



NOT DIGGING IT ANYMORE
SEE PAGE 19

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE BEWARE THE IDEA OF MARCH ISSUE

Santa Monica Daily Press



Glamour and glitz be gone

Festival is miles from Hollywood

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE It's not that Venice Film Festival. The curtains open for the fourth annual "The Other Venice Film Festival" tonight, which will screen works by more than 90 filmmakers by the end of the weekend in venues throughout the Westside. This year's festival is expected to bring in close to 2,000 indie film lovers from across the region to take part in what one director — Santa Monica resident Marek Probosz, who submitted "The Death of Captain

Photo courtesy

IN RHYTHM: A singer records in Venice in a scene from 'Welcome 2 The Henhouse,' which will premiere at the 'Other Film Festival.'

SEE FILM FESTIVAL PAGE 14

'Black Widows' witnesses paint pair in a deadly light

BY ALISON TULLY
Special to the Daily Press

SEE RELATED STORY
Tow truck driver tells his tale PAGE 13

DOWNTOWN LA Auto salesman Mario Medina pointed across the courtroom on Wednesday at Olga Rutterschmidt.

"I think that's the lady that came in to buy the car ... both times," Medina said of the Hungarian immigrant, one of the so-called "Black Widows" currently facing murder charges. "It's much easier to remember someone in person."

Medina was one of 14 witnesses who took to the stand Wednesday, the third day of the preliminary hearing involving Rutterschmidt, 74, and Santa Monica landlord Helen Golay, 76, at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Medina's testimony was aimed at connecting the women charged with killing two homeless men to the vehicle thought to be used in the similar, but separate, backalley hit-and-runs.

Diamond, rested her feet on the back of the podium and scribbled notes throughout much of the day's proceedings. Rutterschmidt, joined by her attorney, Public Defender Michael Sklar, listened intently to the witness accounts.

The two women were arrested on federal mail fraud charges in May 2006. The following month, the charges were dropped in favor of the murder charges. Investigators believe the pair concocted an elaborate scheme to befriend homeless men before killing them off in efforts to collect millions of dollars on the policies.

Paul Vados, 73, and Kenneth McDavid, 50, were struck and killed in similar, but distinct, hit and run incidents in 1999 and 2005, respectively. Golay and Rutterschmidt allegedly offered the two men free rent and

Golay, seated beside her attorney, Roger Jon

SEE GOLAY PAGE 12



Wiggle Miss Sunshine

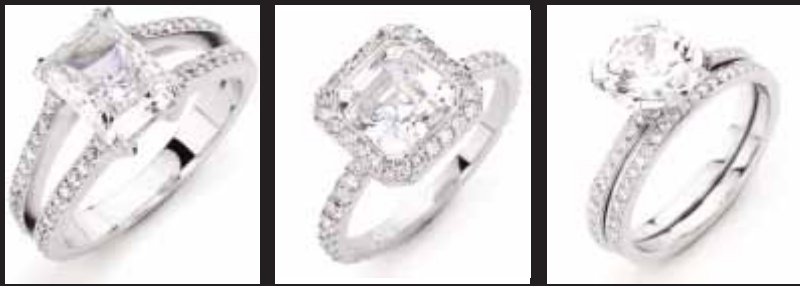
Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

A group of contestants from the Miss USA pageant hit the dance floor following a dinner party held in their honor on Tuesday at Mariasol on the Santa Monica Pier. The 56th Annual Miss USA Competition returns to Los Angeles this year after a two-year run in Baltimore, Md.

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Behind the scenes at the 'Opera'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:15 p.m.

6th Annual 'Thursday Evenings with L.A. Opera' hosted by Santa Monica Public Library. Guest speaker Robert W. Jones, Music Administrator/Librarian for the L.A. Opera, will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the L.A. Opera. Multipurpose room, 2nd floor. Program is free. Seating is first come, first served.

Grant Geissman Quintet at the Vic

2640 Main St., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Grant's quintet will cover a combination of the music on their current album, 'Say That!' and will premiere new music from their upcoming album. Tickets are \$20 with a two-drink-minimum. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (888) 367-5299. For more information visit www.thevicforjazz.com.

Richard Thompson acoustic performance

23825 Stuart Ranch Rd., Malibu, 7 p.m. — midnight

McCabe's Guitar and the Malibu Performing Arts Center present Richard Thompson, with special guest Eliza Gilkyson. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and show starts at 7 p.m. This is an all ages show. Ticket prices range from \$30 — \$40. To purchase tickets, call (310) 456-6722 or visit www.malibuperformingartscenter.com.

Rock Climbing 101

402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

REI offers a complimentary overview of climbing, equipment, safety and training.

Israeli-Palestinian Confederation debate

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.

The Main Branch of the Santa Monica Library will host a debate panel, which will pose the question: 'Can a confederation help solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?' The debate will be moderated by David Marcus. Suggested donation is \$15; half-price for students. For more information on the topic and panel or to purchase tickets, visit www.aboutipc.org. For directions and parking information, visit www.smpl.org.

Happy Hour networking mixer

4445 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, 5 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Meet local business owners at Tony P's Dockside Grill. This networking event is organized by the Marina del Rey/Venice chapter of Leads Club. Admission is free, but guests pay for drinks and food. Parking is available. For information or to make a reservation, call Diana at (310) 570-2276.

The Keiskamma Altarpiece

1008 11th St., 10 a.m. — 8 p.m.

The Keiskamma Altarpiece was made by women of the Keiskamma Art Project to celebrate the strength of an African community ravaged by AIDS where grandmothers bear the responsibility of raising orphaned children. Made with embroidery, painting and photographs, this triptych was inspired by the famous Issenheim Altarpiece. The piece will be available for viewing in the church sanctuary; free of charge.

'What's new this week'

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.

The Fairview Branch of the Santa Monica Library presents a weekly review and discussion of the week's key news stories, at home and abroad; moderated by Jack Nordhaus. Free and open to the public. For more information, call (310) 450-0443.

Friday, March 16, 2007

Chris Carmichael at Cynergy Cycles

2300 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Cycling coach Chris Carmichael will be signing his new book, '5 Essentials for Winning Life' at Cynergy Cycles' Customer Appreciation Night.

The Keiskamma Altarpiece

1008 11th St., 10 a.m. — 8 p.m.

Made with embroidery, painting and photographs, this altarpiece was made by women of the Keiskamma Art Project. The piece will be set up and available for viewing in the church sanctuary; free of charge.

Santa Monica Rotary

1250 Capri Drive, Pacific Palisades, noon — 1:30 p.m.

Guests are welcome for lunch. For more information, contact June M. Doy at (310) 922-6274 or (310) 917-3313.

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.



Teachers to get payday after delays

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS After months of waiting, teachers in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are expected to receive a pay raise tonight that will enable them to buy those shiny new pencils and pricier organic apples they've had their eyes on.

The Board of Education is expected to ratify a contract with the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association that would grant a one-time 5-percent salary raise, retroactive to July 1, 2006.

It's been almost five months since both parties reached a tentative agreement on the terms of the contract in October. Dreams of having the contract ratified late last year were put on hold when it was learned in a financial report to the Los Angeles County Office of Education that the district would be unable to support the pay raise in the coming years.

Last month, the state's Fiscal Crisis & Management Team (FCMAT) found the district could indeed sustain the required special reserve fund level of 3 percent of the total budget over the next three years if the raise is granted.

"We came to a settlement that is fair and is responsible, and we believe the pay raise for the teachers is much deserved, long overdue and commensurate with the pay raises afforded to other teachers in LA County this year," said Harry Keiley, president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association.

The agreement has been a long time coming, according to school board Vice President Oscar de la Torre, who was involved in the negotiations with the teachers union. While the board is aware that there is a "structural deficit looming," the residents of Santa Monica and Malibu expect the highest quality teachers to help their children grow, he said.

"We, as a school board, are committed to delivering that excellence in the classroom and attracting the best and brightest minds to teach in our school district. It is the most important investment we can make," de la Torre said.

Several residents have spoken out against the teacher salary raise in previous meetings, including Financial Oversight Committee

SEE TEACHERS PAGE 12



He's back at it

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Dr. James Hogan, a chiropractor from Prodigy Chiro-Care & Spinal Rehab, checks the alignment of SMC student Jaclyn Freckmann on the "Sam Unit" (Spinal Analysis Machines) during the SMC Campus Health Fair at the Library Promenade on Tuesday. The fair was cosponsored by the Associated Students of Santa Monica College and SMC Health Services.

Picking up election tab

Public may be asked to cover the costs of running for office

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL While it may be a sound theory, elected officials are still leery of using tax dollars to fund political campaigns.

Instead of drafting a plan for public financing, the City Council on Tuesday, by a 5-1 vote, opted to take things slow, instructing the city clerk to hold a series of community meetings to further probe the notion, in

addition to other ways of protecting the democratic process.

While most supported the concept of "voter-owned elections" and the goal of limiting the influence special interest groups have on local races, several council members expressed concern about the potential cost of such an endeavor, citing a city staff report that estimated a price tag of at least \$1.8 million per election if 18 candidates were to participate in the voluntary program.

That figure doesn't include the cost of administering the program, which would require routine audits, the distribution of funds under strict guidelines, and monitoring expenditures made by both participating and non-participating candidates.

"There are a lot of things that need to be fleshed out, but I think it's worth work-

ing with the public to come up with a community concept," said Mayor Pro Tem Herb Katz.

The council also instructed the city attorney's office to present information on legal decisions related to regulating independent expenditure committees and raising the local campaign contribution limit of \$250 per person. There was also some talk about ranked voting to help increase the number of votes cast in each election.

A schedule for the community meetings has not yet been set, but they could take place as early as mid-May, said City Clerk Maria Stewart.

Stewart presented a public financing

SEE CAMPAIGN COSTS PAGE 17

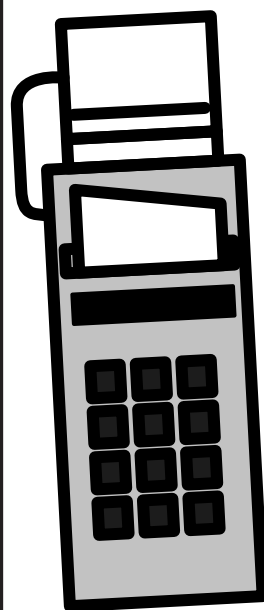
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Columnist strikes a chord

Editor:

I am a volunteer for Veterans for Peace (the organization that sets up the memorial every Sunday next to the Santa Monica Pier). The article David Pissarra wrote for the March 13 issue ("A picture tells the story of a life lost," page 4) hit home for so many of us.

We have a task at hand down there every Sunday and it is very difficult not to become overwhelmed by the reality of all the deaths. It takes a small army of members and volunteers to put up this memorial every week. Some of the momentos left by family members or friends include pictures of the deceased soldiers. These are carefully placed each Sunday in front of an appropriate religious symbol. At times, there are moments when we all say, "we never met, but I cried for you today."

Thanks again to David Pissarra. A picture truly tells the story of a life lost.

Cheryl Barnett
Santa Monica

Anti-war piece almost made amends

Editor:

From a SMDP colleague – one who is taken by the subject – ("A picture tells the story of a life lost," March 13, page 4) is one of the best anti-war columns I have ever read. Thank you.

It almost makes up for that sordid piece (David Pissarra) did on – What was it, pregnant women and single moms being unsuitable for his workplace? – that I read here many months ago. Oh well, we all make mistakes.

Does he still cringe from that one? All of us cringe once in a while.

Peace.

Ron Scott Smith
Santa Monica

Letting the city's stories unfold

Editor:

Wake up Santa Monica!

Recent articles published in the Santa Monica Daily Press have discussed issues of housing affordability in Santa Monica. The answer to this problem is simple, however, I have the feeling that many in this city do not want to admit it. The answer is strong, sustainable development.

Economics 101 tells us that lower prices are realized when supply is increased or demand declines. Since demand for housing will likely not diminish in Santa Monica in the near future, it is time for this City Council to endorse a dramatic increase of our housing stock.

The more Santa Monica interferes with the market, the more expensive this city has become. The thousands of people who would like to move to Santa Monica and live in the same city they work in ("Trying to cut down commute," March 13) have been adversely affected by rent control because this law has limited the supply of market rents and reduced incentives for landlords to invest in more housing (let alone their current properties), thus making for higher rental rates ("Rents just keep on rising in this town," March 12). Having Santa Monica fund "affordable housing" ("Donor steps up," March 14) is an expensive way to solve the problem for a lucky few. It is time to let the market (with proper guidance/incentives from City Hall) fix the crisis Santa Monica is currently witnessing.

