are still alive, a brother of one of the missing men said.

The men were abducted in two separate incidents that occurred a month and a half apart more than two years ago, a U.S. government official said Thursday in Washington.

The Austrian weekly magazine News first reported the delivery of the five fingers in Wednesday's edition, citing unidentified authorities working on the case.

Patrick Reuben, a Minneapolis police officer whose twin brother, Paul Reuben, is among the missing, said late Wednesday the FBI told his family members that "the fingers were confirmed to be those of the hostages."

Patrick Reuben said the news of the severed fingers was "shocking," but that the initial word the family got was "much more serious than that. Later on we found that it was fingers that were recovered and that the DNA confirmed it was the hostages."

Jackie Stewart learned her son's finger had been cut off from a reporter, and the FBI confirmed it to her later that day, she said.

"The fact that my son lost a finger is very disturbing," said Stewart, the mother of Joshua Munns. "But if they haven't killed him now, I seriously doubt they will, unless something tragic happens, something devastating."

Four of the men were guards for a convoy ambushed near the Kuwaiti border on Nov. 16, 2006. The fifth, Ronald J. Withrow, 40, of Lubbock, Texas, was a contractor working for JPI Worldwide and abducted on Jan. 5, 2007 near Basra.

In addition to Reuben, those abducted in the earlier incident were Jonathon Cote, 25, of Getzville, N.Y.; Munns, 25, of Redding, Calif.; and Bert Nussbaumer, 26, of Vienna, Austria, said the U.S. government official in Washington. The official spoke only on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record about the matter.

They were working for Crescent Security Group, a Kuwait-based private security company. Men in Iraqi police uniforms ambushed a convoy near the southern city of Safwan.

A fifth hostage taken in the Nov. 16, 2006, ambush was John Young, 45, of Lee's Summit, Mo.

City of Santa Monica

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

DATE/TIME: March 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- ARB 06-400, 210-212 Santa Monica Boulevard: Mixed-Use
- ARB 07-221, 1827 Sixteenth Street: Multi-Residential
- ARB 07-374, 1041-1047 Seventeenth Street: Multi-Residential
- ARB 07-462, 152 Hart Avenue: Multi-Residential
- ARB 07-487, 234 Pico Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB 07-517, 1920 Olympic Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB 07-519, 1650 Ocean Park Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB 07-534, 131 Broadway: Commercial
- ARB 08-005, 1610 Broadway: Multi-Residential
- ARB 08-052, 525 Broadway: Mixed-Use
- ARB 08-056, 1000 Wilshire Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB 08-087, 228 Bicknell Avenue: Multi-Residential

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). Call 310-458-8341 or TTY 310-450-8896 for disability accommodation requests. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8 serve City Hall.

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Council lukewarm on beautification project

FROM PLAN PAGE 1

Katz pointed out that 20th Street, which is partially residential and commercial, in particular serves as a route to Santa Monica College and the freeway.

The preliminary concept design includes curb extensions on Cloverfield Boulevard, new street lamps, colored concrete paving bands, upgraded traffic signals and new street trees. The consultant is recommending a pink trumpet tree and Chinese fringe tree for Cloverfield Boulevard — both of which are deciduous — and a sweetshade tree and goldenrain tree for 20th Street — the former an evergreen and the latter a deciduous.

Some of the councilmembers also seemed to take issue with using deciduous trees — trees that loses leaves seasonally — noting that it makes the streets look unattractive.

Walt Warriner, the community forrester, said on Thursday that the trees were chosen based on their growth habit and whether it would be suitable for the size and environment of the two streets.

"When you have limited growth spaces, your choices of specimen gets to be limited because you pick trees that will grow well in the area, that will grow well under the conditions that the street has to offer," Warriner said. "Because there's a lot of traffic and a lot of road soot and vehicle exhaust and dust, it's a harsh environment so you start evaluating trees based on what types of trees will grow under those conditions."

Councilmember Bob Holbrook spoke in favor of deciduous trees, pointing out that he has one growing in his yard.

"In the winter, it looks like winter and this time of year, they're all blossoming," Holbrook said.

Councilmember Bobby Shriver asked whether it would be possible to plant the trees at a more mature state.

Evan Mather, an associate with Ah'bé Landscape Architects, said it would take about seven years for the trees to grow to the mature size as displayed in the concept drawings.

"If the only issue was to excavate a bigger hole, people ... might be willing to pay it if they got the after-picture shown," Shriver said.

Craig Perkins, the outgoing director of environmental and public works, noted that most experts say that planting a bigger tree requires digging a larger hole and that might not be the healthiest option for the trees.

"You're excavating more to fit a much larger root bal l... into that existing space," Perkins said. "A lot of times, that is the least healthy way to establish a tree and have it mature the way you want it to mature."

Susan Hartley, a Sunset Park resident and member of the Santa Monica Treesavers, which is currently challenging City Hall over its plans to remove 54 ficus trees from the downtown area, asked that none of the existing street trees on 20th and Cloverfield be removed.

"You really need to be maintaining our canopy as well as increasing it," Hartley said. "These are heavily trafficked streets and there's a lot of carbon output from the cars on those streets."

"The trees suck up that carbon," she added.

The current concept design also sees a net loss of 19 parking spaces on Cloverfield, a proposal that has received negative reaction from area residents. Mather said he is attempting to resolve the parking issue with residents.

> **"THESE ARE HEAVILY TRAFFICKED STREETS AND THERE'S A LOT OF CARBON OUTPUT FROM THE CARS ON THOSE STREETS."**
>
> **Susan Hartley**
> Sunset Park resident

Some councilmembers also said they wanted to see medians installed on Cloverfield, which they believe would not only beautify the boulevard, but also make it more accessible for pedestrians.

Councilmember Ken Genser used the Wilshire Boulevard enhancement project as an example, saying the median broke up the heavily-traveled street.

The medians were not incorporated into the plan because neither Cloverfield nor 20th are wide enough to accommodate both curb extensions and a median, the consultant said. A portion of Cloverfield also falls under the Caltrans right-of-way, requiring a permit if a median is installed.

The consultant is also considering several bike lane options for 20th Street, looking at whether to eliminate parking along the street and replace it with a bike lane or to maintain the parking but replace a travel lane with a bike lane. One of the issues of adding a bike lane to the two streets is the limited space.

Zina Josephs, a Sunset Park resident, said she wasn't sure whether bike lanes could be added safely because of the traffic.

"The traffic lanes seem to be always full, and the sidewalks are narrow from Pico to Santa Monica Boulevard, especially on the bridge of the 10 freeway," Josephs said. "I don't know where the bike lanes could be safely located."

