



GIVING BACK
SEE PAGE 13

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE R&R ISSUE



Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

KEEPING AN EYE ON THE BALL: Karen Jashinsky (right) trains 17-year-old Elizabeth Flier at the O2 Max Fitness Gym on Thursday, which combines fitness training with tutoring to help kids exercise their bodies and minds.

Teens get physical (ed)

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

NEBRASKA AVENUE Los Angeles area schools might be closed for spring break this week but physical education instruction is still in full effect.

At least it is at one Santa Monica fitness center.

There's a new face in the stacked Westside workout universe, one that isn't geared toward the clientele old enough to pay their own gym membership, but rather ones young enough to pack a fresh pair of P.E. gear in their backpacks.

A business that caters to a high-school aged audience, O2 Max Fitness (o2maxfitness.com) opened its doors earlier this month at a 1,200 square-foot warehouse on Nebraska Avenue, just a stone's throw away from the New Roads School.

The center was founded by Karen Jashinsky, a New Jersey native and recent USC MBA graduate who in marrying her two loves — entrepreneurship and exercise — spawned a

concept for a workout clinic that doubles as an after school hang-out spot.

It's more than a gym. O2 Max is a safe haven for teenagers outside of school, a place to socialize while still getting in some exercise, Jashinsky, a self-proclaimed fitness buff, said.

"My plan was never just to open a gym, but to get teens to change their view on fitness," Jashinsky said.

The health center is located in the heart of the city's industrial area, surrounded by artists studios and tech companies. The gym is divided into two areas — the ground floor dedicated to exercising the body and the second floor to exercising the mind and soul, the upper level equipped with wireless Internet, a flat-screen television, a Nintendo Wii game console, a study room and pilates room. It is on this floor where teenagers unwind after spending a few hours on their bodies, watching television shows, reading a US Weekly magazine, and studying for the SAT's with a Princeton Review tutor who pops in twice a week.

The first floor is stocked with powerful fitness equipment such as medicine balls, free weights and giant flexibility balls. Though there are a few treadmills strewn about, the goal was to stray from electronically-powered equipment, which Jashinsky feels could limit teenage growth.

"It's more important to educate on strengthening their body," Jashinsky said.

The walls of the ground floor are essentially barren, some tagged with inspirational quotes from the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mahatma Gandhi and Muhammad Ali.

"Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain, it's not something you learn in school," Ali states in a passage scribbled on one wall. "But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."

The gym membership costs about \$80 a month, not including a \$100 initiation fee that covers one private workout session in which the client's fitness is assessed and a workout plan

SEE GYM PAGE 12

City puts name on petition

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A bid to create a new assessment district in Downtown Santa Monica received a major endorsement by the City Council on Tuesday which decided to affix City Hall's name onto a petition that will launch a ballot measure required to form the district.

Besides blessing the proposed Downtown Management Plan, the council authorized City Manager Lamont Ewell to sign City Hall, which represents 10 percent of the \$3.6 million in assessments to be collected if the district is approved, onto a petition that would call an election of property owners who would decide whether a new district should be formed. The council also decided to change the threshold for assessment districts from 50 percent of property owners representing the assessment to 40 percent.

There are a total of 340 properties in the proposed assessment district, which would be roughly bounded by Seventh Street, Ocean Avenue, Wilshire Boulevard and the I-10 Freeway.

The petition drive is expected to start next week.

The proposed plan has changed a bit since it was presented before the council in January, including omitting the Big Blue Bus yard from the district, reducing the marketing budget and adjusting the rate that non-profit organizations would have to contribute to the assessment, acknowledging their service to the community, according to Brad Segal, the consultant for the project.

The Bayside District formed 20 years ago and the downtown area has changed dramatically during that time, Segal said, creating the new for reorganization and more assessments to fund additional maintenance and marketing programs.

The working group that formulated the proposed plan has also suggested reducing the governance body from 15 to 13 members, comprised of six council-appointed members, six appointed by property owners and on by the city manager.

The funds raised under the new Property Based Assessment District (PBAD) would be used toward enhancing current maintenance services levels and marketing campaigns, including several new initiatives, such as an ambassador program for the Third Street Promenade.

The ambassadors would serve a hospitality role, being the eyes and ears and attending to patrons for concierge-like services. The program would run seven days a week, 15 hours a day, at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million annually, all of which would be paid exclusively through the PBAD.

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 12



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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Discuss a Development Agreement proposal to construct a new entertainment production facility.

Address: 2834 Colorado Avenue

APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER: Colorado Creative Studios, LLC

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Discuss the applicant's Development Agreement proposal to redevelop the existing industrial use with a four story, 153,000 square foot entertainment production facility over a 412 space subterranean parking garage. Project alternatives and potential public benefits will also be discussed.

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008, AT 6:45 p.m.

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

HOW TO COMMENT

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

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Colorado Creative Studios Discussion
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401



MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Special Projects Administrator Bruce Leach at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at bruce.leach@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org.

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

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

ESPAÑOL

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

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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.

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 29, 2008

Art comes in for a landing

Santa Monica Airport, 1 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Wandering around the historic Santa Monica Airport, you could easily encounter as many original artworks as airplanes. Douglas Aircraft once built entire fleets of DC3's where artists are now hard at work creating paintings and sculptures that will make your imagination soar. Tucked away into other nooks and crannies of the Airport and along the side of Barker Hangar (originally built by Bill Lear of Lear Jet fame), visitors will find numerous individual artist studios. These artists include some of the most stimulating established artists of today such as Meg Cranston, Fielden Harper, Renee Petropoulis and Ellwood T. Risk as well many more emerging artists whose works can be found in professional galleries throughout Southern California.

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.





FOR THE KIDS

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com
Making balloon animals and kids happy is what Gary Grunstein (left) does best. Grunstein, a retired substitute teacher, said on Thursday, 'I love giving kids balloons.' He has been performing on the Third Street Promenade for eight years, works eight hours a day three days a week and plans to keep it up as long as he can.



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Woman forced to remove rings

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

LOS ANGELES A woman was forced by the Transportation Security Administration to remove her nipple rings before she was allowed to board a flight from Lubbock, Texas, to Dallas, a Los Angeles attorney said Thursday.

"The woman was given a pair of pliers in order to remove the rings in her nipples," said Los Angeles attorney Gloria Allred. "The rings had been in her nipples for many years."

The woman, Mandi Hamlin, told reporters in the Southland that she wanted the TSA to investigate the incident. She also demanded a public apology.

"It was just total humiliation in front of people I had no earthly idea who they were," said Hamlin, a 37-year-old graphic artists from Dallas.

The Transportation Security Administration does not have a specific policy addressing nipple rings or any other jewelry, said TSA spokesman Dwayne Baird. Baird said he did not know of the incident.

"I'd be really curious to know what this woman had in her nipples," Baird said. "Sometimes they have a chain between their nipples, or a chain between their nip-

ples and their belly button. It would have to be made of heavy metal to be detected."

Transportation Security employees are required to check anything that raises concerns at checkpoints, Baird said.

"No matter what it is, if it's something that unduly alarms people or sets off the sensors they must check it," Baird said. "But I've never heard of any of our people having anyone remove something that sounds as small as a nipple ring."

Allred said that several years ago, celebrity Nicole Richie had her breasts inspected by security at an airport because of her nipple rings. Baird said he was not aware of the Richie incident either.

Hamlin claims she passed through the Lubbock, Texas, airport metal detector without a problem, but she was pulled aside for additional screening, when the rings were detected. She said she told the security worker that she had piercings and offered to show them, but the worker refused, called over several other male agents who demanded that she remove them.

"The conduct of TSA was cruel and unnecessary," Allred said. "The last time that I checked, a nipple was not a dangerous weapon."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMMUSD HEADQUARTERS

Seniors off the hook

Officials with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District want to remind those who are 65 and over that they can file for a "senior exemption" from Measure R, a parcel tax passed by the voters in February.

Measure R consolidated and replaced two previous parcel taxes known as Measure Y and Measure S, which provided the district with \$346 per parcel.

To qualify for the exemption in 2008-09, senior citizens must be 65 years old by June 30, and must own and occupy their properties as their primary residences. Those seniors who have previously received the exemption from the Measure S parcel tax should be sent a form sometime in May. The form must be completed, signed and returned to the district office by July 31. If one does not receive a form by mid-June, they are urged to call Dawn Smithfield at (310) 450-8338, ext. 269.

First-time applicants who qualify may call Smithfield to be put on the application mailing list. This application must be completed, signed and returned with two proofs of age and property ownership by July 31.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't blame the church

Editor:

Like most religious organizations, the people who participate and the local clergy all have good intentions and at least try to provide benefit to the community ("Scientology's PR campaign," page 1, March 25). I've been a Scientologist for 40 years. The problems with Scientology, as with most autocratic organizations, manifest from the higher levels of management. The extortion of large donations, the breaking up of families, the imposition of harsh, and sometimes criminal, working conditions, can all be directly attributed to Scientology Management. These conditions do exist and there should be a reform. The concepts shown in the Internet videos are not really followed by the church itself. Unfortunately, the workable principles and practices of Scientology get misbranded as voodoo and brain washing because of the militaristic anachronisms of "Exec Strata," the highest levels of Scientology management. The Catholic religion should not be judged solely by the reign of Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503), neither should Scientology be judged solely by the excesses and malicious behavior of the people currently in power.

Ken Aaron
Santa Monica

Obama's speech speaks volumes

Editor:

I've just finished reading Barack Obama's "A More Perfect Union" speech for the third time. As before, I have a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye. Surely this work will be remembered as one of the finest in the history of this country. For those who haven't yet read it, find it on the Web and do read it. For you who refuse to read it in its entirety, you miss an historic document.

The national dialog on race has not only been re-energized, but has been widened dramatically. Obama's remarkable empathy has presented the issue as seen through the eyes of all concerned; black, white, brown, Asian, even American Indian. He gets it that multiple truths may exist simultaneously, yet be in conflict.

The words of The Rev. Wright, his former minister, have been put in context. Fiery rhetorical hyperbole balanced against the man's day-to-day service to his community. How should we weigh Pope Benedict's rebuke of Islam as "evil and inhuman," or the Falwells, Robertsons and Swaggarts claim that 9/11 was God's punishment for homosexuality. And don't forget that one of this country's most beloved leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had his own moments of inflammatory oratory.

But it is Barack Obama's words which move me today.

"Contrary to the claims of some of my critics, black and white, I have never been so naïve as to believe that we can get beyond our racial divisions in a single election cycle, or with a single candidacy – particularly a candidacy as imperfect as my own."

– Barack Obama.

Humility! How novel is that for a politician! His critics condemn him because they are truly afraid he will win the nomination and the White House. Yet if he does, the entire nation wins. Don't get me wrong. I believe Hillary would make an excellent president. But Obama has the seeds of greatness within him, and could be an outstanding president. With the eyes of the world upon us, we desperately need a great leader.

Tim Dillenbeck
Santa Monica



Edge of the West

Ron Scott Smith

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Council should beware of trees

REMOVAL OF 54 FICUS TREES FROM
downtown streets — around \$600,000

Removal of seven City Council members from downtown seats ... priceless.

Not much of a tree-hugger you'll find here, truth be known. On most days I have a tendency as I'm sure most do, to walk right on by without so much as a nod or hello. They're nice to lean on, give shade and all, but really they're just kind of there, right? So it's OK to make them not there, right?

Right, as decreed by your City Council, and there soon may be no there there, as they say, for the unlucky ones designated for either destruction or forced relocation from their Second and Fourth street earth due to, among other things, "damage to their canopies from oversized vehicles." That, according to City Manager Lamont Ewell as quoted some months ago in the SMDP. Right about then I'm thinking I must be reading "The Onion," except I knew I wasn't because there's nobody laughing at any of this.

Let me get this straight:

At significant taxpayers' expense, these trees will be either uprooted and relocated, or just plain chainsaw massacred into tooth-picks for what again?

- For being reckless enough to hang a branch in the way of an "oversized" Escalade trying to squeeze into a spot made for a normal car in front of Circuit City?

- For inconsiderately blocking the view at certain angles of a merchant's sign that says "Bubar's Jewelry," or "Bank of America" or "Dance Doctor?"

- For sadly possessing no historical significance or "characteristics of noteworthy or aesthetic interest or value ..." as decreed by the Landmarks Commission?

Just saying:

- Instead of getting the trees out of the way of the Escalade, how about getting the Escalade out of the way of the trees? Turn on the key and drive the damn "oversized" Escalade to a place where there's not a low-hanging ficus.

- Second and Fourth street merchants are in one of the best locations known to man for selling their wares to other men, and might not they be able to withstand the nuisance of a little foliage getting in the way of their signage until the trimmers trim, as part of a routine maintenance schedule?

