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FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 111



SHRIVER SNUBBED
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE COVERING CRIME ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

SOON TO BE HISTORY: The Travelodge and Pacific Sands Motel will be demolished to make way for a larger motel.

SM Travelodge moves forward

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A proposal to construct a new Travelodge motel on Ocean Avenue, stimulating an area considered dull by some business owners, received a nod from planning officials on Wednesday, pushing the project forward after staying stagnant for some time.

The Planning Commission voted to push the bid for a new 164-room motel to the City Council and Architectural Review Board, which will be tasked with reviewing the general plan for the project and the design elements of the lodge, respectively.

The Farzam family, which has been in the hospitality industry for more than 30 years and owns four properties in Santa Monica, including three on Ocean Avenue, is proposing to consolidate the lots for the existing Pacific Sands Motel and adjoining Travelodge to construct one new and improved Travelodge.

The proposed four-story limited-amenity lodge, which means it wouldn't have a restaurant or other features typically found in a hotel — would be roughly 89,000 square feet in size with nearly 300 parking spaces in a subterranean garage. Rooms in the new Travelodge would be priced at about $150 a night, significantly lower than the average rate for an upscale room at $235 a night, according to Michael Farzam, the property owner.

The project also proposes ground floor retail spaces on both the Ocean Avenue and Second Street sides of the motel.

The Farzam family reviewed several options for the site when it acquired the two motels a few years ago, including renovation and leaving the properties as is, both of which were found not to be economically feasible. The former option would've been so costly that the owners would be forced to raise the prices, Farzam said.

The family opted for more affordable lodging, he said.

"We run almost 100 percent all year round and we are

SEE MOTEL PAGE 10

Second homicide in a week strikes city

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MONTANA AVENUE A middle-aged Santa Monica man was found killed in his condominium on Wednesday night, the second homicide in less than one week shaking residents' sense of safety in this relatively peaceful community.

Just four days after Santa Monica police officers discovered the body of a 21-year-old aspiring actress in her Centinela Avenue apartment — the victim of an apparent assault — 35-year-old Alexander Merman was found dead in his condo at 520 Montana Ave., believed to be killed from blunt force trauma.

Both Merman and Juliana Redding, who took several courses at Santa Monica College, were living alone and discovered after their mothers had asked for someone to check in on the victims, concerned after having difficulty reaching their children.

Investigators say they believe there is no connection between the two homicides.

Police received a call shortly before 8 p.m. from the building manager who had discovered Merman's body. Authorities do not know how long the victim was deceased and there were no signs of forced entry.

"Perhaps someone knew him," SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla said on Thursday. "At this point, it's too soon to tell if anything is missing from the apartment."

The otherwise sleepy block of Montana Avenue was transformed into a crime scene out of a movie on Wednesday, the building surrounded by police cars and ambulances, according to neighbors.

But by Thursday morning, the commotion from the night before had settled down, a few television news vans sprinkled around the blue and white

SEE MURDER PAGE 11



MAKING A STATEMENT

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Jack Kissell (center) and his wife Jean (right) show their support for peace at a candle light vigil on Wednesday night at the corner of Rose Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard. The vigil was held to draw attention to the fifth anniversary of the Iraq war.

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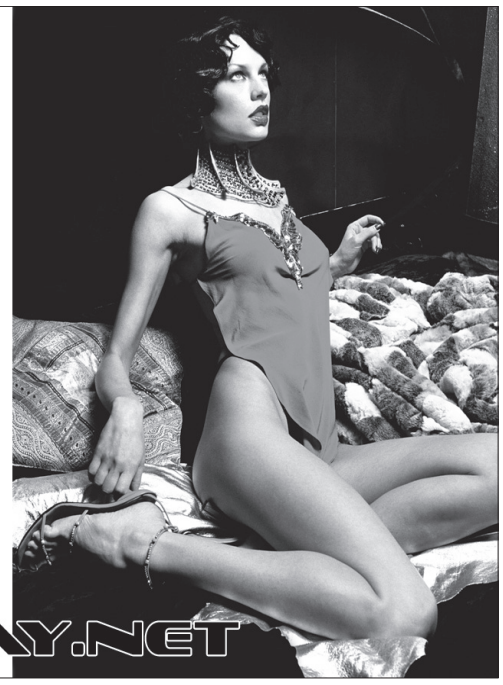
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16th Annual Peter Rabbit Day



Saturday, March 22nd
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Meet Peter Rabbit
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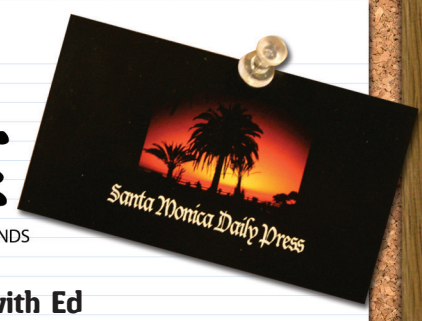
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Kicking it with Ed

1323-A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m.
Get a taste of '70s style late-night talk show at the Ed Forman Show. Starring Aaron Ross, the show is an off the cuff evening of entertainment featuring a mix of comedy, music, and interviews. For information, call (310) 451-0850.

Rolling with Ray

Westside, 1 p.m.
Novelist Raymond Chandler gravitated to sin and debauchery, so Santa Monica in the 1930s was a frequent stop for Philip Marlowe, one of his most popular characters. From shady doctors to second wives with pasts to crooked cops with a loathing for a mouthy PI, this tour has it all. Chandler's canonization of sin, wealth and sunshine on L.A.'s Westside fed the abiding myths of the American hard-boiled genre and play into the popular conception of the region. For information, call (323) 223-2767.

Getting wild on the Westside

Noon — 5 p.m.
For the first time, the true crime archeologists of the 1947project have set their sights on points west of Robertson Boulevard, and the results are truly astonishing. In this new tour spotlighting some of the weirdest, most horrific and downright unbelievable crimes of historic West Los Angeles. Seats are $55 a person. For more information, call (323) 223-2767.

Saturday, March 22, 2008

Hop along with Peter Rabbit

Wilshire Boulevard and 25th Street, 9 a.m.
The Santa Monica Jaycees presents its 16th Annual Peter Rabbit Day. Bring the kids out to Douglas Park to celebrate Easter. There will be an egg spoon race, face painting and prizes. Who could resist that. For more information, contact ho-gt200@hotmail.com.

Get your Monty on

2627 Pico Blvd., Call for times
The Santa Monica Theatre Guild at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre presents "The Full Monty.". The show runs March 14 through April 12 (Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.). This musical adaptation of the comedic British film turns the "let's put on a show" genre on its ear, as a group of unemployed steelworkers prepares to present their own Chippendales-style show in working-class Buffalo, New York. For information, call (310) 936-1338.

Santa Monica on two feet

1436 Second St., 10 a.m.
The Santa Monica Conservancy leads a two-hour tour that explores more than 130 years of Santa Monica history from its wild west frontier beginnings to the metropolis of today. Starting from the 1875 Rapp Saloon, the route includes many landmarks and concludes at the 2003 NRDC building. For information, call (310) 496-3146.

Reach out and touch someone

1341 Lake St., Venice, 2 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Planet Social Sports games and matches are followed by team gatherings at local bars, which include discounted food and drinks, along with social activities. Men and women must be 21 to play. Check the Web site for specific times and locations www.planetsocialsports.com.

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



Getting snubbed?

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's decision not to re-appoint brother-in-law Bobby Shriver, a Santa Monica City Councilman, and actor-director Clint Eastwood to the State Parks Commission has raised questions on whether their opposition to the rejected Foothill South toll road in south Orange County was a factor.

Aaron McLear, Schwarzenegger's press secretary, said there was nothing controversial about the decision to withhold re-


SHRIVER

appointment of the men, who both have served on the commission since 2001.

"It's very, very common when a term is up not to re-appoint," McLear told the Daily Press this week. "The governor thinks both did an outstanding job and is gratified by their service to the state."

Many people are vying for appointments, McLear said, "and it's important to allow others to serve."

Both Shriver and Eastwood were appointed to the commission in 2001 by then-Gov. Gray Davis and re-appointed by Schwarzenegger in 2004. Of the nine- member board, only Shriver's and Eastwood's terms ended on Saturday.

McLear acknowledged that all nine members of the commission disagreed with Schwarzenegger's stand in favor of building the 16-mile extension of the Foothill South tollway through San Onofre State Beach.

The project was proposed by the Transportation Corridor Agencies, which has appealed a state Coastal Commission decision rejecting the project, which was roundly opposed by environmentalists and surfers.

McLear said disagreements do arise among people serving on state boards and commissions and Schwarzenegger.

"It's not uncommon for disagreement on a number of issues," McLear said.

Shriver told the Daily Press that he was shocked that he was not re-appointed and felt that the decision by Schwarzenegger,

SEE SHRIVER PAGE 10

Councilman Shriver's brother-in-law looks elsewhere for post

Counting on a recount

By Daily Press Staff

NORWALK Los Angeles County Assessor Rick Auerbach on Thursday announced that his staff is in the early stages of reviewing approximately 310,000 single family homes and condos for a potential decline in value.

Auerbach said it was his responsibility to ensure that no property owner is over assessed and that because of instability in the housing market, a review is needed.

"Initially, we began looking at homes and condos that were purchased in the two-year period from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007, whether purchased new or as a resale, to determine if a reduction in the property tax assessment is warranted," Auerbach said. "These properties are the highest priority because they are the most likely to receive a value reduction."

Thus far, the Assessor's Office has reviewed over 67,000 properties with 41,000 being reduced an average of $66,000, which will result in a property tax savings of approximately $660 for each affected property owner.

For owners whose properties are not included in the review and believe their property is assessed above its actual value on Jan. 1, 2008, there is a method to request a review of their assessed value.

Auerbach said those property owners could either download a Decline-in-Value review application from the assessor's Web site at assessor.lacounty.gov, or request an application by calling (888) 807-2111.



SERVING IT UP

Geoffrey Dunn *news@smdp.com*

Wylie Dulmage (left), a member of the Santa Monica College Associated Students, dishes out international cuisine during SMC's 'World Cafe' held at the school Thursday. The event, sponsored by the AS, gave out free lunches to the student body to raise awareness of the diversity of SMC.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A plea to stop the jets

Editor:

My family and I have been enduring the jets coming and going from the Santa Monica airport for many years. The noise, pollution, and threatening nature of these jets flying over our home and neighborhood is awful. When we moved into Ocean Park 22 years ago, only prop planes used the airport.

Equally distressing is the dismissive treatment of thousands of good Santa Monica and Mar Vista families by the FAA and the owners and users of these jets. How many of these people would welcome this activity flying over their homes and children 365 days a year?

City Council, please forbid the use of our airport by ALL JETS. Buffers or longer runways are a joke. We must fight this ongoing assault on the quality of our lives until we Santa Monicans win.

Karla Zompa
Santa Monica

Moratorium on permits

Editor:

What was our reward as city taxpayers for passing Measure R? Was (it) the granting of unlimited permits to LAUSD students to enter our school system through graduation (?) Wow, that is not the prize I was looking to receive. That slogan of no new taxes doesn't ring so sweet now. This is not proper management of a school district budget. Thanks to poor planning on Measure R funds, we are right back on the road to creating commuter schools and losing our great community schools. What was I voting for again? It was definitely NOT the lifting of a moratorium on out-of-district permits. Who is hanging the "Welcome LAUSD District" banner on all our Santa Monica schools?

Dr. Lisette Bauersachs
Proud parent of three SMMUSD students

Talking trees

Editor:

In the past some writers have made erroneous statements about green plants. One was that plants thrive under large amounts of carbon monoxide. Plants manufacture their nutrients by a process called photosynthesis. In this process they take in carbon dioxide, water, minerals from the soil or when fed, as yard plants, use sunlight as the source of energy and also their chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is a catalyst which helps the reaction. In turn, plants give off oxygen and we are the recipients of that gas. It would be incorrect to say that they use carbon. When humans or any oxygen using being breathes in oxygen they exhale carbon dioxide and the respiratory cycle is complete and we all benefit.

A plant that would be exposed to carbon monoxide constantly would die.