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+ 6:30 a.m. + 8:00 a.m. + 12:10 p.m. + 6:00 p.m. +
HOLY THURSDAY
March 20th
Mass of the Lord's Supper
+ 7:30 p.m. +
Adoration at the Altar of Repose
+ After the 7:30 p.m. Mass until Midnight in the Auditorium +
Night Prayer at 12:00 Midnight
GOOD FRIDAY
March 21st
Solemn Liturgy, Holy Communion, & Veneration of the Cross
+ 12:00 p.m. +
Stations of the Cross
+ 2:30 p.m. +
Solemn Liturgy, Holy Communion, & Veneration of the Cross
+ 7:30 p.m. +
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March 22nd
Easter Vigil Liturgy
+ 7:30 p.m. +
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EASTER SUNDAY
March 23rd
Mass in the Church
+ 6:30 a.m. +
+ 8:00 a.m. +
+ 9:30 a.m. +
+ 11:30 a.m. +
+ 1:15 p.m. +
Mass in the Gymnasium
+ 9:30 a.m. +
+ 11:30 a.m. +
Mass in the Auditorium
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File photo

DEAL? **Treesavers' latest offer came just days after the California State Court of Appeal extended the temporary restraining keeping the ficus trees in question in place until March 21.**

Treesavers, City Hall to meet in courtroom later this month

FROM **TREES** PAGE 1

Cy Carlberg, said in her January report that only three trees had "high failure potential."

The treesavers warned that if City Hall loses in court, it might have to go back to the drawing board with the streetscape plan, conducting an environmental impact report and losing more money in the process.

"That could delay or terminate the entire streetscape project and the treesavers are not interested in doing that," Nitti said. "The treesavers are only interested in saving the trees."

The treesavers and City Hall are expected to meet back in court on March 21.

They came face to face in a Downtown L.A. courthouse last month when Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Ann Jones ruled that the treesavers lawsuit against City Hall, alleging it failed to follow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), was moot since it was filed a few years too late. In the Feb. 28 ruling the judge found the 180-day clock during which time a lawsuit could be filed began ticking in October 2005 when city officials determined the project was CEQA exempt. The treesavers contend that City Hall misled the public in stating that the street trees were also exempt, classifying them as facilities in the 2005 report rather than as trees.

"The settlement, treesavers think, is a win-win solution," Nitti said.

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✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?
■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**

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City's worker law faces possible fight

FROM **ORDINANCE** PAGE 3

Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, which helped in the formulation of the L.A. ordinance, said the worker protection ordinance was similar to ones that have been upheld statewide.

"What possible damage is there because you keep a worker to do the same job as they've been doing with the same customer base that knows the worker already," Tynan said. "You don't have to keep them forever — if you like them, then keep them permanently, if you don't then, don't."

"It buys the workers a few months to figure out what they're next move will be and prove they can do the same job (as the new employees)," she added.

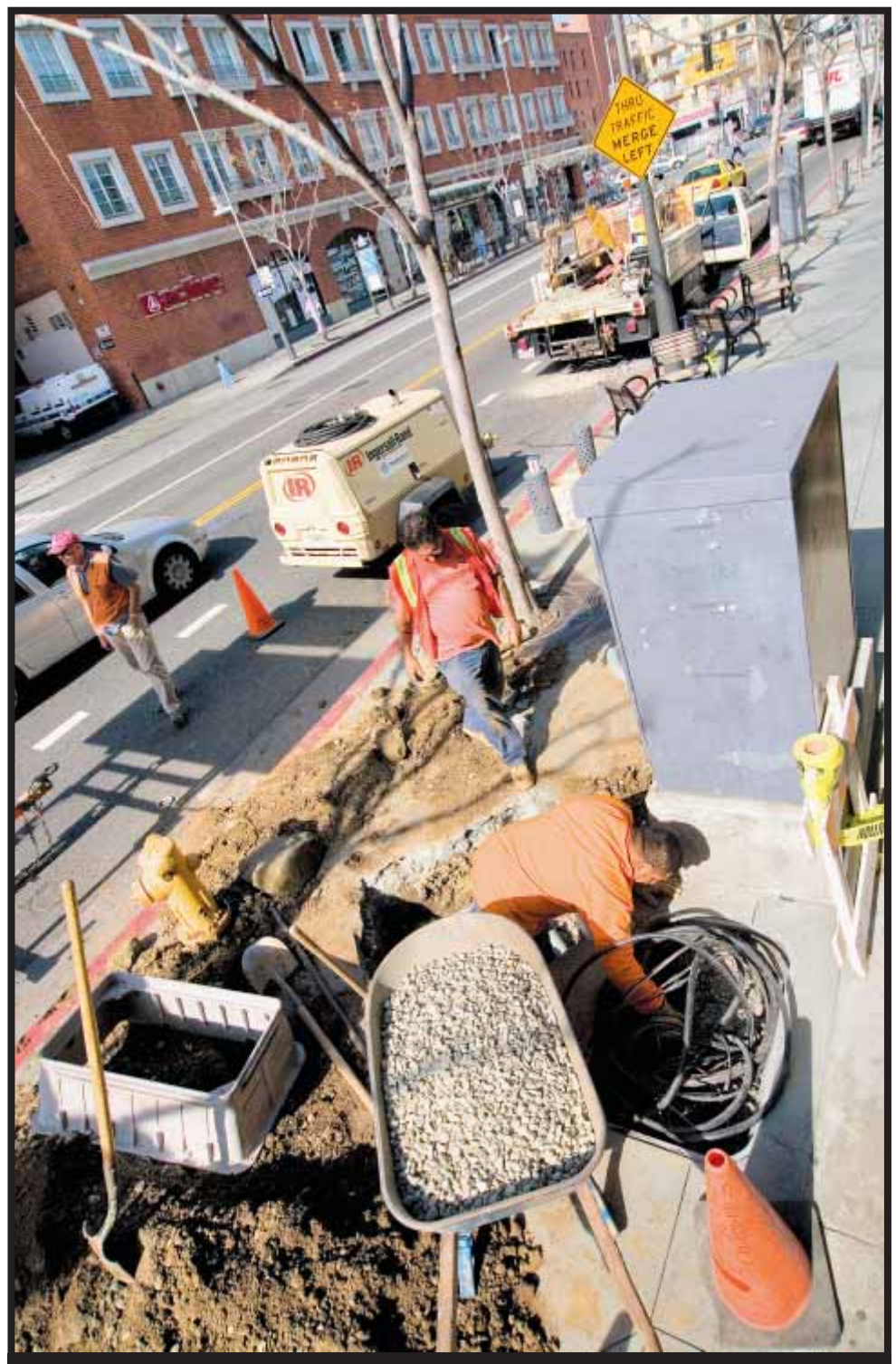
Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, who represents West Los Angeles, said he was disappointed with the judge's ruling, and believes the city will be heard differently at the next level.

"The workers matter and this 90-day period allows workers to have a deep breath....(so their) future can be worked on," Rosendahl said.

Both ordinances have been supported by the unions. Barbara Maynard, the spokeswoman for UFCW Local 1442, which covers Santa Monica, said it is fairly common for large companies to change hands, putting those employees at the risk of being fired.