- A personal anecdote on the "history" thing: When I first came to Santa Monica some decades ago I was taken most by this

very downtown area at issue now. There was a tranquility in the heart of this bustling beach town, an ease on the eyes and all the other senses. This is a vivid personal memory, and carries with it a kind of historical significance and "aesthetic interest" the Landmark Commission can't possibly have computed into their finding. Santa Monica has always been the perfect mix of cosmopolitan and small-town, and for the life of me, the life of those trees has something to do with that.

- Trust me, they're not all going to go off to the other side in one big now-you-see-them-now-you-don't moment, leaving a bare-naked Border Grill next to a scantily-clad Benihana. Besides, killing trees today so they may live tomorrow just does not compute.

Council's ambitious tree scheme is part of an \$8.2 million streetscape improvement project that right about now should have them feeling a bit squeamish, what with looming budget deficits that have many city workers and at least 25 teachers in the district facing an axe of a different blade.

Do these guys have too much time on their hands or what?

Their recent activism is starting to come across as nothing so much as mischief born of idle time. It's not like they've got nothing else to do, what with the gargantuan problems of homelessness, traffic gridlock, over-development and skyrocketing rents.

But here they are, with all the time in the world to rip the trees off our streets; and time to save our teeth by dumping a compound into our water that requires those who handle it to wear hazardous-material-protective-gear; and time to play Big Brother by installing intrusive cameras at our intersections to snare drivers who misjudge the yellow; and time to boot the long-standing cart-vendors off the Promenade on their loyal, hard-working behinds without so much as a good-bye. The hits just keep on coming, friends, and you want to talk about an idle mind being who's playground?

With some of my own idle time, I've been musing on the lumber from those felled trees being milled into a plank wide enough for seven, a short plank placed at the end of our beautiful pier, off of which they will soon be asked to take a long walk.

Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com

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YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn.

Editor: 1410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica • 90401 • editor@smdp.com



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Time-honored art of procrastination

I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE A WEEK OFF from bashing Bush, or the war, or even the ficus fiasco on Fourth and Second streets. Lately it feels like I'm either preaching to the choir or to a stone wall. One reader sent an e-mail saying my rants are "boring." Okay, I can take a hint. Actually, that was slightly more than a hint.

Instead, I'll talk about my new favorite author, Bill Bryson. "The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid" is a hilarious look at growing up during the 50's. Prolific as he is funny, Bryson's other books include "I'm a Stranger Here Myself," about returning to the U.S. after living abroad for 20 years, and "A Walk Into the Woods," about his misadventures hiking the Appalachian Trail.

I heard about Bryson from another reader who charitably suggested my writing reminded her of his. Remember the 1988 vice-presidential debate when Lloyd Bentsen told Dan Quail, "I knew JFK and you're no JFK?" Having read three Bill Bryson books, I'm no Bill Bryson.

Bryson and I do have something in common as he wrote a weekly humor column. He once said that the moment he sent in one column it felt like the next one was due. I know the feeling too well. Next month will mark two years and 100 columns for the SMDP. But for the past 90 somehow I've put the "pro" in procrastination. Each submission is a mad dash to the deadline.

When I first approached the then SMDP editor and co-founder, Carolyn Sackariason, she was skeptical that I could meet a weekly deadline. She insisted I have a backlog of columns before I began. Offended, I decided to show her.

Within the first week I had finished four columns. By the end of the second I had completed nine and e-mailed them all in at once. Carolyn seemed impressed. Actually, so was I. But frankly, it's been downhill ever since. There is no backlog anymore. If I don't come up with something fast you could be staring at "Jack is busy on vacation," which is code for "Jack is busy procrastinating."

One reason I procrastinate is I can't stand staring at the empty page on my computer screen. Instead of divine inspiration, all I think about is how did my monitor get so dusty? Sometimes I merely clean the monitor and call it a day. So I no longer just sit at the computer to see what I'm thinking. After all, I could wear

out my monitor with too much Windex.

For me to begin a column I have to have an idea of what I want to say — seems logical. I at least have to have a catchy opening sentence. In this column I've apparently waived the "catchy opening sentence" rule.

In addition to columns, I've written a novel, screenplays, plays and weekly grocery lists. Actually I've written 15 screenplays, which begs the question "Why?" It's a bit of a sore subject. Four have been bought or optioned but none have ever been made into a movie, which is basically the whole point.

With a screenplay I don't start writing until I've made detailed notes about the opening scene, how Acts 1 & 2 end, and the very last scene. A movie script contains 100,000 words whereas these columns are around 800. This means I'd have to write 1,875 more columns (36 years worth) to equal the number of words in my screenplays. I can't fathom how many grocery lists it would take, though it doesn't matter because I couldn't eat that much.

With screenwriting it's remarkable how it can take over. In going for a walk and thinking about my characters, on occasion I've experienced a range of emotions, from laughing to crying (Hopefully not back to back). In public this can tend to be rather embarrassing. I've gotten puzzled looks to reaching for cell phones to dial 911. I've learned it's best not to explain to a total stranger, "No, it's not what you think! You see I was just..." Instead, I keep walking. Maybe even pick up the pace.

Many artists speculate that their work comes from a source outside themselves. I don't consider my writing as art. Although my procrastination is pretty artful. My writing is more like carpentry. The first draft is the framing, the last draft like painting the trim. If a script is a house, a column is a room addition. If nothing else, I hope you'll check out Bill Bryson's books, as most are available at our library. He's hilarious, as opposed to this. In fact, a couple more columns like this and the reader who said my political rants were boring, may be begging me to resume attacking Bush. That is, if I don't procrastinate too much.

When he isn't busy cleaning his computer monitor, Jack can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.

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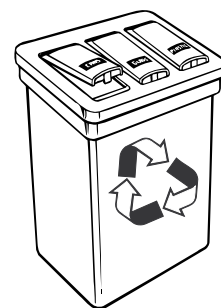
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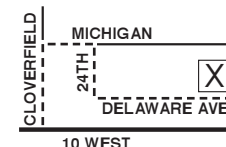
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The Q-Line

Feeling safe in Santa Monica

A pair of homicides last week has the usually safe city has some on edge. While murders don't happen very often in this city by the sea, the recent murders raises more than a few poignant issues regarding safety.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

In light of the recent murders do you still feel safe in Santa Monica? If not, what are you doing to protect yourself?

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.



Kate Bransfield

Estates Director

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

Conditional Use Permit 07-009; Variance 07-017, 606 Broadway. The applicant requests approval of a Conditional Use Permit to allow on-site sale and consumption of alcohol (beer and wine) for a proposed restaurant in a mixed-use building. Pursuant to SMMC 9.04.10.18.020, a Conditional Use Permit is required for the on-site sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. The applicant requests approval of a variance for the modification to the off-street parking requirements. The modification would permit 13 parking spaces in lieu of the required 30 parking spaces to accommodate a 355 sq. ft. outdoor dining patio for the proposed restaurant. Pursuant to SMMC 9.04.20.10.030(b), the applicant may request a modification to the required number of off-street parking spaces. [Planner: Grace Cho] **APPLICANT: Stefano De Lorenzo. PROPERTY OWNER: JSM Positano, LLC.**

Conditional Use Permit 08-001, 1812 Stanford Street. The applicant requests a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a preschool use to operate in the LMSD district. The use will occupy the existing buildings on-site and provide educational services to preschool children in the areas of art, music, theater, and athletics. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.08.35.030(m), a CUP is required to allow the use of a private school in the LMSD District. [Planner: Steve Mizokami] **APPLICANT: Little Dolphins By the Sea. PROPERTY OWNER: Aaron Kadosh.**

Design Compatibility Permit 07-001; Tract Map 07-020, 2721 Third Street. The applicant requests approval of a Design Compatibility Permit and Tentative Tract Map No. 68019 to subdivide one lot into five airspace parcels in conjunction with a proposed two-story, five-unit residential condominium project. The applicant is applying for a 5-unit airspace subdivision pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.20.06.040 and a Design Compatibility Permit for the 5-unit condominium pursuant to Section 9.04.20.15.020. [Planner: Grace Cho] **APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER: James Thielen.**

Extension 07EXD005 of Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 063141 (Permit 05TM030, 1224 – 1228 Tenth Street. The applicant is requesting a Three (3) year extension of Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 063141 (Permit 05TM030) which permitted the airspace subdivision of two lots into thirteen airspace parcels in conjunction with a thirteen-unit condominium development. The application was approved by the Planning Commission on June 21, 2006. [Planner: Lily Yegazu] **APPLICANT/ PROPERTY OWNER: Tenth Street Partners, LLC.**

Tract Map 06-036 [Tentative Tract Map No. 66834], 2323 28th Street. The applicant requests approval of a Tentative Tract Map No. 66834 to subdivide two lots into eight airspace parcels in conjunction with a proposed eight-unit condominium development with subterranean garage. The applicant is applying for a subdivision pursuant to Section 9.20.04.020 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code. The Planning Commission will also be considering a Resolution to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program prepared for the project. [Planner: Lily Yegazu] **APPLICANT/ PROPERTY OWNER: Danny Shalom, of 28th Street Partners LLC.**

WHEN: Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION

If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact the Case Planner at (310) 458-8341. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City’s web site at www.santa-monica.org. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TTY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica “Big Blue” Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, and #8 serve City Hall.

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

Help Us Shape the Future! Be part of the effort to create new Land Use and Circulation Elements, and a new Zoning Ordinance. Help shape a twenty year vision and improve the way we get around Santa Monica.
<http://www.shapethefuture2025.net> (Land Use Element)
<http://motion.santa-monica.org> (Circulation Element)



CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



Karma comes into play

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, AT 12:50 A.M.,

Santa Monica police officers responded to the 1900 block of Colorado Avenue after receiving a report about an armed robbery in progress. When officers arrived, they made contact with two individuals who said they were walking down the street when they were approached by a man and a woman who demanded money. The male suspect allegedly pulled out a knife and threatened to stab the victims if they did not give up their cash. One of the victims said he had no money so the suspect grabbed a cell phone from the victim’s pocket. The suspect then lunged at the victim as if to stab him, but he missed, witnesses said. The victim then punched the suspect in the face, causing him to fall to the ground. At that point, the female suspect pulled out a stun gun, grabbed her friend and the two ran off into the street. Witnesses said that’s when a passing car hit the two suspects hard, knocking them to the ground. A female in what appeared to be the get-away car drove over to the two suspects and helped them into the car before driving away. The vehicle involved in the accident drove off as well. Officers called local hospitals to see if anyone was in the emergency room with injuries sustained in a car accident. Officers learned that two people were in a local emergency room that were “pretty bashed up,” police said. Officers responded and arrested the suspects for robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. The hit-and-run driver was not apprehended. The suspects were identified as Steven Robles, 20, Marlen Fernandez, 19, and Christina Ramirez, 19 – all of Pamona. Bail for Robles and Fernandez was set at \$50,000. No bail information for Ramirez was available.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, AT 8:50 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1000 block of Wilshire Boulevard after receiving a report about a man vandalizing parked cars. When officers arrived, they detained the suspect and made contact with the witnesses, who said the suspect was walking east on Wilshire and began kicking the side mirrors of at least six cars – four Toyotas, a Mercedes, and a Volvo. Witnesses told officer that the suspect appeared intoxicated. The suspect was placed under arrest for felony vandalism since the damage was over \$400. The suspect was identified as William Alexander Fieglein, 31, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at \$20,000.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, AT 2:10 A.M.,

Officers on routine patrol in the 1550 beach parking lot saw a parked car that did not have a rear license plate. Officers made a traffic stop and in talking with the suspect discovered that he had no proof of insurance or a drivers license. During a search of the vehicle, officers discovered in the cup holder a small amount of cocaine. The suspect was placed under arrest for possession of a controlled substance. The suspect was identified as Jorge Alberto Ramos, 28, of South Gate. No bail was set because Ramos was on probation, police said.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, AT 6:05 P.M.,

Officers on routine patrol in the 1100 block of Palisades Park observed a subject who appeared to be handing something to someone as if they were conducting a drug sale. Officers detained the suspect, who they recognized from prior drug-related arrests. During a search of the suspect, officers found several baggies containing a total of 116 grams of marijuana. The suspect was arrested for possession of narcotics with the intent to distribute. The suspect was identified as Kimberly Rae Randolph, 50, of Santa Monica. Her bail was set at \$50,000.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, AT 7:30 A.M.,

Officers responded to the 2100 block of Ocean Avenue after receiving a call from the manager of an apartment complex who was complaining about vandalism. When officers arrived, they made contact with the manager, who said she was in the subterranean garage of her complex when she saw a man kneeling down by the water heaters, messing with the valves. The manager yelled at him to stop and the suspect then started screaming and walked toward her. The manager said she bolted, running upstairs to call police. The next morning, workers were fixing the water heaters when they noticed a strange man milling about. They called the manager, who rushed down and identified the man as being the one responsible for over \$7,000 worth of damage to the water heaters. She called police and followed the man as he walked away. He was quickly apprehended by police, who placed him under arrest for felony vandalism. The suspect was identified as Andrew Rotman, 57, a transient. His bail was set at \$45,000. He had a warrant for resisting arrest and was on probation, police said.