Helen G. Porter
Santa Monica

Planning a gold-medal boycott

Editor:

Some people want to boycott the Olympics because of how China treats Tibet. Or nations could march into the opening ceremonies carrying the flag of Tibet.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

A thank you note

Editor

Thanks for your coverage of Santa Monica Rugby Club, founded in 1972. Over its 36-year history, the Dolphins have won about a half dozen national rugby championships, and SMRC has provided the U.S. Eagles national rugby team with about two dozen players.

Edward Purcell
Former SMRC player



The Soap Box

Bennet Kelley

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Obama and the Generation Jones

"LET THE WORD GO FORTH FROM this time and place … that the torch has been passed to a new generation." — John F. Kennedy.

"Each generation of Americans must define what it means to be an American." — Bill Clinton

Throughout our history we have matched great challenges with great achievements. Whether faced with civil war, the depression or world war, "each and every time, a new generation has risen up and done what's needed to be done. Today we are called once more — and it is time for our generation to answer that call." Barack Obama.

These words from Kennedy's and Clinton's inaugural speech, and Obama's announcement speech, all invoke the same theme of generational change and acknowledgment that it is our time. Kennedy was from the "Greatest Generation" "born in (the last) century, tempered by war (and) disciplined by a hard and bitter peace."

Clinton is from the "Baby Boom Generation" "raised in the shadows of unrivaled prosperity" and the Cold War. Obama is from Generation Jones, born in the shadow of fallen heroes, tempered by Watergate and disciplined by economic uncertainty.

Generation Jones? Generation Jones, a term coined by social historian Jonathan Pontell, covers those such as me who were born between 1954 and 1965. The group is often lumped in with Baby Boomers or Generation X, since statistically the Baby Boom runs through 1964 while the characters in Douglas Copeland novel "Generation X" would have been born the same year as Senator Obama — 1962. Each generation, however, is defined by completely different experiences. Bill Clinton first voted in 1968, Obama in 1980, while a Gen Xers first vote likely would have been in 1992 — three distinct eras.

The fault lines of the 1960's that still divide Boomers were part of the societal changes that defined the Jonesers' formative years. Jonesers went to integrated schools and dealt with the conflict between the ideal of a non-racial society passed to them by the Boomers and a society that still believed it mattered, while at home they weathered a doubling of the divorce rate and their mothers returning to work. Outside their home, Jonesers saw a nation that stood tall as Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon, stagger through the 1970's amidst Watergate, the fall of Saigon, oil shocks, hyper-inflation, the loss of manufacturing jobs, a dramatic increase in violent crime and 444 days of national humiliation as Americans were held captive in Iran.

While Jonesers embraced the idealism and beatified the heroes of the 1960's, for them the seemingly black and white world of that era devolved to varying shades of gray. Jonesers had to be adaptable and pragmatic, since as they struggled with soaring tuition and then struggled to find jobs in an unwelcoming marketplace they quickly realized life offered few guarantees. Instead of "We Shall Overcome," Jonesers sang "I Will Survive."

This has made Jonesers less ideological and more nuanced in their approach to politics, which may explain why Jonesers have been the decisive but volatile swing voters in the last few elections.

The contrast between the malaise of the Carter-era, with the proud optimism of Ronald Reagan made a huge impression on Jonesers who were raised on the optimism of Camelot. While they may disagree with Reagan politically, Obama and other Jonesers generally respect Reagan as a leader and for restoring American pride. The flipside is that from Walter Mondale to John Kerry, Jonesers have been suspect of Democrats who failed to exude the same sense of confidence and hope. John Kerry would be president today had he dented Bush's double digit margin with Jonesers in the key battleground states.

Obama is the first Joneser to emerge as a serious candidate at the national level and his campaign embodies the Generation Jones zeitgeist. He has tried to steer away from the confrontational politics of the Clinton-Gingrich era and instead has stressed reaching beyond party lines, which is consistent with Jonesers' pragmatism as well as a desire for reconciliation they developed from their homes and in bridging the chasms that defined the 1960s.

Just as Hillary Clinton represents the Baby Boom era and John McCain the Ice Age, Obama is the archetype of the Jonesers' president since he exudes the same idealism, confidence and decisiveness they admired in Presidents Kennedy and Reagan. That is why Obama scares his opponents so much, since Democrats see him as Kennedy-esque while Republicans know a Ronald Reagan when they see one.

President Bush noted that "Generation Jones is undeniably an important group. If we Baby Boomers don't lead, they're right behind us ready to." With Obama, the Jonesers have found the candidate to do just that.

BENNET KELLEY is an award-winning columnist, political analyst and Internet lawyer (who coincidentally is recovering from a Jones fracture of his right foot). He can be reached at bennet@bennetkelley.com.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Heading toward Zuma: Mission accomplished

TWO DAYS AGO WAS THE FIFTH anniversary of the Iraq war. That's a year and a half longer than WWII, but today the news is business as usual i.e. Heather Mills' divorce from Paul McCartney and Ashley Dupre (Eliot Spitzer's call girl) being offered a million dollars to pose nude in "Hustler Magazine." What a country.

Years ago, when the networks decided that the news divisions had to show a profit, reporting began focusing on stories as much for ratings as news. After five years of Iraq people don't want to hear about it anymore. That leaves neo-con cheerleaders like Dick Cheney to claim the war is a success! Cheney also said we would be "greeted as liberators" and the insurgency was in its "last throes."

Today, when told by a reporter that 2/3 of the country is against the war, Cheney said rather contemptuously, "So?"

When Bush brags about the "success of the surge" it only confirms the total failure of the previous four years. Gen. Eric Shinseki warned congress that we'd need 200,000 troops to secure the borders. Don Rumsfeld dismissed it as "absurd" and essentially Shinseki was forced to retire.

Last year John McCain declared a bustling Baghdad marketplace was evidence that Iraqis could "shop freely." McCain was wearing a bulletproof vest, surrounded by soldiers and Blackhawk helicopters. This year the military informed him that he couldn't visit the marketplace as it was more dangerous than last year! Some surge.

Some refer to McCain as "McBush," especially after a recent press conference. Defiantly, McCain charged the Iranians with training Al Qaeda. The two have only been enemies for 1,400 years. Panicked, Sen. Liberman covertly whispered into McCain's ear and I don't think it was sweet nothings. McCain, whose expertise is supposedly foreign affairs, sheepishly corrected himself.

The wheels are coming off the straight talk express. Recently McCain said, "If there were no casualties, Americans would support the war." No casualties? Hello? We're at 3,992 (3,853 since "Mission Accomplished") with 30,000 wounded, record suicides and PTSD cases possibly in the hundreds of thousands when this occupation is all said and done. If it's ever all said and done.

One of the many rationales for invading was to bring democracy to Iraq. Five years later, we can't even bring electricity. It seems like only yesterday Paul Wolfowitz said Iraq had "no ethnic strife and had vast oil revenues to pay for the reconstruction." What happened to those oil revenues? One-third are siphoned off through corruption and actually fuels the insurgency.

To mark the ominous five-year anniversary, I walked to the Arlington West Memorial north of the pier, a project of Veterans for Peace. Every Sunday volunteers erect a memorial on the beach. Along with bulletin boards featuring photos of some of the wounded and biographies of the fallen, the beach is covered with white crosses, each representing a soldier's death. In the center is a row of flag-draped coffins which indicate how many GIs have died since the past Sunday.

Every time I return to Arlington West, I'm taken aback by the additional crosses which now almost extend to the water. If they included the innocent Iraqi deaths (600,000) they'd be nearing Zuma.

When I gaze at the endless rows of crosses, or read about the fallen soldiers, young men and women whose lives had barely started, it breaks my heart. It's madness with no end in sight. I don't know how the volunteers find the strength to come back each week, but they do.

They start at 4 A.M. grooming the beach and setting up the crosses. During a typical day thousands will view the memorial. Then, before sunset, the volunteers take everything down, only to repeat the process the next Sunday (To see the Web site go to: Arlingtonwestsantamonica.org and be sure to click on "Winter's Soldiers", the GI's actual accounts of the occupation).

At the beginning of this month, and after examining 600,000 documents, the Pentagon concluded there was no operational link between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda. Now they tell us. Even more disturbing was the last Gridiron Club Dinner in D.C. where Bush had the poor taste to joke about missing WMDs. Given the loss of life and destruction, I don't see the humor. Impeaching Bush on the other hand could be good for a few laughs.

The fifth anniversary of the war has come and gone. I wonder if most Americans even care? I worry that for many a bigger question is will Ashley Dupre pose for "Hustler?"

JACK NEWORTH can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.

The Q Line

Adding numbers

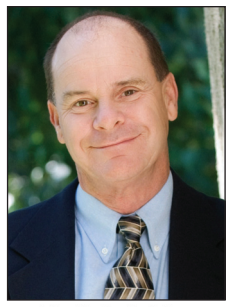
The fire and police departments both requested additional staffing from the City Council last week. They say that both agencies need to keep up with the demands of an ever-growing city.

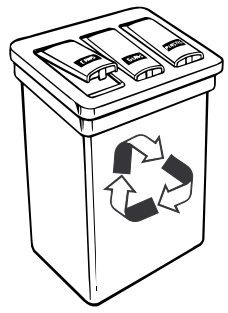
So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think the City Council should go ahead and honor the request?

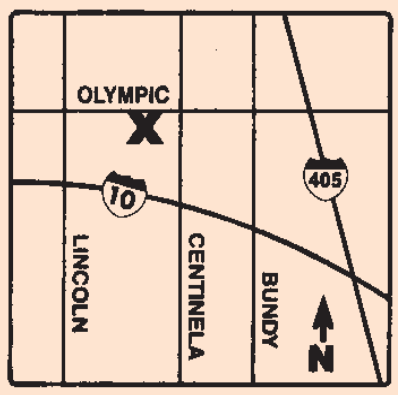
Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.


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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Cops and robberies

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

MONDAY, MARCH 10, AT 1:45 P.M.,

Santa Monica police officers responded to the 2100 block of Pico Boulevard – Wine Barrel Liquors – after receiving a report about a strong arm robbery that just occurred. When officers arrived, they made contact with employees at the liquor store who said two woman walked in, grabbed cigarettes and bottles of liquor and then walked out without paying. Once outside the store, an employee tried to detain the two suspects, one of which punched the employee in the back of the head. The two suspects dropped the booze and ran off. Armed with a description of the suspects, officers were able to locate the woman in Virginia Avenue Park. The packs of cigarettes were recovered and the woman arrested. Suspect one was identified as Fahara Elizabeth Kalman, 18, from Los Angeles. Her bail was set at $50,000. Suspect two was identified as Trophine Katrice Carter, 25. No booking or bail information was a available for the suspect.

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 8:44 P.M.