"This is multi-billion dollar corporations that change hands all the time," Maynard said. "We were very supportive of this ordinance because we felt it did give a level of protection to workers in uncertain times."

melodyh@smdp.com



DIGGING DEEP

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Workers from Dynalectric, a mechanical and electrical construction facilities company, install fiber optic cables on Broadway last week. The company has been contracted by the city to install the infrastructure for a new surveillance system that will monitor traffic.



West Dressed

Mariel Howsepian
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Packing for a real state of emergency

Two weeks ago, Armenian president Robert Kocharian declared a 20-day state of emergency after eight people were killed and more than 100 injured in a riot in Yerevan, the capital city.

Guess where I'm going tomorrow? My plane takes off at 7 p.m.

On Feb. 19, Armenia held its presidential election. Prime Minister Serzh Sarkyan won, and not everyone was happy about it. In the 10 days that followed, people who believed that the elections had been rigged began camping in a public square in Yerevan. CNN reported that, at times, the number of protesters grew as high as 60,000.

Meanwhile in Santa Monica, I was on the phone with my dad's sister's husband's uncle Kev Balian of Kev Balian Travel. Los Angeles was making me claustrophobic, and spring break was coming up, so I decided to get out of town.

Two days after I purchased my ticket, the riot occurred.

Why not Hawaii? Why not Cancun? Why Armenia?

I'm half Armenian, on my dad's side, hence the last name: Howsepian. But my mother was what my dad's parents called an "odar," a foreigner; she was white, born in Oklahoma, descended from the Scottish clan Campbell of Argyle. And so, I was not christened in an Armenian church, I did not learn to speak the language, I did not go to Armenian private school, I did not minor in Armenian Studies at my alma mater Fresno State, and I married a guy with the last name "Rodriguez."

Last Thanksgiving, my Armenian grandmother asked me when I was going to the Old Country.

"I can't just 'go' to Armenia," I said. "I can't even read the alphabet. I wouldn't be able to get out of the airport."

People don't go to Armenia for vacation; they go there to build houses or dig irrigation ditches. But for two and a half months, I replayed what I had said to Grandma — "I can't just 'go' to Armenia" — until I accepted that the only way to stop hearing that sentence was to prove myself wrong.

Plus, I have an aunt there whom I've never met: My dad's half-sister he's never even met.

My first stop was Borders to buy a travel guide. Armenia is geographically close to Russia — it was once part of the Soviet Union — so I searched the shelves near the travel books about Russia. Nothing. Armenia is bordered by Turkey, Iran, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. I searched near Turkey. I searched the Middle East. I even searched in Eastern Europe, although I knew Armenia is in western Asia. Finally, I found one book. It had been misplaced in Scandinavia.

And no, I'm not finished packing.

I don't want to check any bags. I only have two hours to make my connecting flight in London, and Uncle Kev tells me not to be surprised if I don't. I have to travel light.

There are two schools of thought when it comes to packing. The first is to pack too much: You never know when you might be invited spur of the moment to a formal dinner at a castle or something. The second is to pack too little: You can buy pretty much anything you'll need wherever you go.

This is a state of emergency. How do I stuff a parka, camcorder, laptop, pharmacopoeia, and a good book in a carry-on?

Travel tips

Always travel with a big scarf. (I just bought a gorgeous one from CP Shades on Main Street.) A big scarf can be used for ...

- a head-covering in a church or temple.
- a belt.
- a shawl.
- a cover-up for a swim suit.

QUICK NOTE

In my last column "Formally angst-ridden," I advised that girls should forgo wearing the color red to prom so as to not look like everyone else. One reader contacted me to remind me that the women who chose to wear red to the Academy Awards were doing so to bring attention to statistics claiming that more women die of heart disease than all the cancers combined.

By advising girls to wear colors other than red to prom, I was in no way trying to discount the statements being made by red-dressed women like Heidi Klum. That said, when girls go shopping for their prom dresses, I doubt they will choose to wear red because they to want to educate their classmates about women's health. I'm fairly certain their concerns will be choosing dresses that make them feel less fat, less short, less flat-chested or flat-buttocked, less teenaged.

MARIEL HOWSEPIAN digs black coffee, fairy tales and a man in coveralls. She lives in Santa Monica and can be reached at Mariel_Rodriguez@antiochla.edu.

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March 20, 7:00 p.m.

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Meditative Taizé
March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Jacaranda Music Concert
March 22, 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship
March 23, 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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Complexity drew Stahl in

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

Nick Stahl looks wiped out. Adorable, but exhausted. When I meet him, he's just finished a late lunch and has been through a full morning's Q and A from the "darlings of the media" (and after spending time with my cohorts – I feel for Stahl), yet despite what must seem like a monotonous litany with every reporter, he is incredibly gracious and forthright and more than happy to discuss his role in "Sleepwalking."

His character, James Reedy, is a complex man who has been beaten down (both literally and figuratively) during the course of his young life. When we meet Reedy, his mental state and lack of self esteem have him living in abject poverty, losing his job, and making choices that exacerbate this downward spiral.

"I've always been attracted to complicated characters," explained Stahl. "There was a certain mystery about Reedy's past, [about] where he came from, and why he was the way he was."

It's this complexity that Stahl taps into and drives his riveting performance.

The advent of Reedy's niece, Tara (played by AnnaSophia Robb), and the predicament of being forced to care for her provide the catalyst that allows Reedy to finally confront his past.

"He gets the gift of courage from her, even if it's on a more subconscious level, to seek some sort of redemption with his dad [played by Dennis Hopper], to make things right," he said. "Inevitably he's got to go back and face [his father], and see if things are still what they were, and if he remembers them correctly, which leads to his final confrontation."

It's not often you watch a film that culminates in an act of patricide where you actually feel pathos for the murderer. Stahl's intense portrayal of this distraught young man is so visceral that his actions ultimately seem justifiable. At the end of the film, Stahl's character, now wanted by the police, rides off down a long open road – choosing not to turn himself over to the authorities. When pressed if he really thought Reedy would get away with it, Stahl likens it to, "...a moment of clarity," and even though we know, "He'll probably end up in jail, he'll be free," because he's freed himself from all the emotional pain.

The cast and crew spent a little over a month braving insanely cold weather, in the town of Regina, Saskatchewan. When Stahl says the name of the town, I think I've misunderstood, but he quickly clarifies, "It's called Reg-eye-nuh." I wince incredulously, and he nods, as if concurring with me – that neither of us understands why the Canadians would inflict this pronunciation on their town.



Kerry Hayes

GETTING INTO CHARACTER: **(Left to right) Nick Stahl and AnnaSophia Robb star in Overture Films' 'Sleepwalking.'**

"That's how they say it," he said, with a laugh. One can only imagine the "joke mileage" the cast and crew were able to milk from this fair city's name.

"The two main recreational spots were the mall, which was really kind of crappy," Stahl added, "and the Casino." At which he, Charlize Theron and the crew spent many a weekend night, gambling, bonding and letting off steam.

"In places likes this, you tend to have the most fun because there's nothing to do."