MONDAY, MARCH 17, AT 12:20 P.M.,

Officers on routine patrol observed a suspect smoking a cigarette within in 20 feet of a business doorway, a violation of the municipal code. Officers approached the suspect to talk with him and they found out that he had a warrant for his arrest and was on probation. Officers searched the suspect and found a small amount of methamphetamine in his pocket. It turned out to be .91 grams of the narcotic. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for possession. He was identified as Richard James Flemming, 43, of Marina del Rey. His bail was set at \$15,000.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, AT 3:45 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 600 block of Santa Monica Boulevard – Main Library – regarding a report of someone committing a lewd act with a child. Officers responded and spoke to security officers there who said the parents of a young boy wanted a man arrested for talking to their son and for placing his hands on him in an inappropriate manner. The suspect was arrested and identified as Raul Mendez, 49, of Inglewood. His bail was set at \$100,000.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 19!

Bills target loopholes for accused teachers

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO A state Senate committee on Wednesday approved legislation that would allow California to automatically suspend teachers' credentials when they have been convicted of a sex offense or other serious crime in another state.

The bill by Sen. Jack Scott, D-Pasadena, passed the Senate Education Committee 6-0. The committee delayed action on another bill that would close certain loopholes in California's teacher licensing system, including one that allows some teachers to remain in the classroom after they have been accused of serious crimes.

The bills by Sens. Jack Scott, D-Pasadena, and Bob Margett, R-Arcadia, were prompted by an Associated Press investigation last year that found 2,570 educators nationwide whose teaching credentials had been revoked, denied, surrendered or sanctioned between 2001 and 2005 following allegations of sexual misconduct.

The AP's investigation in California confirmed at least 313 cases in which teachers had been punished for sexual misconduct. That included dozens involving pleas of no contest, a common legal agreement that allows a defendant to avoid a trial or civil liability but still leads to conviction.

Teachers who are accused of sexual misconduct in California but enter no contest pleas to a lesser offense can sometimes retain their teaching credentials.

Margett's bill addresses the issue of no contest pleas but drew objections that prompted the committee to request more information.

The bill that passed the committee Wednesday targets a gap in California's teacher licensing system that applies to those who have taught in other states.

It would require the California Teacher Credentialing Commission to automatically suspend a teacher's license if it had been revoked in another state. Credentials also could be revoked after a criminal conviction that limits a person's contact with children.

Scott, the bill's sponsor, said current law allows a teacher to stay in the classroom while the commission investigates an allegation, a process that can take as long as two years.

"The problem we have now is that we have to act after the fact," he said. "I think it's unwise for us to go ahead and hire teachers and place them in the classroom, then it might take a year for a review. And in the meantime, children with vulnerabilities are exposed to that person."

The Teacher Credentialing Commission sponsored the bills after the AP published the results of its seven-month investigation in November.

The Association of California School Administrators, the California School Boards Association and the Los Angeles Unified School District support the bills.

The California Teachers Association, the state's largest teachers union, testified against both of them.

The union's attorney, Michael Rothschild, told the committee that Scott's bill was too broad and could sweep up teachers who have been accused but had not committed serious offenses.

"The teachers association isn't for having bad people in the classroom," he said. "What it's for is for due process."

Rothschild also raised concerns about Margett's bill. It would require the commission to revoke teachers' licenses if they plead no contest to certain misdemeanor assault and drug offenses.

Many of the teacher cases reviewed by the AP involved no contest pleas, which save court and attorneys' fees and spare young victims from having to testify in court.

The credentialing commission's attorney, Mary Armstrong, said current law allows teachers who plead no contest to be treated differently than those who plead guilty. While most offenders are weeded out of public school classrooms, they still can teach if their license is only suspended, rather than revoked.

"They are back in the classroom," she said. "They then have a credential. They can use that in a private school" or to get work as a tutor or in another state.

Armstrong said teaching is the only profession that draws the distinction.

"For the other professions, the no contest plea is treated exactly the same as a guilty plea," she told the committee.

But Rothschild said all kinds of cases involving teachers could be unfairly lumped in with sexual predators and drug abusers.

"We believe the system that is currently in place works, provides due process and is fair," he testified. "You have to trust the trial courts not to reduce something to a misdemeanor if it's truly serious."

Sen. Mark Wyland, R-Solana Beach, a member of the education committee and a former school board member in Escondido, said he considers no contest pleas essentially the same as an admission of guilt.

"I think these licenses ought to be revoked," he said.

California law also prohibits the credentialing commission from revealing the reasons teachers who plead no contest lose their licenses. The Senate bills considered Wednesday do not address that issue.

Margett's bill also would eliminate the statute of limitations that is in place for disclosing past teacher misconduct.

Under California law, the results of misconduct allegations are sealed by the Teacher Credentialing Commission after one year. That restricts school administrators' ability to confirm a teaching candidate's full record if they learn later that the applicant lied about his or her background.

In one case cited in the AP investigation, the credentialing commission granted a probationary license to an applicant who had been accused of inappropriately touching students while he was a teacher in Missouri.

The commission granted the license on the condition that he notify any California employer of the past accusations. He didn't do that when he applied at California's Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

By the time district officials determined the teacher had lied, the state had sealed his disciplinary records, making it tough to fire the teacher. He eventually resigned.

The committee delayed action on Margett's bill so he could address the due-process concerns raised by the teachers union.

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com



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North of Montana	= \$ 3,667,360	\$ 2,101,550
Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 1,860,444	\$ 996,459
South of Wilshire	= \$ 862,300	\$ 751,083
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,372,437	\$ 718,692
Ocean Park	= \$ 1,810,321	\$ 1,146,963

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City of
Santa Monica®

March 19, 2008

P. Lamont Ewell, City Manager
City of Santa Monica
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 458-8301

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

This combined notice is intended to satisfy two separate procedural requirements: (1) 24 CFR 58.43, Dissemination and/or publication of the Findings of No Significant Impact and (2) 24 CFR 58.70, Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds. The public is advised to specify which notice their comments address, so that the City of Santa Monica may properly take into account the comments received.

On or about April 3, 2008, the City of Santa Monica will request the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to release Federal Funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) to be used for the following project:

Project Title: Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica at John Adams Middle School Construction Project

Location: 2425 16th Street, Santa Monica CA

Purpose: Construction of youth facility providing educational, recreational and social resources for at-risk youth ages 7-18

Estimated Cost: \$2,666,367 (approximately \$300,000 of which is CDBG funds)

It has been determined that this action will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and, accordingly, the above-named City has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190).

The reason for such decision not to prepare such statement is due to the following factors:

The Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica's new branch on the campus of John Adams Middle School (JAMS) will include the renovation of an existing classroom and the construction of an adjoining structure on the JAMS campus. This new facility will include an education center, technology room (equipment will not be funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds), and social/recreation spaces that will provide positive activities for at-risk children and teenagers ages 7 through 18 from Santa Monica and the surrounding communities during the hours they are not in school. The project is not expected to allow or contribute to significant impacts to the environment and a Finding of No Significant Impact can be made. The Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica is a subrecipient of CDBG funds through the City of Santa Monica's Community Development Grant Program.

An Environmental Review Record respecting this project has been made by the above-named City of Santa Monica which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such statement is not required. This Environmental Review Record, which includes the NEPA Environmental Assessment, is available for review at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA, Human Services Division, Room 212, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., on the City's website at smgov.net, and at the Main Library.

No further federal environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of Federal funds.

The City of Santa Monica is certifying to HUD that P. Lamont Ewell, in his official capacity as the Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of this certification is that upon its approval, the City of Santa Monica and HUD will have satisfied their responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the project may proceed. HUD will accept an objection to its approval of this certification if it is on one of the following bases:

(a)That the Certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer; (b) the City of Santa Monica has failed to make a finding of environmental significance or to make the written determination required for re-evaluation of an environmental assessment or use of prior Environmental Impact Statement, as applicable; (c) the City of Santa Monica has omitted one or more of the required steps for the preparation, publication and completion of the Environmental Assessment; (d) the City of Santa Monica has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR 58 before release of funds and approval of the environmental certification by HUD (or the State); (e) other basis established by HUD regulations.

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the City of Santa Monica to the Human Services Division of the Community & Cultural Services Department. Such written comments should be received at 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401 on or before April 2, 2008. All such comments so received will be considered and the City of Santa Monica will not request the release of Federal funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

Objections may also be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR 58, Subpart H), and may be addressed to HUD at:

Office of Community Planning and Development
611 West 6th Street, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Objections to this undertaking on any bases other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD.

No objection received after April 17, 2008 will be considered by HUD.

P. Lamont Ewell, City Manager
City of Santa Monica
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

STATE BRIEFS

INDIO

Popular Highway 111 shrine dates expanding

The Coachella Valley's popular highway shrine to dates, where the fruit is blended in shakes and visitors can peek at the "Romance & Sex Life of the Date" movie, is expanding.

The Shields Date Garden on Highway 111 in desert Indio is adding a deli, a bakery and water features.

General Manager Mark Goulet says at least two tour buses stop by each day and the crowds keep swelling. To accommodate the tourists, Shields is expanding 1,000 square feet and offering more seating outside under date palms.

There will be seating for 100 when the project is completed this summer.

The sex life of the date movie runs continuously in the shop's theater.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN BERNARDINO

Troubling past for contractor in collapse death

The electrical contractor whose employee died in an Upland trench collapse this week has been fined previously by California authorities for inadequate safety practices.

The California Department of Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating Tuesday's cave-in that killed 37-year-old Martin Samaniego of Hesperia.

The San Bernardino County Sun reported Thursday that North Dakota-based Pouk & Steinle Inc., the man's employer, has been cited six times in the past three years over safety issues. The firm has an office in Riverside.

One of the violations occurred in December 2006 when a Pouk & Steinle crane operator swung a 75-foot pole into traffic on an Upland street, killing a worker and an elderly couple driving by. The firm was fined \$50,000.

The contractor's spokesman Mark Hanson insists the firm follows safety standards.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO

Three arrested after rolling car-to-car shootout

Suspects captured at a National City mall are the alleged shooters in a wild car-to-car gunbattle that started at Greenwood Cemetery and continued in a bullet-punctuated chase on Interstate 805.

Police called a special weapons team to the Plaza Bonita mall Wednesday night when it was feared someone might have eluded capture. It was later determined the three men arrested were the only ones involved.

San Diego police Assistant Chief Boyd Long says the rolling gun battle "put a lot of people in danger."

The cemetery gunbattle at 6:45 p.m. was apparently triggered by a collision between two vehicles. Gunmen in a Lincoln continued firing on the fleeing Honda Civic until the vehicles crashing on the interstate, where one man was arrested.

Two others were arrested at the mall and the search concluded at about 10 p.m.

AP

TEMECULA

Police led on 50-mile high-speed chase

California Highway Patrol and Murrieta police officers have arrested a man at the Pechanga casino after a wild 50-mile high-speed chase from Murrieta to Temecula.

Kevin Dale Powell was captured after a brief standoff Wednesday afternoon.

Murrieta police Detective Sgt. Jim Ganley says the 48-year-old Powell was wanted for allegedly stalking his estranged wife. A judge issued a warrant for his arrest earlier in the week and ordered police to guard the woman until Powell was arrested.

An officer tried to pull over Powell car Wednesday morning and the chase was on, reaching speeds exceeding 110 miles on Interstate 15.

Powell eventually pulled into the casino parking structure and was eventually subdued by a police dog. Powell wasn't armed.

AP

SANTA MARIA

Firefighters find toxic leak at Greka Oil site

Toxic hydrogen sulfide gas leaking from a Greka Oil and Gas pipeline forced the California Highway Patrol to shut down a Santa Maria roadway as a precaution.

It was the latest in a series of leaks at Greka facilities in northern Santa Barbara County.

The county Fire Department's hazardous materials crew responding to the toxic gas leak on Palmer Road early Wednesday found a 4-inch underground crude oil pipeline ruptured and toxic gas was released.

Fire Capt. Eli Iskow says the Greka facility was evacuated and the CHP shut down Palmer Road for several hours. A vacuum truck was brought in to drain the pipe of fluids and gas.