Officers responded to the 1500 block of Ocean Avenue regarding a robbery in progress. When officers arrived, they made contact with a witness, a bus driver, who said that he was sitting in his tour bus waiting for his passengers to return when the suspect walked onto the bus and began rummaging through people's bags. The bus driver confronted the suspect, who allegedly told him to back off. At that point one of the passengers stepped onto the bus, saw the suspect, and pounced on him, pinning him against the seat until police arrived. The suspect was taken into custody and booked for strong arm robbery. The suspect was identified as Ronald Gerard Wilson, 53, from Los Angeles. No bail was set because Wilson was on parole, police said.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, AT 11 A.M.,

Officers responded to the 100 block of Broadway after seeing a man running from a gift store. Officers detained the individual and interviewed the store manager, who said the suspect walked into the store and stole cigarettes. When the employee tried to stop the suspect, he swung at him, but missed, police said. Officers recovered packs of cigarettes and arrested the suspect for strong arm robbery. He was identified as Vernon Charles King, 58, from Los Angeles. No bail was set because he was on probation, police said.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, AT 8:40 P.M.,

Officers responded to 1400 block of Third Street – Urban Outfitters – regarding a petty theft that just occurred. When officers arrived, they made contact with store employees who said two woman walked in with bags from another store. They placed several pieces of jewelry in the bags and then left the store without paying for the items, the employees said. Once outside the store, employees detained the suspects. One allegedly had roughly $24 worth of jewelry while the other allegedly had $100 worth. The suspects were placed under arrest for petty theft. Suspect one was identified as Denise Raquel Hernandez, 18, from Reseda. Her bail was set at $1,000. Suspect two was identified as Lynda Alessandra Velasquez-Rodriguez, 19. No bail information was available for the second suspect.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, AT 9 P.M.,

Officers on routine patrol on the Third Street Promenade were flagged down by three women who said they were groped while watching street performers. The three followed a man whom they believed was responsible and pointed him out to police. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for sexual battery. He was identified as Julio Cesar Gomez, 22, from Venice. His bail was set at $20,000.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, AT 4:40 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1000 block of Ocean Avenue regarding an auto burglary in progress. Witnesses told officers that they saw a man walking along the street trying to open car doors. He eventually found a Suzuki Samari and allegedly pried open the convertible top far enough to open the car door. He then began rummaging through the car, witnesses said. When officers spotted the suspect in the car, he immediately left and began walking down the street. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for auto burglary. The suspect was identified as Michael Thomas Futris, 25, of Warren, MI. His bail was set at $20,000.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, AT 11 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 2700 block of Main Street – Chinois on Main – regarding an assault and battery that just occurred. Employees at the restaurant told officers that the suspect was dining with a friend when both left the restaurant without paying. Once outside they were confronted by employees, who demanded payment. The bill was eventually paid, but during the conversation, the suspect, who seemed to be intoxicated, slapped one of the employees. He was arrested and charged with assault. He was identified as James David Bowman, 68, of Los Alamos, NM. His bail was set at $500.

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STATE BRIEFS

POMONA

Jury convicts killer in 2001 throat-slashing

Jurors who convicted the killer of a Cal Poly Pomona student begin the penalty phase of his trial next week to determine if he will be executed.

James Winslow Dixon was found guilty Wednesday of the kidnap murder of Christina Burmeister, whose throat was slashed in August 2001, and two unrelated rapes in 1996.

The 20-year-old California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, student was on her way to a fraternity party when she was abducted. The body of the Cerritos woman was found inside her pickup truck in the mountains above Azusa.

The 39-year-old Dixon, who was linked to the killing by DNA on a cigar butt found in the pickup, was the third defendant in the case. Dixon's wife Markeisha Cummings-Dixon and co-defendant Henry Singer pleaded guilty to murder earlier.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIVERSIDE

Couple jailed for allegedly preying on elderly widower

A couple jailed for preying on a Riverside widower allegedly used the elderly man's credit to buy $80,000 worth of stuff, including a sport utility vehicle, an engagement ring and home furnishings.

Nina Costello and Larry Thompson were arrested Wednesday for investigation of theft by false pretenses and financial elder abuse.

Riverside police spokesman Steve Frasher says the 34-year-old Costello befriended the widower six months ago after convincing him she was destitute. She then introduced the elderly man to the 35-year-old Thompson.

The couple allegedly told the widower he could move out of his federally subsidized apartment and live with them in Perris. But they needed money for a 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe and to furnish the house for his arrival.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Mayor takes unpaid day off to encourage furloughs

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is taking an unpaid day off to encourage other city workers to help Los Angeles save money by scheduling a furlough day.

The city is facing a multimillion dollar budget deficit and the mayor says it requires all city employees to "step up to the plate."

The mayor's furlough day Thursday means he's giving up $858.26. Villaraigosa makes $223,142 a year.

Since the cost-cutting furlough day program began several months ago, 366 employees have taken 2,563 furlough hours off.

Villaraigosa says he's "absolutely committed to making the hard choices necessary to protect public safety and other critical services."

AP

SAN DIEGO

Grand jury says city goes too far for tax breaks

The county grand jury says San Diego is too generous in giving landowners historic property status, which allows a tax reduction of up to 70 percent.

The grand jury report Wednesday says the city "has gone overboard" in giving the tax-break designations to properties with marginal historic significance. The panel is calling for a moratorium until the program is examined.

The Mills Act gives tax reductions of as much as 70 percent to owners of historic homes if the owners agree to maintain historic integrity.

The city is losing about $607,500 a year in property tax revenue because of the 822 tax-break contracts, which represents about a third of all the contracts in California.

AP

SAN DIEGO

2,880-bed private prison proposed for Otay Mesa

A 2,880-bed private prison has been proposed on about 40 acres in the Otay Mesa area of San Diego County.

Nashville, Tenn.-based Corrections Corp. of America has filed applications with the county to build a "secure detention facility" in the rural community southeast of San Diego near the U.S.Mexico border.

The firm already operates a smaller facility in the area for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

AP

PACIFIC GROVE

Residents consider sales tax hike on June ballot

Residents of Pacific Grove will vote in June whether to hike the sales tax a penny to pay for a variety of city services, including police and fire protection.

The City Council on Wednesday unanimously approved placing Measure U — dubbed the Pacific Grove Vital City Services Measure — on the June 3 ballot.

Measure U is intended to protect and maintain the funding of police and fire services, maintaining 911 emergency response times, fixing potholes and a variety of other city services.

AP

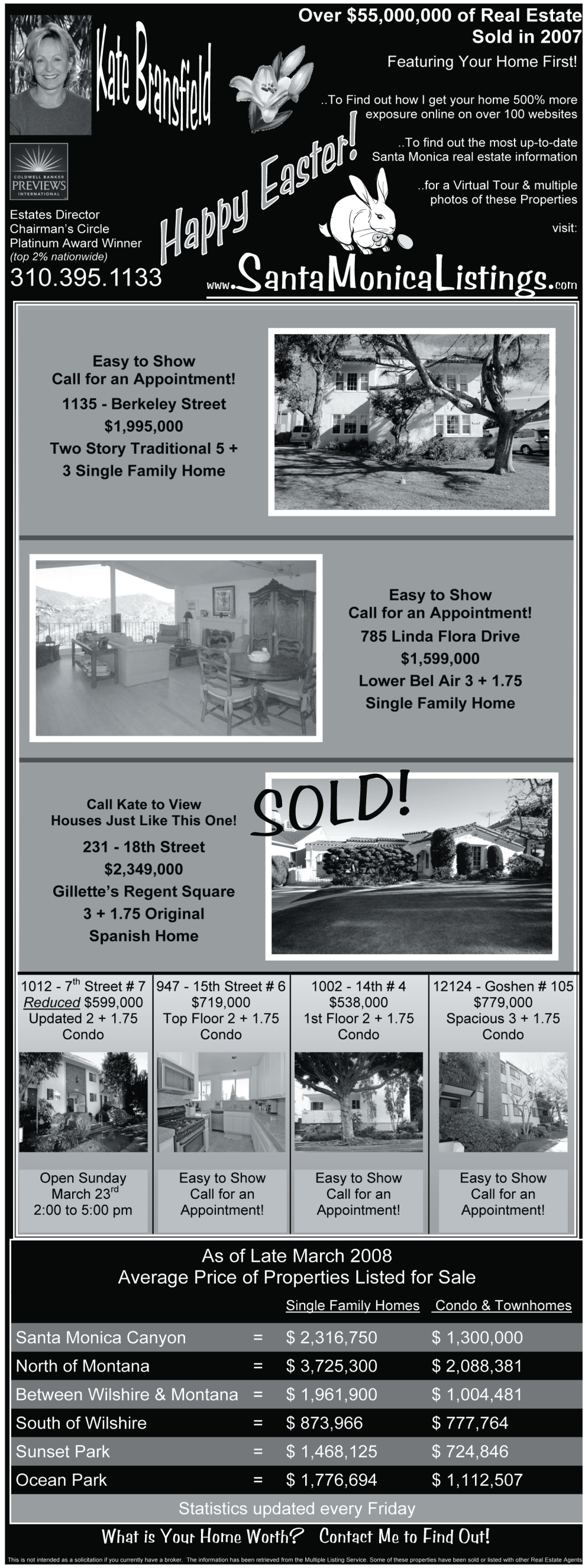
SANTA CRUZ

La Selva Beach killer gets 26 years-to-life in prison

The killer of a young man at a La Selva Beach house party two years ago has been sentenced to 26 years-to-life in prison.

Leopoldo "Alex" Cortes was convicted last month of the first-degree murder of 23-year-old Christopher Carr, who was stabbed a dozen times during the Jan. 27, 2006 confrontation. Carr had apparently ordered Cortes to leave the party. The 19-year-old defendant says he stabbed Carr in self defense.

AP



Inspector arrested in NYC

BY KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK A city inspector has been charged with lying about checking on a construction crane that collapsed 11 days later, killing seven people in a dense Manhattan neighborhood.

Edward Marquette, 46, was arraigned and released without bail Thursday on charges of falsifying business records and offering a false instrument for filing.

"We will not tolerate this kind of behavior at the Department of Buildings," buildings Commissioner Patricia Lancaster said at a news conference. "I do not and will not tolerate any misconduct in my department."

Marquette, who earns $52,283 a year as an inspector in the department's division of cranes and derricks, was arrested Wednesday night, said Barbara Thompson, spokeswoman for the Manhattan district attorney.

Marquette, dressed casually in a black leather jacket, said nothing during his arraignment in state Supreme Court. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison. His lawyer, Kate Moguletscu, had no comment.

The Department of Buildings said Marquette conducted about 500 inspections in the past six months.

The 20-story crane broke away Saturday from an apartment tower under construction and toppled over, killing six construction workers and a visitor in town for St. Patrick's Day.

A complaint about the crane was logged March 4 to a city hot line, officials said, and Marquette said he inspected it. It was later determined he had not.

Lancaster said it is very unlikely that a March 4 inspection would have prevented the accident because parts of the crane that failed 11 days later were not on site then. The crane was inspected the day before the collapse, she said.

In addition to suspending Marquette, Lancaster said, she has ordered a full audit of his inspection reports over the past six months.

The crane collapse created a blocklong swath of destruction not far the United Nations, pulverizing a four-story brownstone and damaging at least seven other buildings.

The gigantic piece of machinery toppled over when a six-ton steel collar used to secure the crane to the building came loose, plunging into another collar that acted as an anchor. Without that support, the spindly structure tumbled with terrifying force.

The collapse followed weeks of complaints by neighbors that the crane didn't appear safe. Bruce Silberblatt — a retired contractor who called in the complaint that the crane might not be sufficiently braced against the building — said the arrest stunned him.

"My first reaction was astonishment. My second reaction is anger that a person would have the gall to do this," said Silberblatt, vice president of the Turtle Bay Neighborhood Association.

City officials would not discuss why Marquette failed to do the inspection.

Investigators first interviewed him Sunday and got a copy of his route sheet. He told them that he had conducted the March 4 inspection and that it revealed no problems with the crane.

Marquette was also listed in city records as having responded to a Jan. 22 complaint by another caller who complained about the safety of workers assembling the crane. Marquette said in his report, filed two days later, that he examined the crane and found no violation.

Other safety complaints were called in by neighbors Jan. 10 and Feb. 11, according to city records.

The contractor, Reliance Construction Group owner Stephen Kaplan, declined to comment on the arrest and referred inquiries to a company spokesman, who did not immediately return a phone message.

A publicist for the East 51st Development Company, which owns the site, said the developers had no comment.

Residents said they weren't surprised by the arrest.

"It makes me very suspicious of the whole situation. I'd like to feel that it's safe to live in this neighborhood with all the construction going on," Sandra Graham said. "If he's been arrested, I think he should be made an example of."



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Missouri looks for ways to slow steady decline of dairy farms

BY BETSY TAYLOR | Associated Press Writer

MORRISON, MO. At age 77, Arlen Schwinke might be getting too old for the twice-a-day milkings that come with working a dairy farm, but he's still deeply committed to Missouri's dairy industry.

Rather than sell off his cows when he decided to stop milking, Schwinke rented them out to other farmers.

"We kept seeing cows leaving the state of Missouri," he said. "I wanted them to stay here."

Missouri is one of several states where the numbers of dairy farms, many of them family-owned, are declining, despite efforts to bolster the industry. The state is also seeing a decrease in its dairy cow population and its milk production.

Missouri had as many as 1 million dairy cows by the end of World War II. The numbers declined in subsequent years, but cows were more productive, so the reduction didn't always translate into less milk being produced.