I know many people are told Santa Monica will turn into a Miami Beach-like skyline if we allow substantially more development, but this is not what I am advocating here. We can have our cake and eat it too by increasing our housing stock in a responsible manner. We need to fill in our empty lots, tear down one-, two- and three-story buildings and replace them with five- to 10-story mid-rise buildings. Green, mixed-use buildings, centered around transportation and within walking distance to commercial districts will allow the creation of a more livable, affordable city. Less people commuting into Santa Monica will result in a reduction in automobile traffic, gasoline consumption and exhaust pollution, allowing Santa Monica to be part of the solution instead of the problem.

Josh Epstein
Santa Monica



Iconoclast Blast

Seth Barnes

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

That ring bling thing can ruin a good story

I MUST COME CLEAN. I AM A BUMBLING fool ... a jolly, clueless bumpkin. Contentedly, I've been going about my life lacking even the slightest understanding of the motivation, desire and emotional make-up of every woman on planet Earth. Surely, I'm not alone in my ignorance, but that doesn't make up for the fact that every assumption I've collected about womankind over the years has turned out to be a steaming pile of poppycock.

Whoops.

Oh, there were red flags along the way indicating that something was off-kilter. For instance, I remember getting back a high school essay that had received a generally favorable overview from Ms. Douglas, a demanding political science instructor. However, on page six, I made a typographical error of enormous dimensions, mistakenly using the singular "woman" when the plural "women" was required. Ms. Douglas savagely attacked the error, shouting in bleeding red ink that, "You know, Seth, there are more than one of us."

Over the holidays, I received a jolting piece of news from my fiancée and mother concerning the way women see the world. Of course, popular culture and armchair psychologists have already laid out the awe-striking behavioral and emotional differences between men and "woman." But this didn't prepare me for a dumbfounding fact: The very first thing women look for when they meet somebody is an engagement ring and/or wedding band.

Ignoramus that I am, I had assumed when meeting complete strangers, women took measure of character and ethical make-up. OK, and I suppose I could also conceive of a situation where an enterprising lady might make absolute judgments about somebody based on their physical appearance alone.

But in truth, the Engagement Ring Assessment is the ultimate benchmark. This visual cue separates the masses into two distinct camps — "available" or "unavailable." And it doesn't matter if you're young, old, male, female or transsexual, you fall into one of the two divisions. You see, women aren't judging whether an individual is dating or relationship eligible (although that can be one motivation), rather they are assessing a person's standing in the world. Every other personality trait flows from your status of Available or Unavailable.

Of course, the reason for this instantaneous investigative work is that it would be transparently rude and nosy to ask probing personal questions seconds after

meeting somebody. So it's much better to make unsubstantiated assumptions about them based on the presence (or lack thereof) of a shiny stone they've clasped around their finger.

Let's say we have an Unavailable Woman wearing an unremarkable engagement ring with a tiny diamond. Clearly, her husband is a cheapskate and/or she didn't have the moxie to hook up with a guy who treats her like a 21st Century Suburban Princess. How about a young lass wearing an ostentatious stone that glitters like the North Star on steroids? Looks like we have a 5-Point Trophy Wife on our hands. That stocky fellow you caught covertly removing his wedding band as he stepped into the bar? He's a Wannabe Available until his wife leaves him when she finds out he's been spending all his free hours talking to girls half his age in the sports bar next to his office.

HOW ABOUT A YOUNG LASS WEARING AN OSTENTATIOUS STONE THAT GLITTERS LIKE THE NORTH STAR ON STEROIDS? LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A 5-POINT TROPHY WIFE ON OUR HANDS.

I think a lot of time could be saved by skipping this whole engagement ring cat-and-mouse game altogether. What if we all wore nametags that neatly summed up our place in the world? Wouldn't this make things easier?

Just think about the possibilities. "I'm a scumbag who just put my wedding ring in my back pocket so I can chat up this college-age waitress." Or, "I'm a dimwitted socialite who committed to eternal matrimony in exchange for unlimited use of a luxury automobile."

Wouldn't that be a lot more exciting and honest all the way around?

SETH BARNES can be reached at barnes-seth@hotmail.com.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Southpaws are left holding the bag entirely too often

FORTY-TWO DAYS REMAIN UNTIL MY birthday, but unfortunately, the date which I anticipate more eagerly is still 151 days away.

Aug. 13 is Left-Handers Day — the only 24-hour period each year in which the 10 to 12 percent of us in the world born left-handed can rise up without shame against the oppressive right-handed global regime.

One study suggests that handedness is determined based on a gene-and-environment cocktail. Some researchers postulate that left-handers have a similar-handed relative, even though a specific chromosome has never been identified. Another theory claims that left-handed tendencies form in the womb or even sooner. Brain damage from trauma in the delivery room is a relatively new hypothesis explaining left-handed dominance, although it wouldn't apply to me — my dad really wanted a son, so although I was a source of disappointment from the time of my first breath, my team of psychologists has never conclusively determined that I underwent any sort of trauma at that moment.

Nevertheless, I'm not in the clear, as trauma can strike left-handers at any point while journeying from the cradle to the grave.

According to statistics, it wouldn't necessarily be a waste of time for me to start digging my grave now. On average, right-handed people live nine years longer than lefties. In fact, 2,500 left-handed people die each year using products designed for right-handed people.

Thankfully, power tools and meat-slicers play insignificant roles in my daily routine; otherwise I would be way more likely than the 88 to 90 percent of the population to lose a digit. But lefties are also more prone to broken bones, allergies, depression, schizophrenia, sleeping disorders and developing alcoholism, dyslexia and repetitive strain injury. Basically, my future is bleak.

Not so long ago, Catholic nuns in many American elementary schools used rulers to whack the wrists of left-handed students. Politically correct child endangerment laws presumably put an end to that practice, but the big guy upstairs clearly prefers righties, as evidenced in the Bible. Matthew 6:3 says: "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doth."

Left-handed bias isn't limited to the church. Etymologists also harbor left-handed prejudices. The American Heritage Dictionary of the New Millennium defines "left-handed" as "awkward," "maladroit" and "of doubtful sincerity." Roget's New Millennium Thesaurus, First Edition, offers

several synonyms for "left-handed," including: "clumsy," "backhanded," "careless," "heavy-handed" and "hypocritical."

Still, despite the name-calling, life isn't doom and gloom 24/7 for port-sided people. Economists at the University of Dublin say left-handed men earn 4 to 5 percent more per hour than their right-oriented co-workers. Researchers consistently find that lefties fare particularly well in tennis, baseball, swimming and fencing. Neil Armstrong gave southpaws on Earth and beyond a morale boost when he stepped on the moon with his left foot first. Four of the five original designers of the Macintosh computer were left-handed, as are polar bears and Kermit the Frog. Lefties adjust more readily to seeing underwater. (Hey, it could be useful. Aquaman, anyone?)

A myth persists that southpaws are more artistic, and, according to the UK-based Left-Handers Club, generally more intelligent, imaginative, multitalented and better-looking than righties. Research from France's University of Montpellier II show left-handed people have an advantage during combat, which, of course, lefties everywhere have known since 1976, when Rocky took down Apollo Creed with a surprise left hook in the first round at the Philadelphia Spectrum.

In spite of our fighting, creative spirits, though, moments remain when the left-handed hardships are seemingly never-ending. The minor but irritating obstacles faced daily by lefties include poorly designed scissors, right-handed desks, binders and spiral-bound notebooks, a limited selection of baseball gloves, supermarket and bank pens Krazy-Glued flush right to every surface, corkscrews that turn the wrong way, permanent ink smudges on our hands, computer mice forever affixed keyboard-right, wrist-watches with stems on the wrong side and anything with a pre-molded grip.

But as lefties have risen up and demanded equal rights, the market for left-handed products has slowly expanded. For instance, most left-handers probably thought they'd never see the day when they could buy a boomerang which, when thrown with the right hand, will dive directly into the ground. However, redemption is now ours for \$27.91 for the Left Hand Boomerang 24-inch Skyriider on anythingleft-handed.co.uk.

Hey, we'll take what we can get.

MEREDITH CARROLL can be reached at meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.



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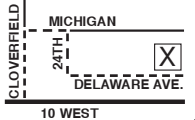
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The Q-Line

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What entertains you?

The Daily Press is about to embark on an entertaining mission. To augment the local news you've come to rely on from the DP everyday, we've decided to enhance our coverage of the entertainment scene in Santa Monica. How do you think we should proceed?

This week's Q-Line question asks:

What type of arts and entertainment content would you like to see in the Santa Monica Daily Press?

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Workers don't mind footing education bill

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California's business leaders say they're willing to spend more money on public schools and even raise taxes to pay for them as long as the increased spending is tied to major reforms and holding schools accountable, according to a survey released this week.

Three-quarters of the 1,342 chief executives surveyed said they either support or strongly support the idea of raising taxes to boost public school spending if the increase were tied to a specific reform they support.

They listed the most crucial reforms as teaching essential basic skills such as reading, writing and math in combination with communication skills, responsibility and work ethic. Those were followed by work force skills and boosting the number of technical and vocational schools in the state.

Business leaders are frustrated by a pool of workers who come out of school ill-equipped to handle basic job tasks, said Loren Kaye, president of the California Foundation for Commerce & Education. The nonprofit spinoff of the California Chamber of Commerce commissioned the study.

Business leaders want a better return on their investment, said Ben Tulchin, director of the western region for Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, which conducted the Internet study.

"That return is students who are better

prepared for the work force," Tulchin said.

He said he was surprised to see business leaders rank school reform as a pressing policy issue equal to increasing access to health care, which has dominated the political debate in Sacramento since Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger made health care a top priority for his second term.

Kaye added that when it comes to teachers, "executives feel like a tough-love approach is needed. ... You want to value your good ones, but you want to try to do what you can to get rid of the bad ones."

Executives from small to large companies in all economic sectors and regions of the state were surveyed online from Jan. 29 to Feb. 14. The survey has a sampling error rate of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points.

It comes just days ahead of the release of a package of 23 academic studies about California's education system that was commissioned by the governor, legislative leaders and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

The so-called "adequacy studies" are expected to call for overhauling the state's finance system and many of its categorical programs, as well as increased education spending.

The business survey released Monday was funded by two of the same foundations that paid for the adequacy studies, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



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Splish, splash, moonwalkers might be able to take a bath

BY ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES Scientists for the first time have discovered what appear to be sea-size bodies of liquid on the surface of Saturn's largest moon, including one about as big as the Caspian Sea on Earth.

The discovery by the international Cassini spacecraft was welcomed by researchers, who have long theorized that Titan possessed hydrocarbon seas because of methane and other organic compounds in its thick, largely nitrogen atmosphere. Until now, Cassini had only spotted clusters of small lakes on the planet-size moon.

"They're very obvious. There's nothing subtle about them," said Cassini scientist Jonathan Lunine of the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Researchers using visual and radar imaging uncovered evidence of at least two seas on Titan's hazy north pole.

Cassini's camera last month imaged a large, irregular feature stretching 680 miles long with a surface area similar to the landlocked Caspian Sea.

Its radar instrument swept over the feature's northern tip and determined it likely contains liquid methane or ethane because of its smooth appearance. However, scientists don't know whether the entire area is filled with liquid.

The spacecraft also discerned another body one-fifth the size of Titan's "Caspian Sea." With a surface area of about 46,000 square miles, it is larger than Lakes Superior and Ontario combined, scientists said.

While there's no scientific definition of

what constitutes a lake or sea on Titan, the newly found features are significantly larger than previously discovered bodies of liquid on the frigid moon and should be considered seas, Lunine said.

Results were presented Tuesday at the annual Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in Texas.

Titan is one of the few objects in the outer solar system that possesses a significant atmosphere and scientists have long puzzled over its source. Methane is a flammable gas on Earth but liquid on Titan because of the moon's intense atmospheric pressure and cold.

THEY'RE VERY
OBVIOUS.THERE'S NOTHING
SUBTLE ABOUT THEM."Jonathan Lunine
Cassini scientist

Judging by their sizes and depths, Lunine said the newly discovered seas likely aren't responsible for replenishing the long-term methane found in the moon's atmosphere. Instead, Lunine said that source likely comes from underground methane reservoirs that vent to the surface.

The discovery raises questions about why hydrocarbon pools are concentrated at Titan's poles, said Carolyn Porco, a Cassini imaging scientist from the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colo.