AP

SANTA MARIA

Six arrested in million-dollar drug bust

A Central Coast narcotics detail has concluded a six-month drug investigation with six arrests and seizure of \$1 million worth of marijuana and hashish.

The Santa Maria Police Department's Narcotic Suppression Team, the Santa Barbara Regional Narcotic Enforcement Team and federal officers collaborated in the investigation.

AP

Small oil producer a major polluter

BY NOAKI SCHWARTZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS OLIVOS When a Firestone Vineyard employee discovered oil trickling down a creek in January in this wine country town, the source of the contamination was no surprise to firefighters.

Of 21 refineries in California, Greka Oil & Gas Inc. is the fourth-smallest producer, but the state's biggest inland oil polluter, according to state officials.

Broken pumps, busted pipes, overflowing ponds and cracked tanks at Greka installations have spilled more than a half-million gallons of oil and contaminated water since 1999, fouling the water, soil and air in the Southern California county many consider the birthplace of the nation's environmental movement.

Over the past nine years, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department has responded at least 400 times to oil spills and gas leaks at Greka, resulting in fines, citations, federal and local prosecutions and investigations by the Environmental Protection Agency and state Fish and Game.

"I've been in the hazardous materials business for 20 years and this is the worst oil company I've ever seen," said Robert Wise, who works at EPA's Superfund division.

The company says it is a victim of sabotage — a claim local and federal authorities dispute — and overzealous regulators.

"To say that Greka is a major polluter is a joke," said President Andrew deVegvar. "To the extent to which we're being portrayed as some kind of Darth Vader of the oil industry is not appropriate."

While the company has been fined more than \$2.5 million over the years, authorities are losing patience with Greka. This winter the county Fire Department hit the company with stop-work orders against most of its

operations.

Some conservationists and others suspect Greka's political connections — along with piecemeal regulation by overlapping agencies and weak inland oil spill laws — have allowed it to continue operating. Greka leases land from current and former county supervisors; another former supervisor is on the Greka payroll.

That the spills are happening in Santa Barbara County is perhaps the cruelest twist for environmentalists.

The mountainous coastal area dotted with boutique wineries and the ranches of President Reagan and Michael Jackson was a catalyst for the environmental movement. A disaster at a Union Oil Co. platform in 1969 coated miles of beaches with oil, killed thousands of birds and helped lead to the Clean Water Act and a moratorium on offshore drilling.

Greka set up shop in Santa Maria in 1999, taking over aging facilities from major oil companies and turning crude into asphalt and other products.

From 1999 to 2007, the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District inspected Greka facilities 855 times and issued 298 violations. During that period, 203 Greka spills threatened or polluted state waters 20 times, according to Fish and Game.

"Right now I can't think of anybody that is worse than Greka," said Steve Edinger, assistant chief of Fish and Game. "They are the biggest inland oil pollution problem we are dealing with across California. Nobody has our attention like Greka does."

Authorities say Greka employees have been spotted covering up oil contamination with fresh dirt and were once caught plugging a corroded storage tank with a tree branch — accusations the company rejects. The district attorney cited Greka for 104 violations in 2004 after employees were alleged-

ly caught trying to tamper with old pollution-belching engines. Greka settled with the county for \$675,000.

DeVegvar has said the number of incidents is not out of line with those of other producers when looked at on a per-well basis. But the EPA's Wise said that is true only if Greka wells that aren't in use are counted, too.

Greka has spent tens of millions of dollars in upgrades, deVegvar said. The company recently said it was tightening security, and in January announced an environmental initiative dubbed Greka Green. But just a day later, it was hit with an 8,400-gallon spill.

Brooks Firestone, whose family leases land to Greka, was one of two members of the county Board of Supervisors who blocked an emergency hearing on Greka in December. He said the staff needed more time to prepare, and warned board members not to become hysterical.

"To me, a huge event involving oil was the Kuwaiti oil fields that were fired by the Iraqi army in the first Gulf War, the 1969 oil spill in the channel, the Valdez tanker and the Normandy tanker," Firestone said at the time. "What is the meaning of this incident?"

Days later, on Jan. 5, Greka spilled more than 190,000 gallons of oil and contaminated water on the land it leases from the Firestone estate. Since that spill, Firestone, who insists he hasn't given Greka any advantages, has withdrawn from deciding matters related to the company.

Firestone, an heir to the tire fortune, said it would be too difficult to calculate how much income he receives from Greka. On political disclosure forms, he said he owns only 9 percent of the vineyard land on which the Greka installation sits. Officials have to own at least 10 percent of a business to dis-close income from it.

A former county supervisor, Mike Stoker, has served as a Greka spokesman and said he was hired last year as a consultant to improve the company's relationship with local regulators and help Greka become a "better corporate citizen." He would not say what Greka pays him. Stoker is also the \$60,720-a-year district representative for state Sen. Tom McClintock.

McClintock, R-Thousand Oaks, defended his employee and said he had no plans to get involved in the Greka situation.

While there are few rules regulating outside employment for legislative staff, Secretary of the Senate Gregory Schmidt said Stoker is "dangerously close to being a lobbyist."

After a series of spills, including the incident at the Firestone estate, the fire department issued its stop-work orders; the EPA launched an investigation and threatened Greka with tens of thousands of dollars in fines per day; Assemblyman Pedro Nava, D-Santa Barbara, began working on legislation that would beef up enforcement, impose higher penalties and provide more resources to clean up inland spills; and the county government, which issues various permits, began looking into increasing its penalties, too, and making companies reimburse emergency cleanup costs.

"I believe in giving people and businesses more than one chance, a number of chances if they're trying to make things right, but I don't believe in 400 chances," said Doreen Farr, a former planning commissioner running for a seat on the board.

Greka officials have mounted an aggressive defense, threatening to sue the county for \$100 million if it isn't allowed to reopen and offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of saboteurs.

Meanwhile, even with operations largely shut down, firefighters responded to five incidents at Greka installations last week.

Paper apologizes for Shakur story

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Times apologized for using apparently fabricated documents in a story implying that a 1994 assault on Tupac Shakur was carried out by associates of Sean "Diddy" Combs, and that he knew about it ahead of time.

"The bottom line is that the documents we relied on should not have been used," Editor Russ Stanton said in a story posted Wednesday night on the newspaper's Web site. "We apologize both to our readers and to those referenced in the documents ... and in the story."

Pulitzer-prize winning reporter Chuck Philips, who wrote the story, and his supervisor, Deputy Managing Editor Marc Duvoisin, also apologized.

The apologies followed an investigation launched by Stanton after The Smoking Gun Web site reported earlier in the day that the paper was conned by a prisoner who doctored the documents.

Combs denied that he had any prior knowledge of or involvement in the robbery and shooting of Shakur at a New York recording studio. He and other subjects of the story claimed they had been defamed by the newspaper.

The Smoking Gun said the documents seemed phony because they appeared to be written on a typewriter instead of a computer and included blacked-out sections not typically found in such documents, among other problems.

The Web site claimed the documents were fabricated by a prison inmate with a history of exaggerating his place in the rap music world.

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Agriculture officials withhold names

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Under pressure from the food industry, the Agriculture Department is considering a proposal not to identify retailers where tainted meat went for sale except in cases of serious health risk, The Associated Press has learned.

Had that been the rule in place last month, consumers would not have been told if their supermarkets sold meat from a Southern California slaughterhouse that triggered the biggest beef recall in U.S. history.

The plan is being considered as the USDA puts the final touches on a proposed disclosure rule. It had lingered in draft form for two years until February, when 143 million pounds of beef were recalled by Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. in Chino, Calif., after undercover video by an animal-rights activist showed workers abusing crippled cows.

Agriculture Department spokesman Chris Connelly confirmed Wednesday that the agency is weighing whether to make naming the stores mandatory only for so-called "Class I" recalls, which pose the greatest health hazard. The Chino recall was categorized as "Class II" because authorities

determined there was minimal risk to human health.

Currently, the government discloses only a recall itself. It does not list which retailers might have received recalled meat. The same holds true for recalled vegetables.

Consumer groups and Democratic lawmakers contended that the public should have access to the names of retailers in all recalls. As originally written, the rule would have applied to all recalls.

"It's unacceptable to us because of the way the rule was originally fashioned, and we have an immediate example of the Hallmark case being exempted," said Tony Corbo of Food & Water Watch, a Washington, D.C., advocacy group.

At an appearance in Sacramento, Calif., earlier this week, Agriculture Secretary Edward Schafer said there are "differences with the different classes of recalls."

"But, you know, a Class I recall, to have a retailer notification, I think, is important," Schafer said.

Partly for competitive reasons, industry groups support the way recalls are currently done, where a description of the recalled product is released by the Agriculture Department's Food Safety and Inspection Service along with some other information including where it was produced.

Retailers must remove recalled meat from their shelves but there's no requirement that they notify their customers about meat already sold, though some take voluntary steps to do so.

Consumers may be able to identify prepackaged foods like hot dogs that the Agriculture Department mentions by brand name, but with ground beef or other items that are repackaged at grocery stores, there's usually no identifying information on the package to tell consumers it's a recalled item.

That's what has led consumer groups to argue that customers need more information, a position shared by Dr. Richard Raymond, who made publishing the retailer rule a top priority when he took over as the Agriculture Department's undersecretary for food safety in 2005.

In an interview this week Raymond said that it was "common sense to assume" that some consumers may have fallen ill because they didn't have access to names of retailers selling tainted meat. But he disputed the suggestion that industry opposition — expressed in written and public comments, meetings with the White House Office of Management and Budget, and other venues — has stalled the rule.

"It's going through the normal process,"

Raymond said. "It does unfortunately take a long time to go through the normal process."

Industry groups argue that even if just Class I recalls are covered, the rule could create confusion for consumers since retailer lists could be incomplete or take days or weeks to compile. Customers could have a false sense of security if their grocery store doesn't immediately show up on the list, the groups contend.

Some cite the example of California, which is unique among states in having a law requiring disclosure of retailers' names in recalls. California's list of retailers from the Westland/Hallmark recall is 147 pages long and has been continuously updated.

"We've met with USDA numerous times to be sure that they understand our goal, which is to be sure that if a consumer has bought a product that has been recalled we do not want them to eat that food," said Jill Hollingsworth of the Food Marketing Institute in Arlington, Va.

But some industry officials also acknowledge competitive concerns, because if lists of retailers selling recalled meat become public, competitors would know who to approach to offer the product at a lower price. "That does cause some issues in the marketplace," said Jeremy Russell, spokesman for the National Meat Association.



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Plan with other City policies

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- **DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY**: tourism, health care, entertainment & the arts, and a diversity of retail opportunities
- **STRATEGY**: for building Workforce and Affordable Housing
- **WRAPPING UP THE PLAN**: folding in adopted City policies

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Bipartisan group hopes to improve political climate

BY LAURA KURTZMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Calling state government dysfunctional, a bipartisan group launched a reform effort Wednesday that it said would be backed by its own political action committee.

The group, called California Forward, will push for passage of a proposed November ballot initiative supported by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to take away the Legislature's power to draw political districts and give it instead to an independent panel. Advocates say this will help moderates get elected.

The reform group also plans to address the state budgeting process.

Leon Panetta, a former Democratic congressman from Monterey and chief of staff to former President Bill Clinton, is leading the group with Thomas McKernan, a Republican donor who is chief executive of the Automobile Club of Southern California.

Panetta acknowledged it would be difficult, if not impossible, to change the way government functions. He said many had tried before, only to have their recommendations ignored, a reality the speakers illustrated with a three-foot-high stack of old reports on good governance that they piled next to the lectern.

But Panetta said lawmakers should heed the message of voters who have grown tired of the political paralysis that breeds chronic budget deficits and that killed efforts last year to reform health care.

He said he hopes "to convince legislators and the governor there is merit in governing the state."

He added, "They have to appreciate the fact that governing is good politics."

McKernan said the group would keep an open mind when it comes to addressing the state budget deficit and might entertain such fundamental changes as lowering the two-thirds majority it takes to pass a spending plan.

"Everything is on the table," said McKernan, who heads the Orange County chapter of the New Majority, a GOP fundraising group. "We want to be judicious in what we put forward first."

Showdown pushes prime minister toward the door

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD The widening clashes between Iraqi forces and Shiite militiamen mean more than a showdown on the streets: it could be a defining moment for U.S.-backed Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Al-Maliki, in office since May 2006, is almost certain to pay a heavy political price if he fails against Shiite militias in battles that began in the southern city of Basra and then flared in Baghdad and other cities.

And he knows the stakes are high. He has promised not to compromise and vowed to battle to the end against the Mahdi Army militia led by anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

That's a bold position considering the fight so far.

