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Santa Monica Daily Press

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010

Volume 9 Issue 120



Santa Monica Daily Press

LAVIN'S NEW GIG
SEE PAGE 12

We have you covered

THE WRIST SLAP ISSUE



PROCEED WITH CAUTION

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

This mysterious sign prompts drivers exiting the I-10 Freeway at Fourth Street to be mindful of the possible presence of bikes. The sign has appeared during the past week, with nobody taking responsibility. If anybody has information, contact editor@smdp.com.

Judge rules in favor of City Hall over free speech challenge

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL Gandhi believed in the power of non-violence to bring about social change. So did The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

But City Hall doesn't view board game creator and inventor Stewart Lamle in the same light.

And neither does a federal magistrate judge, who ruled last week that Lamle — who uses a board game he created to disseminate the philosophy of Farook, a non-violent social and moral way of thinking — is not protected under the First Amendment and needs a business license to sell his game on the Third Street Promenade.

At issue is how City Hall can regulate the public space of the promenade without trampling on civil liberties.

Lamle filed a complaint against City Hall in U.S. District Court in 2004 claming city officials illegally restrained his First Amendment right to spread his philosophy of Farook.

He said the street performer and vending ordinances are unconstitutional and that City Hall should be prohibited from enforcing them. The complaint also requests that Lamle be granted a Santa Monica business license and street performance permit, both of which he has previously been denied. Also, Lamle wants City Hall to agree not to lease public space on the promenade to any groups that are not protected under the First Amendment. Finally, Lamle asked for $1 million in lost wages, embarrassment and emotional distress.

SEE SUIT PAGE 8

Harsh words, but no fine for illegal signs

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Pacific Park is getting a "notice of violation" for flaunting City Hall's sign ordinance, but won't have to pay up for its offense.

The Santa Monica Code Compliance department was planning to issue the notice, which serves as a written warning, to the amusement park operator on Tuesday for displaying unauthorized shoe advertisements, including a nine-story supergraphic on its Ferris wheel, City Manager Rod Gould said.

The Ferris wheel ad and one or two other illegal signs advertising Asics shoes were on display at the amusement park on the Santa

SEE SIGNS PAGE 8

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Skaggs hopes to go out on top

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The years on a dusty field, turning girls into ball players, have given Head Coach Debbie Skaggs a world of fulfillment, but there's something missing.

In her 24 years at Santa Monica High School, the one thing that has eluded the accomplished coach is a California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section championship.

In her last season coaching the Vikings, Skaggs may have her best shot yet of accomplishing that lofty goal.

"I want to win CIF," Skaggs said while she was on vacation in Arizona, watching her son and former Samohi star Tyler Skaggs pitch in the Anaheim Angels' minor league spring training program. "This is the year, if

SEE SKAGGS PAGE 9


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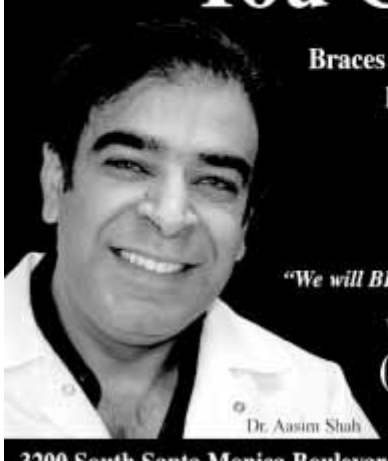
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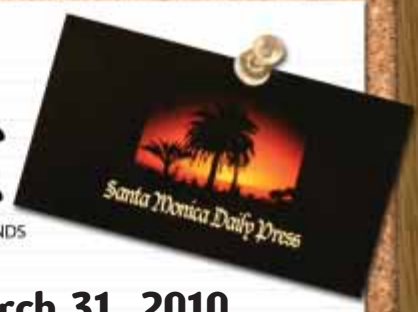
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Sustainable Cinema

Santa Monica Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
This three-part documentary film series, cosponsored by Sustainable Works and the Office of Sustainability and the Environment will play each month through May. The first installment will feature the documentary "Food Inc." This event is free. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Farm fresh

Downtown, Arizona Avenue & Second Street
8:30 a.m. — 4 p.m.
This Farmers' Market features the best in seasonal fruits and vegetables. It also features a section of prepared foods. For more information, visit www01.smgov.net/farmersmarket.

Fun run

Top to Top
2621 Wilshire Blvd., 6:30 p.m.
Whether you're training for a marathon or just starting the running thing, join Top to Top for a fun way to stay in shape. Runners meet in front of the Santa Monica store every Wednesday for announcements and special guests before the run. Participants choose between 5k, 5 miles or 10k loops. Food and water are provided. Call (310) 829-7030 for more information. This event is free.

Thursday, April 1, 2010

Look younger, feel great

Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
First of a free four-part series on anti-aging, presented by Joseph Sciabbarrasi, M.D. and Jo Elen Gidish, Certified Nutritionist. A practical approach to mindful weight loss. For information, call (310) 268-8466.

Paint, Wine & Cheese

PAINT:LAB
2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
PAINT:LAB art studio hosts Paint, Wine & Cheese. For $25.00 they provide acrylic paints, brushes, easels, creative space, wine & cheese. Cost: $25 per person. Must be 21 to taste wine. For more information, call (310) 450-9200.