McCain MIA

Senator says Iraq trip will keep him from conservatives event

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. Republican presidential candidate John McCain will miss another event for conservative activists this month while he's on a trip to Iraq, but said this week he's not sidestepping invitations to appear before right-leaning groups.

The Arizona senator will not attend the Club for Growth's annual winter conference in Palm Beach, Fla., that starts March 31, an event that will feature speeches by Republican candidates Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney and Sam Brownback.

"I'm scheduled to go on a trip to Iraq to visit with the military," McCain told reporters outside a \$1,000-a-plate fundraiser for his campaign.

"I've had this trip to Iraq scheduled for a very long period of time. And I think it's more important as the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee to visit regularly Iraq, particularly during this very critical time as we go through this new strategy."

McCain was the only leading Republican candidate to skip the Conservative Political Action Conference earlier this month, and the mention of his name there drew occasional boos from the crowd. The senator also bypassed a retreat for members of the Heritage Foundation and the National Review Institutes conservative summit.

Club for Growth President Pat Toomey said he took McCain's explanation at "face value," but added that after failing to show at a string of conservative-sponsored events "it starts to look like a pattern emerging."

In another sign of friction, the Club for

Growth issued a statement Monday that said McCain's record on economic issues was "tainted by a marked antipathy towards the free market and individual freedom."

Campaign spokesman Matt David said McCain "is the only leading Republican candidate with a 24-year record as a fiscal conservative."

McCain calls himself a "commonsense conservative" in the mold of Ronald Reagan, but there is wariness in the party's right wing over his positions on issues from immigration to campaign-finance law. He's also been working to repair relations with conservative Christian activists, whose support could be critical to winning the nomination.

I THINK IT'S MORE IMPORTANT ... TO VISIT REGULARLY IRAQ, PARTICULARLY DURING THIS VERY CRITICAL TIME AS WE GO THROUGH THIS NEW STRATEGY."

John McCain
Republican presidential candidate

He voted for a 2006 bill offering legal status to illegal immigrants, subject to conditions including English proficiency and payment of back taxes and fines. He was an author of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law, which some conservatives say encroaches on First Amendment rights of expression.

McCain was wrapping up a California fundraising swing.

STATE BRIEFS

SAN BERNARDINO
Hot licks: Musician's home studio burns

Fire destroyed the home recording studio of musician Al Wilson, who had a hit with "Show and Tell" in the 1970s.

Firefighters took 15 minutes to extinguish the blaze that ripped through Wilson's garage studio Monday night, said Battalion Chief Mike Alder.

Damage was estimated at \$100,000. The cause was under investigation, Alder said.

Wilson's "Show and Tell" shot up the singles charts in 1973 and sold more than a million copies.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RANCHO CUCAMONGA
Inmate to face trial for murder of prison guard

After two years of delay, a judge ruled there is sufficient evidence for an inmate to stand trial on charges he murdered a guard at the men's state prison in Chino.

Christopher Blaylock, 37, was charged with murder and assault for allegedly stabbing Correctional Officer Manuel Gonzalez, a 16-year veteran and father of six, on Jan. 10, 2005.

Gonzalez, 43, of Whittier, was stabbed while trying to calm disruptive inmates.

Judge Ingrid Uhler ruled Tuesday that prosecutors have enough evidence for a trial. Arraignment was set for March 26.

Blaylock was charged about a month after the slaying. A delay was caused in court when prosecutors improperly obtained the inmate's confidential psychological records.

Prosecutors will seek the death penalty against Blaylock, a former Crips gang member who was serving a life term at the California Institution for Men after being convicted of attempted murder and robbery.

AP

VENTURA
Son gets prison time for abuse of 80-year-old mom

A 52-year-old man was sentenced to nine years in prison for abusing his 80-year-old mother, who was left on her bedroom floor and died two years ago.

In January, Robert Parker Young of Moorpark pleaded guilty to elder abuse charges. He admitted to the special allegations that there was great violence and bodily harm and that it was a crime of cruelty and callousness.

AP

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Lawyer looking for a Stern sample

BY ANA BEATRIZ CHOLO
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A lawyer for one of three men claiming to be the father of Anna Nicole Smith's baby asked a judge this week to order the late Playboy model's partner, Howard K. Stern, to come to California and provide a DNA sample.

Attorney Debra Opri, who represents photographer Larry Birkhead, said after a closed hearing that Stern should provide the sample so it can be determined if he is the father of the infant.

"Put up or shut up, that's what we're asking for," Opri said outside court.

Superior Court Judge Robert A. Schnider refused to make Stern a part of the paternity action but said he would review the matter in two weeks after he considers the law more closely, Opri said.

Stern was living with Smith at the time of her death. He and the baby, six-month-old Dannielynn, currently reside in

the Bahamas.

Opri said Birkhead needs a paternity ruling from California to present in the Caribbean nation to strengthen his case for the child.

"Without it, we have a weak argument," she said.

Ron Rale, a lawyer who had represented Smith, argued against the DNA request, saying Stern's name is already on the birth certificate as the father.

"Howard Stern doesn't have to go to Larry Birkhead for anything," Rale said.

Schnider originally asserted jurisdiction in the paternity suit in California because Smith had connections in Los Angeles and Birkhead claimed the baby was conceived in California.

All the hearings in the case have been closed and no documents have been released to the public. Information on developments has been provided by lawyers.

Birkhead sued Smith to force a paternity test soon after she gave birth in the Bahamas on Sept. 7. Judge Schnider

ruled in Birkhead's favor on Dec. 21, Opri said.

Rale has said the judge wanted the testing done by Feb. 21. But the case was left in limbo when Smith died on Feb. 8 of still unknown causes in a Florida hotel room at 39. Authorities there said they later gathered her DNA for testing to prevent a baby switch.

A court in the Bahamas is currently dealing with custody issues involving the child. A judge has barred Stern from taking the girl out of that country until a custody ruling is made. A hearing is set for Friday.

Birkhead attended Tuesday's hearing in Los Angeles and said he was confident he would be declared the father.

"I've been putting a nursery together so I'm smiling. I'm in a good mood," Birkhead said outside court.

Meeting the child in the Bahamas, where Smith was buried, "was one of the greatest things in my life," he said, adding that he thought the child looked like him.

"It was magic. That was my delivery room just to get to meet her," he said.

A snowball's chance: Court rules that resort can't fake it

BY KIM CURTIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Operators of the Arizona Snowbowl won't be allowed to use treated wastewater to make snow, a federal appeals court ruled this week in a decision that found the effort violated the religious freedom of more than a dozen American Indian tribes.

The 777-acre resort north of Flagstaff rests on the western flank of the San Francisco Peaks, mountains that have spiritual and religious meaning to 13 tribes in the Southwest.

The tribes claimed plans to add a fifth chair lift, spray man-made snow and tear down and groom about 100 acres of forest to attract more skiers and extend the ski season violated their religious freedom and that the government did not adequately address the impact of wastewater on the environment.

U.S. District Judge Paul Rosenblatt of Phoenix ruled last year that tribes "failed to present any objective evidence that their exercise of religion will be impacted by the Snowbowl upgrades."

The tribes appealed and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the lower court's decision, saying the planned expansion violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

"We are unwilling to hold that authorizing the use of artificial snow at an already functioning commercial ski area in order to expand and improve its facilities, as well as to extend its ski season in dry years, is a governmental interest 'of the highest order,'" Judge William A. Fletcher wrote for the three-judge panel, which heard arguments

in September. He compared the practice to using wastewater in Christian baptisms.

For the third time in four years, the Arizona Snowbowl, which brings an estimated \$10 million annually to Flagstaff's economy, opened late this winter because of a lack of snow.

Two years ago, when 460 inches of snow fell on the mountain, the 68-year-old resort stayed open for 139 days and hosted more than 191,000 skiers. But last year, there was so little snow that the lifts ran only 15 days.

Free workshop reveals 7 ways to slash college costs

SANTA MONICA — An extremely popular free workshop is being held for the parents of college bound high school students during the month of February at various Santa Monica locations.

The workshop will focus on little-known ways of getting money for college, no matter how much income you make, or how good of a student you have. The class will include such topics as how to double or triple your eligibility for free grant money, the secret to sending your child to a private or UC school for less than the cost of a junior college, and the single biggest mistake that 9 out of 10 par-

ents make when planning for college.

The workshop dates are Thursday, March 1st (7:15-8:45) Santa Monica Main Library, Saturday March 3rd (10:00-12:00 Noon) Santa Monica Main Library, Tuesday, March 6th (7:15-8:45) Montana Branch Library. The workshop will be taught by Shanee Chavis an affiliate of the College Planning Network, Inc. the nation's leading expert on paying for college.

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Carl Laurysen, MD

Authorities identify plowed-under skiers

By The Associated Press

ASPEN, Colo. Two backcountry skiers killed by a massive late-winter avalanche were identified Wednesday as Alexis Michel Dodin of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Simon Martin Ozanne of Maplewood, N.J.

Dodin, 32, and Ozanne, 35, were on a day trip with Jason Luck of the Denver suburb of Arvada when the avalanche struck shortly before 3 p.m. Tuesday, Pitkin County sheriff's patrol director Jeff Lumsden said. Luck, 33, survived and called for help.

Lumsden said the avalanche was about two football fields wide and broke away at about 11,500 feet above sea level about five miles southeast of Aspen in the White River National Forest.

He said the slide was a category 5 avalanche, the most serious.

The three had planned to ski to the top of a mountain and back down, but by mid-afternoon the snowpack had become extremely unstable.

"People pretty much know in our area they're encouraged to be pretty much done by noon," Lumsden said. "I tend not to go out this time of year. It's a crapshoot."

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center said five people have been killed by avalanches in the state this season, compared

with four in 2005-06. The average is six per season, the center said.

The center said avalanches kill about 28 people a year nationwide.

The other deaths this season were a skier near Snowmass on Dec. 21, a snowmobiler in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado on Feb. 4 and a snowshoer on March 3 south of Idaho Springs in the central mountains.

A large avalanche pushed two cars off the heavily traveled road at Berthoud Pass north of Interstate 70 on Jan. 6, but there were no deaths.

John Snook, a forecaster at the avalanche center's Boulder office, said Wednesday the danger of avalanches builds in the late winter and spring. A sequence of snowfall followed by warm, sunny days and cold nights creates loosely connected layers of snow, and a disturbance or a rapid change in temperature can trigger a slide.

Snook said avalanches are limited to mountainsides with a pitch of 35 degrees or steeper, so the best way to avoid one is to stay on less severe terrain. Hikers and skiers should keep an eye on their surroundings and avoid areas where it appears avalanches have started on their own.

"If something went on its own, what we call a natural strike, that's an indication that things are unstable," he said.

Nevada lawmakers demand an audit of 'redirected' fees

BY BRENDAN RILEY

Associated Press Writer

CARSON CITY, Nev. Worried Nevada lawmakers called Wednesday for a prompt audit to see why \$3.4 million in fees generated by a college savings program that was overseen by former Nevada Treasurer Brian Krolicki apparently was spent on ads instead of going to state coffers as intended.

"It looks like some hanky-panky was going on," Assembly Ways and Means Chairman Morse Arberry, D-Las Vegas, said after the fees were outlined by Krolicki's successor in the treasurer's office, Kate Marshall. Marshall said she was hampered in getting information because records weren't immediately available.

Assembly Speaker Barbara Buckley, D-Las Vegas, a Ways and Means member, questioned whether lawmakers had authorized the "off-the-books account" through which an ad agency was paid \$2.2 million — half of that for ads that featured Krolicki promoting the program during the 2006 campaign season. A committee staffer said there was no legislative authorization for the account.

Krolicki, a Republican who served two four-year terms as treasurer, didn't attend the hearing. He said afterward that politics played a part in the Democrat-controlled committee's review of the fees, and added that his handling of the College Savings Plan of Nevada was done "by the book."

"Treasurer Marshall brought up several items of concern that she had, and I am confident that there are answers to all of the half-statements that she provided," Krolicki said.

Krolicki said a Senate hearing on the program had been delayed to enable Marshall to review more records, but the Assembly

moved ahead with its hearing without "the same sense of decorum" shown by the GOP-run Senate.

"I think part of the decision to move forward was because of a political element," he added.

Marshall, a Democrat, said she wanted an audit of the program, which started in 2001 and is nearing \$3 billion in investments.

In her statement to the lawmakers, Marshall said the contract amendment "may not be in the best interest of the state." She also said she was hampered in getting information because records weren't immediately available.

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME HANKY-PANKY WAS GOING ON."

Morse Arberry, D-Las Vegas
Assembly Ways and Means Chairman

Arberry said he understood that some computer records in the treasurer's office that could have helped explain matters had been erased prior to Marshall taking over on Jan. 1.