However, the state has seen rapid declines in its dairy herd in recent years. By 2000, Missouri was home to 154,000 dairy cows. The number dropped more than 25 percent by last year, to about 112,000 cows.

As the herd dwindled, Missouri's milk production fell. The state produced about 2.3 billion pounds in 2000. Production dropped to 1.7 billion pounds last year. Missouri now imports about 1.7 billion pounds of milk a year.

The loss of cows and dairy farms has economic ramifications, particularly in rural areas. There are fewer jobs related to feed and supplies, hauling, milk processing and veterinary care.

Dave Drennan, executive director of the Missouri Dairy Association and the Missouri Dairy Growth Council, said a University of Wisconsin study found "one dairy cow is worth almost $14,000 in economic activity."

Missouri is fighting to reverse the downslide of its dairy industry. The growth council assists existing farmers, encourages expansion and tries to attract new farmers.

A state-hosted summit this month focused on grass-based dairy production practices. Missouri is well-positioned to capitalize on grazing pastures as an alternative to feed costs, officials say.

Gov. Matt Blunt is calling for $200,000 this fiscal year to provide grants for dairy parlor renovations.

Heavy rains hit Northeast and Ohio Valley hard

BY TERRY KINNEY
Associated Press Writer

CINCINNATI Storms that dumped as much of a foot of rain on the Midwest took aim at the Ohio Valley and Northeast on Thursday, leaving behind submerged roads, swamped homes and more than a dozen deaths.

Flooding was reported Wednesday in parts of Arkansas, southern Illinois, southern Indiana and southwestern Ohio, and schools were closed in western Kentucky because of flooded roads.

The rain stopped falling late Wednesday as the storms moved east, targeting the Ohio Valley and spreading snow over northern New England. A parallel band of heavy rain stretched from Alabama and Georgia to the Mid-Atlantic.

Days of rain turned the Midwest into a soggy mess, flooding roads, stranding motorists and displacing residents — with a cleanup bill likely to run in the millions.

President Bush declared a major disaster in Missouri on Wednesday night and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in areas affected by flooding. Seventy counties and the city of St. Louis also are eligible for federal funding for emergency protective measures.

Much of Ohio was under a flood warning Thursday, with some areas cautioned to watch for flash floods. Most of southwest Ohio had received more than 4 inches of rain, and officials in Butler County declared a state of emergency because of the rising waters.

Flooding along the Scioto River in Pickaway, Ross and Pike counties was expected to be the worst since January 2005. The river near Circleville was expected to remain over the 14-foot flood stage through Sunday, and Pickaway County authorities asked the Red Cross to prepare shelters for possible flood victims.

In Findlay in northwest Ohio, authorities closed off streets Wednesday after the Blanchard River had once again gone over the 11-foot flood level — the 10th time it has done so in the last 15 months. The National Weather Service predicted the river would crest Thursday afternoon at 12.3 feet.

"It is going to take some time to dry out with this type of rain put down on saturated ground," said Beverly Poole, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Paducah, Ky. "It's going to take a few days for the rivers and the creeks to recover."

The Ohio River at Cincinnati was expected to rise about 2 feet above flood stage by Friday. In nearby Whitewater Township, rescue workers with boats helped 16 people to safety and urged 40 to 45 more families to leave their homes.

Judy Booth, who's lived in a low-lying area of the township for 11 years, said Wednesday was the first time she's had to flee from flooding.

"You don't have no choice, you've got to go," said Booth, who was helped by fire-rescue squads who brought an inflatable boat to her water-surrounded home.

Retired truck driver George Slayton, 65, said he just wasn't sure how much water from the Black River flowed into his home in Piedmont, Mo. He only had time to grab some medication and a change of clothes.

"I believe in God and everything, but he does things sometimes that make you wonder," said Slayton, who found shelter at a church and slept on a padded pew.

Crews rescued a man clinging to a tree in the Ohio River after his truck was swept away at a boat ramp near Evansville, Ind. He showed signs of hypothermia and could not speak clearly.

"It's hard for anybody to say how long he could have survived there," Knight Township Fire Chief Chris Wathen said. "But I do think it was fair to say he was within minutes of losing his life."

At least 13 deaths have been linked to the weather over the past few days, and three people were missing.

Five deaths were blamed to the flooding in Missouri, five people were killed in a highway wreck in heavy rain in Kentucky and a 65-year-old Ohio woman appeared to have drowned while checking on a sump pump in her home. In southern Illinois, two bodies were found hours after floodwaters swept a pickup truck off a rural road.

Searches were under way in Texas for a teenager washed down a drainage pipe, and two people were missing in Arkansas after their vehicles were swept away by rushing water.

In the northern Cincinnati suburb of Sharonville, water as high as 4 feet stood outside some businesses, and police contacted owners and warned them not to open for the day.

"The biggest problem has been people driving into floodwater," said Frank Young, emergency management director in Warren County, Ohio. "There are a lot of stupid people. When that sign says, `Road closed, high water,' that's what it means."

The town of Fenton, Mo., put out a call asking volunteers to help put down sandbags against the floodwaters Thursday. Gov. Matt Blunt said state workers was checking on nursing homes and hospitals, mobilizing rescues, opening shelters, closing highways and working to ensure safe drinking water.

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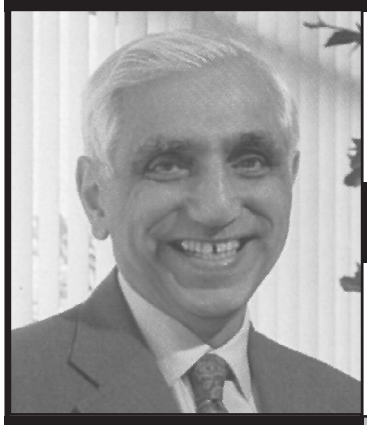
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Commission approves motel plan

FROM **MOTEL** PAGE 1

happy with that niche."

"We think it works well for us and works well for the under-served district in Downtown Santa Monica and the Coastal Zone, which is a lost trade," Farzam added.

The underground parking garage would fill a local employee parking drought, providing spaces for workers at the Ivy at the Shore restaurant and the Makai Lounge, both of which are located on Ocean Avenue.

Planning Commission Chairman Gwynn Pugh raised some concerns about offering extra parking, noting that it seems to go against City Hall's goal of decreasing vehicular trips in the downtown area and encouraging alternative transportation.

Commissioners Gleam Davis and Julie Lopez-Dad disagreed, pointing out that the applicant is not proposing public parking, but alleviating woes for workers in the area. Davis suggested possibly limiting the parking to employees and closing it to the public.

Lopez-Dad said that taking away the motel's ability to offer parking spaces would economically choke the city, cutting off revenues that parking fees would bring in.

"The business community has been asking for it," Lopez-Dad said.

The Travelodge project also includes the construction of a three-story bridge between the main motel on Ocean Avenue and an annex on Second Street, separated by an alley where hotel guests have been involved in near car accidents, Farzam said.

Several commissioners seemed to have reservations about the bridge, including Pugh who said he wanted the overpass to be of scale, suggesting it be shrinked to a one or two-story bridge.

"You need to find a way to make a smaller bridge work," Pugh said.

Many of the Farzam's neighbors and business owners who spoke during the meeting did so in favor of the project, pointing to the need to enliven the dull stretch of Second Street between Colorado Avenue and Broadway. A new motel with ground-floor retail on the Second Street side would bring some nice flavor to the block, they said.

Other project proponents said the dilapidated motel is in need of some attention.

"I hear tourists that come asking myself or the managers that work for us if there is somewhere reasonable to stay in the city," Tony Lardas, who owns the McDonald's on the corner of Colorado and Second, said. "It's often the Holiday Inn."

Not all of its neighbors were supportive.

Bob Ruth, who owns a building at 1522-24 Second Street, directly behind the motel, said the proposed project would block the view of the ocean for his tenants and asked that it be reduced in height. Farzam is proposing the building to be at 45 feet, which is within zoning regulations.

"It is a wall in front of us that blocks the view," Ruth, who has owned the apartment for about a year, said.

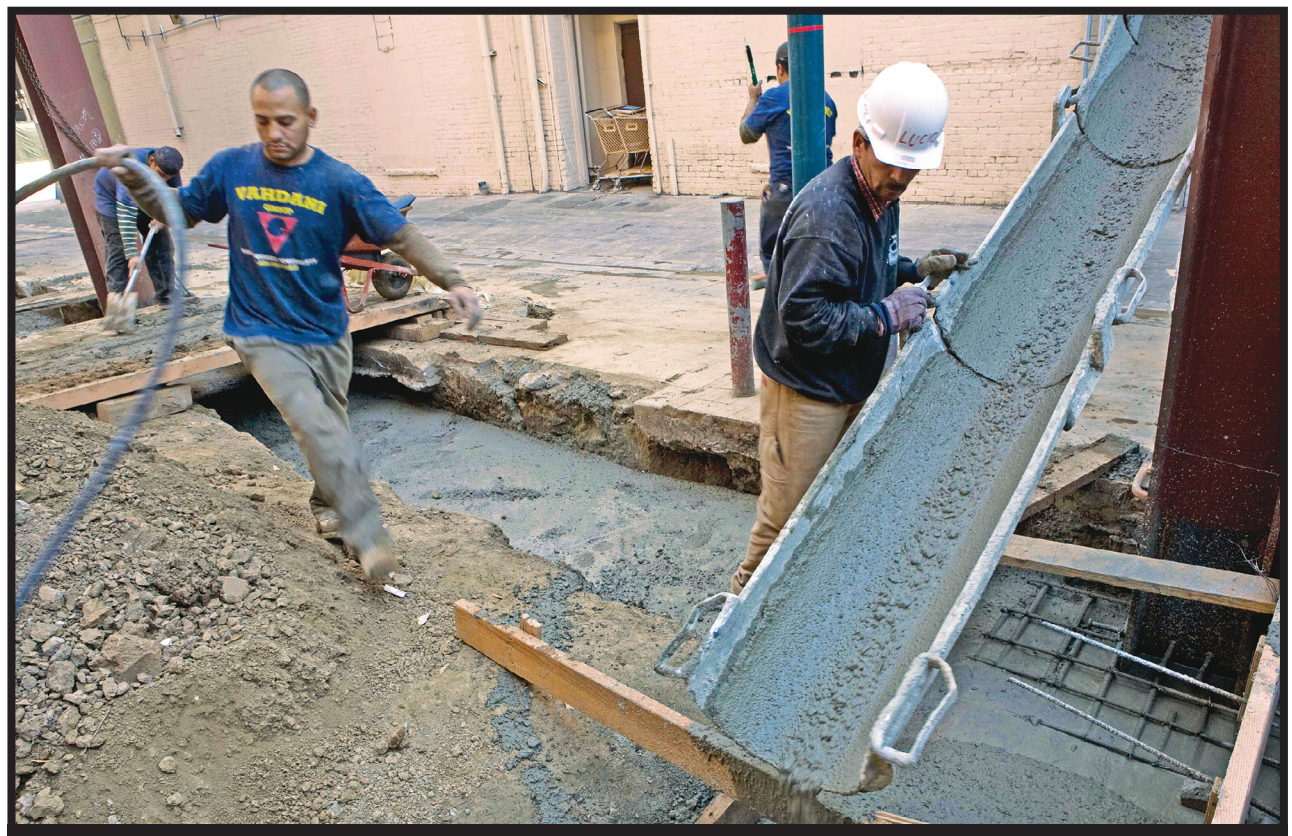
Farzam mentioned that he was able to reach a deal with Macerich last year, allowing the motel to be built up to 45 feet and adding several extra feet in height to the Santa Monica Place renovation project, keeping the public's view of the ocean from the mall.

The project also raised some flags in the Environmental Impact Report, which found the new motel would bring in more traffic and that the construction would impact air quality. Farzam said he believed the report was overstated.

The commission ultimately decided to move the project forward with some adjustments, including reducing the pedestrian bridge from three to one or two stories.