Born in Dallas, Texas, Stahl always loved acting and knew he'd make a living at it. He quickly landed roles in "The Man Without a Face," "The Thin Red Line," the HBO Series, "Carnivale" and my personal favorite, "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines."

Stahl was five years old when the original "Terminator" was released.

"I've never been the biggest sci-fi fan and never was into the 'Star Wars' movies," though he did see "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" and of it said, "I thought it was amazing."

Once he was cast, he watched all the films and "got a real understanding for the mythology behind the franchise." Up until then, Stahl had never been a part of a movie close to that scope and scale.

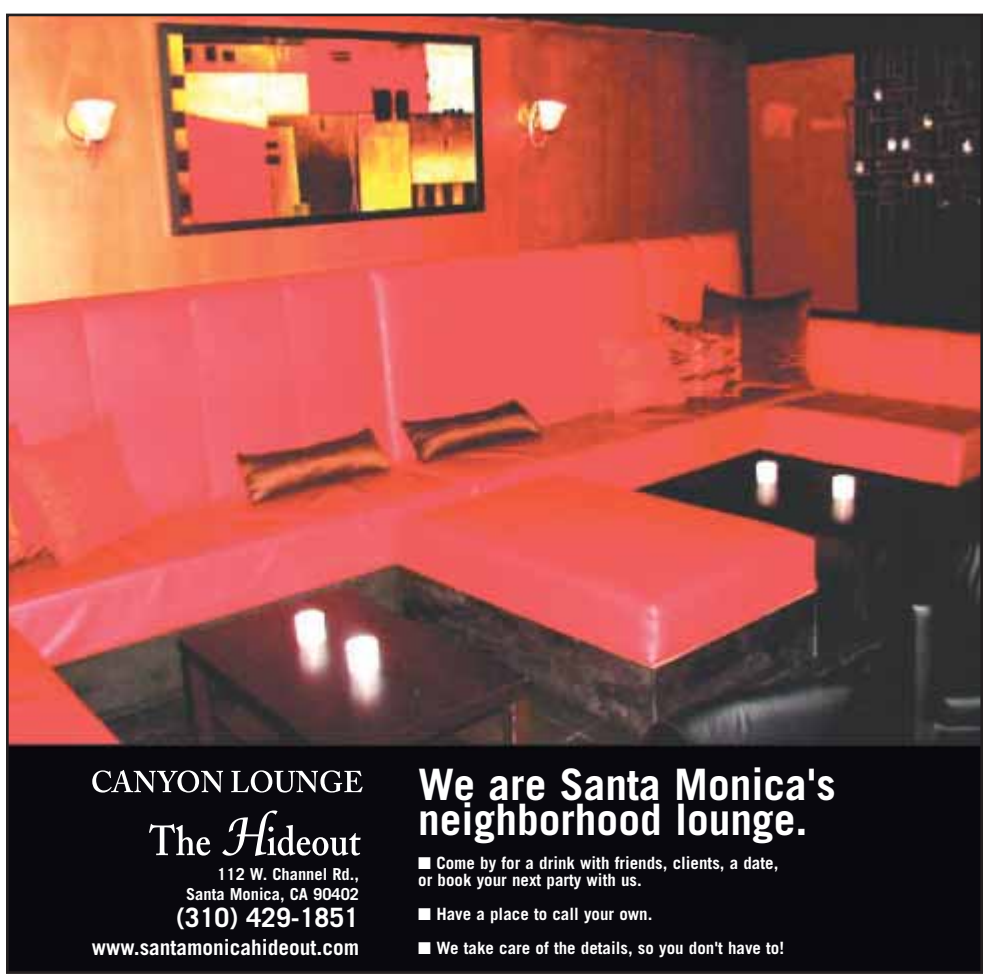
"It was a really exciting time," he added.

When he's not working, he writes, tries to stay creative and goes to movies. Stahl, now a Westside local, moved to Venice about two months ago.

"I lived in Santa Monica when I was 17, so this is my return to the Westside. I like the community ... the beach, and you can walk places, like Abbott Kinney, which I love."

"Sleepwalking" opens today.

Taylor Van Arsdale is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Tailfish@roadrunner.com





BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'The Highest Tide'

By Jim Lynch • Bloomsbury Publishing

The main character in this year's Santa Monica Citywide Read, "The Higest Tide," Miles O'Malley states early in the story, "I sometimes lied about where or when I saw things, but take that little misdirection away and I saw everything I said I saw and more."

This sets the tone for the entire text, which takes an innocent approach to complex subject matter.

Miles is a 13-year-old boy whose main interest is the tides outside his seaside home. He is known to leave his room at night and glide around the bay in his kayak. He is a fan of Rachael Carson whom he mentions quite often. So much so that she becomes a character in this short 246 page work.

Miles is just starting to notice things and is beginning to put things together. He is at the cusp of puberty. This summer will open the world to him.

"People usually take decades to sort out their view of the universe, if they bother to sort at all. I did my sorting during one freakish summer in which I was ambushed by science, fame and suggestions of the divine," he says in one of the more telling passages from the text.

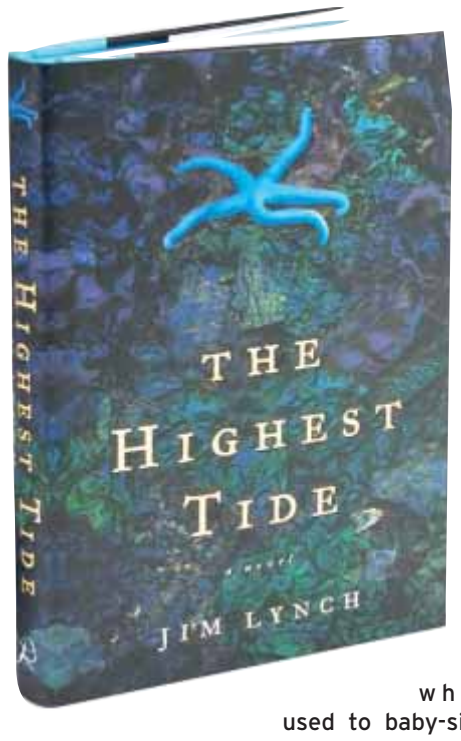
The story is told in first person from the viewpoint of Miles looking back and piecing things together. The author handles this viewpoint well. Even though it is told first-person through the eyes of a 13 year old, it is not really primarily a book for young adults. It is told from this viewpoint to emphasize the wonders of interfacing with ecology.

But ecology isn't the main thrust. Change over time and the permanence of the bay seems to be a theme. Reading it that way I am reminded of a song in the musical version of Edna Ferber's "Show Boat."

"Old Man River. That Old Man River, he just keeps a'rolling along."

Even the tide seems to have symbolic meaning. Just as the tide is staring to peak, so does Miles' sexuality and awareness.