The college savings program is managed by Upromise Investments Inc. and Vanguard Group. Upromise, as part of its efforts to promote the program, contracted with Reno-based Rose-Glenn Advertising for the ads.

Upromise and Vanguard get a percentage of the investments as their fees for management services. As part of its agreement, Upromise markets the plan and works directly with the advertising agency. The fees since 2001 total nearly \$5 million.



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Survey: Most agree that global climate change is a problem

BY TARA BURGHART
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO A survey on climate change conducted in more than a dozen countries found that a majority of people in nations including South Korea, Australia, Iran and Mexico — but not the United States — view global warming as a critical threat.

In the U.S., about 46 percent of those questioned said global warming is critical, while four in 10 labeled it “an important but not critical threat,” in the survey conducted by The Chicago Council on Global Affairs and WorldPublicOpinion.org, in cooperation with other polling organizations.

Among the other countries where the question was asked, the Ukraine was the only nation where less than four in 10 participants found global warming to be a critical threat. There, it was 33 percent.

The polling was conducted last year, with field periods varying from June to December. More than 20,000 people were polled. The margin of error ranged between 3 and 4 percent.

The survey, which was released Tuesday, was first conducted in the United States, China and India. When organizations in other countries expressed interest, the effort was expanded, said Steven Kull, an editor at WorldPublicOpinion.org who took the lead in managing and analyzing the poll results.

The survey was conducted in 17 countries plus the Palestinian territories — a total area representing more than 55 percent of the world's population. Not all questions were asked in all countries.

Kull said he was struck by the widespread concern over climate change.



JUST TWO DECADES AGO, HARDLY ANYONE KNEW WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE OR GLOBAL WARMING WAS, AND NOW YOU HAVE PEOPLE ALL AROUND THE WORLD ... REALLY ABSORBING THAT THERE IS SOMETHING TO ADDRESS HERE."

Steven Kull, an editor at WorldPublicOpinion.org

“If you think about the fact that just two decades ago, hardly anyone knew what climate change or global warming was, and now you have people all around the world — even in developing countries — really absorbing that there is something to address here,” Kull said. “It’s really quite phenomenal that this kind of change can happen.”

Another set of questions found strong support from residents in the United States, Poland and the Ukraine for the idea that developed countries should provide sub-

stantial aid to developing countries that commit to limiting their greenhouse gas emissions.

On the flip side, the idea that developing countries should commit to limiting their emissions if developed countries were willing to provide aid was strongly supported in

Armenia and China; in India 48 percent polled favored such a proposal, but 23 percent declined to answer.

On a question that polled whether immediate steps should be taken to combat global warming even if it involves “significant costs,” the strongest support was found in Australia (69 percent of those responding), Israel (54 percent), the United States (43 percent) and China (42 percent).

ON THE NET

■ www.WorldPublicOpinion.org

Animal rights militants targeting Wachovia workers

BY SARAH SKIDMORE
Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. The Animal Liberation Front, a militant animal rights group that has kept a low profile in Oregon for a number of years, has resurfaced — vandalizing the home of a Portland employee of Wachovia Securities.

Activists spray-painted the garage and automobile of Jason Bratt, a financial adviser with Wachovia Securities, a subsidiary of Wachovia Corp.

The group is targeting Wachovia for its ties to animal testing, according to a statement posted on the animal rights group's Web site.

“This is a warning to Wachovia,” the statement said. “Sell your shares in GSK or the ALF will continue to target the homes and property of your employees.”

The statement said Wachovia Securities has invested in GlaxoSmithKline, a pharmaceutical corporation and a top customer of Huntingdon Life Science — a company that does safety testing on animals such as pigs, rats and dogs for pharmaceutical, agricultural and industrial companies.

The activists spray-painted Bratt's car and garage door with graffiti, including the letters “ALF.” Christy Phillips, a Wachovia spokeswoman, said the company is cooperating with local and federal officials but would not comment on the case.

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Mi casa, su casa

While in Mexico, Bush puts immigration talks back on front burner

BY DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

MERIDA, Mexico President Bush sent a long-distance message to Congress from the southeast tip of Mexico: The future of U.S. relations south of the border hinges on immigration reform.

"I'm going to keep repeating it while I'm here in Mexico — that I know our country must have comprehensive immigration reform," said Bush, who returns to Washington on Wednesday after a second day of meetings with Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

Bush was to speak on the Yucatan Peninsula to the Mexican people and the newly elected Calderon before leaving, hoping his words also would be heard 1,400 miles away on Capitol Hill where his immigration proposal has been blocked.

The president also had other problems back in Washington, where Attorney General Alberto Gonzales bore the brunt of Democratic criticism over how the Justice Department and White House handled the firing of eight federal prosecutors. Gonzalez acknowledged that mistakes had been made but stood by the firings and rejected calls for his own resignation.

The president could not promise Mexico that Congress will pass his guest worker program. He could only promise to work hard to make it law.

"President Calderon holds deep convictions on the matter of migration, and so do I," Bush said Tuesday night in a toast to Calderon on the breezy verandah of a manicured hacienda where the two dined on fresh

shrimp ceviche and duck.

"Our nations share a 2,000-mile border, and that should be a source of unity, not division," Bush said. "So we're working together to keep both sides of the border open to tourism and trade, and closed to criminals and drug dealers and smugglers and terrorists and gun runners."

With those words, Bush closed a warm, sunny day of meetings, hacienda hopping and sightseeing at Mayan ruins with Calderon, who heralded the meeting as a "new stage in bilateral relations."

Just before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Bush stressed the importance of the U.S. relationship with Mexico. The war in Iraq, which Mexico did not support, and Afghanistan shifted Bush's focus to the Middle East and Mexicans felt neglected.

**OUR NATIONS
SHARE A 2,000-
MILE BORDER, AND THAT
SHOULD BE A SOURCE OF
UNITY, NOT DIVISION."**

George W. Bush
President, United States

The anti-American sentiment rose when Bush signed a bill to install hundreds of miles of new fencing, vehicle barriers and infrared cameras along the border. A critic of U.S. immigration policy, Calderon denounced the fence with gentle but firm rhetoric.

"We do consider, in a respectful way, that we may truly stop the migration by building a kilometer of highway in Michoacan or Zacatecas than 10 kilometers of walls in the border," said Calderon, who believes that jobs in Mexico, not barriers on the border, will stem migration.

Senators step into spotlight, take stab at Iraq war stance

BY ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON After weeks of watching their counterparts in the House make headway on anti-war legislation, Senate Democrats say it is their turn to put their members on record on whether President Bush should pull U.S. combat troops out of Iraq.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid scheduled a test vote Wednesday on the war, one that may succeed in allowing debate to begin. Debate has been stalled since January because of a disagreement between the two parties on how many and what types of amendments should be allowed.

The vote would be the third time this year that Democrats have tried to start the Senate's first formal debate on the war since the party took control of the chamber in January.

"Agreeing to a debate is not enough," said Reid, D-Nev. "Republicans must heed the voices of their constituents and the overwhelming majority of Americans and vote to change the president's flawed Iraq policy."

Reid is pushing a resolution that would set a target date of March 31, 2008, for the

withdrawal of combat troops. The measure says U.S. forces could stay beyond that date only to protect U.S. personnel, train and equip Iraqi forces and carry out counterterrorism operations.

The Senate measure is weaker than legislation being considered by House Democrats that would demand troops leave before September 2008. Several Senate Democrats have been reluctant to impose a strict deadline on the president.

Several Republican senators said Tuesday they were inclined to vote in favor of moving toward debate on Iraq, even if they disagree with Reid's resolution. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., said he anticipates nearly all Republicans oppose the suggestion of a timetable and moving toward a vote would give members a chance to prove it.

Even if Wednesday's vote is successful, Republicans and Democrats will still need to agree on the limits of the debate. Also, GOP leaders are expected to insist that Reid's resolution need 60 votes to pass — a requirement that will likely doom the resolution.

"That's the way we do business in the Senate," Republican leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said.



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Diggin' it

Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

Those instrumental in securing funding for Step Up on Second's 46-unit, affordable housing complex for the chronically homeless grab shovels Wednesday for the official groundbreaking ceremony. The project, located at 1548 Fifth Street, is expected to be completed by December 2008. City Hall provided \$7.1 million to help fund the project. Other donors included the Annenberg and George W. Hoag Family foundations. "You can't help the homeless if you don't have homes," said Tod Lipka, the director of Step Up.

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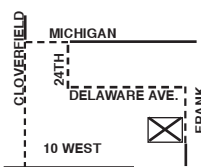
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Prosecutors aiming to connect the dots

FROM GOLAY PAGE 1

other amenities such as clean clothes and groceries. After setting them up in apartments, the women filed for 24 life insurance policies in Vados' and McDavid's names. Following their deaths, the women claimed to be fiancées or relatives of the men, collecting close to \$2.3 million.

Medina sold a 1999 Mercury Sable station wagon to Rutterschmidt on Jan. 20, 2004. On Wednesday, the Mexicar salesman stated that Rutterschmidt claimed she was buying a car for her friend, Hillary Adler. Medina could not identify Rutterschmidt from photos when police approached him about the case in 2006.

The 1999 Mercury Sable was recovered from a private owner, who found the car abandoned in an alley after McDavid's death.

Testimony from other witnesses helped fill in the gaps in Medina's testimony.

Adler, who followed Medina on the stand, said that she never asked Rutterschmidt to purchase the car. She said that the driver's license used on the purchase form was part of several belongings from her purse stolen in May 2004 from the Santa Monica Sports Club.

The friendship of Rutterschmidt and Golay began 20 years ago at a sports and fitness club. Although the two did not meet at the club where the wallet was stolen, Deputy District Attorney Shellie Samuels said that they are hoping to prove that Golay's daughter, Kecia Golay, 43, was a member of the club.

The Mercury station wagon was not registered in either Golay's or Rutterschmidt's name, but was later searched after a Post-it note with a similar vehicle identification number was found in Golay's day planner. LAPD Robbery and Homicide Division Detective Dennis Kilcoyne said the car was searched three times in early June 2006. Seven samples were taken from the car and given to LAPD Criminal Investigator Stephanie McLean to analyze, with one of a red stain taken from near the right rear tire matching McDavid's blood.

As the hearing progressed, more witness-

es including Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team Supervisor Donald Karol, elaborated on the possible connection between the 1999 Mercury Sable and the murders. Karol, who testified that he had investigated close to 125 pedestrian accidents involving automobiles, said that he believed it was possible that a hit-and-run is a likely explanation for McDavid's death.

THE CAR COULD HAVE JUST ROLLED RIGHT DOWN TO IN FRONT OF THE CHEVRON STATION."

Donald Karol

Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team Supervisor

On June 21, 2005, the night of McDavid's murder, Golay called AAA from a Chevron Station located less than half a mile from where McDavid's body was found, Karol said. He said that when he inspected the right rear of the car, where McDavid's blood was found, he discovered wiping marks and a repaired fuel line. He said that fuel lines are usually broken when a vehicle has had a sharp impact or a collision with another object.

Diamond asked Karol if the car could have still functioned after hitting a pedestrian.

"With a small crack in the line, it could have proceeded over the body," he said. "There was a steep grade in the alley. The car could have just rolled right down to in front of the Chevron station."

The preliminary hearing for Golay and Rutterschmidt will reconvene this morning in Downtown Los Angeles.

news@smdp.com

Not all on board as district strikes deal with its teachers

FROM TEACHERS PAGE 3

Chairman Paul Silvern, warning that the board will put the district in a financially risky position if they go forward with the ratification.

The FCMAT report does not account for unforeseen expenditures or revenues, which means the district could be in the red or very close to a deficit if there is an emergency requiring the board to dip into its special reserves. At the Feb. 15 meeting, Silvern, along with several members of the public, warned that the district will be living on the edge if the contract is approved. At the end of the second year after the contract is approved, there will be less than \$900,000 in free cash to carry over into fiscal year 2009-10 that's above and beyond the 3-percent reserve fund level, Silvern said.

"The FCMAT projection assumes there is no additional salary increases for teachers over that three-year period," Silvern said on Wednesday. The administrators and classified staff are expected to begin negotiations

with the board within the next few years.

"It also doesn't account for potential increases in revenue as a result of changes of the state budget or negotiations with the city of Santa Monica," Silvern said.

The average teacher salary in the district is \$63,000 — an amount that might not be considered enough to live in a city like Santa Monica.