The Iraqi campaign in Basra — launched this week to uproot Mahdi Army's influence in the important oil center — has been bogged down in the face of strong resistance, desertions and mutiny in government ranks, security officials said Thursday.

But al-Maliki appears unshaken and has turned the fight into a personal test.

He has traveled to Basra, 340 miles south of Baghdad, to take personal charge of the operation — the first major battle waged by Iraqi forces alone without strong U.S. back-up. It's a gambit with clear fallout for al-Maliki if Iraqi security forces come up short.

His political standing would be seriously bruised at a time when he is attempting to play unifier between the nation's three fractious groups: majority Shiites, Sunni Arabs and Kurds.

Sunni leaders, who complain of being sidelined by al-Maliki's government, could feel emboldened and press harder for al-Maliki's ouster. Even the prime minister's main coalition partner — the powerful

Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council — has recently been dropping hints of disapproval of al-Maliki.

Much now rides on the outcome of the showdown against the Mahdi Army, the main rival of the Supreme Council in the Shiite heartland in southern Iraq.

"If the (Iraqi government forces) cannot gradually get some control over Basra, of course al-Maliki will lose prestige," said Phebe Marr, a historian on Iraqi affairs and senior fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington.

But she believes his main Shiite allies will not quickly abandon him regardless of how events play out against the Mahdi Army.

A senior aide said al-Sadr is seeking a political solution. In a statement relayed by Hazem al-Aaraji, al-Sadr said he wants "everyone to pursue political solutions and peaceful protests and a stop to the shedding of Iraqi blood."

The crisis came to a head following months of U.S. and Iraqi raids that detained hundreds of Mahdi Army fighters even as the militia maintained its self-proclaimed truce — which Washington has credited for helping bring down violence since last August.

But the timing could also be an attempt to take a swipe at al-Sadr before the Pentagon scales back its forces in coming months, from 158,000 to about 140,000.

Al-Maliki's government, meanwhile, is looking ahead to provincial elections this year that will be a key test of its standing against al-Sadr.

"It may be a calculation that it is better to undertake this action while there are still robust (U.S. forces) in the country," said Marr.

There is no doubt, however, that al-Maliki is acting with uncharacteristic daring.

His hallmark — and perhaps means of political survival — has been caution. Al-

Maliki has been careful not to anger his Shiite political base by pushing too hard for U.S.-backed reforms, including bringing more Sunni Arabs into the security forces.

At times, Washington's patience with al-Maliki appears to be wearing thin. But the tone changed after Iraqi forces pushed into Basra.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said Tuesday that al-Maliki showed bravery by committing his forces to the fight. "I would characterize it as a bold decision — precisely what the critics have asked to see in Iraq," she said.

President Bush, speaking Thursday to a military audience in Dayton, Ohio, did not specifically cite al-Maliki, but said Iraq's leaders should be given time to reconcile differences and applauded them for showing "great courage" against their foes.

More than that may be needed against al-Sadr's militiamen.

Iraqi security officials said two special police units dispatched to Basra from Baghdad have been beset by dissent. An army battalion also suffered desertions, with an unspecified number of soldiers taking off their uniforms and walking away.

"We did not expect the fight to be this intense," said an officer from one of the two commando units. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the information is classified.

He recounted how he and his men were pinned down Tuesday by mortars and sniper fire outside the Basra neighborhood of Tamimiyah, one of several densely populated Mahdi Army strongholds in the city.

The officer, who spoke by telephone from Basra, said four of his men were killed and 15 wounded Tuesday.

"Some of the men told me that they did not want to go back to the fight until they have better support and more protection,"

said the officer, whose unit numbers up to 300 men armed with assault rifles and machine guns fixed atop pickup trucks.

The security officials said the Interior Ministry issued a stern warning to the men that they could face court martial if they refuse orders to fight.

On Thursday, a top national police commander came to Basra and was peppered by complaints from troops that they were fired upon by Basra policemen loyal to al-Sadr and that they and their families in Baghdad have received threatening text messages, according to a second officer who sat in on the meeting.

The unit's commander, a major, received a text message from a Mahdi Army commander offering him safe passage for his men out of the city, according to the officer.

Members of the second police unit got into a fist fight with their officers when they refused orders to join the battle and, in protest, did not receive food rations. The unit suffered 15 wounded on Tuesday, said the officials.

The officials said the dissent was partially caused by reluctance of by troops to fight fellow Iraqis. Others were deeply demoralized when they found out that the Mahdi Army militiamen had more firepower.

A video from Basra obtained Thursday by Associated Press Television News showed militiamen in possession of a Humvee captured from army troops. They repainted it white and plastered an image of al-Sadr on it.

The footage also showed two armored vehicles destroyed and about 20 men that a man — speaking off camera — described as army soldiers who voluntarily surrendered to the Mahdi Army. The men were squatting on dirt and their weapons arrayed in front of them.

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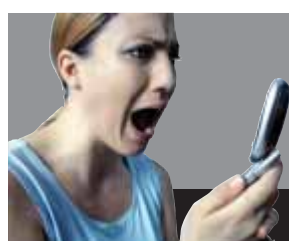
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Petition drive to begin soon

FROM DISTRICT PAGE 1

Several councilmembers and members of the public commented on how the working group has come together to embrace the project, after starting years ago at odds with one another.

"I really feel good we've gotten to this point where there is general consensus and people are trusting each other," Councilmember Ken Genser said at the meeting.

But Judy Abdo, the former mayor and current member of the working group, advised the council pay close attention to make sure the homeless are not swept off the promenade or out of the downtown area.

"It's not a perfect plan, but it's a pretty good plan," Abdo said. It was a sentiment echoed by Todd Flora, a member of the Bayside District Corporation, who said he came into the process as a skeptic.

"I hope those ambassadors will be true ambassadors to

visitors to the city as well as (provide) real assistance to those who need our help in a very human way," he said.

If the petition garners enough signatures, a ballot measure will be mailed to the property owners. If the district is formed, a service agreement will be drawn between City Hall and the Bayside District, a document that would outline how certain services will be delivered, Segal said.

Under the proposed plan, home and condo owners would also be assessed, a departure from the current Central Business District. The formula by which the assessments are determined would be weighted different depending on the location of the property, with properties on the promenade paying the most per square footage, followed by parcels between Fourth Street and Ocean Avenue and then properties between Fifth and Seventh streets.

melodyh@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMMUSD HEADQUARTERS

District conducts homework survey

The Educational Services department with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is currently asking parents to complete an online survey regarding the homework load their children receive.

The survey, which can be accessed at www.smmusd.org, was launched after school officials began receiving complaints from parents that their children were receiving either too little or too much homework. The Health and Safety District Advisory Committee had also expressed concerns about the disparity in the level of homework students in enrolled in the same courses receive. Some committee members pointed to the need for teachers to communicate with each other so they don't overburden their students with assignments, cutting

into their sleep time and ultimately affecting their learning experience.

The survey will continue through the end of April. For more information, contact the school district at (310) 450-8338.

DP

LOS ANGELES

Judge refuses to dismiss suit

A judge has refused to dismiss a \$4 million negligence suit filed by a diver abandoned at sea for hours by a boat crew. The 50-year-old Santa Monica man filed suit for negligence, infliction of emotional distress and fraud after the Ocean Adventures crew left him in the water off Santa Catalina Island when he got separated from his diving buddy on April 25, 2004.

DP



Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

GETTING IT DONE: Karen Jashinsky (left) works with 17-year-old Elizabeth Flier at the 02 Max Fitness Gym, a workout program designed for teens located on Nebraska Avenue.

Fitness center geared toward local youngsters

FROM GYM PAGE 1

is drafted. The introductory fee also includes a nutrition plan created by a registered dietitian.

After graduating from Washington University in St. Louis, Jashinsky spent a few years as a personal trainer before she decided to open her own fitness center. Jashinsky, who comes from a business-minded family that owns a restaurant in northern New Jersey, enrolled in USC's business program with the dream of one-day opening her own gym.

She decided to focus on teenagers after learning about the need for a high school student-focused fitness center from her client's children, many of whom resided in the Westside.

Two things that Jashinsky said she heard loud and clear from high schoolers in what motivates them to exercise, is music and sociability.

About 20 teenagers, the majority of which are high school aged, have enrolled in the gym.

One of the new clients is Elizabeth Flier, a senior at Harvard Westlake School, who took part in her second fitness session on Thursday. Jashinsky was the personal trainer for Flier's father for five years.

The Beverly Hills teenager said she decided to enroll in a membership because she was no longer required to take P.E. at her high school.

"I didn't realize just how much I enjoyed it until I didn't have to do it anymore," Flier said. "The program has helped me understand my body more."

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Newcomer digs deep for cause

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

Rare is an artists that puts their money where their mouth is. Some make occasional appearances to raise funds for important causes, but few take that idea on the road with them.

Carrie Newcomer, who plays McCabe's in Santa Monica on Saturday, makes every one of her shows a fundraiser. She has decided to give 10 percent of all her profits to the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization that is dedicated to social justice for all. Newcomer, a Quaker herself, said that it's important to include philanthropy in everything she does.

"It is kind of funny. It is something that I hardly think about anymore. It's just what I do," Newcomer said. "It's a pretty integral part of my creative process."

The idea of giving back is so ingrained in her professional life that she was hard pressed to nail down a date for her first charitable contribution. The singer/songwriter, who recently released her 11th solo album dubbed "The Geography of Light," has been contributing part of her tour proceeds since 1998. Aside from giving to the American Friends Service Committee, she has contributed to Habitat for Humanity, Planned Parenthood and America's Second Harvest.

"In some ways it sounds altruistic but it's really not. I get to meet incredible people everywhere I go and I get to work with these organizations to make the



Photo courtesy Carrie Newcomer

BIG GIVER: Carrie Newcomer, who plays McCabe's in Santa Monica on Saturday, makes every one of her shows a fundraiser.

world a better place," she said. "It keeps my hope alive. I get to meet people in every community that are working in these ways. They don't always get the front page but they are there."

Newcomer selects organizations based on various subjects in her music. While she doesn't consider her brand of folksy

acoustic music particularly political in nature, she concedes that some of her music features decidedly socially aware themes.

"I wouldn't call myself a political writer, but I don't censor what I write about," she said. "Sometimes what I'm thinking about the world and politics will get into my

writing. That is a part of my life and how I experience the world. I have a strong spiritual life and it gets into my writing."

Using her Amish background as a springboard for her musical direction, Newcomer realizes that her experi-

SEE NEWCOMER PAGE 18

BOOK REVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON

'My Soul to Keep'

Davis Bunn • Bethany House

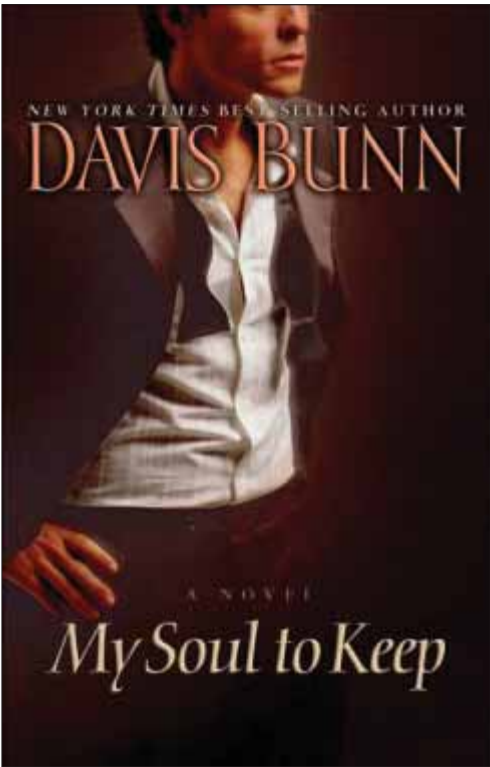
Are we ever given a second chance? If so, do we ever use it? If we do, what guarantee do we have that it will be successful?

Davis Bunn uses his global film industry background to provide the background to this suspense thriller about two film companies battling it out to be numero uno. Who is going to be first? Being first means you can dominate the box office. To what extent will you go to be the winner? Do you have to sell your soul to get there?

The story opens up with our main character, an alcoholic with a prison record. He once used to be a big movie idol but now no one will touch him. He is given another chance to star in an indie production. He is handed the directorship as well as the choice of leading ladies. He chooses to star next to the woman he hurt most. But the Hollywood he left behind will not let him succeed.