This story has delightful characters. Each one is seen through the eyes of youth. Let me mention a few. There are his parents who don't communicate with each other or him. His father is concerned with height. Every month his father measures Miles to see if he has grown. Miles has a girlfriend in Angie who is an older woman



who used to baby-sit him. She is now bipolar and strange when off her medication. There is Florence, the mystic, who is passing toward death on her own terms. There is the reporter who thinks there is a story in Miles and his interest in the tides.

The whole story comes to a head when a high tide comes in and threatens to wipe out the small village around the southern end of Puget Sound. Science tried to explain it. "But," Miles concludes, "I saw gaps between what the scientists said and what actually happened."

Each of our city libraries has copies of "The Highest Tide" on the shelves. But don't worry if they are checked out when you go seeking a copy. In order for everybody to have a change to read it, a limited amount of books will be delivered to our branches to be handed out. Just ask at the information desk.

I enjoyed the book and I know the discussion groups are going to have a lot to talk about. Discussion groups will be held April 12 to May 17, 2008. The venues are yet to be established.

DANE ROBERT SWANSON lives and writes in Santa Monica. He is eager to hear from you his readers. So just drop him a line at smdp_review@yahoo.com and let him know how you are. He answers each e-mail sent.



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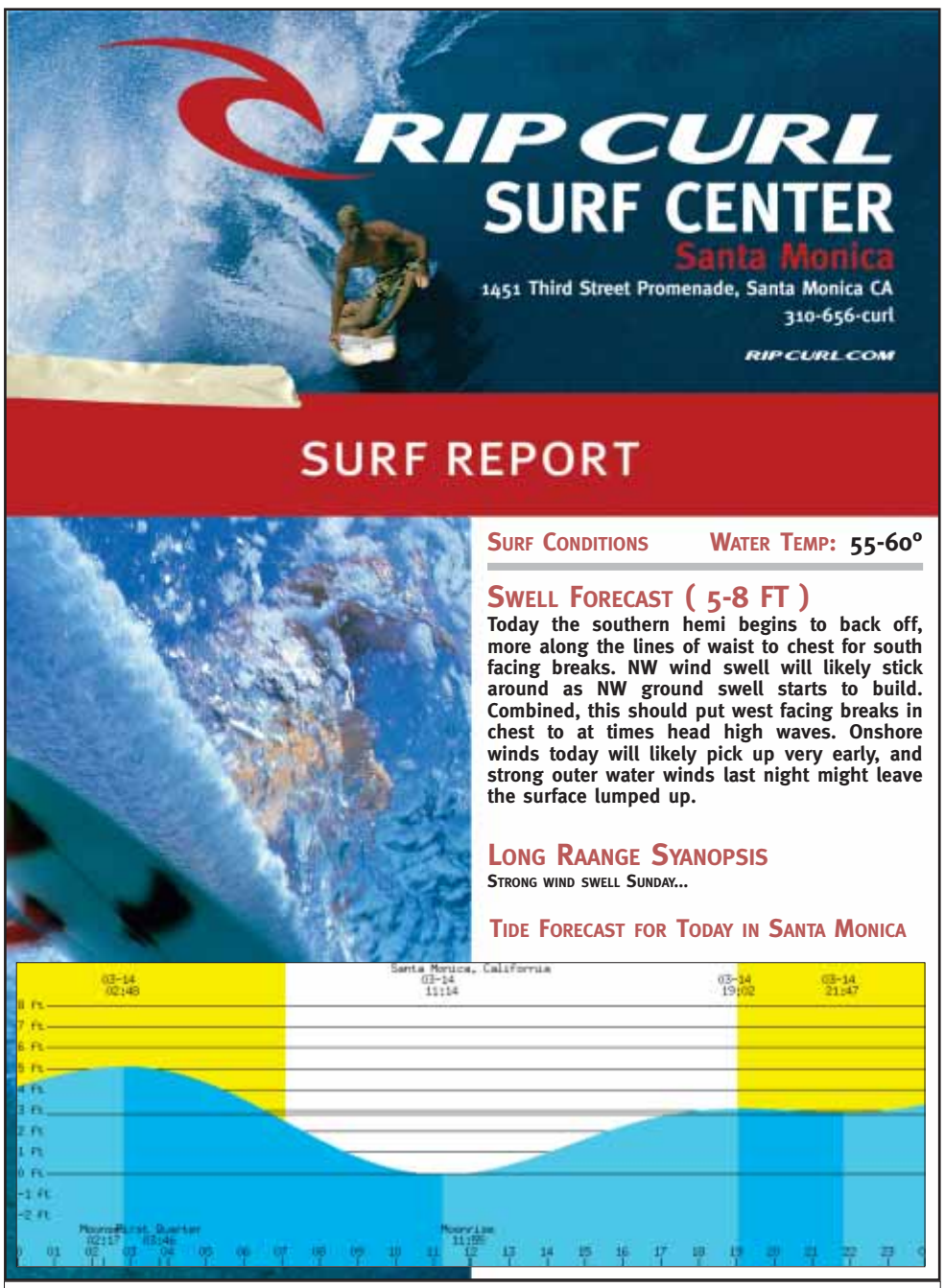
Saturday, March 15, 2008, 11 a.m.

Santa Monica Public Library Martin Luther King Auditorium
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Moderator: Joseph Deering, Senior Arts Foundation
Panelists: Richard Baum, M.D. — African Art Collector
Virginia Field — Curator, LACMA
Yvonne Szafran — Conservator, J. Paul Getty Museum
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BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **February 26, 2008**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 2
- Number of wet days -- 14
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 35 / 18
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 28

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from Ford

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	D
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	F	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	B
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	B	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	F

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	D	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	C
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	B
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	D	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	D
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	D
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	D	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	D

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card℠ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

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

Heal the Bay

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NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS

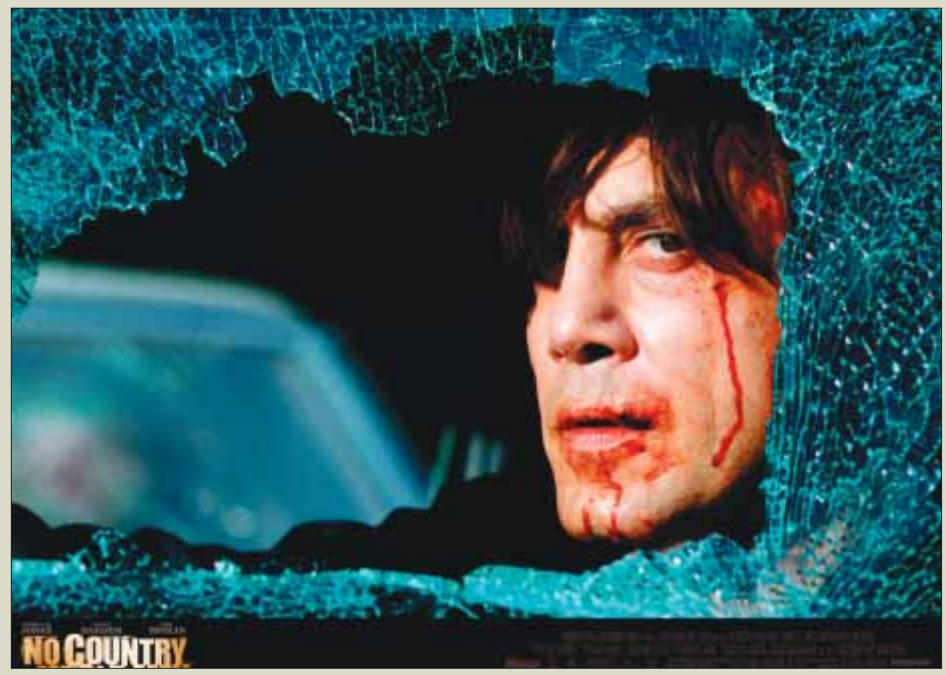


Photo courtesy of

'No Country for Old Men'