"I think it's a worthwhile project," Pugh said. "I like the idea of affordability … and I like the idea of simplicity."

melodyh@smdp.com



IN DEEP

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A work crew from VGI Construction pours concrete on the Third Street Promenade on Tuesday afternoon.

Shriver happy with what he accomplished on commission

FROM **SHRIVER** PAGE 3

who is married to Shriver's sister Maria, was made because he did not show support for the toll road project.

Shriver said he found out about the decision by phone on Monday when he was contacted by the appointments office. The governor later called Shriver, but the councilman would not disclose what was said about the appointment.

"I told him that he better watch his food at the next family barbecue," Shriver said with a laugh. "He better bring a taster."

Shriver said he felt strongly that allowing a toll road through public park land would set a damaging precedent.

Maria Shriver, told K-ABC that both men handled their duties well.

"Well I love my brother," she said. "I think he and Clint both did extraordinary work on the parks. And, I think that they'll continue to do extraordinary work for California."

State Parks Commissioner Paul Witt said, "This is a state with a tech sector, with great universities, with some of the finest minds in the world. We can come up with alternatives that don't involve raping parks."

Toll road transit planners last month filed an appeal with the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, which has the authority to override the Coastal Commission's conclusion that the road would violate environmental laws that regulate development along the state's coastline, according to Jennifer Seaton of the Transportation Corridor Agencies.

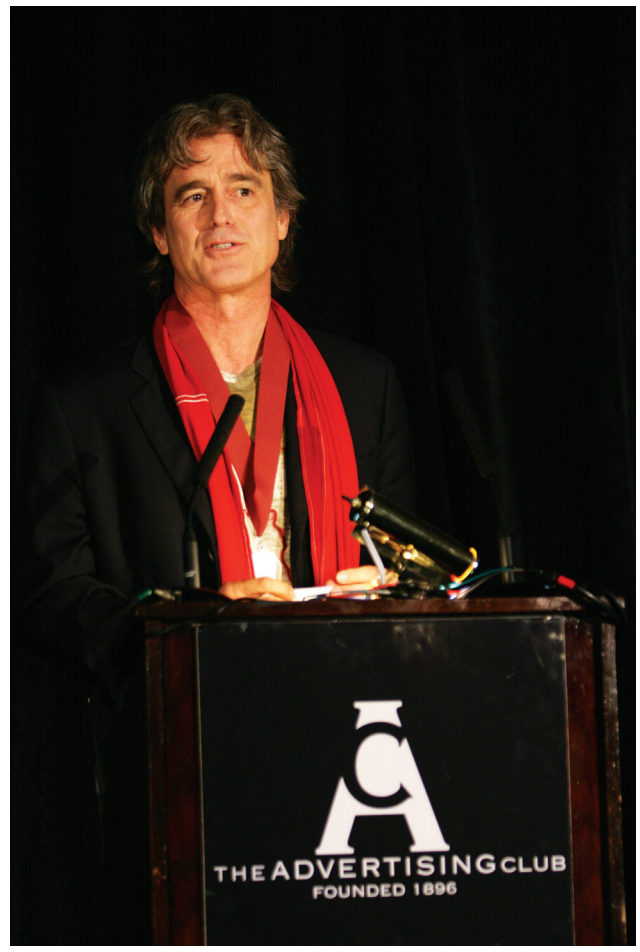
The appeal states that the "limited negative environmental effects of the project are more than offset by environmental benefits and, in any case, the project's furtherance of the national interest strongly outweighs any adverse effect."

Shriver said that while he was disappointed with his brother-in-law's decision, he was glad that he was able to serve as long as he did and was able to accomplish some of the goals he set for himself and the commission. Shriver wanted to serve on the commission because he was interested in getting more urban parks built in Los Angeles because there is a lower ratio of parks to people in the region than in any other major city in the country, and that is counting the beach as a park.

"I couldn't understand how people could raise their kids or have a life without some experience of nature around them," Shriver said.

During his tenure the commission set aside money to purchase park land near Downtown Los Angeles and along the Los Angeles River. Shriver said he was disappointed that the commission couldn't keep rates charged for entrance to state parks down, which in turn discourages middle- and low-income families from visiting.

"The parks ought to be free," Shriver said. "I would have liked to have done more and had more money to open up some land, but I had a pretty good run."



File photo

OTHER GIG: Bobby Shriver receives the Advertising Person of the Year Award at the Ad Club luncheon last year.

kevinh@smdp.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send letters to editor@smdp.com

SM hit with second homicide

FROM **MURDER** PAGE 1

three-story condominium complex, which had been cordoned off by yellow tape. On the second story stood several police officers, guarding the entrance to Merman's unit where the body had been discovered just hours before.

The commotion had seemingly moved across the street where a group of neighbors curiously watched the crime scene before them, a sight rarely to be seen in this neck of the woods.

"It's very unusual for this neighborhood," Jacquelin Trotter, a 45-year resident said.

Trotter was walking her bichon frise dog that morning, a sense of perplexity written over her face, surprised to see that an actual homicide had happened on her block.

But despite the homicides that have taken place since Sunday when Redding's body was discovered, Trotter said her sense of safety remains intact.

"We're not afraid in this neighborhood," Trotter exclaimed, turning to her fellow neighbors, asking how they felt. One replies that she agrees.

It's a sentiment with which Laurie Allen, who has lived across the street from crime scene for four years, concurs, believing the killing was an isolated incident, perhaps involving a dispute between two lovers "gone awry."

> **"IT'S VERY UNUSUAL FOR THIS NEIGHBORHOOD."**
>
> Jacquelin Trotter, Resident

Allen, much like the rest of the residents that gathered across from 520 Montana that morning, didn't know the victim. She recalls hearing a helicopter from her bedroom window on Wednesday night and being questioned by police later that evening.

"I had a funny feeling that something bad had happened," Allen said. "But I'm not afraid — I live in the safest building."

But not all neighbors are feeling as secure.

"I moved here from New Jersey in September and I thought I was moving to a safe neighborhood," Erin Abrahamson, who lives around the corner, said on Thursday as she was walking her dog.

Abrahamson lives with her boyfriend but said she still fears for her safety and has asked her landlord to install extra locks son the front door.

"It's definitely surprising," she said.

Janine Johnson, who has lived on Montana for 17 years, said the neighborhood has become less safe in the past year due to a string of burglaries in the multi-million dollar homes just north of the corridor. One of the victims in those home burglaries was one of Johnson's friends, who after returning from a grocery trip during the middle of the day discovered a ransacked house.

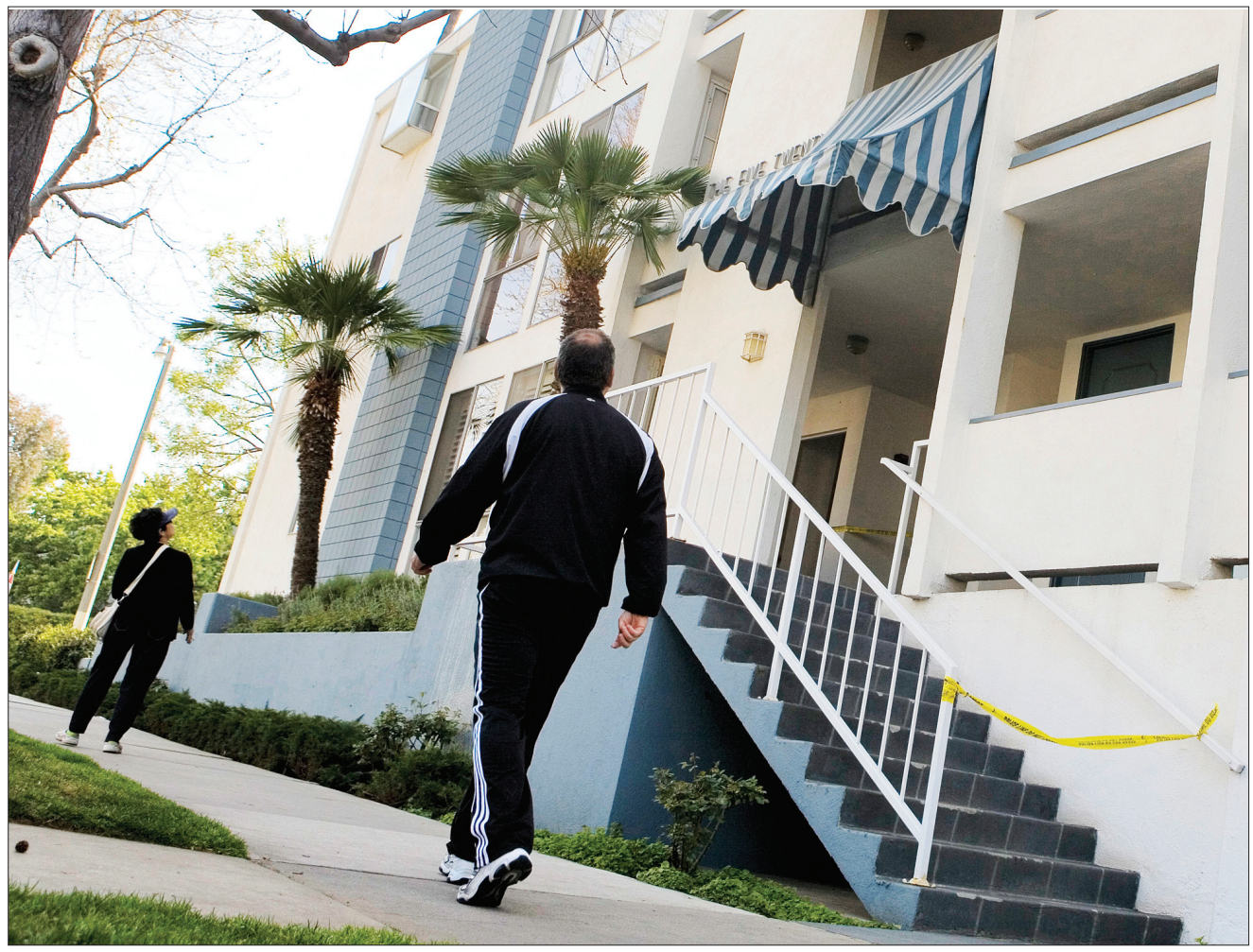
In terms of safety, Johnson said she just doesn't feel the neighborhood is as safe as it was before.

"These may be isolated incidents," Johnson said of the two homicides. "But how odd."

Padilla assured that despite the two homicides, Santa Monica remains a safe community. He added that that department is pulling all of its resources to investigate the two deaths.

"Our crime rate is the lowest it's been (in 50 years) and it continues to drop," Padilla said. "This is an isolated incident that occurred."

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

TAKING A LOOK: Residents walk by the crime scene on Montana Avenue on Thursday where Alexander Merman, 35, was found dead in his condo by Santa Monica police officers on Wednesday night. Merman died as a result of blunt force trauma, police said.



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Farrell's suddenly a hot property

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

Anthony Q. Farrell has a lot to smile about these days – a new baby girl, a hot new feature film property and oh, yeah, he's a staff writer on one of NBC's funniest shows, "The Office."

I caught up with Farrell on the Sony lot where he had just finished a reading for his hilarious new feature "Hood Cat" – an off-the-wall comedy about a pimp who wants to go straight in order to better care for his young daughter. The reading featured veteran actors, Gary Anthony Williams and Cedric Yarbrough (in the titular role), and I have to admit, I laughed so hard I cried.

While Farrell has definitely paid his "comedy dues," he makes his enviable rise to staff writer seem like an easy-to-reach dream. Originally from Toronto, he moved to L.A. in 2004, began writing for the theatre, and met manager, Sheree Guitar. Farrell tried his hand at dramatic writing, but of those works he said, "They'd always turn out funny." Then joked, "It's quite sad."

Guitar helped Farrell get an agent, nudging him to apply for the Fox Diversity Program (a 12-week writer's "Boot Camp" where seasoned executives help applicants hone and refine their scripts). Using the connections he made while at Fox, Farrell got a referral to Greg Daniels (showrunner for "The Office") and was summarily hired. Farrell admitted to being, "In one of the most ideal writing situations," and added, "I totally lucked out and count my blessings everyday." Daniels, he explained, "Is one of the most powerful men in the industry and yet he is just this ridiculously humble and nice person. I truly aspire to be like him."