The characters are well drawn and the opposition is strong. You have the contrast of two philosophies of film making. One wants to cut corners and the other wants to be true to the story of the subject. It will be the film of Daniel Boone and his expansion across the untamed territory. One story, the Hollywood one, will be told as an exportation of the Indians. The other is according to what really happened. The

SEE BOOK REVIEW PAGE 18



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NEW RELEASES REVIEW

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE



'Flawless' lacks real thrills

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE

Special to the Daily Press

"Flawless," director Michael Radford's crime-drama set in 1960's London's diamond district, is beset with inclusions. The film follows frustrated London Diamonds executive Laura Quinn (Demi Moore) who, continually passed over by her male cohorts, struggles to come to grips with the fact that she may never get ahead in the male dominated field, despite her obvious experience. When Hobbs (Michael Caine) the night janitor, approaches her with a scheme to steal a meager handful of diamonds, Quinn's interest is piqued and the two set out to pull off a "modest" heist. Hobbs of course, has ulterior designs and the "foolproof" plan quickly unravels into a heist of enormous proportions.

While the premise sounds exciting, there are no real thrills here. You're never scared for Moore, even when she's "hiding out" in her boss's study, trying to obtain the codes that will enable Caine to crack open the vault, nor do you worry as to the

outcome of Moore's actions, since the film (essentially one big snore of a flashback) listlessly begins in present day; with an "older Moore" being interviewed by a reporter.

Moore's performance is lackluster, as is the plot, which struggles desperately to find its pace – slow, being the operative word. Moore spends most of her screen time strolling to and from her mundane job, clad in the rigid formality of a tight gray suit, clicking her high-heeled, black pumps against a white marble floor while chain-smoking more cigarettes than Meryl Streep and Cher's combined nicotine drags in Mike Nichol's "Silkwood."

The outstanding gem here is Caine, who shines brilliantly as the disgruntled janitor with a revenge motive. But aside from Caine's acting, never have I been so bored in a heist film. Appraisal: Don't rent it, steal it – you'll feel better knowing you saw this one for free.

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



Photo courtesy Magnolia Pictures

PAIR OF HEAVY HITTERS: Michael Caine (left) and Demi Moore star in 'Flawless.'

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Discuss a Development Agreement proposal to construct a new entertainment production facility.
Address: 2834 Colorado Avenue
APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER: Colorado Creative Studios, LLC

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Discuss the applicant's Development Agreement proposal to redevelop the existing industrial use with a four story, 153,000 square foot entertainment production facility over a 412 space subterranean parking garage. Project alternatives and potential public benefits will also be discussed.

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008, AT 6:45 p.m.

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

HOW TO COMMENT

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

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Colorado Creative Studios Discussion
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401



MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Special Projects Administrator Bruce Leach at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at bruce.leach@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org.

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

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

ESPAÑOL

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

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'The Dead' is a lively musical

BY CYNTHIA CITRON

Special to the Daily Press

Anyone who ever struggled through "Finnegan's Wake" in school can be excused for wanting to avoid James Joyce for life. And a short story called "The Dead" would surely not entice someone to take up with him again. But what about a musical version of "The Dead?"

Unlikely as that sounds, Richard Nelson and Shaun Davey have created just that, and provided theater-goers with an evening of Irish charm and nostalgia they won't soon forget.

Nelson and Davey's adaptation takes place on Epiphany Eve: Jan. 6, 1904, in Dublin. It's the 30th year that this holiday party has been hosted by the spinster Morkan sisters (Jacque Lynn Colton and Judith Scarpone) and their niece Mary Jane (Teresa Willis) for their friends and extended family, as their nephew, Gabriel Conroy (Rob Nagle), explains. Conroy, who serves as the narrator for the evening, is an uptight, eager-to-please, and rather shallow gentleman who has lived his life politely oblivious to the concerns of those around him. And most particularly to those of his troubled wife Gretta (Martha Demson).

Traditionally, the party is an evening of music and dance, and it begins with a selection of lively jigs and familiar songs. Except that the songs only sound familiar; Nelson has incorporated the words of famous Irish poets into his own original lyrics, while Davey has composed and arranged the music from scratch. Early on, the music celebrates Ireland: The songs are romantic, patriotic, and political, as in the rousing "Parnell's Plight." As the party progresses, and more drinks are consumed, the songs become more contemporary, similar to ones that might be sung in Dublin's tav-

erns and music halls. And finally, the songs are contemplative, using Joyce's own words to illustrate the intimate relationships between the parties, and most especially between Conroy and his wife.

As charming and carefree as the evening appears, however, it was Joyce's contention that tradition and conformity had stifled his countrymen and made of them the "living dead." And the heavy snow that continues to fall on this holiday evening is, perhaps, a symbol of the burial of their illusions, their hopes and their dreams. This abiding sense of being buried provides a clue to Joyce's own self-imposed exile from Dublin – and perhaps also a clue to his alcoholism.

As the festive evening winds down to its end, happy nostalgia slowly turns to melancholy. A beloved aunt approaches death; the spinster sisters ruefully accept the flattery of the gentlemen, who are friends but never lovers; and Conroy is forced to confront a situation that, in his self-absorption he had never before contemplated.

A fine ensemble cast of 14, under the careful direction of Charles Otte, makes for an adventurous evening, and Christine Sang's lively choreography brings a smile to the faces and a lift to the spirits of this hearty band of Dubliners. Christina Wright's period costumes are fetchingly appropriate.

Director Otte, who also plays the violin, is joined by Dean Mora, musical director, on piano and Jennifer Richardson on bass to provide the music that anchors the play.

James Joyce's "The Dead" is a production of the Open Fist Theatre Company. It will be performed Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. through April 12. The Open Fist Theatre is located at 6209 Santa Monica Blvd. in Hollywood. For reservations, call (323) 882-6912 or go to their Web site at www.openfist.org.

NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy Dreamworks

'Sweeney Todd'

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street has Johnny Depp and Tim Burton joining forces again. This time it's a big-screen adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical thriller with Depp in the lead role (Oscar-nominated at that). Depp sets up a barber shop down in London which is the basis for a sinister partnership with his fellow tenant, Mrs. Lovett (Helena Bonham Carter). Many special features are added including the real history of the Demon Barber, a look at Sondheim's musical, rehearsals, recording sessions, and the brilliant design and art direction involved in the production. (Dreamworks)

'The Kingdom' Series Two

A haunting roller coaster of a ride is in store for viewers of this inventive supernatural thriller set inside Denmark's most esteemed but cursed medical institution. The final four episodes tied into malicious forces at work as the hospital's restless spirits play havoc among the eccentric staff and residents. (Koch)

'The Unknown Soldier'

A provocative and intriguing story that is a dagger in Germany's consciousness, here is a film about the controversial Wehrmacht Exhibition. Through this material it is revealed for the first time via personal letters, photographs and film footage that implicates the common foot soldier in horrific acts. Crimes against humanity committed by the Nazi regime is often thought of as the exclusive work of the Waffen SS and the Gestapo, this is a revealing look at a nation still reconciling its proud history with a unique and horrible wartime legacy. (First Run)

'You've Got Mail' Deluxe Edition

Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan star in this comedy/romance where two business rivals hate each other at the office but fall in love over the Internet. Greg Kinnear, Dave Chappelle, Parker Posey, and Jean Stapleton are part of the fine supporting cast. Supplements include all-new interviews with Hanks and Ryan as well as a Carole King music video, an interactive tour of Manhattan's Upper West Side, and commentary from co-writer/director Nora Ephron and producer Lauren Donner. (Warner Bros)

'PU-239'

A nuclear-power plant worker (Paddy Considine) in 1995 post-Soviet Russia, learns how authorities lied about the extent he was exposed to radiation and now only has a few days to live. If you had only a few days to live, how far would you go to ensure your family's future? Deadly substances (plutonium) in the hands of deadly figures (Russian criminal underground) is at the core of this riveting thriller. It includes commentary from writer/director Scott Burns. (HBO)

'The Wild, Wild West' The Fourth Season

James West (Robert Conrad) and Artemus Gordon (Ross Martin) have their hands full keeping the late 19th century America safe from the evil geniuses, criminal masterminds, and devious despots out to change the world order. As two agents of President Grant, these two roam the west in their special train keeping the ever-present chaos from spreading to dangerous levels. Two dozen episodes from the 1968-69 season come on six discs. (Paramount/CBS)

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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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD BY
THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
ON APPLICATIONS FOR VARIANCES

TIME: 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2008

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Room 213, Santa Monica City Hall,
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator of the City of Santa Monica at the above noted time and place in regard to the following requests:

SUBJECT OF HEARING:

Reduced Parking Permit 08-001, 930 Broadway. The applicant requests approval to allow the shared use of 9 parking spaces on the subject property in conjunction with the operation of a new restaurant. 32 parking spaces are required to support the proposed use out of which 23 spaces would be provided on-site with the remaining 9 spaces proposed to be fulfilled by the shared use of existing parking in the subject property. The subject property, which is comprised of two structures, contains 154 parking spaces, which also provide required parking for the seven other businesses and 48 residential units located on the site. An applicant may request a reduced parking permit for shared parking pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.04.20.26.030(a). [Planner: Lily Yegazu] **APPLICANT: Dough Park, Mizu 212. PROPERTY OWNER: 926 Broadway LLC.**

Use Permit 07-004, 404 San Vicente Boulevard. The applicant, Verizon Wireless, proposes to install, operate, and maintain an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility on the roof of the three-story condominium building at 404 San Vicente Boulevard in the City of Santa Monica. The proposed facility would include twelve panel antennas in three sectors, each sector consisting of four panel antennas embedded into the northwest, northeast and southwest parapet walls. Three sections of the existing mansard roof parapet will be removed and replaced with radio-frequency transparent fiberglass composite material of the same color and texture as the existing roof parapet in order to fully screen the antennas from public view. In addition to the antennas, the applicant is proposing to install related equipment cabinets toward the center of the roof of the condominium building. The proposed antennas do not comply with the requirements for non-parabolic antennas contained in Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.06.110 (a). Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.10.06.110 (b), the Zoning Administrator may approve modifications to the requirements for non-parabolic commercial antenna through the approval of a Use Permit application. The Zoning Administrator will also be considering a Resolution to adopt a Negative Declaration prepared for the project. [Planner: Lily Yegazu] **APPLICANT: Ramon Salazar / Verizon Wireless. PROPERTY OWNER: 404 San Vicente Home Owners Association.**

Variance 07-016, 614 Grant Street. The applicant requests the following modifications to the OP2 Ocean Park Low Multiple Family District Development Standards for a proposed single family residence: [1] Permit a front portion of the proposed flat roof to be above the maximum 23' limit for the district; [2] Permit a portion of the proposed attached two-car garage to encroach 9'-10" into the required 15-foot rear yard setback; [3] Permit a proposed front patio/deck above the existing one-car garage in the front yard setback area which is more than 3' above theoretical grade; [4] Permit front yard walls/fences that exceed the maximum 42" height limit for walls and fences in the front yard setback area; [5] Permit the guardrail at the patio deck above the existing one-car garage to be closer than 3' from the edge of the building; [6] Permit a fireplace to encroach 2' and downspouts to encroach 7.5" into the minimum required 4' side yard setback area; [7] Permit a fence/wall that is more than 8' in height along the north side yard adjacent to an alley way. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.20.10.030(c), the applicant may request a modification to maximum permissible fence and wall heights. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.20.10.030(f)(1), the applicant may request a variance to exceed district height limits by no more than five feet if a parcel has a grade differential of 12.5 feet or more. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.20.10.030(d)(1)(3), the applicant may request a modification to yard setbacks on parcels that are 90-feet or less in depth and has a 12.5 grade differential or more. The subject site has a grade differential of 12.89' and a parcel depth of 80'. [Planner: Ivan Lai] **APPLICANT: Helena Berge/EIS Studio. PROPERTY OWNER: Mark Matkins/Watt Commercial Properties.**

Variance 08-001, 1239 23rd Street. The applicant requests approval of a variance to allow the replacement of an exterior nonconforming staircase to encroach 6'-4" into the required rear yard setback (east side) of an existing 4-unit condominium building. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.20.10.030(l), a variance may be requested to allow the modification, renovation or replacement of nonconforming building access features, including but not limited to exterior stairs, ramps, doors, balconies, and windows. [Planner: Ivan Lai] **APPLICANT: 1239 23rd Street. PROPERTY OWNER: 1239 23rd St. HOA.**

Any person may comment at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter to the City Planning Division, Room 212, P.O. Box 2220, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2220. Plans are available for public review at the City Planning Division. For more information, please contact the City Planning Division at (310) 458-8341. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 64009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing. The meeting facility is accessible. If you have any disabilities related request, contact at (310) 458-8341 or TTY (310) 458-8696 at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, #4, #7 and #8 serve the City Hall.