This gritty West Texas action-thriller based on the novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Cormac McCarthy, won four Academy Awards including Best Picture. The story stems from a man who stumbles upon a crime scene, a truck loaded with heroin and two million in cash, and when he decides to take the dough and run. A violent chain reaction follows. Directed by Joel and Ethan Coen (who won Oscars for Direction and Adapted Screenplay), "No Country For Old Men" stars Tommy Lee Jones and Javier Bardem (who also won as Best Supporting Actor). Extras: Working With the Coens: Reflections of Cast and Crew," "The Making of No Country For Old Men," "Diary of a Country Sheriff." (Miramax)

'Bull Durham' 20th Anniversary Collector's Edition

This romantic comedy starring Kevin Costner, Tim Robbins, and Susan Sarandon, centers on the world of minor league baseball. It was nominated for a Best Screenplay Oscar by former ballplayer Ron Shelton who made his directorial debut here. He'd go on to write and/or direct acclaimed films with golf, basketball, boxing and football backdrops. Shelton returns to baseball for his next project. Bonus material includes commentary by Shelton, commentary by Costner and Robbins, as well as segments entitled: "The Greatest Show on Dirt," "Diamonds in the Rough" on minor league baseball, "Between the Lines: The Making of Bull Durham" and a Costner profile. (MGM)

'Mrs. Doubtfire' Behind the Seams Edition

In one of his best performances, Robin Williams stars as struggling actor Daniel Hillard who becomes inventive in order to see his children more often after separating from his fed up wife (Sally Field) who gets a court order restricting his visitation rights. Over two hours of bonus material includes improvisational clips, retrospective and making-of vignettes, and extensive make-up applications to the star. (Fox)

'Slipstream'

Academy Award winner Anthony Hopkins ("The Silence of the Lambs") writes, directs, and stars in this surreal tale of one man's journey into a vortex where reality and dreams collide. Hopkins is an aging screenwriter who becomes baffled when characters from his murder mystery script start showing up in his life. (Sony)

'Destination: South Africa'

An accessible and informative travel guide to one of the planet's most picturesque countries. Whether driving along one of the greatest coastlines stopping at pristine beaches to visiting one of the tribal lands on the way to observe the wildlife of Kruger National Park, the hosts provide new vacation ideas by exploring sites off the beaten path in all four corners of this land where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet. The beauty and diversity of the South African cultures a dozen years after the dark cloud of apartheid held back tourism are presented in imaginative and compelling ways. (Globetrekkertv.com)

'Love American Style' Season 1, Volume 2

The popular hour-long weekly romantic comedy anthology made its debut in 1969. Consisting primarily of unrelated stories, usually with a comedic spin, this groundbreaking series was at times brash and bold but also sentimental. Twelve episodes are spread over three discs. Guest stars include: Penny Marshall, Burt Reynolds, Steve Allen, Kurt Russell, Suzanne Pleshette, and even Gilligan, Bob Denver. (Paramount)

Film and television author **RANDY WILLIAMS** reviews the latest movies, television shows, documentaries and music programs now available for purchase online or at your local retail store.

Off the block

Jackson's Neverland Ranch saved from sale

MICHAEL JACKSON has refinanced Neverland ranch in time to save his famed California spread from a public auction that was scheduled for later this month.

Jackson attorney L. Londell McMillan told The Associated Press on Thursday that the pop star has worked out a "confidential" agreement with Fortress Investment Group, LLC. The deal allows him to retain ownership of the famed property in Los Olivos, Calif.

"Neverland and MJ are fine," McMillan said.

An auction date had been set for March 19 because of $24.5 million the singer owed on the 2,500-acre spread northwest of Santa Barbara.

A source close to the singer who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter said it's not clear whether Jackson will keep Neverland. Jackson has not lived there since his acquittal on child molestation charges in 2005.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPEARS `HAVING A BLAST'

BRITNEY SPEARS is relishing her new role on "How I Met Your Mother."

Spears has been taping her much-hyped cameo on the CBS sitcom for the March 24 episode, in which she portrays a receptionist in a dermatologist's office named Abby who crushes on Ted (Josh Radnor).

"Working at `How I Met Your Mother' has been so terrific," Spears said Thursday. "Everyone, including the cast, the crew and the producers, has been wonderful and Abby is such a fun girl to play. I'm having a blast!"

AP

Be aware of others, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Your understanding of a financial and/or emotional tie could be different from the other party's. Tonight: A light exchange could become heavy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Others' words might not exactly be music to your ears. Could you have misunderstood? If you go on the warpath, you might never find out. Let events play out, and see what is really going on. Everyone will be happier. Tonight: Homeward bound.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ If someone disagrees, don't make it a big deal; otherwise, what had been intended to be light, humorous and fun will fall apart. Tonight: Treat a pal to munchies.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Take your time before taking action. You pick up moods like osmosis. Knowing that fact could determine which way to walk down a pothole-ridden road. Your follow-through counts. Remember, not everyone has your energy. Tonight: As you like it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Use the morning, when you are a barrel of energy. Others could find you slightly offensive or difficult. A little diplomacy makes a big difference. Tonight: Take your time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might not be comfortable with what is happening on a deeper level. You react to a pushy person. Who wouldn't? Being open allows much flow, resulting in increased opportunities. Listen and share. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Everyone has an issue at the present time! Try to work through another's sassiness. If you cannot get to the root of the problem, establish boundaries. Others eye your style, as you are in the limelight. Tonight: Be more aware of others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Don't allow others to interfere with an important relationship. You have every reason to be difficult or touchy. Listen to feedback knowing there are opportunities as of yet unseen. Tonight: Opt for offbeat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might resent someone's pounding, and for good reason. Evaluate and understand what is happening. If you think that someone really cares, don't test this person by aggravating him or her! Tonight: A close conversation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Even if your routine seems boring, know that you are coming to the end of the workweek. Decide how and with what you would like to infuse your life. Tonight: Opt not to be alone!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Right now, your mind knows no limit. Try to guide your thoughts rather than take an emotional risk. Your ability to change courses and head in new directions emerges. Listen to the voice of reason. Tonight: As you like.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Greet the tortoise in you as you drag around. If a fight erupts, consider using that energy to get going. Once energized, your creativity flows. A relationship is in the process of change. Tonight: Lead the weekend celebrations.