It's great to have good fortune on your side, but writing for "The Office" also requires experience, dedication and talent, which Farrell's got in abundance. After completing his undergrad work, Farrell attended Humber College's Comedy School, spending eight months taking classes in stand up, improv, screenwriting/sitcom, acting and clown. I can't help but inquire as to the "clown classes" – based on the Commedia dell'arte form, conventional improv dealing with themes of jealously, adultery and love. Of his clown teacher, Farrell said, "If the scenes weren't stupid enough, she'd yell, 'Stop! Not stupid enough!' It was very freeing."

The biggest challenge for Farrell these days is not crafting new storylines or jokes, but finding moments to be with his family. "The strike hit at the right time because I got to spend a lot of time with my baby," he said happily. "We pull in maybe 10 or 11 hour days, occasionally stretching to a 16."

To prep for work on an existing show, Farrell watched all the episodes and was given four hours of deleted scenes and old drafts of scripts, "So that in the future I wouldn't write something that had already been written."

For Farrell, the best experience at "The Office" is being with his fellow writers, of whom he said, "They are the most down-to-earth, super-talented people in the world. Anytime I go into that [writer's] room; it's like comedy-lightning in a bottle … someone says something that ignites a flame … we all start jumping in on it, it's like the most amazing thing to be a part of, [to] know that you're creating something that is going to be watched very soon and will become part of the history of TV."

Farrell and his sketch comedy troupe "The Audacity" are currently negotiating for space at the Westside Eclectic, until they officially hit the Westside, you can check out their free showcase at the MET in Hollywood, this weekend, March 21-22 at 8 p.m.

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Tailfish@roadrunner.com

Oscar-winning actor Scofield dies in England

BY AUDREY WOODS I Associated Press Writer

LONDON Paul Scofield, a commanding stage and screen actor indelibly stamped on filmgoers' minds as the doomed philosopher-statesman Sir Thomas More in "A Man For All Seasons," has died at age 86.

Agent Rosalind Chatto said Thursday that Scofield died in a hospital near his home in southern England. He had been suffering from leukemia and died Wednesday.

Scofield won an Academy Award and international fame for the 1966 film "A Man For All Seasons," in which he played the Tudor statesman and author of "Utopia" executed for treason in 1535 after clashing with King Henry VIII.

But he followed that breakthrough with relatively few film roles. Scofield was a stage actor by inclination and by his gifts – a dramatic, craggy face and an unforgettable voice likened to a Rolls-Royce starting up or the sound rumbling out of low organ pipes in an ancient crypt.

"He had a charisma, a hypnotism, a kind of spell that he cast on an audience, which was an extraordinary thing to negotiate as a young actor," said Simon Callow, who performed alongside Scofield in the play "Amadeus" in 1979. "He was an absolutely towering actor."

Judi Dench, who appeared with Scofield in Kenneth Branagh's film of "Henry V" in 1989, remembered him as "a great friend and a great man."

Even Scofield's greatest screen role was a follow-up to a play – the London stage production of Robert Bolt's "A Man for All Seasons," in which he starred for nine months. Scofield then turned in a performance in the 1961 New York production that won him extraordinary reviews and a Tony Award.

"With a kind of weary magnificence, Scofield sinks himself into the part, studiously underplays it, and somehow displays the inner mind of a man destined for saint-hood," Time magazine said.

Actor Richard Burton, once regarded as the natural heir to Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud at the summit of British theater, said it was Scofield who deserved that place. "Of the 10 greatest moments in the theater, eight are Scofield's," he said.

Scofield's infrequent films included Edward Albee's "A Delicate Balance"; "Henry V," in which he played the king of France; "Quiz Show," Robert Redford's film about a 1950s TV scandal; and the 1996 adaptation of Arthur Miller's play "The Crucible."

"Quiz Show" brought Scofield a second Oscar nomination, this time as best supporting actor. He played Mark Van Doren, the famed author and poet whose son, Charles, was the key figure in the scandal.

Scofield was an unusual star – a family man who lived almost his whole life within a few miles of his birthplace in southern England and hurried home after work to his wife and children. He didn't seek the spotlight, gave interviews sparingly and, at times, seemed to need coaxing to venture out even onto the stage he loved.

But, he insisted in The Sunday Times in 1992: "My reclusiveness is a myth. … I suppose I'm not wildly gregarious. Yes, I've turned down quite a lot of parts. At my age you need to weed things out, but the idea that I can't be bothered anymore with acting – that's quite absurd. Acting is all I can do. An actor: That's what I am."

Scofield reportedly had been offered a knighthood, but declined.

"It is just not an aspect of life that I would want," he once said. "If you want a title, what's wrong with Mr.?"

In 2001, however, he was named a Companion of Honor, one of the country's top honors and limited to 65 living people.

His temperament, too, was unexpected in an actor who remained at the very top of his profession.

"It is hard not to be Polyanna-ish about Paul because he is such a manifestly good man, so humane and decent, and curiously void of ego," said director Richard Eyre, former artistic director of Britain's National Theatre. "All the pride he has is channeled through the thing that he does brilliantly."

David Paul Scofield was born Jan. 21, 1922, son of the village schoolmaster in Hurstpierpoint, eight miles from the southern coast of England. When he married actress Joy Parker in 1943, they settled only 10 miles to the north, in the village of Balcombe.

Scofield trained at the Croydon Repertory Theater School and London's Mask Theater School before World War II. Barred from military service during the war for medical reasons, he toured in plays to entertain troops and acted in repertory in factory towns around the country.

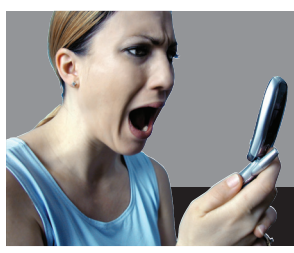
All through the 1940s, he worked repertory and in London and Stratford in plays ranging from Shakespeare and Shaw to Steinbeck and Chekhov.

In his 20s and 30s, he worked with director Peter Brook, touring as Hamlet in 1955. The collaboration included the stage adaptation of Graham Greene's "The Power and the Glory" in 1956, which Gielgud regarded as Scofield's greatest performance.

Scofield's huge success with "A Man for All Seasons" was followed in 1979 by another great historical stage role, as the thwarted composer Salieri opposite Callow's Mozart in Peter Shaffer's "Amadeus."

His later stage appearances included "Heartbreak House" in 1992 and the 1996 National Theatre production of Ibsen's "John Gabriel Borkman."

He is survived by his wife and children.



Sweet songs for Sundays

BY CYNTHIA CITRON
Special to the Daily Press

Remember the ballad "I Want a Sunday Kind of Love?" Well, playwright Jerry Mayer has the perfect answer for that. His celebration of the love affair between two legendary entertainers – Marlene Dietrich and Maurice Chevalier – plays every Sunday at the Santa Monica Playhouse. And trust me, you'll love it!

"Dietrich & Chevalier, the Musical" stars Cissy Conner and Ray Baker singing 15 of the German lady and the French gentleman's signature songs as they tell the story of their meeting in Hollywood in the 1930s, when they were Paramount's biggest stars. The fact that they were both married didn't appear to deter either of them – ever. Dietrich, in fact, was married to assistant director Rudolf Sieber for 54 years, even while carrying on torrid love affairs with most of the attractive men (and some of the women) of her day. (In the show, a jealous Chevalier accuses her of having affairs with all her leading men, including Ronald Colman, Cary Grant, Gary Cooper and Clark Gable, to which she responds by citing his widely-publicized affairs with Merle Oberon and Greta Garbo, among others).

Chevalier, who fought in World War I, was a prisoner for two years in Alten-Grabow, a German POW camp. He returned to that same camp during World War II to sing for that war's crop of prisoners. "Like a good French wine, I travel well," he said. Dietrich, meanwhile, had left Germany for good, became an American citizen, and was spending much of her time with the USO, entertaining American troops overseas.

Their paths continued to cross, in Paris and Hollywood, through the years, but in their private lives they had each moved on. Chevalier had taken up with 19-year-old dancer Nita Ray, whom he later married, and they lived together in Cannes. Because she was Jewish, Chevalier was vulnerable to being blackmailed by the Nazis: to save her life he agreed to entertain in Parisian cafes where they congregated. When the war ended, however, Chevalier was charged with treason for his "implied approval" of the Nazis by having sung for them, both in person and over France's Nazi-controlled radio stations. "I sang to raise French spirits – and my own," he protested, adding, "My life would be incomplete without an audience."



Photo courtesy SM Playhouse

TOP BILLING: Cissy Conner and Ray Baker star in 'Dietrich & Chevalier, the Musical.'

Nevertheless, he was brought to trial, and Dietrich rushed to Paris to offer testimony in his defense. When he was finally acquitted, he remained morose. "I'm not a singer, I'm a controversy," he said. But once again, according to the playwright's script, Dietrich came to his rescue, dragging him onstage during one of her own performances in Las Vegas. Triumphant, he declared "One does not have to be young to be a star!"

As Chevalier, Ray Baker captures that great star's twinkling charm. And intermittently, his French accent. Cissy Conner, as Dietrich, has the German accent down pat, as well as the smoky voice. But she sings all the sultry ballads as if they were pop songs: much too bouncy, much too fast, and always with a perky smile. Whereas Dietrich, if you will remember, sang everything mournfully – painfully slow and deadpan. Further, there is very little chemistry between Baker and Conner. They are so intent on singing their songs that they appear to have little time, or passion, for each other.

Mayer's script, however, is intelligent and warm, and director Chris DeCarlo keeps the pace up, moving the two stars at top speed, as well as third wheel Zack Medway, who plays everybody from Irving Thalberg to German officers to the trial judge, changing costumes almost as fast as Dietrich does.

In "Dietrich & Chevalier, the Musical" the old familiar songs are delicious to hear once again, and you'll listen with a smile. In fact, all things considered, it's a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

"Dietrich & Chevalier, the Musical" is a guest production at the Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 Fourth St. in Santa Monica, and will be presented every Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. through May 4. Call (310) 394-9779 for reservations.

Will the suddenly famous Obama Girl win a YouTube award?

BY ERIN CARLSON | Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK And the nominees include: an obsessed Britney Spears fan, the Obama Girl, Chocolate Rain and the "don't tase me, bro" guy. The event: the second annual YouTube Video Awards.

YouTube will announce the 12 winners in the video-sharing site's awards on Friday, recognizing the top-user created videos of 2007. There were six nominees for each category: music, sports, comedy, instructional, short film, inspirational, commentary, creative, politics, series, eyewitness and "adorable."

The nominees can been viewed at www.youtube.com/ytawards07.

YouTube spokesman Aaron Ferstman said the winners, voted on by users, will score "notoriety" and a trophy he described as "very heavy with a metal base" supporting a "big glass `play' button."

Ferstman said: "These are the (videos) that really will stand out and over time, you know, you'll say, `Hey do you remember the Laughing Baby'?"

The music category includes Tay Zonday's "Chocolate Rain," an amateur clip of the Minneapolis musician-turned-Internet superstar crooning in a low baritone that has garnered nearly 16 million views since going viral last year.

Zonday's competition: Comely singer-songwriter Mia Rose; R&B chanteuse Lisa Lavie; a beat-boxing harmonica player; the "Scraper Bike" rappers; and "the vegetable orchestra," featuring a jam session with a carrot flute and squash drum.

Amber Lee Ettinger, also known as Obama Girl, whose "I Got A Crush On Obama" clip has been seen more than 7 million times, is up for best political video, along with a dorm room interview with Ron Paul and one dude's plea to college students to "wake up" and join campus protests.

Ferstman said there was a close race within the political and commentary categories.

Chris Crocker, who shot to stardom in his video freak-out over Spears' public meltdown, is nominated as in commentary.