*Esto es un aviso sobre una audiencia publica para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Esto puede ser de interes para usted. Si desea mas informacion, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la Division de Planificacion al numero (310) 458-8341.

ON THE SHELVES

CD REVIEWS BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy Geffen

Counting Crows, 'Saturday Nights & Sunday Mornings'

A raw and real-feeling album about the lives that leader Adam Duritz felt he has experienced is vividly brought to an accessible realm by his band of talented musicians in a more folksy, acoustic vein than in past releases. The album, like the title indicates, really is two-fold. On the "Saturday Nights" side, "1492" and "Los Angeles" are statements of decay and disintegration as Duritz felt the band was tailing off and this would be their last album. But adding the "Sunday Mornings" after extensive soul-searching and recordings in Berkeley, the band rejuvenates their acoustic prowess with such tunes as "Washington Square," "Anyone But You" and concludes with the brilliant "Come Around." Their first album in five years shows an almost telepathic dynamic between the singer-songwriter and tuned in musicians who play off his every nuance with verve. (Geffen)

Will Downing, 'After Hours'

Blessed with a rhythmic, romantic baritone in the vein of Luther Vandross and Barry White, Will Downing is a performer on the rise. Overcoming a muscle debilitating disorder that forced him to cut the majority of his vocals from a wheelchair at home, Downing is in the pink in terms of the health of his musical output. Downing's first album for Peak which debuted at no. 1 on the Billboard R&B chart, includes 10 tunes that are a lovers' delight. From "Will's Groove" to "After Tonight," this is a mellow pack that whispers nothing but serenely relaxed optimism and unhurried romance. (Peak)

Faith Hill, 'The Hits'

Faith offers 15 tunes here including the duet, "I Need You" with Tim McGraw and a live version of "Stronger." Other titles include "Red Umbrella," "Lost," "Mississippi Girl," "This Kiss," and "Wild One." Inner CD sleeves serve as a sort of scrapbook showing the artist with her first guitar at age 3 and performing at a talent show at age 14. (Warner Nashville)

Various, 'Legendary Singers'

A new set to satisfy both the hard core fan and the collector looking to find a one-stop work for leading crooners. Each of the performers has their own two-disc offering that includes 30 songs spanning their brilliant careers. The velvet-voiced masters include classics such as "Chances Are," "It's Not For Me To Say," "White Christmas," "Till the End of Time," "Prisoner of Love," "Stardust," and "Ramblin' Rose." Here is an "Unforgettable" series for fans of pop balladeers. (Time Life)

Breathe, 'The Relaxing Baroque'

A nuclear-power plant worker (Paddy Considine) in 1995 post-Soviet Russia, learns how authorities lied about the extent he was exposed to radiation and now only has a few days to live. If you had only a few days to live, how far would you go to ensure your family's future? Deadly substances (plutonium) in the hands of deadly figures (Russian criminal underground) is at the core of this riveting thriller. It includes commentary from writer/director Scott Burns. (HBO)

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.



West Dressed

Mariel Howsepien

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What to wear in Western Asia

LAST WEEK, I WENT TO ARMENIA. I was so underdressed.

I had a feeling that I would be. I packed jeans and long sleeved T-shirts, an army-green parka and my Ugg boots.

Armenian women do not wear Uggs. They also do not wear Chuck Taylors. And they never wear flip-flops.

"Flip-flops?" my 21-year old translator Elisabeth asked.

I tried to explain, "They're sandals. They have a piece of plastic that goes between your toes." I drew a picture of one in my little pocket notebook and showed it to her.

"Oh!" Elisabeth exclaimed. "They're made of ribbon."

"Rubber?" I asked.

Elisabeth giggled. "Yes. Rubber."

Did I say Armenians "never" wear flip-flops? What I meant was they don't wear flip-flops other than to stomp grapes for wine-making.

I don't know how they do it, but Armenian women walk around in sleek knee-high leather boots with pointed toes and stiletto heels in colors like red or white or metallic gold, even if they're only going to the market to buy a loaf of bread. The average Armenian does not own a car. She goes on foot or rides the Metro, or crams into a mini-bus called a martrushka with 13 other passengers.

But stiletto heels are not practical for tromping up the stone steps of Greco-Roman temples, hiking up snow-covered hills, or climbing in and out of deep dungeons, pagan fire pits, and 7th century baptisteries.

Another thing Armenian women never wear is yoga pants.

Walking through the capital city Yerevan, I noticed a mannequin wearing a pair of black yoga pants with pink trim. The next day, I mentioned the pants to Elisabeth.

"Yoga?" Elisabeth asked.

"It's an exercise. From India. It's like stretching. It's very popular in Santa Monica. But women where I live wear the pants everywhere."

"Oh no," Elisabeth said. "No one wears them here."

"Then why is the store selling them?"

Three Hye-fashion must haves:

- Black eyeliner
- Gold hoop earrings
- Stiletto boots

Elisabeth shrugged.

Most women in Armenia wear slacks or skirts, but some do wear jeans.

When I was 8 years old, my father's half-brother Ramses came to visit from what was then the Soviet Union. While Ramses was here in California, he bought a dozen pairs of Levi's. I remember seeing him packing them into his suitcase, asking my parents why Ramses needed so many pairs of pants, and my parents trying to explain the black market.

The Soviet government would let Ramses import one pair of Levi's for each member of his family, but Ramses was really going to sell each pair for a couple hundred dollars.

That was a lot of money in the late '80s. It's still a lot of money when you consider that Armenia's minimum wage is about \$2 an hour.

"People would rather go hungry than go out in bad clothes," Elisabeth said.

In the '90s, when grunge was in, and ripped jeans were trendy, my Armenian grandmother would criticize my brother and me for the way we were dressed. She would gasp and tsk-tsk and argue that we were telling the world that our family wasn't taking care of us.

"Everybody wears their pants like this, Grandma."

But not everybody wore their pants like that. In the 1930s, my great-grandmother scraped together enough money so that her daughter could learn a trade. She sent her to a seamstress. Later in America, my grandparents would operate a tailoring shop, and people would bring my grandmother pants to patch.

On Monday, at the airport in Yerevan, I bought one last souvenir: a T-shirt that reads "Hye M Yes." ("I am Armenian.") The irony: Women in Armenia don't wear T-shirts.

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

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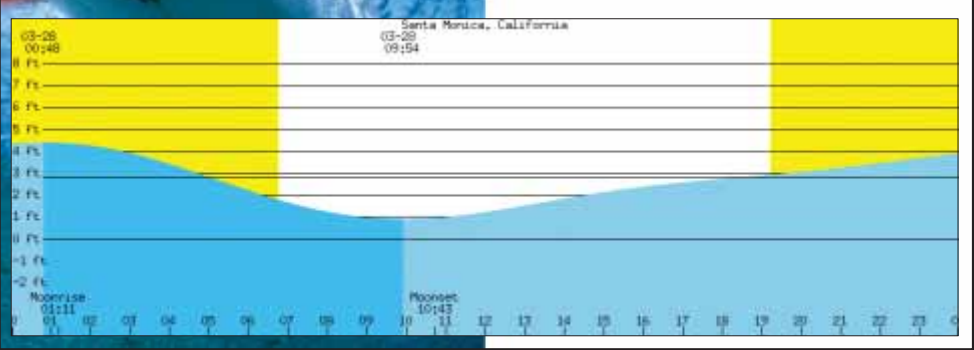
SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 54-60°

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)
Today Friday the 28th the wind swell will continue, especially for the SD region as most of the wind swell fetch should strengthen just north of Baja. Size for west facing breaks should be similar to today; however, most west facing breaks should expect chest to head high peaky waves. Friday is also when our next SW swell is due.

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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



Singer/songwriter donates to charity

FROM NEWCOMER PAGE 13

ences manifest themselves in the music she creates but doesn't limit herself artistically. Her music lingers somewhere between folk and rock, but she also includes a taste of pop into some of her work. She likes to exist in between genres and seems to revel in the ambiguity.

"There has never been an easy category to place me in over the years," she said. "People have placed my music in different CD bins. I've been in the folk category, sometimes I get called Americana. I've seen my CDs in pop rock. I generally call myself an acoustic singer/songwriter."

While her music spans a number of genres, Newcomer said there is one

thing that she has always been enthralled by.

"I've always been drawn to the singing poets," she said. "Those artists and songwriters who use language in beautiful ways. Those that make poetry within the context of music."

While she has been influenced by the poetry of others, it's her spiritual beliefs that seem to take center stage in everything she undertakes.

"It all feeds the art," she said. "We bring everything we are and everything we experience to our art."

Newcomer will appear at McCabe's Guitar Shop on Saturday. McCabe's is located at 3101 Pico Blvd. For information, call (310) 828-4497.

daniela@smdp.com

Author delves into movies

FROM BOOK REVIEW PAGE 13

story pulls you along in this plot driven book.

You have four main characters who carry the story. You have Brent Stark who is a former leading man, now an alcoholic and ex-felon. He may never be a leading man again. "Soon after his release, Brent made the rounds of Austin's regional theaters. The early roles had been unpaid walk-ons, with theaters that wanted him for the scandal value of showcasing a genuine Hollywood has-been."

There is Bobby Dupree who sees something in Brent and is willing to give him that second chance. "He had all the energy of a Hollywood agent and none of the edge."

Celia Breach used to be Brent's leading lady until he hurt her. Brent needs her to fulfill his second chance. "'No', she shouted aloud, the single word echoing in the

empty house. I will not let you do this to me. Never again ..."

As opposition you have Shari Khan who is determined to succeed in Hollywood at any cost. "Shari Khan survived the Hollywood jungle because of what she called her hyper senses." She will stop at nothing to stop Brent including burning down the movie set and the costumes.

It is told in the third person from multiple viewpoints. This works because the writer wants to present both film companies and the politics and deals going on. The time is the present.

Bunn is a prolific writer with genres stretching from suspenseful action thrillers to relationship stories in both contemporary and historical settings.

Dane Robert Swanson is happy to introduce you to good reading. Be aware that the Los Angeles Book Fair is coming up at UCLA April 26 and 27. Maybe he will see you there.

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 18, 2008**

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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 -- 33 / 19

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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

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7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15

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MOVIETIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Avenue (323) 466-FILM Call for showtimes	Doomsday (R) 1hr 45min 2:10, 5:00, 10:40 Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who (G) 1hr 28min 12:30, 1:15, 3:00, 3:40, 5:20, 6:00, 7:40, 8:15, 10:00 Jumper (PG-13) 1hr 28min 1:00, 3:25, 5:40, 7:50, 10:05 The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13) 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 There Will Be Blood (R) 2:30, 6:20, 10:00 Penelope (PG) 1hr 29min 1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00	02min 4:30, 9:45 The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13) 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third St. (310) 458-1506 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, 6:30, 9:00 There Will Be Blood (R) 2hrs 38min 2:30, 6:10, 9:30	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741 Funny Games (R) 1hr 48min 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55 Juno (PG-13) 1hr 31min 1:55, 7:20 Married Life (PG-13) 1hr 30min 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 No Country for Old Men (R) 2hrs	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599 La Traviata at La Scala (NR) 2hrs 20min 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 10,000 B.C. (PG-13) 1hr 49min 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:10, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30 Be Kind Rewind (PG-13) 1hr 41min 2:30, 7:50 Definitely, Maybe (PG-13) 1hr 52min 12:00, 5:00, 10:20 Never Back Down (PG-13) 1hr 46min 11:15 a.m., 1:50, 4:20, 7:30, 10:10 Vantage Point (PG-13) 1hr 30min 11:50 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:50
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262 College Road Trip (G) 1hr 23min 2:30, 4:50, 10:15		

More information email news@smdp.com

Sort it out, Gemini

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ If you feel pressured, stop. You need to consider your options very carefully. You might not be on top of your game. Tonight: Welcome to the late-night crew!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Work with others, striving to find solutions. Listen to news and absorb facts. Feedback comes in your direction. The unexpected appears. Tonight: Take off spontaneously.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others seem to pop in and out of your life. Evaluate and gather new facts. News wings in your direction. If you can, try to look at an issue from another person's perspective. Your abilities come forward. Tonight: Sort through offers.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You are able to accomplish a lot just by thinking, organizing and moving forward. Know when you need to back off. News could change plans if you're not thinking. Tonight: Nap and then decide. You don't need to be alone, you know.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Open up to new ideas, even if it is easier to head in another direction or do something differently. Tonight: Slow down to first gear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Though you might take action slowly if left alone, you could feel as if someone is pushing you down a very different path. At least acknowledge that there is a different route. Creativity, if you choose to tap into that gift, will help incorporate ideas that seem to be opposing or inharmonious. Tonight: Time for fun!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Reach out for the powers that be, especially if you're faced with a new situation. Your ability to absorb different ideas and host a brainstorming session emerges. Tonight: Wind down. Has it been a wild week?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to understand more. Demonstrate that interest so that others can understand too. Investigate new beginnings and other options. Try a different style. You have much more going for you than you realize. Tonight: A treat on the way home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Your personality sometimes buries others, as they do not have the same strength of force or self-expression. Look around. Do you see that little weeping willow in the corner? Help this person step forward. Tonight: All smiles.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ If you're feeling sluggish, just say so. Imagine more of what you need to maintain balance. That picture might look like some time off. Tonight: First nap, then decide.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Pretend that it is now or never. The end results could be very dynamic. You could find as an aside that your finances are subject to wild swings. Do remember that what goes up will come down. Tonight: Make it early.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Realize what needs to happen between you and someone else. Making it a possibility by taking a stand proves to be very important. Others admire your ability to state your case and make it happen. Tonight: Time to celebrate.