"Even with a respectable raise, our teachers still find it difficult to rent in Santa Monica and dreams of home ownership is simply out of reach for teachers in the LA region," Keiley said.

The cost of living has driven teachers away from the district, which has hired, on average, 80 teachers a year for the past four years — representing about 40 percent of faculty in the district.

Approximately 55 percent of teachers in the district have worked here for less than 10 years.

"We are finding teachers are unable to afford to stay in the profession," Keiley said. "They're finding it more and more difficult."

melodyh@smdp.com

Car trouble

Golay used AAA card on night of murder; landlord's neighbor recalls spotting Sable

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA The Santa Monica landlord accused of murdering two men called for a tow truck to pick her up on the same night one of the victims was killed, just blocks from where his body was found.

A team manager at AAA confirmed this week during the preliminary hearing for Helen Golay and her alleged accomplice that the 76-year-old's membership card was used on the night of June 21, 2005 to tow her car from a gas station at the corner of Santa Monica and Westwood boulevards in Los Angeles to the corner of Fifth Street and Ocean Park Boulevard in Santa Monica.

That same day, 50-year-old Kenneth McDavid was killed in a hit-and-run incident in an alley in the 1200 block of Westwood Boulevard. At the time of her arrest last May, Golay lived in the apartment building she owned on Ocean Park Boulevard, between Fourth and Fifth streets.

Along with 74-year-old Olga Rutterschmidt, of Hollywood, Golay is accused of murdering McDavid and 73-year-old Paul Vados in separate, yet very similar, back alley hit-and-runs. In 1999, Vados was found dead in an alley in Hollywood.

During witness testimony, Deputy District Attorney Shellie Samuels presented Eli Burgos of AAA with a sheet titled "Member Use History," which detailed card use by Golay in 2005 and 2006.

With the evidence laying before him, Burgos read aloud one call made at 11:54 p.m. on June 21, 2005 — a call that suggests a link between Golay and the murder of McDavid. The automobile club dispatched a truck from contractor Brent Air Towing to the Chevron at the corner of Santa Monica and Westwood boulevards, where a battered 1999 silver Mercury Sable waited.

In his cross-examination of Burgos, Golay's defense attorney, Roger Jon Diamond, asked how long AAA kept its recordings of calls, to which he replied that they are kept on file for about 90 days unless subpoenaed, which they were not. Insinuating that someone else might have used Golay's card, the attorney then asked whether AAA employees are required to check identification and collect signatures of AAA members. Burgos said they were, but unfortunately, some forget.

With all eyes on him and Diamond staring from the side, Burgos acknowledged that he isn't sure who placed the call to AAA.

The driver of the tow truck that night, Luis Jaimes of Brent Air Towing, remembers the assignment, but could not recall the name on the membership card nor the face of the card holder when asked on Tuesday if he saw that person in the courtroom.

"I tow many people and I honestly don't remember a face," Jaimes said.

What he does remember is that an "elderly" woman sat in the cab next to him as he towed the car to Santa Monica.

Diamond asked how he defined an elder-

ly person.

Someone who is 45 years of age and older, Jaimes replied, drawing snickers from the courtroom.

The deputy district attorney immediately stood up, asking if someone over the age of 70 would also be considered "elderly," to which Jaimes answered "yes."

Attempting to distance Rutterschmidt from her co-defendant in the case, her defense attorney, Public Defender Michael Sklar, asked Jaimes to confirm that there was only one woman in the tow truck and that the car was not towed to a Hollywood address.

HEY THERE, NEIGHBOR

Parking is always a problem in Ocean Park and nobody knows that more than Meilisa Thompson, who lives in a house just a few yards away from Golay's apartment on Ocean Park Boulevard.

Called to testify on Tuesday, Thompson recalled seeing a car parked in the alley separating her home from Golay's apartment for months, possibly up to half a year.

She noticed the car was stationary because finding a parking spot is such a huge

"I TOW MANY PEOPLE AND I HONESTLY DON'T REMEMBER A FACE."

Luis Jaimes

Tow truck driver, Brent Air Towing

hassle in the neighborhood.

The two women would often run into each other in the back alley, but the relationship turned sour over a situation involving the placement of Golay's trash cans, which Thompson said drew "very unsavory people" to the alley. About a year after Thompson first contacted the city of Santa Monica about the garbage can situation, she noticed that some red paint had splattered all over a building and the car that had been parked in the same spot for months. The red paint can was found in the trash can.

Upon discovering the spill, Thompson snapped some photos of the trash can to show the city and inadvertently also took pictures of the car. She decided to save them for later in case the car owner needed them for insurance purposes.

Then one day as Thompson went outside, she reportedly saw Golay standing very close and "interacting" with the car. The older woman was not observing the car or the paint, but she was standing close enough to suggest that she was the owner.

"We were not super friendly so I felt (no need) to give her the pictures," Thompson said, acknowledging she felt the paint incident was karma.

Then one day, the car was gone.

Right before the arrest, the two neighbors ran into each other in the alley, where Golay chatted about her grandchildren and Thompson talked about her child. With tears welling in her eyes, Thompson recalls how she felt after the conversation.

"I felt like that was the warmest conversation I had with Helen," she said, her voice cracking.

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Festival to showcase 90 filmmakers

FROM FILM FESTIVAL PAGE 1

Pilecki" — calls one of the few true independent film festivals in the world.

"To me, this film festival embodies all the spirit that all independent film festivals had once upon a time," the Polish actor/director said. "One by one, they've all gone."

For the first time, the four-day event will feature a live stage reading of a screenplay. "Riding the Pine" will be performed on Sunday by a cast that includes Golden Globe winner Camryn Manheim, "One Tree Hill" star Paul Johansson and Steven Weber of "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip."

The festival kicks off tonight at 7 p.m. at the Electric Lodge with a screening of 10 short films, ranging in genre from comedy to drama. The event will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the filmmakers. The event will continue Friday night with the screening of another 10 films, including "One Sung Hero," starring Tenacious D member Kyle Gass and Nicole Sullivan from Mad TV.

Full day screenings will take place on the weekend, culminating in an awards ceremony on Sunday when Oscar award-winning producer and Venice resident Tony Bill will receive the Local Maverick Spotlight Honorary Abbot Award.

One of the highly anticipated film screenings is "The Death of Captain Pilecki," which stars Probosz of Santa Monica. The actor and director has submitted works before to "The Other Venice Film



Photo courtesy

SEE FILM FESTIVAL PAGE 15

AUDIO VISUAL: The musicians featured in the documentary 'Welcome 2 The Henhouse' agreed to be filmed in exchange for free studio time.



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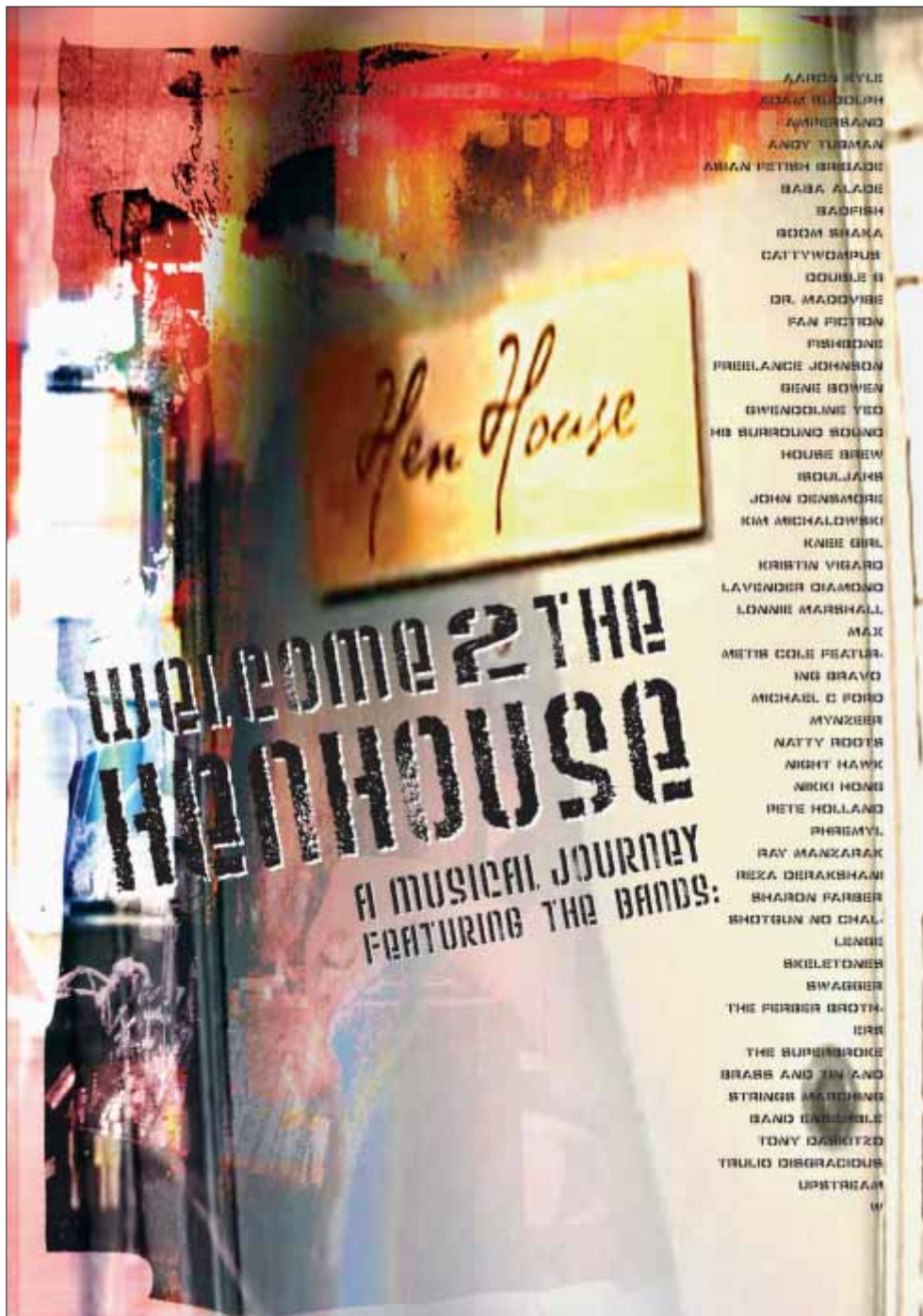


Photo courtesy

Flipping Tinseltown the bird

FROM FILM FESTIVAL PAGE 14

Festival," including in the inaugural year when he won the Winner Audience Choice award for "YMI," which he directed.

"The Death of Captain Pilecki" tells the true story of how Polish soldier Witold Pilecki intentionally entered the Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II and organized inmate resistance. During his stay, he informed Western allies of the deadly activities within the concentration camp. The communist regime executed him in 1948.

"It's the biggest honor to play Pilecki," Probosz said.

Probosz' films have been featured in film festivals around the world, including the Cannes Film Festival, San Sebastian Film Festival and the original Venice Film Festival.

None even compare to the true independent feel of the Venice fete, he said.

"We need more festivals like 'The Other Venice Film Festival,'" Probosz said.

The festival was founded by local Venice residents Ruby De La Casas, Gary Ellenberg and A.J. Peralta in 2004 after each saw a need to showcase local talent in one big event. A resident of Venice for 10 years, Ellenberg, a filmmaker, said that the small West Los Angeles community is crawling with talented and artistic minds.

The founders settled on the name "The Other Venice Film Festival" to avoid copyright infringement over the name of the original festival in Venice, Italy.

"We kind of embrace that we are non-

mainstream," Ellenberg said. "We're independent. We don't have the red carpet and we try not to kiss Hollywood's ass."

Several films that were screened at the film festival enjoyed theatrical releases, including "Frankie and Johnny Are Married," written and directed by Michael Pressman, and "Jam," directed by Craig Serling.

"(The Other Venice Film Festival) is a great place to start and finish," Ellenberg said.

Santa Monica resident Harlan Steinberger hopes his film, "Welcome 2 The Hen House," will be well-received. The director of Hen House Studios in Venice submitted his film for the first time this year.

"Welcome 2 Hen House" is a documentary focusing on 50 independent bands that recorded their albums at Hen House Studios. Over the past five years, Hen House Studios offered their recording studio for free to artists and bands in exchange for the right for Steinberger and his crew to film them in the process.

In the end, Steinberger compiled more than 1,000 hours of footage on more than 100 bands, each being featured for about 15 minutes. He later cut the number of bands down to 50 in the final draft.

"We are a Venice-based studio and a lot of bands in the movie are from Venice," Steinberger said. "It seemed like a perfect match and luckily, they agreed (to be filmed)."