Happy Birthday

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

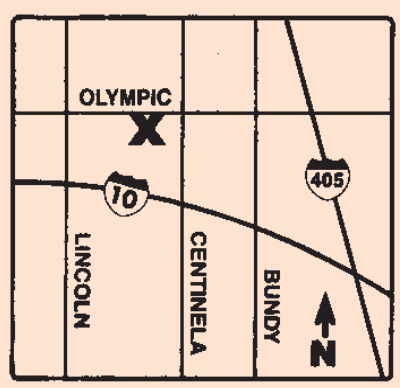
This year you could easily swing from closed to open, from fatigue to energized, from domestic issues to your community standing. Though these swings could feel like a lot, ultimately you'll receive the gift of versatility from the new pendulum in your life. Using this strength positively could define your next year. If you are single, romance buds, but at times your sweetie could be a tad bit aggressive or difficult. Be aware of the negative and the positive. You don't need to break up or commit. Just accept the person as he or she is. If you are attached, the two of you might have a lot of fun with you flexing so easily and so much! CANCER understands and flows with you.

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

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	Black & White	Color	12 Insertions	36 Insertion	52 Insertions
Full Page	$1438.00	$1610.00	$598.00	$556.00	$483.00
Half Page	$805.00	$978.00	$326.00	$300.40	$278.00
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Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

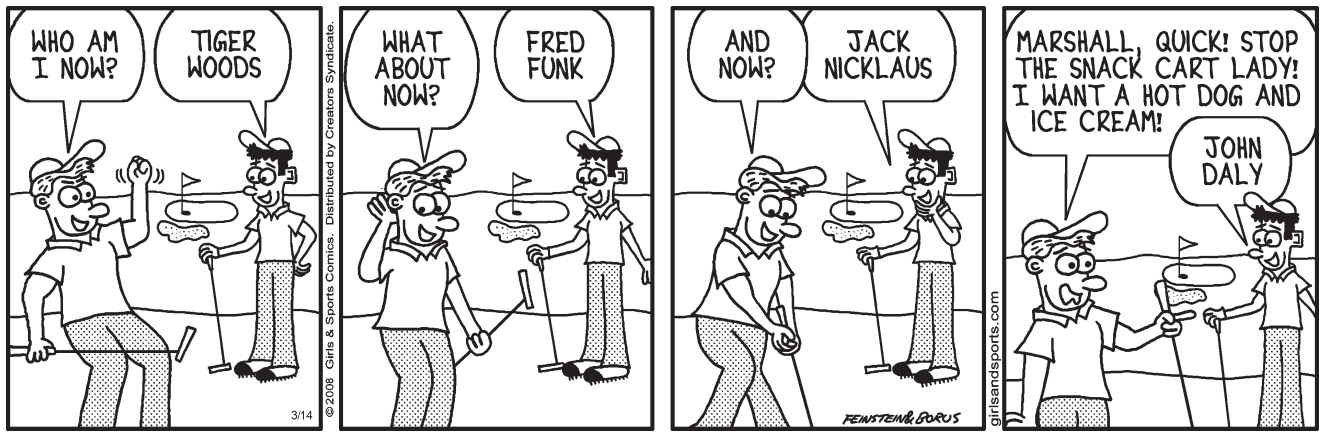
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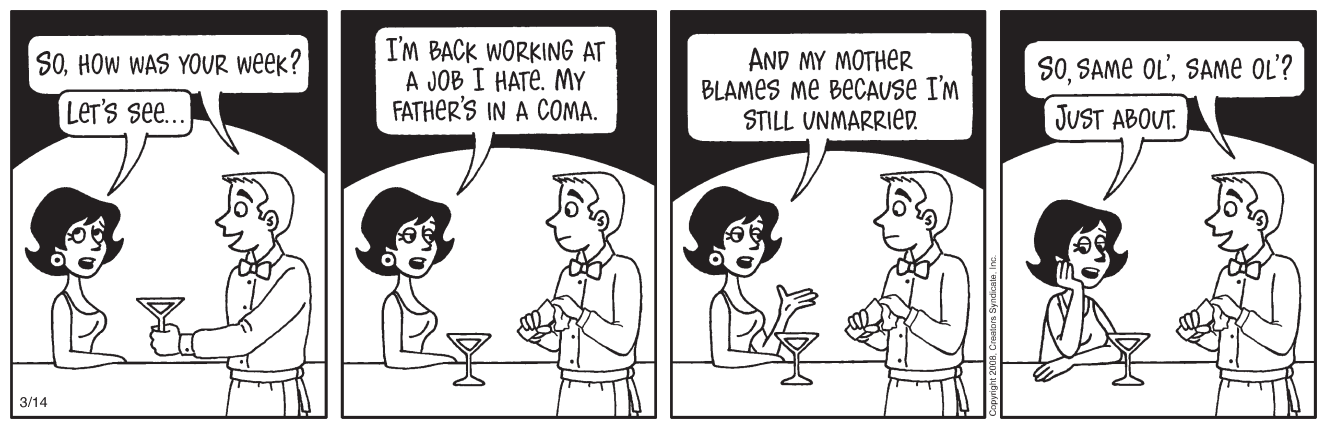
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



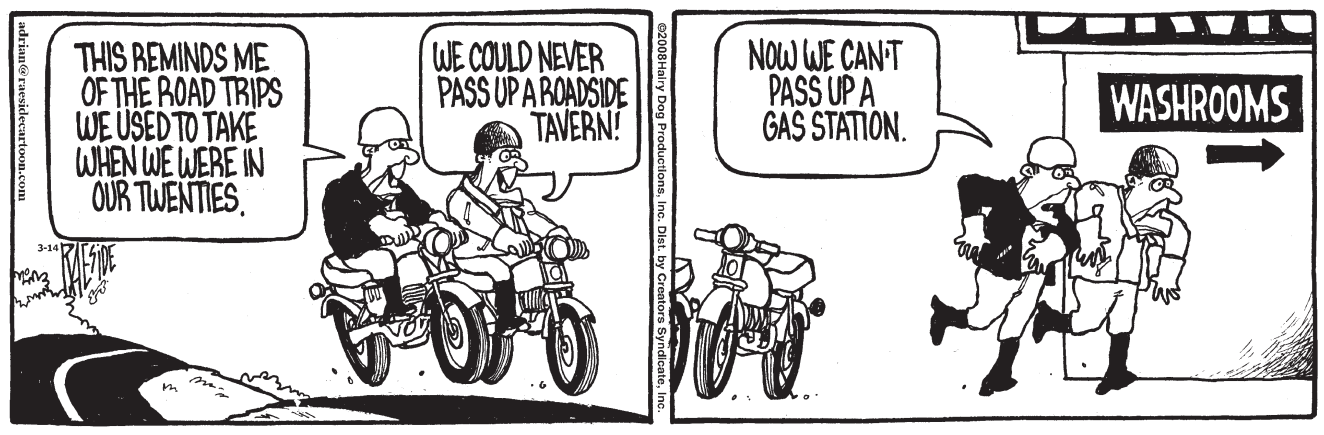
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Apples and pears
6 Bar supply
11 Not even a little
12 Goofy
13 Bellini opera
14 Sousa work
15 Clinic VIP
16 Easy mark
18 Dove sound
19 Pub pints
20 Towel word
21 Bungle
22 Merchant
24 Secluded spot
25 Disney's Ariel, for one
27 Louver piece
29 Makes void
32 Road sealer
33 Drill need
34 Crow sound
35 List shortener
36 Sprite
37 Shade
38 Michelangelo work
40 Without — in the world
42 Studio sign
43 Send in
44 Sentence subjects
45 Sulks