Happy Birthday

Let your imagination flow this year. You often suppress your wild thoughts. You might discover through sharing these thoughts that they might be more effective than you originally had realized. Experiment with different concepts -- yours and others'. With this openness comes a style, a uniqueness and an ability to find solutions. Travel and education could stimulate more mental growth. If you are single, you also might choose a partner who adds to the power of your mind and understanding -- that is, if you are to grow together. If you are attached, consider that special trip. Make it happen. Intense bonding occurs during these periods away from daily life. SAGITTARIUS will break down your restrictions.

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

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

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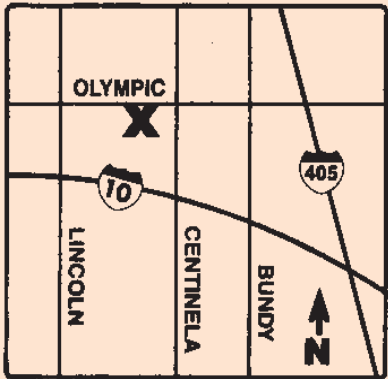
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Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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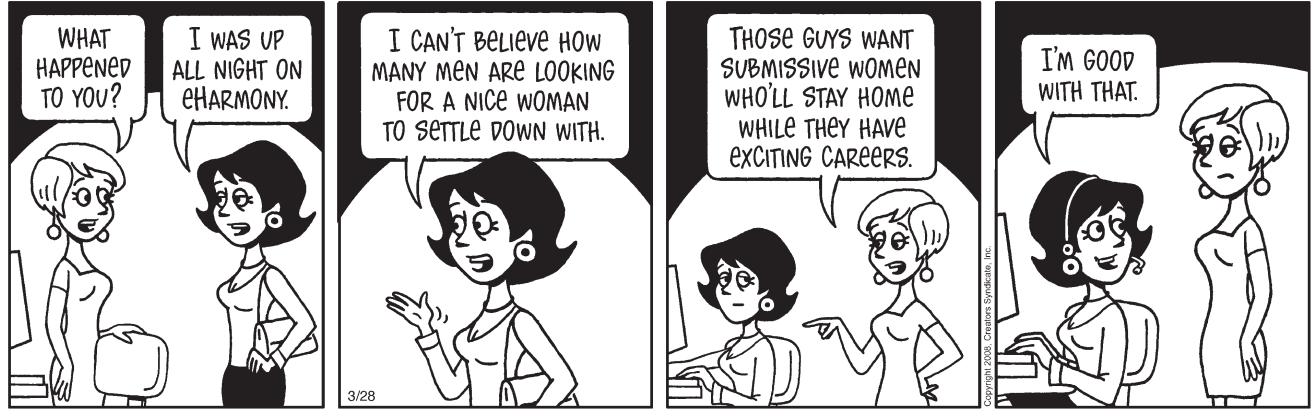
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



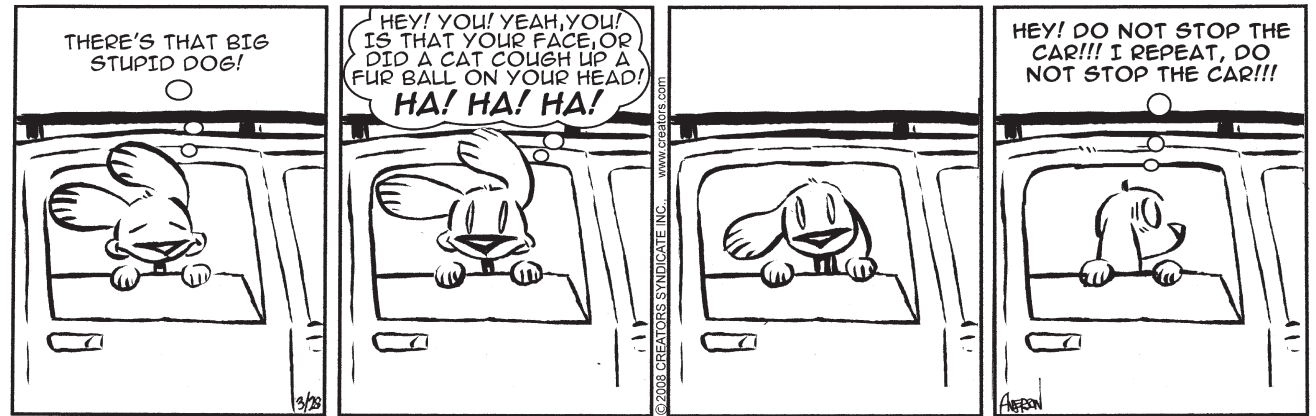
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Dressed
- 6 Chopped into cubes
- 11 Take to the soapbox
- 12 Love
- 13 Prepared apples
- 14 Forum figure
- 15 Road-house
- 16 Naive
- 18 Topsy
- 19 Fireplace sight
- 20 Doctor's charge
- 21 Grotto sound
- 23 1998 NBA champs
- 25 Small worker
- 27 Dissenter's vote
- 28 Kick in
- 30 Crawled, say
- 33 Rocker Nugent
- 34 Help out
- 36 — word
- 37 Some time back
- 39 Appliance store array
- 40 Beer holder
- 41 Hibachi waste

43 Head out

- 44 Dwight's wife
- 45 Packing
- 46 Skating maneuvers

DOWN

- 1 Compliant
- 2 Arch
- 3 Jimmy Van Heusen song
- 4 Salt Lake City player
- 5 Gas, for one
- 6 Rain forest weapon
- 7 Fan's favorite

- 8 Jimmy Van Heusen song
- 9 Clears
- 10 Tightly packed
- 17 Hold up
- 22 — roll
- 24 Vegas lead-in
- 26 Like some seals

- 28 Usher, at times
- 29 Draw
- 31 Disclose
- 32 Rabble
- 33 Inventor Nikola
- 35 Albee creation
- 38 Electrified
- 42 Getz's instrument

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

DAILY LOTTERY



38 42 43 48 53
Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: \$113M



8 9 10 28 35
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$21M



14 24 31 35 37



MIDDAY: 7 2 4
EVENING: 3 2 1



1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:41.61

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A 16-year-old boy was arrested in Toronto in February after he emerged from a CIBC bank with about \$150,000 (Cdn) stuffed in a sack. Despite numerous Hollywood movies emphasizing the need for speed in a bank robbery, the kid had dawdled inside for more than 45 minutes after the silent alarm had been pressed, collecting cash not only from the vault and tellers, but from customers, and by the time he walked out, the bank was surrounded by cops.

■ Pat Dykstra, 51, of Fox Lake, Wis., was persuaded by bar patrons, including her boyfriend, that she was too drunk to drive and so took responsibility by calling 911 from her truck to ask that the sheriff send someone to follow her home, according to a January Milwaukee Journal Sentinel story. (Dykstra then ended the call by telling the dispatcher how dangerous it is to drive while on the phone.) When deputies caught up to Dykstra, she registered a .14 blood-alcohol reading, well over the maximum permitted.

■ In February, televangelist Jim Bakker (who lost his Praise The Lord ministry in the 1980s in fraud convictions that led to a five-year prison stint) began broadcasting from Morningside, his new religious development in southern Missouri that bears a strong resemblance to PTL's Heritage USA project. According to a February report in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "hundreds" of Heritage contributors ponied up this time, too, and despite the fact that each lost 99 percent of the value of their \$1,000 investments, some even signed over their \$6.54 restitution checks (following the fraud settlement) to Bakker's new venture. The newspaper, observing Bakker's debut from the new studio, noted that the first appeal for donations did not come until 41 minutes into the show.

1834 the U.S. Senate voted to censure President Jackson for the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States.

1854 during the Crimean War, Britain and France declared war on Russia.

1898 the Supreme Court ruled in United States v. Wong Kim Ark that a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrants was a U.S. citizen.

1930 the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

WORD UP!

acrid \AK-rid/, adjective: Sharp and harsh, or bitter to the taste or smell; pungent.

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DBAS

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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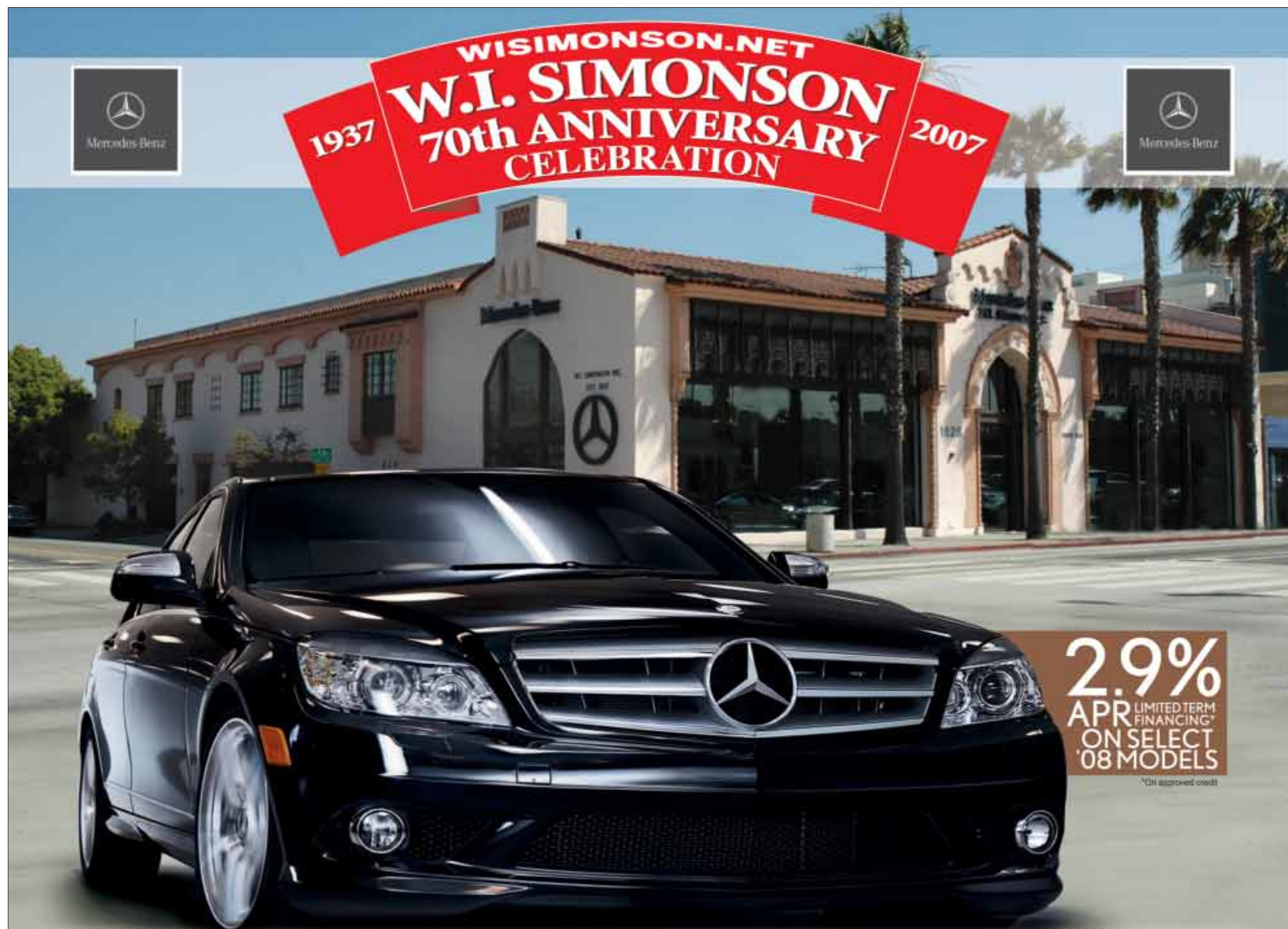
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