For more information, visit the event Web site at www.othervenicefilmfest.com.

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Public financing plan may cost city millions

FROM CAMPAIGN COSTS PAGE 3

option that could go before the voters for approval by the end of the year. Under the proposal, candidates would have to raise \$3,000 in qualifying contributions over three months to receive \$50,000 in public money. Prospective candidates could raise a minimum of \$5 per person or a maximum of \$30.

Once certified, a candidate would receive \$50,000 in public funds. Candidates may also receive an additional \$50,000, which would be used to respond to non-participating candidates and special interests groups that have spent more than \$50,000.

Still, many questions remain, such as would any resident be able to contribute to qualifying candidates or only registered voters. Also, would City Hall pay for it with money from the general fund or from a new tax?

"I don't mean to be pouring water on the enthusiasm," said Councilman Bobby Shriver. "It's easy to say you are for it, but when you get to the details and actually see what this would cost ... you have to ask, how do people feel about spending a few million bucks a year?"

"That's how we should put it."

Judging from the more than 30 speakers in support of the concept, it seems the public is in favor of spending their tax dollars on making elections more equitable. Residents pointed to the city clerk's report, which showed special interest groups spent an average of \$136,424 during the November 2006 election, while candidates spent an average of \$42,974.

"Public financing of campaigns allows for more women and minority candidates to enter the political arena ... and restores public confidence in elected office," said Amy Bishop-Dunbar, president of the League of Women Voters in Santa Monica.

"Public financing would make it so that people who may not necessarily have the access to money, would be able to show that they support their community by full public funding of elections," said Daisy Furlong, who is not old enough yet to vote, but is very much in favor of clean money. "That way, people will be able to take issues they have at heart and bring them out to help make the community a better place."

Several organizations, including all five neighborhood groups, the Center for Governmental Studies and the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, endorsed the concept of public financing, with many promising to lend a hand in developing a proposal to put before voters.

CAN'T STOP THE MALICIOUSNESS

The tone of the last election for City Council prompted many residents to come forward in support. Several spoke about the negative campaigning they saw on behalf of special interest groups such as Santa Monicans for Sensible Priorities, which waged a campaign against Councilman Kevin McKeown, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on mailers and campaign commercials blasting his record while on the dais.

Council members were quick to point out that courts have ruled against any attempts to regulate campaigns run by independent expenditure committees, saying that is a violation of free speech. Shriver said repeatedly that any public financing propos-

al would not eliminate negative campaigning or the number of mailers one receives each election cycle.

"It is important to know that people with their own money can spread malicious rumors, and horrible stuff will continue as often as they want," Shriver said. "Under federal law, that cannot be regulated. I think it's important to note that there was not a lot of intra-candidate nastiness."

No one was willing to go so far as to say that special interest groups and negative campaigning has put a stranglehold on the local political process, but there are those who are worried about what the future may hold.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN MONEY CAN SPREAD MALICIOUS RUMORS, AND HORRIBLE STUFF WILL CONTINUE AS OFTEN AS THEY WANT."

Bobby Shriver
City Councilman

"If we don't figure out a way to make elections work for residents and the candidacy for City Council more inviting, we will lose good candidates ... lose control over our own elections," McKeown said. "We need to not focus tonight on a specific solution. We're not there yet. But are we willing to commit ourselves to this process?"

Councilman Bob Holbrook wasn't. The former mayor cast the lone vote against moving forward with the concept, citing concerns about cost. Holbrook also questioned the ability of participating candidates to respond quickly enough to moves by non-participating candidates who can maneuver faster since they are spending their own money and do not have to wait for City Hall to disperse funds.

"All this will do is allow for more people to run, but it won't change the outcome," Holbrook said. "None of them would win except for those people who have the (political action committee) support on top of their own campaign dollars. PAC support is so significant in this town. It has been that way for every single election that I've been in."

Holbrook was the only candidate elected last November who was not endorsed by Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, the city's ruling political party.

"The bottom line is that there are other ways to promote democracy in Santa Monica and this is not the way to do it," Holbrook said. "It is very expensive and at the end of the day, a significant amount of public money will be spent. You can't have any type of competitive election as long as a single PAC is out there."

kevinh@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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Blood shesham

Lawmakers look to put a halt to illegal timber cultivation

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON It could be your new hardwood floor or coffee table, with a rich mahogany hue.

While the wood may look good, there is a strong chance it came from timber harvested illegally in places such as Honduras, Indonesia or Peru, labor and environmental groups say.

crosses national boundaries to affect communities, companies and ecosystems alike," Blumenauer said, adding that he hopes to "raise the profile" of illegal logging so that consumers pressure retailers to reveal the source of furniture and flooring, just as many do with so-called fair-trade coffee.

As much as 30 percent of U.S. hardwood imports are from suspicious or illegal sources, according to the U.S.

North America's hardwood plywood — such as oak, birch, maple and cherry — is made by Oregon-based companies.

"I can't stress enough how pervasive this problem is," Blumenauer said at a Capitol news conference Tuesday. "It's destabilizing the environment, destabilizing trade opportunities and literally robbing national governments" of millions of dollars in lost taxes.

The problem can also be deadly.

Two activists were shot and killed in December in Honduras, allegedly by four police officers in front of several townspeople.

The men were local leaders in the Environmental Movement of Olancho, or MAO, which opposes illegal logging by timber companies. About 50 percent of timber in Honduras is illegally harvested; the U.S. is the primary market for its pine and mahogany products.

The logging bill, co-sponsored by Reps. Robert Wexler, D-Fla., and Jerry Weller, R-Ill., would extend the Lacey Act — which prohibits importation of wildlife taken in violation of conservation laws — to apply to wood and timber products. The measure would ban the import, export, purchase or sale of timber products made in violation of any domestic or foreign law or international treaty.

The forest and paper association stopped short of endorsing the bill.

IT'S DESTABILIZING DESTABILIZING
TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AND LITERALLY
ROBBING NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS."

Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore

Now a bipartisan group of congressmen wants to crack down on illegal logging around the world. A bill introduced this week would ban U.S. imports of wood products derived from illegally harvested timber.

Much like the movie "Blood Diamond," which portrays diamonds as fueling a brutal civil war in West Africa, the logging bill is aimed at reminding U.S. consumers to consider where their new bedroom dresser or hardwood floor comes from, said Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., the bill's chief sponsor.

"Illegal logging is a problem that

International Trade Commission. Much of the wood is sent to China, where it is processed at low cost and then exported to the United States and other countries.

Illegal logging costs U.S. companies as much as \$1 billion a year in lost exports and reduced prices for timber products, according to the American Forest and Paper Association, a trade group that represents the wood products industry.

In Oregon, illegal logging costs as much as \$150 million a year, Blumenauer said. About 70 percent of

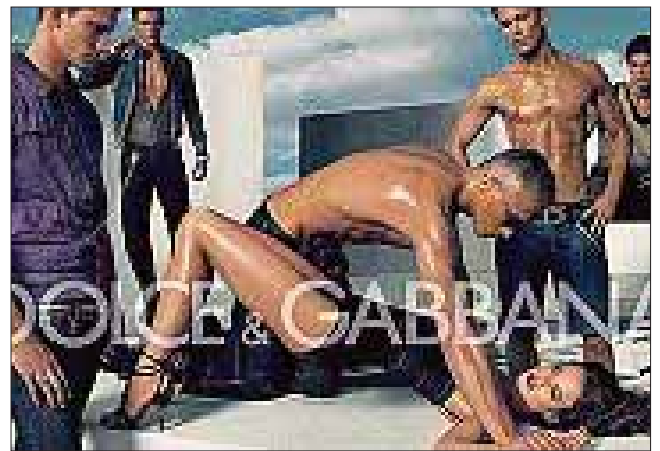


Photo courtesy

WELL-HEELED: The Dolce & Gabbana ad that caused uproar.

Having ads censored won't do for Dolce

By The Associated Press

ROME Italian fashion house Dolce & Gabbana said this week it has decided to pull all its advertisements from Spain, after it was forced to withdraw an image condemned as sexist and violent.

The company said in a statement that it had been targeted by censorship, and had taken the step to "safeguard its creative freedom." The ad that the company was forced to pull weeks ago, amid protests from Spanish women's groups, showed a half-naked man holding a scantily clad woman to the ground by her wrists while four other men look on.

"Recently Spain, with its climate of censorship, shows that it wants to see negative messages everywhere, even where none exist," the statement said. "The decision to interrupt the brand's communication in this country was inevitable."

Designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana said in the statement that similar steps should be taken by other fashion companies that are facing criticism in Spain for their ads.

Spain's children's rights ombudsman said Monday it had asked for a Giorgio Armani advertisement showing two young Asian girls in un-childlike poses to be withdrawn.



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BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Kiraly set to retire, hang up his Speedo

BY BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO Karch Kiraly's seemingly endless summers on the sand are just about over.

Kiraly, the man in the pink hat who happens to be the world's most decorated volleyball player, announced Tuesday that this season will be his last on the AVP Crocs Tour.

"I've gotten enough," the 46-year-old Kiraly said by phone from Huntington Beach, where he also announced plans for a grass-roots beach volleyball tournament in September. "I got to play so much more than I ever thought I would. It's been an incredible opportunity. I'm lucky to have done it this long."

Kiraly's farewell tour comes 28 years after his first beach tournament victory, with Sinjin Smith at Santa Cruz in 1979. The same year, they helped UCLA win the NCAA indoor volleyball title.

Life really has been a beach for Kiraly. He's won a record 148 tournaments, with 13 different partners, and earned more than \$3.1 million.

He and Kent Steffes won the first Olympic beach volleyball gold medal at Atlanta in 1996. That went nicely with the Olympic gold medals Kiraly won with the U.S. indoor teams in 1984 and 1988.

Kiraly plans to play in 11 of the 18 AVP Crocs tournaments, starting in Miami in mid-April.

His final three tournaments will span the country in August, starting with his last competitive appearance in California at the Manhattan Beach Open Aug. 9-12. He'll also play in the Brooklyn Open at Coney Island Aug. 23-26, followed by his finale, in Cincinnati, of all places, Aug. 30-Sept. 2.

It might seem a little odd for a Southern California beach dude to end his career in the Midwest, but Kiraly said he needs to play

as many tournaments as possible in order to attract a good partner. He said he hasn't decided on a partner yet.

While Kiraly won't be playing on the pro tour after this summer, he's certainly not walking away from the game. He said he's got so many projects going on that he doesn't have time for nostalgia.

"I'm about as busy as I've ever been," he said. "I'm really not thinking of it as retirement. So there's no need to get out the rocking chair or the Depends for me. I've got a lot of stuff going on. It's a fun new phase in a lifelong love with this sport of volleyball."

"I'M REALLY NOT THINKING OF IT AS RETIREMENT. SO THERE'S NO NEED TO GET OUT THE ROCKING CHAIR OR THE DEPENDS FOR ME."

Karch Kiraly
American volleyball legend

He's helping coach his two sons' high school team, he will launch the Karch Kiraly Volleyball Academy this summer and he's working with USA Volleyball to expand a junior beach tour. He's also launching the U.S. Open of Beach Volleyball on Sept. 21-23 at Huntington Beach, doing TV work and helping the top women's beach duo of Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh.

Kiraly is also scheduled to play in AVP tournaments in Dallas; Huntington Beach and Hermosa Beach; Louisville, Ky.; Atlanta; Charleston, S.C.; and Seaside Heights, N.J.

DOG RACING

Mackey wins 1,100-mile Iditarod

BY MARY PEMBERTON
Associated Press Writer

NOME, Alaska Sitting with two of his dogs on the winner's platform on Front Street in Nome, Lance Mackey savored his first Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race victory.

His win Tuesday in the 1,100-mile Iditarod came just days after using a majority of the same dogs in winning the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race.

He had good reason to sit back and relish being the first musher to win both races in the same year: even he doubts he'll do it again.

"Yeah, I'd love to come back and repeat that performance but I'm really realistic here. Once in a lifetime is probably a rare opportunity," he said while one of the dogs licked some of the frost off his goatee.

He acknowledged that his dogs were a one-of-a-kind team, but next year, they will be older.

"I owe it to them. I think I'm smart enough to know when enough is enough, to back off a little bit. They're in their prime, they proved that. So I think it's time for a little R&R," he said.

But Tuesday night, the down-to-earth musher planned a little whiskey for his own rest and relaxation and to celebrate the feat

with his family, including father, Dick, and brother, Rick, both past Iditarod champions.