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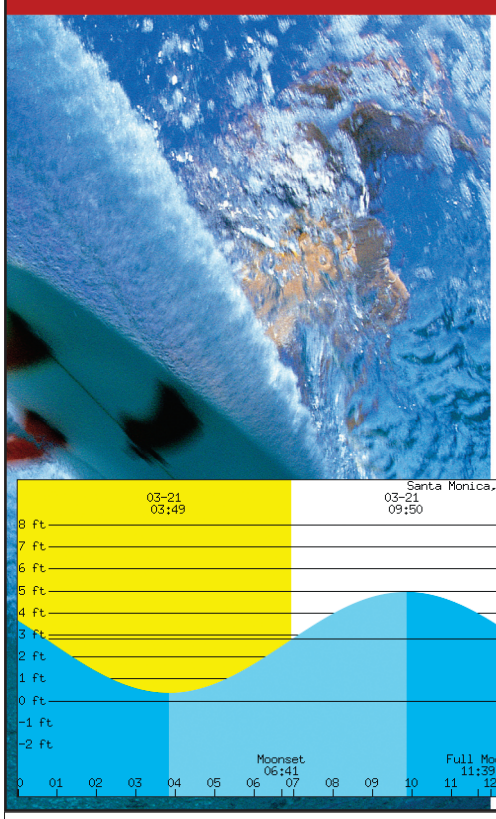


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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 50-53°

SWELL FORECAST (4-6 FT)

Today looks similar to yesterday: waist to perhaps chest high at west facing breaks, knee to waist at south facing spots; however, winds are expected to howl in the outer waters tonight, which could bring some added wind swell into the mix Friday morning. These wind swell gales aren't necessarily good news as it could result in northerly winds Friday morning in many areas.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

LIGHT SW AND NW FOR WEEKEND...
LIGHT SW AND NW FOR 26TH....

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 11, 2008**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / 19
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 24

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Disney

'Dan in Real Life'

Steve Carell stars as a newspaper columnist who falls for his brother's girlfriend (Juliette Binoche). A multi-generational comedy, the picture also stars John Mahoney, Dianne Wiest, Dane Cook, and Emily Blunt. Supplements include commentary from writer/director Peter Hedges, real-life outtakes, and how the music score was created. (Disney)

'Hitman'

Director Xavier Gens' adaptation of the "Hitman" video game series stars Timothy Olyphant from "Deadwood" as the mysterious Agent 47, a role that was originally intended to go to Vin Diesel. With a nod to John Woo, "Hitman" is a slick and stylish action thriller that trades a deep plot for gratuitous violence and cool camerawork. Supplements include: The Crosshairs, interviews with the director, the writer and the cast and crew who talk about what it's like taking a video game and turning it into a movie. Digital Hits features interviews with video game experts and some of the people who created the game. Instruments of Destruction allows weapons coordinator Christopher Maratier to explain what went into getting the guns right for the film and details of their operation. In addition to a gag reel and deleted scenes, in Settling the Score composer Geoff Zanelli talks about scoring the film and how he wants the music to tell the story. (Fox)

'The Pride of the Yankees' Collector's Edition

This 1942 picture is based on the true story of New York Yankee Hall of Fame slugger, Lou Gehrig, a man who reached the heights of stardom yet faced the tragedy of an early death with a dignity that inspired a nation. Nominated for 11 Academy Awards, Gary Cooper portrays Gehrig. Supplementary material includes: The Making of Pride of the Yankees, The Man Behind the Iron Horse on Lou Gehrig, What He Left Behind a look at the Lou Gehrig memorabilia currently housed at the Baseball Hall of Fame, "Always" music tribute, Lou Gehrig's Disease: The Search for a Cure, and Curt Schilling: A Legend on a Legend. (MGM)

'Tell Me You Love Me' Season One

The story of three couples trying to make a go of it — and one sex therapist's efforts to show them how. Ten episodes on four discs explore the complications of love from the point of view of a 20-something couple dealing with fidelity, a mid-30s pair whose failed attempts to start a family has affected their sex life and a husband and wife in their early 40s, who after two kids and a dozen years of marriage, wondering where the physical intimacy has gone. The groundbreaking series was created by Cynthia Mort and features Tim DeKay, Sonya Walger, and Jane Alexander. Cast and crew audio commentaries are included. (HBO)

'Shemp Cocktail: A Toast to the Original Stooge'

Once voted the ugliest man in Hollywood, Shemp Howard had a beautiful comedic touch. This double disc Idemonstrates Shemp's mirthmaking abilities both within and without The Stooges (his real life brothers were Moe and Curly Howard). The first disc contains some early '30s solo Shemp shorts; a full 1942 feature, "Private Buckaroo" in which he co-stars with the Andrews Sisters and the 1949 comedy film, "Africa Screams," with Abbott & Costello as well as a drama, "Convention Girl" where he is playing it straight as a smalltime crook. The second disc contains several Stooges shorts and a Remembering Shemp bonus segment that includes rare home movies, personal photos and interviews with family and friends. (Koch/Passport)

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

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The Bank Job (R) 1hr 50min
1:40, 4:10, 6:50, 9:40
Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who (G) 1hr 28min
2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day (PG-13) 1hr 32min
1:30, 4:00, 10:00
There Will Be Blood (R) 2hrs 38min
2:30, 6:10, 9:30

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1310 Third St.
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College Road Trip (G) 1hr 23min
11:05 a.m., 1:20, 3:35, 5:55, 8:10, 10:40
Doomsday (R) 1hr 45min
12:05, 2:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20
Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who (G) 1hr 28min
10:45 a.m., 1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:25
Jumper (PG-13) 1hr 28min
5:30, 10:00
The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13)
11 a.m., 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns (PG-13) 1hr 40min
12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45
Under the Same Moon (PG-13) 1hr 49min
11:40 a.m., 2:25, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
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Funny Games (R) 1hr 48min
1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
Married Life (PG-13) 1hr 30min
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
Paranoid Park (R) 1hr 20min
1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
Sleepwalking (NR) 1hr 41min
1:40, 7:10

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
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10,000 B.C. (PG-13) 1hr 49min
11:30am, 12:30, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30
Never Back Down (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:15 a.m., 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:20
Semi-Pro (R) 1hr 30min
2:10, 7:10
Shutter (PG-13) 1hr 25min
12:10, 2:40, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00

More information email **news@smdp.com**

Bloom tonight, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Recognize what day it is, and you can dive into work or a project. Yes, get it done quickly and efficiently. The Ram needs some time off; relax and move into your weekend pleasures in the early afternoon. Tonight: Look at the possibilities first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Use your ingenuity to cruise through your day. If you experience fatigue or slow down, don't worry. Kick back and do something rote. Relaxation helps you revive. Tonight: Find your favorite spot and don't move!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might wish to be more dynamic, but something or someone is holding you back. Don't worry; this period is ending as the Twin smiles and takes wing soon enough, leaving others way behind. Tonight: Feel better? Go dancing, bowling or whatever your pleasure.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You might find others to be obstinate. Certainly they are challenging. If push comes to shove, you will gain a better insight or understanding of what is going on. Take a stand if need be. Tonight: In the limelight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Quit worrying about what you cannot change. Look at life with renewed enthusiasm and energy. By the afternoon, though feeling slightly guilty, you could brush off work. Tonight: Enjoy visiting with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might have done all you can involving a situation with creativity, children or romance. Let go and be less structured. Tonight: Make it easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Use the morning for a private affair or issue. You don't need to tell everyone later what has happened. As the day ages, you blossom. Think positively. Tonight: Bloom in the social whirl of TGIF.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ What you desire can happen. You might not see the correct path. In a sense, you have done all you can. Step back and allow others to play out now. Don't lose hope. Tonight: Take off. Spend some relaxing time with a friend or by yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Investigate and make an opportunity happen. If you feel positive or are willing to take a stand, others will stop. Tonight: Loosen up with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might want to try a different approach or go in a different direction from others. It will take power, energy and determination. Don't be surprised by the flak you might receive! Tonight: Try to make it an early night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Understand that a partner needs to have as much say as you. In fact, a wise Water Bearer will back off and allow a key associate to call the shots. Tonight: Accept an invitation taking you to new turf!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Take a hint from Aquarius. Start to think about what you could do in your free time. Have you pushed hard enough? Now, what would you like to do if footloose and fancy free? Tonight: Find a favorite person.

Happy Birthday

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

Step back often this year. Choose activities that induce relaxation and growth. Aries is the natural pioneer of the zodiac, but other signs need to lead too. Remember, the only person you can control is yourself. Letting go is a big part of your next year. Pressure often builds with authority figures, as they could be overly demanding. If you are single and you naturally evolve in a new direction, many admirers could start knocking on your door! Take your time choosing. Enjoy dating. If you are attached, you'll discover a new heat firing up between you if you become slightly more passive. Forcing directness or clarity with LIBRA doesn't work.

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

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- Clean range top
- Damp wipe cabinet doors
- Clean counters
- Hand wash floor
- Load dishwasher

ALL ROOMS
- Pick up & straighten
- Dust sills, ledges, wall hangings
- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash

BATHROOMS
- Clean sinks, counters; change towels
- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

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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
SILVER

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

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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

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



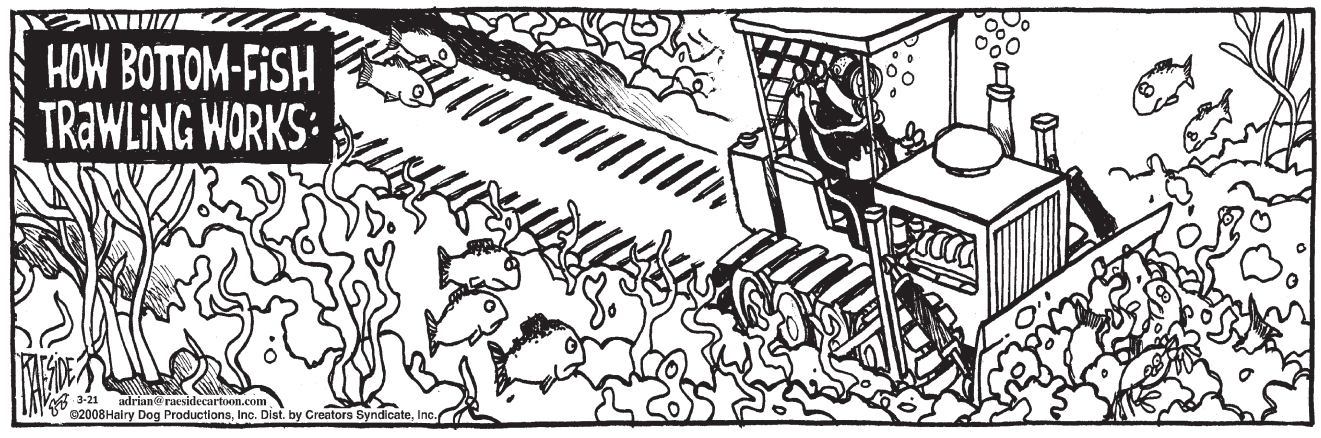
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



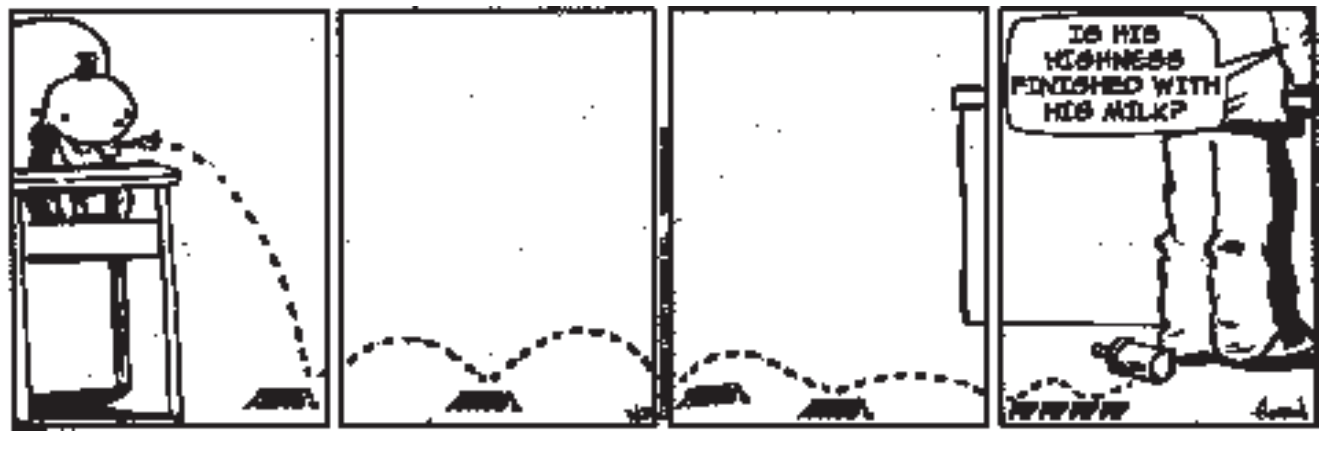
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