DOWN

1 Bamboo eaters
2 "Becket" actor
3 Silent star
4 Shade source
5 Horror film villain
6 Walks unevenly
7 — nutshell
8 French avant-garde artist
9 Cry from the crowd
10 Football's Jason
17 Some postage
23 Charter
24 Tonic mixer
26 Sand-and-glass contraption
27 Trample
28 Barrio resident
30 Hugh of "House"
31 Candy
33 Super Bowl XX champs
39 Breath-mints buy
41 Corp. VIP

P	A	T	T	I	■	S	C	R	A	P
A	C	O	R	N	■	Q	U	I	T	O
D	E	M	O	S	■	U	R	G	E	D
■	■	A	N	I	M	A	L	■	■	■
A	S	H	■	D	O	T	■	H	A	R
P	H	A	S	E	R	■	C	A	N	E
H	O	W	A	R	D	H	A	W	K	S
I	N	K	Y	■	R	A	N	K	L	E
D	E	S	■	R	E	D	■	S	E	T
■	■	■	B	E	D	A	U	B	■	■
B	E	D	O	F	■	T	R	I	M	S
A	M	A	Z	E	■	I	S	L	E	T
T	U	D	O	R	■	T	A	L	L	Y

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					■	14				
15			■	16	17		■	18		
19			■	20			■	21		
22			23			■	24			
■	■	25				26			■	■
27	28			■	29				30	31
32			■	33			■	34		
35			■	36			■	37		
38			39		■	40	41			
42					■	43				
44					■	45				

3-14

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 13 35 41 47 Meganumber: 44 Jackpot: $59M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 10 16 19 21 39 Meganumber: 15 Jackpot: $15M

Fantasy 5: 22 28 29 32 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 9 2 EVENING: 9 4 4

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 02 Lucky Star 2nd: 12 Lucky Charms 3rd: 09 Winning Spirit RACE TIME: 1.41.71

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ There is usually a well-stocked Red Cross tent when the January "corralejas" (amateur bullfights) take place in towns in the Colombian countryside, reported The New York Times in January. "This year was calm, no deaths yet," said a newscaster in Sincelejo. Hundreds of wannabe matadors jump into makeshift rings, some sponsored by local merchants but others merely inebriated or sober and foolish, some gaudily dressed, some in bunches (with one group even picnicking). Wrote the Times, "A stream of men arrived" in the Red Cross tent, "intestines peeking out of a belly, bone protruding from a fractured shin, blood spurting from a gash in the buttocks." Said a local, "This is about the ecstasy of escaping death."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1735 An agreement between Nadir Shah and Paul I of Russia is signed near Ganja and Russian troops are withdrawn from Baku.

1762 French Huguenot Jean Calas, who was wrongly convicted of killing his son, dies after being tortured by authorities; the event inspired Voltaire to begin a campaign for religious tolerance and legal reform

1801 First census in Great Britain

1804 Louisiana Purchase: In St. Louis, a formal ceremony is conducted to transfer ownership of the Louisiana Territory from France to the United States.

1814 Napoleon I of France is defeated at the Battle of Laon in France.

1830 The KNIL also known as the Royal Netherlands East Indies Army is created.

1831 The French Foreign Legion is established by King Louis-Philippe to support his war in Algeria.

1848 The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is ratified by the United States Senate, ending the Mexican-American War.

1861 El Hadj Umar Tall seizes the city of Segou, destroying the Bambara Empire of Mali.

1864 American Civil War: The Red River Campaign begins as Union troops reach Alexandria, Louisiana.

1876 Alexander Graham Bell makes the first successful telephone call by saying "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you."

WORD UP!

rodomontade \rod-uh-muhn-TADE; roh-duh-; -TAHD\, *noun:* Vain boasting; empty bluster; pretentious, bragging speech; rant.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOOKING FOR graphic designer/production F/T in Santa Monica. Email resume to nikki@peprinting.com or fax to (310)314-6900 and please include salary requirements.

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Magellan's

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Notices

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ABANDON AND DISCONTINUE SERVICE

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY ("UP") gives notice that on or after March 17, 2008, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, D.C. 20423, a Notice of Exemption under 49 C.F.R. Part 1152, Subpart F-ExemptAbandonments and Discontinuances, for an exempt abandonment of service of the portion of the Santa Monica Industrial Lead from Milepost 485.61 to Milepost 485.69, and an exempt discontinuance of trackage rights from Milepost 485.69 to Milepost 486.00, a total distance of 0.39 miles in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California (the "Line"). The Line traverses U. S. Postal Service Zip Codes 90011 and 90058. The proceeding has been docketed as No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 265-X).

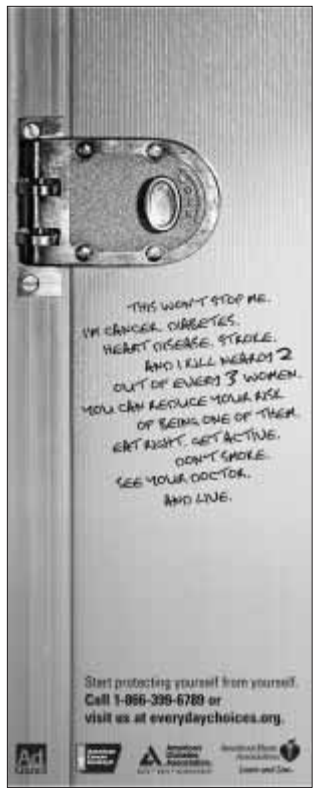
The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis ("SEA") will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment ("EA"), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the Notice of Exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 245-0295.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 395 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20423 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a).], and one copy must be served on the applicant's representative. [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a).] Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at (866) 254-1792. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on UP's: Gabriel S. Meyer, Assistant General Attorney, 1400 Douglas Street, Mail Stop 1580, Omaha, Nebraska, 68179, phone (402) 544-1658.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
3/14/08
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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080199559 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as DIA SALON AND SPA AI#/ON 3033098, 1006 BROADWAY, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401, LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : RILETTE, 1006 BROADWAY, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: RILETTE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WESTON HARTLEY
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 2/1/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS 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 2/29/2008, 3/7/2008, 3/14/2008, 3/21/2008



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