"This is a damn dream that I've been living, you know, dreaming about since I was a little, little boy when my Dad won this race," said Lance Mackey, 36.

Mackey got his dream early Tuesday evening, crossing under the burlled arch in downtown Nome early, completing the Iditarod in 9 days, 5 hours, 8 minutes.

Paul Gebhardt, 50, who was third last year, finished second.

"He is a very driven dog driver," Gebhardt said of Mackey. "You got to admit, he's like the Dale Earnhardt of dog racing."

About a thousand fans braved subzero temperature to cheer Mackey to the finish. He lived the moment, slapping high-fives with fans as his dogs led him down the last block, sometimes jumping off the sled and running with them until his family mobbed him at the end.

"Dreams do come true, Mama, they do," Mackey said, fighting back tears.

"This is my passion," he said, adding he was proud to follow in his father's footsteps and joked about being thankful his father was a musher and not a lawyer.

"It's our lifestyle, it's something we breathe, eat and sleep," he said.



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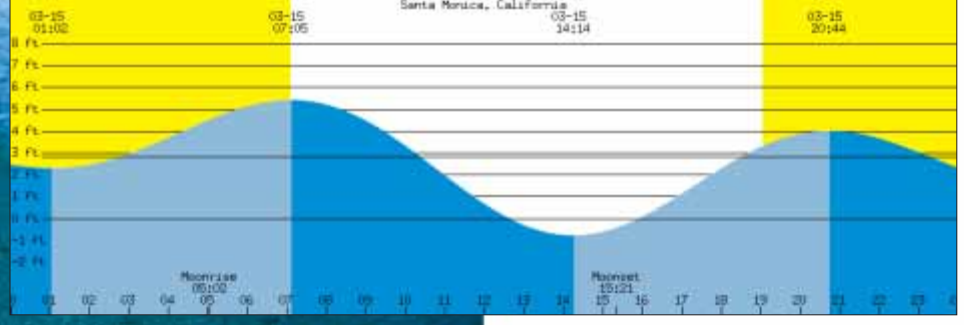


WATER TEMP: 57°

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)
Today should still see some waves from this SW swell, but south facing breaks will be seeing a slight decrease in size towards waist to chest. Still not much NW to speak of on Thursday: waist high or so.

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WNW DUE SATURDAY...
LIGHT SOUTHERN HEMI MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **March 5, 2007**

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 6
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 4
Number of wet days -- 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 30 / 31
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 12 / 14

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	F	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	B	F
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	B	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	D	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	B	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	C
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	D
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	C
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	A+	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	B	A+
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	C	A+	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	B	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	B	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F	Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	D	F	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	C	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	D	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	F
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	F	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	B	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	A+			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+			

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken



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

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Talk up a storm, Sagittarius

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Think in terms of gains and growth. Your high energy takes you in a new direction and draws your friends closer and closer. Zero in on what you want. Understand more of what you need from key people. Tonight: Zoom in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Take a step forward. You might need to make an extra effort or decide what you need to do. Push forward, and you can change your direction. Listen to what is happening with a parent or boss. Choose not to interfere with process and growth. Tonight: In the limelight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You might need to step back and take an overview. What might feel uncomfortable now could be close to impossible later. Work with a situation rather than drop the ball and run. You'll gain insight. Tonight: New vistas.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Work within a partnership if you want to gain. Not everything and everyone is capable of getting down to the basic elements here. Look to greater possibilities and growth. Consider a new beginning with an open mind. Tonight: Togetherness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You could decide that someone close is being difficult. Perhaps you need to put this description in context. Would you prefer deceptive and vague? If so, you might be socializing with the wrong crowds. Tonight: Be happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Dive into work with the knowledge that you can and will accomplish anything and everything. Funnel your energy, and you'll get your work done. It might be a luxury to be distracted. You know where you are going. Tonight: Easy does it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You like what you see heading down your path. You might have to be creative and have high energy to match. You smile, and others respond. Say "yes" to a new project or opportunity. You can laugh if you know how to "reframe" a situation. Tonight: Ever playful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You know where you're coming from and what is going on. Realize that at times you might need to step back and do your thing. Helping others understand could make a difference, but it might be unusually difficult to do. Tonight: Love being home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You say what you mean, though you might consider cushioning your words. Think in terms of gains and growth. Laughter opens doors and helps everyone relax. You have what it takes. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Use restraint and good sense (even more so than usual) with an expense and a possible turn of events. You might want to say "no" if need be. You might feel that all you have been doing is saying no. Think of this as a phase. Tonight: Order in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You are full of smiles and energy. Directing your energy can and will make all the difference. You might laugh and think before you make serious decisions. Could you be acting out on strong feelings? Tonight: As you would like.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Know when to back off. You might be internalizing some very strong feelings. As a result, you could upset the apple cart. Be sure you want this. You laugh, and someone else relaxes. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

Born Today
Musician Mark McGrath (1968)
NFL linebacker Clay Matthews (1956)
Model Fabio (1959)



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Bundle of Jolie

Actress is in Vietnam to adopt 3-year-old



ANGELINA JOLIE arrived in Vietnam late Wednesday night, where she plans to adopt a 3-year-old boy.

Airport security officials told a photographer working for The Associated Press that Jolie was whisked into a car with dark windows and driven away.

The actress was expected to attend an adoption ceremony with Vietnamese officials in Ho Chi Minh City on Thursday morning, according to adoption officials, speaking on condition

of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk about the matter.

After she receives the child, Jolie will meet with U.S. consular officials, who must review the adoption before a passport can be issued for the boy.

If all goes according to plan, Jolie could bring the child home by the weekend, officials said.

A message left early Wednesday for a Jolie representative in Los Angeles wasn't immediately returned.

The boy has been living at the Tam Binh orphanage on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City since he was abandoned at a hospital as an infant, according to adoption officials.

Shortly after he arrived at the orphanage, the Tam Binh staff tried unsuccessfully to locate the boy's birth parents.

The boy is healthy, friendly and a little bit shy, they said. He gets along well with other children and loves to play soccer.

Jolie filed adoption

papers as a single parent, because she and her partner, Brad Pitt, are not married.

They have three children: 5-year-old Maddox, adopted from Cambodia; 2-year-old Zahara, adopted from Ethiopia; and another daughter, Shiloh, who was born to the couple in May.

The pair made a surprise visit to the Tam Binh orphanage at Thanksgiving, when they were spotted cruising around Ho Chi Minh City on a motorbike.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

After serving time, Lohan's dad looks for quality time

The estranged father of actress **LINDSAY LOHAN** has been released from a New York state prison after serving almost two years for driving while intoxicated and other charges.

Michael Lohan said now that he is a free man, he wants to repair his unsteady relationship with his 20-year-old daughter. "I'm going to wait, and when she sees I'm walking the

walk, I'm hopeful she'll open the door," he told Newsday in Wednesday's editions.

He was released from Collins Correctional Facility near Buffalo on Tuesday, Linda Foglia, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Corrections, told CBS Interactive.

Lohan had been jailed since June 30, 2005, for attempted assault and

other charges.

The attempted assault charge stemmed from an attack on his brother-in-law at a party.

While awaiting sentencing, he was charged with driving while intoxicated and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle when his car went off the road. His car struck a pole and was engulfed in flames. Lohan wasn't hurt.

Lohan told Newsday that while he was in prison, he went to Bible college and became a minister with the Assemblies of God Ministry. "I want to help people," he said. "I don't want them to fall into the same traps I did." AP



HE CAN'T EXPLAIN

Fans of **THE WHO** left a Tampa amphitheater disappointed after lead singer Roger Daltrey walked off the stage during the band's first song.

Several minutes after Daltrey's departure, guitarist Pete Townshend announced that Tuesday night's show had been canceled. He told the crowd that Daltrey had bronchitis. AP



Spelling reaches out to mother

TORI SPELLING, who gave birth to a boy Tuesday, is apparently patching up her strained relationship with her mother.

The 33-year-old actress and her husband, Dean McDermott, welcomed 6-pound, 6-ounce Liam Aaron McDermott at a Los Angeles hospital, said spokeswoman Meghan Prophet.

Her mother, Candy Spelling, was at the hospi-

tal, according to a story Wednesday on People magazine's Web site.

"Words can't describe the joy and elation I feel at this truly happy event," Candy Spelling was quoted as telling People. "I am looking forward to doting on my new little grandson and all the memorable fun that comes with it."

The baby is the first child for Spelling, who starred on the long-running

TV series "Beverly Hills, 90210," produced by her father, Aaron Spelling, who died last June.

She has been a gossip column fixture, from her marriage to McDermott in May 2006 to her reported long estrangement from her mother. McDermott has a daughter and a son from a previous marriage. The actor had roles in the movies "Against the Ropes" and "Open Range." AP

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(310) 395-4990

Contact theatre for
information.

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Amazing Grace (PG)

1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45

Breach (PG-13)

1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 10:05

Children of Men (R)

2:15, 9:55

Pan Labyrinth

(El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)

2:10, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15

Reno 911 (PG-13)

4:50, 7:40

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

300 (R)

1:00am, 1:05, 3:50, 4:40,

6:40, 7:20, 9:30, 10:10

Black Snake Moan (R)

2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

Bridge to Terabithia (PG)

2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50

Wild Hogs (PG-13)

1:45, 4:35, 7:10, 10:00

Zodiac (R)

1:15, 2:45, 4:30, 6:20, 7:50,
9:45

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Factory Girl (R)

12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30,
10:00

The Last King of Scotland (R)

1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

The Lives of Others

(Das Leben der Anderen) (R)

1:55, 5:00, 8:15

The Namesake (PG-13)

1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00,
8:00, 9:55

The Queen (PG-13)

1:50, 7:20

Volter (R)

4:30, 9:50

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Ghost Rider (PG-13)

11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00,
9:40

The Host (Gwoemul) (R)

11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50,
10:30

Music and Lyrics (PG-13)

11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20,
10:00

Norbit (PG-13)

11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40,
10:20

The Number 23 (R)

11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30,
10:10

The Ultimate Gift (PG)

11:00, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
BRONZE

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

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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

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

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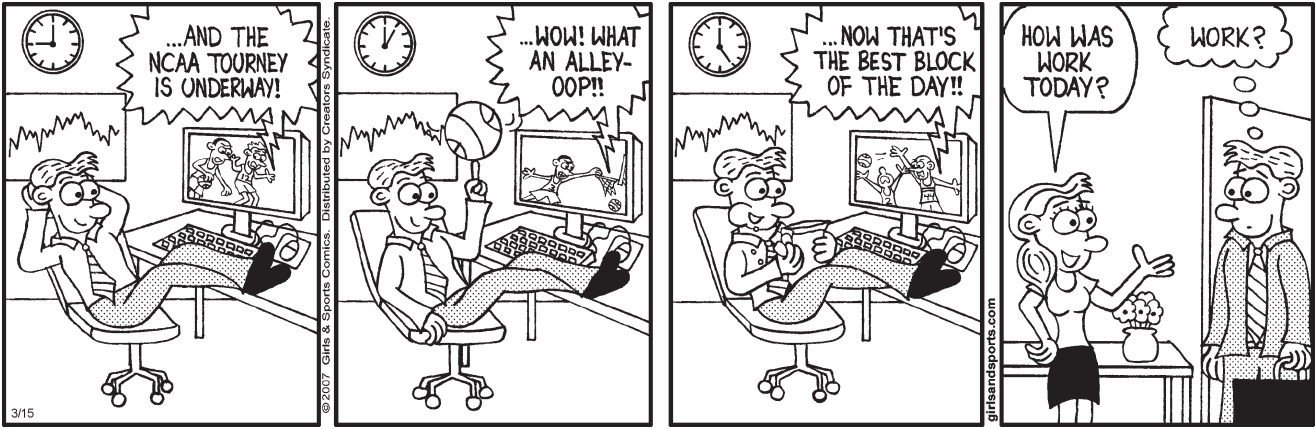
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310 993 2727 CALL NOW
www.ePrepNow.com