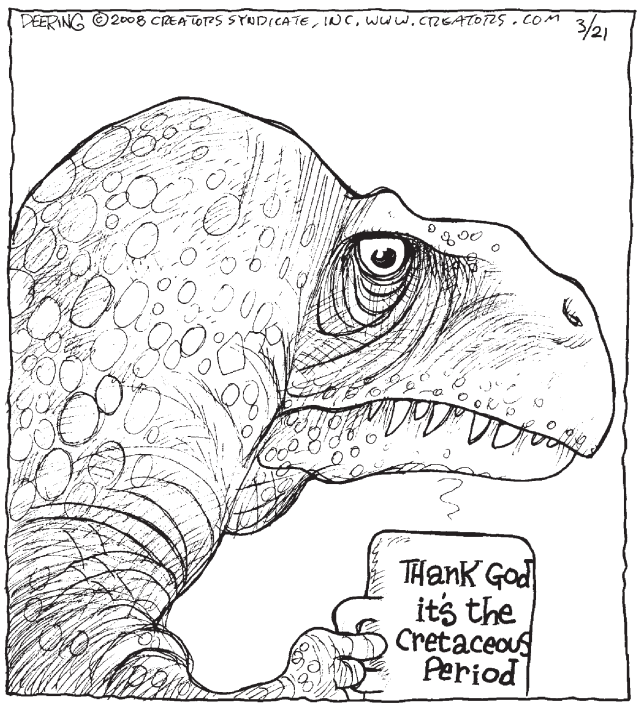


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering

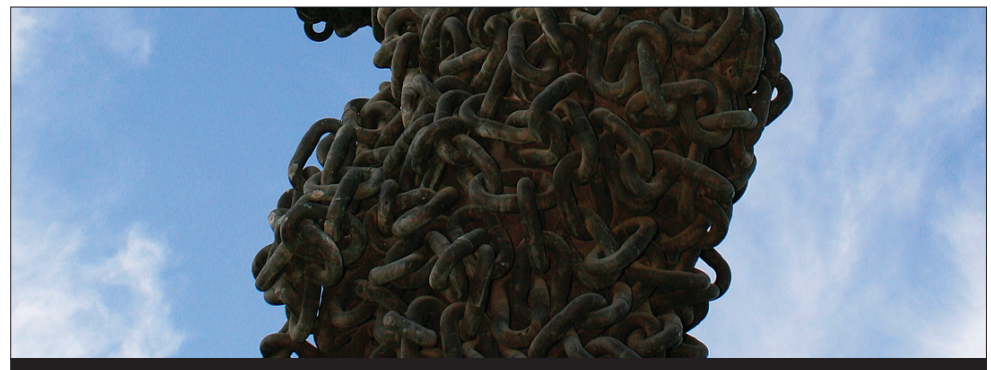


Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Expansive
6 "Likewise"
11 Free of suds
12 Different
13 Past plump
14 Gives a hoot
15 Tarragon or thyme
17 Late-night name
18 Paisley person
20 Andy's son
22 Bruins legend
23 Self-contradiction
26 Salad type
28 Battery end
29 2007 film role for Johnny
31 Collins base
32 Corner
33 Tolstoy heroine
34 Revolver, perhaps
36 Asian desert
38 Fighting
40 Molten rock
43 Chop up
44 Pallid
45 Newark's county
46 Subject to double jeopardy

DOWN

1 Sis' sibling
2 Chest protector
3 Small burgs
4 Useful skill
5 Bucks
6 Clinic nickname
7 Lombardy language
8 "Joy to the World" band
9 Freshman, usually
10 Approximation words
16 Big snake
18 Soaks up
19 Gullet
21 Recite the rosary
23 Stamp sheet
24 Norse god
25 TV warrior
27 Patio's kin
30 Brain chart, briefly
33 Humble
34 Titled woman
35 Singer Redding
37 General Bradley
39 Curly-haired cat
41 Body of eau
42 One or more

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

Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					■	14				
■	■	15			16	■	17			
18	19			■	20	21			■	■
22			■	23					24	25
26			27		■	28				
29					30		■	31		
■	■	32				■	33			
34	35			■	36	37			■	■
38				39	■	40			41	42
43					■	44				
45					■	46				

3-21

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13 15 20 25 44
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SUPER LOTTO PLUS
14 15 23 31 40
Meganumber: 7
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Fantasy 5
9 15 24 34 39

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 7 0 7
EVENING: 4 3 8

DAILY DERBY
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1.40.94

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ David Thomson, 49, was convicted in Edinburgh, Scotland, of smothering his mom to death after she had taunted him for his inept suicide attempt several weeks before.

■ In Sydney, Australia, a man was charged with beating a neighbor to death because the neighbor was watering his lawn in violation of the city's water restrictions.

■ The boss of a factory in North Korea was executed by firing squad before 150,000 people in a South Pyongan province stadium after he was convicted of the crime of making out-of-country telephone calls.

■ The divorce of Anton Popazov and his wife, Nataliya, is about to go through, but the couple are still contractually committed to the Moscow State Circus, where their act includes Nataliya's shooting an apple off of Anton's head with a crossbow. The Times of London asked Anton during a show in Sheffield, England, in February whether he was afraid. "I still trust her because Nataliya is very professional," he said. "(T)he show must go on."

■ Two Park Vista High School girls who admitted that they swiped money off the table of a Girl Scout selling cookies at a supermarket in Boynton Beach, Fla.,

TODAY IN HISTORY

1685 composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany.

1804 the French civil code, or the ``Code Napoleon'' as it was later called, was adopted.

1806 Mexican statesman Benito Juarez was born in Oaxaca.

1907 U.S. Marines arrived in Honduras to protect American lives and interests in the wake of political violence.

1946 the United Nations set up temporary headquarters at Hunter College in New York.

1957 President Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan began a four-day conference in Bermuda.

1960 some 70 people were killed in Sharpeville, South Africa, when police fired on demonstrators.

1963 the Alcatraz federal prison island in San Francisco Bay was emptied of its last inmates at the order of Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

1965 more than 3,000 civil rights demonstrators led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. began their march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

1972 the Supreme Court, in Dunn v. Blumstein, ruled that states may not require at least a year's residency for voting eligibility.

WORD UP!

acerbic \uh-SUR-bik\, *adjective*: Sharp, biting, or acid in temper, expression, or tone.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080199559 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as DIA SALON AND SPA AI#/ON 3033098, 1006 BROADWAY, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401, LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : RILETTE, 1006 BROADWAY, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: RILETTE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WESTON HARTLEY
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 2/1/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 2/29/2008, 3/7/2008, 3/14/2008, 3/21/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080305492 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LEAR FINANCIAL AI #/ON 1985445, 429 SANTA MONICA BLVD. #440, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401, L.A. . The full name of registrant(s) is/are : LEAR CAPITAL, INC. 429 SANTA MONICA BL #440, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401, CALIFORNIA This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)1/31/2008. /s/: Kevin DeMeritt
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 2/21/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 3/21/2008, 3/28/2008, 4/4/2008, 4/11/2008

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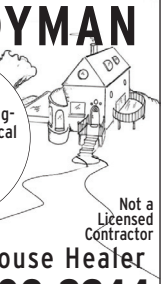
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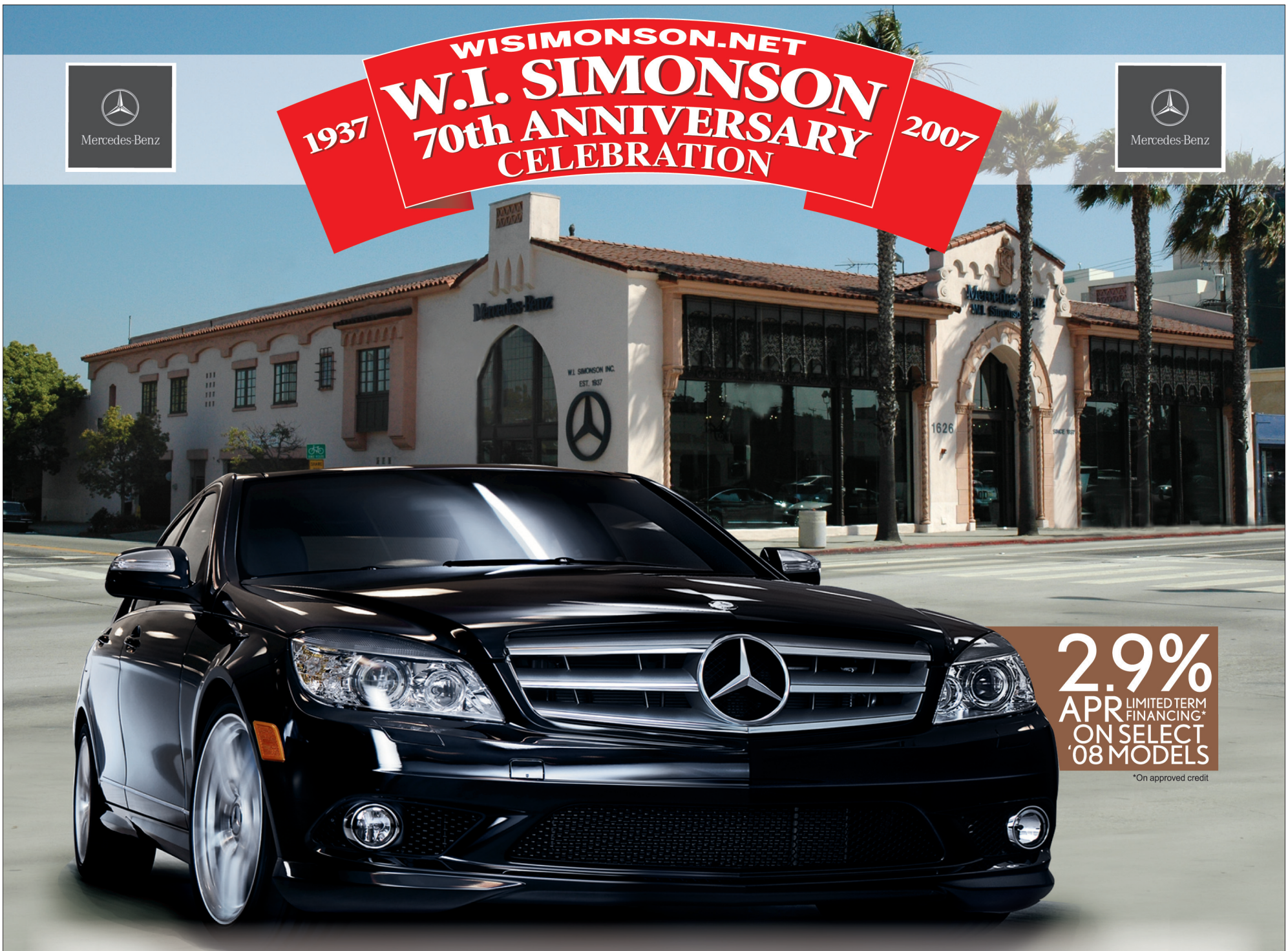
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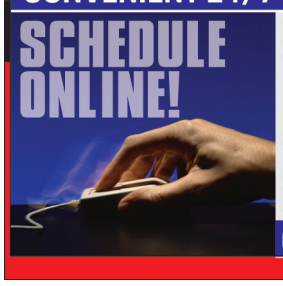
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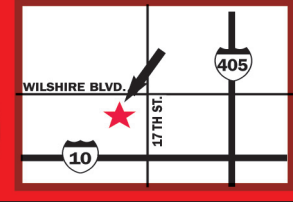
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