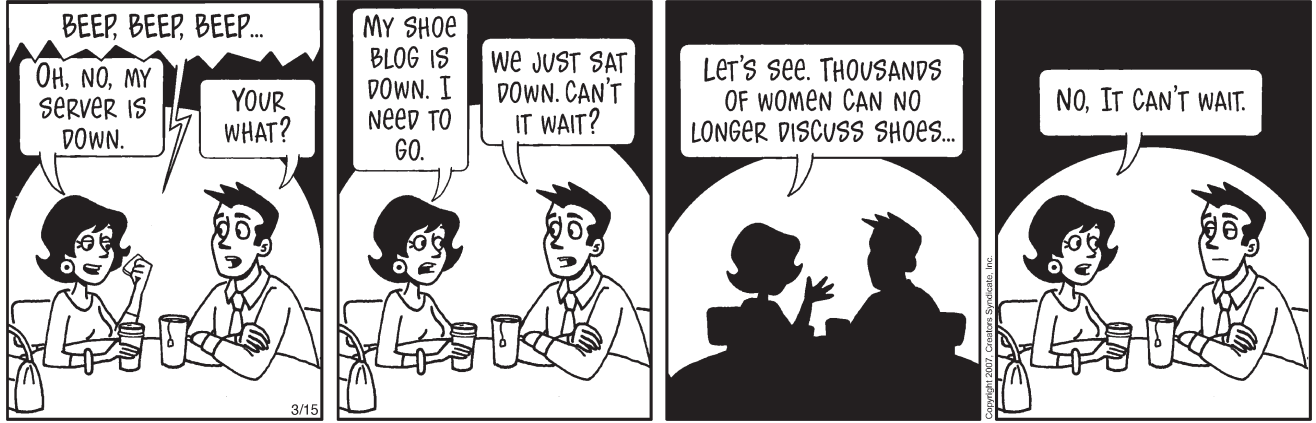
Girls and Sports

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



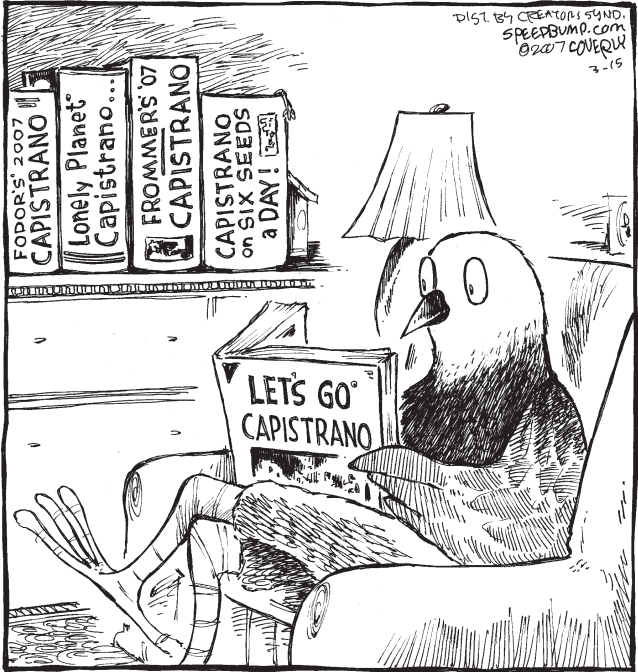
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Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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Mystery Photo
The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Shady spot
 - 6 "Aladdin" villain
 - 11 Tropical fruit
 - 12 Send away
 - 13 Actor Buddy
 - 14 Entertained
 - 15 Clears
 - 17 Contrived
 - 19 Singer Tormé
 - 20 Bud
 - 23 Actor Kutcher
 - 25 Sugar source
 - 26 Out maker
 - 28 Prom participant
 - 29 Band need
 - 30 Is for you?
 - 31 Cooler
 - 32 Give a go
 - 33 Islamic leader
 - 35 November gem
 - 38 Singer McLachlan
 - 41 Cherish
 - 42 Dancer Castle
 - 43 Sugar source
 - 44 Provinces
- DOWN**
- 1 Get on
 - 2 Massage
 - 3 Ternary system
 - 4 Finished
 - 5 Went wild
 - 6 Sparkler
 - 7 Globe spindle
 - 8 Old car feature
 - 9 Pub order
 - 10 Danger signal
 - 16 Mali neighbor
 - 17 Some elbows
 - 18 Showy flower
 - 20 Trilogy end

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

- Yesterday's answer**
- 21 Lend — (be attentive)
 - 22 Distrustful
 - 24 Can material
 - 25 Greek X
 - 27 Country south of Sicily
 - 31 Disconcerts
 - 33 Course rental
 - 34 Catherine — (Henry VIII's sixth)
 - 35 Computer key
 - 36 Exalted verse
 - 37 "Annabel Lee" author
 - 39 Santa — winds
 - 40 "— So Fine"

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, 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				

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLION 7 11 16 38 49
Meganumber: 35
Jackpot: \$28M

Super LOTTO 3 6 8 17 32
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: \$68M

Fantasy 5 2 4 9 17 35

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 9 3 8
EVENING: 4 7 7

DAILY DERRY 1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1.45.14

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

■ Recent Alarming Headlines: (1) "Feral Shih Tzus Roam Georgia Condo Complex" (Science Daily); (2) "Son Gets Six Months, Probation, for Dismembering Mother" (WINS Radio, New York City); (3) "Judge Rules Government Supply of Marijuana Is Inadequate" (San Jose Mercury News). (The dogs romped through the Covered Bridge complex in Marietta; the 16-year-old son was found to be emotionally under the spell of a sadistic adult molester; and the federal government's marijuana farm was not producing enough for medical research.)

Recurring Themes

■ News of the Weird has formally retired the category of household-hoarding stories, but apparently Ann Biglin of West Yarmouth, Mass., has an additional problem: hoarding in her automobile. Police issued her a citation in February after her car jumped a curb and knocked over a light post, which Biglin explained was due to "several old coffee cups" and "assorted pieces of trash" that might have accidentally fallen and hit the accelerator. However, police found the seats filled at least chest-high with trash. A Boston Herald photo showed the driver's seat uninhabitable, and its story described the mess as "mountains of trash" that came down as an "avalanche" on her accelerator.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1493 Christopher Columbus returns to Spain after his first trip to the Americas.

1781 American Revolutionary War: Battle of Guilford Courthouse - Near present-day Greensboro, North Carolina, 1,900 British troops under General Charles Cornwallis defeat an American force numbering 4,400.

1783 In an emotional speech in Newburgh, New York, George Washington asks his officers not to support the Newburgh Conspiracy. The plea is successful and the threatened coup d'etat never takes place.

1848 Revolution breaks out in Pest. The Habsburg rulers are compelled to meet the demands of the Reform party.

1922 After Egypt gains nominal independence from the United Kingdom, Fuad I becomes King of Egypt.

1972 The film version of Mario Puzo's The Godfather novel of the same name, is released in theaters. It went on to be considered one of the greatest films of all time.

WORD UP!

descry \dih-SKRY\, transitive verb: 1. To catch sight of, especially something distant or obscure; to discern. 2. To discover by observation; to detect.

Relax, Renew & Re-energize



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Equipment**

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out www.smdp.com for more info.

Miscellaneous



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(Corner of 20th
& Santa Monica Blvd.)
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Hours: 6:30am
- 10:00pm Daily

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Receptionist: to handle reception, insurance verification, authorization, scheduling, over the counter collections, new patient intake, prescriptions, etc. M-F 10-7 and every other Saturday 8-12:30pm. Salary DOE with benefits.
Collector: must have comprehensive knowledge of insurance billing, possesses great collection strategies and experienced in workers' compensation and liens M-F 9-6. Min 2 years experience. E-mail resume to billing@forsterpt.com or fax to (310)656-8606

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Current guard card
Apply online LANTZSECURITY.COM
or call (800) 870-4357

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade 215 Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings morning and evening shifts. Apply afternoons in person. (310) 396-9898.

Counter Help
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts seeking highly motivated and super friendly individuals for work at our fast paced environment. F/T and P/T shifts available. Apply in person, 6am-10pm: 1231 Wilshire Blvd., SM.

CUPCAKES! YUMMY CUPCAKES is coming to Santa Monica looking for counter and baking staff to start immediately. Must be outgoing, dependable, and ready to work hard and have fun. Send resume to tiffini@yummycupcakes.com or call (818)558-1080 to schedule an interview.

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Modern, low-stress, SM office. No HMO or Medi-Cal. Chairside experience and x-ray license required. 3-4 days per week. 60% back office/40% front office. Flexible hours. (310)451-1446

DRIVER, MUST have clean DMV, mostly airport transfers. Call Ace Limo for appt. (310)452-7083

EXPERIENCED BKPR
Administer all facets of payroll (tip compliance, calc OT), AP, AR and financial reporting using QuickBooks. Fax resume to 818-888-1416

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HIRING EXPERIENCED manicurists for trendy, upscale nail salon. Great tips!!! Also leasing manicure station. Please contact Helen at (626)482-1982 or email resume to princess.nails@yahoo.com.

Employment

HIRING IMMEDIATELY LOOKING FOR MOTIVATED self starters to sell quality multi-vitamin and supplements made from whole foods. www.bestallnatural-vitamin.com

KRAMER SPORTING GOODS a Team Sports/Corporate Sales Dealer on the Westside is looking for a full-time retail salesperson. This person will be able to multi-task well and exhibit good people skills. Weekend availability is a must. We will offer room for growth and a fun work atmosphere for the right person. This position is open immediately. If this sounds like what you want please call or stop by to inquire. (310)452 6266

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MUSIC AIRPLAY CAMPAIGN SALES. 25% commission (310)998-8305 xt. 83

RETAIL STORE MANAGER Santa Monica Clothing store seeks experienced full time Store Manager. Outstanding opportunity for a self-motivated leader. Located in fun, upscale shopping area. Terrific store hours. Wear casual & comfortable clothes to work. Competitive salary and great benefits. We are looking for a candidate who has: Outstanding customer service skills, High standards in retail merchandising, Strong retail operations skills, Proven leadership, and hands-on management style. Minimum 5 years retail experience, Effective and professional communication skills, Strong MS Office, and retail computer skills, Ability to lead and develop P/T staff, Maturity and dependability. Email resume to: resume@specializedstaffingsolutions.com

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THE ART Institute of CA-LA seeks a Senior Maintenance Technician with experience. 30 hrs/wk. 2900 31st St., Santa Monica 310.314.6035

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SAT-SUN 3/17-3/18 8am-3pm. (More items coming on Sun). In alley behind 1422 6th st. Between SM and Broadway. Estate items, collectibles, new items, clothing, etc.

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MAR VISTA \$1695.00. 2 Bdrms, 1 bath, Duplex-Apt. NO Pets. Stove, refrigerator, Washer/Dryer, Parking, 3571 Centinela Ave., Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional Info in Unit.

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 218, 1bdrm/1bath, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, tiling, flooring, granite counter tops, with utilities, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. \$1175/mo (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave unit 1 lower, stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, laundry, one parking space, no pets. \$1395/mo \$300 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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PALMS/BEVERLYWD ADJ. \$1175.00 2 Bdrms, 1 1/2 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Parking, No Pets. 2009 Preuss Rd. #11. Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr: 101

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SANTA MONICA 833 5th st. unit 101 2bdrm/1.75 bath, \$2850/mo, stove, dishwasher, balcony, granite counter tops, carpet and tiling flooring, wood flooring laundry, intercom entry, pool no pets (310)393-2547 jkwproperties.com

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STABLE, EMPLOYED RN and family with small dog needs rental home with backyard 2-3bdrms, 1-2 baths. Needed by mid April. Venice, Marina, SM, and surrounding areas. (310)574-0976

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APR 7.0258%

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LOST GOLD band with one diamond in the center, Tiffany setting. Lost on March 2. Places could have been lost: Ralphs Market on Cloverfield, St. Monica's Church. CVS pharmacy on 26th st. Please call. Reward offered. (310)826-6395

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: THOMAS TROY BURKE CASE NO. SP007051 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of THOMAS TROY BURKE. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JUDITH J. SCHUMACHER in the Superior Court of Cali-

Notices

fornia, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JUDITH J. SCHUMACHER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 04/20/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner LINDA C. SCHUMACHER SANDRA M. CHAZEN LAW OFFICE OF LINDA C. SCHUMACHER 3111 CAMINO DEL RIO N., #400 SAN DIEGO, CA 92108-5724 3/14, 3/15, 3/21/07 CNS-1102058# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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Slip Control, Air Bags, ABS, Rear
Spoiler. (P1531)
\$16,951

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'04 Toyota Tacoma Double Cab 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
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\$18,593

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pkg, CD, air bags, ABS, leather,
moon roof. (I6442A)
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Vehicles for sale



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rear spoiler, alloy wheels. (P1508)
\$22,893

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6-Cyl. 3.0L, Stability Control,
Premium Pkg, Premium Wheels
(P1510)
\$28,693

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(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
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(P1521) \$15,593

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67000 miles, one owner, Caramel
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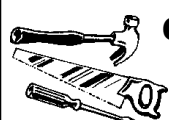
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