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.

Garner stalker found not guilty by reason of insanity

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

LOS ANGELES A man arrested last year on suspicion of stalking actress Jennifer Garner and her husband, actor Ben Affleck, was found not guilty by reason of insanity Tuesday, and ordered to stay away from the couple and their two children for 10 years.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Katherine Mader made her ruling based on reports from two psychiatrists who examined Steven Richard Burky and concluded that he was legally insane, according to Deputy District Attorney Wendy Segall.

The judge ordered the 37-year-old defendant to be sent to Patton State Hospital, and issued a restraining order requiring Burky to stay at least 500 yards away from Garner, Affleck and their two children, Segall said.

The finding came shortly after Burky pleaded no contest to two felony counts of stalking, the prosecutor said.

Burky was arrested Dec. 14 at a nursery school in the 1200 block of Alley One, at the rear of the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Monica, according to police. Violet Affleck, one of the two daughters of Garner and Affleck, attends the school.

Garner was granted a restraining order against Burky in November 2008, after telling a judge she feared for her life and that of her family. She alleged that Burky had been stalking her since 2002 and was becoming more and more threatening.

According to her court papers, Burky once told her "God had sent him a vision of her being persecuted in some manner that may result in her death."

The restraining order required Burky to remain at least 100 yards away from Garner and her family.

A non-appearance progress report is scheduled June 28 at the Airport Branch Courthouse in Los Angeles.

news@smdp.com

L.A. City Council approves small energy hike

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles City Council has voted for a 4.5 percent increase to electricity rates for residents. It's the first of four rate increases the mayor wants over the next year to pay for green energy and conservation programs.

The increase approved Tuesday also calls for a 5 to 6 percent for businesses. It's less than what Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa wanted, but an independent analysis shows it will be enough to shield the Department of Water and Power from a bond rating downgrade.

Villaraigosa is asking for three more rate increases totaling 37 percent over the next year.

The increase will add about $2 to $6 to monthly residential bills and about $16 to $400 a month for many businesses.

Residents and businesses complained that the city shouldn't increase rates during a recession.

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NIFTY AND THRIFTY

Photo courtesy St. Joseph's Center

Shoppers flock to St. Joseph's Center's Thrift Store on Saturday for the grand re-opening. After a brief hiatus, the Thrift Store is back in business at a new location in Santa Monica. The store features 'gently used,' high-end clothing, as well as children's attire and T-shirts for $2. The store's new location is at 1828 Lincoln Blvd.

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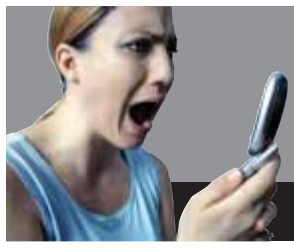


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Not one penny for the Broads

Editor:

It would be nice to have the Broad Museum in Santa Monica next to the Civic Center and close to the Broad Foundation headquarters so the City Council and the Broads could experience the increased traffic volume it would bring to the area!

It seems funny that you don't have funds for education, pier concerts, etc., but you do have funds to contribute to a billionaire's museum to hold works of art.

Who is doing the negotiations for Santa Monica? They should go back to Leverage 101 (grade school level), as Santa Monica has the best destination site for a project like this, and should not be spending any funds to secure it.

The Broad Foundations has plenty of funds to build, maintain and supply this project and should not ask Santa Monicans to provide anything other than the prime land location.

The proposed location is prime property that could be used for tax dollars, not at the proposed $1 per-year rent.

Funny how the City Council wants to do all the thinking and not take any public opinions before they spend Santa Monica's tax dollars. If Eli Broad doesn't recognize the numerous advantages to his museum being in Santa Monica, then let Beverly Hills, L.A. or Culver City have it.

I'm for the project being in Santa Monica, but not one penny goes to the Broad Foundations from our tax dollars.

Bob Konecki
Santa Monica

District's stars need to keep shining

Editor:

Thank you for the cover photo of [Deborah Cha] and combined middle school/high school orchestras at Stairway to the Stars. This is a good reminder to pass the forthcoming Santa Monica ballot measure that would help continue music and arts education in our schools. This city stands alone in America for outstanding, prize-winning orchestral music. They even won in Vienna one year!

Ruth Rosen
Santa Monica

Expressing gratitude

Editor:

I want to first thank the staff at the Santa Monica Daily Press for their continued support with my crusade to save the bees in Santa Monica ("Bee plan gets vote of confidence from task force, councilman," March 29). Without you guys, I would have never got this far.

One question that seems to come up over and over and was not addressed in the article is, "What about killer bees?" Killer bees are actually African and European honeybee hybrids which are now the most prevalent feral bee in California. The Africanized or killer bee is no killer, in fact it is very hard to tell the difference between an African and European bee. The only real difference in behavior is the Africanized honeybee is more nomadic and tends to swarm more. The Africanized bees have become an asset to the world's bee population, showing more durability to manmade, air-born pollutants like insecticides and new viruses killing off bees. We need to save all bees from extinction.

Note: I have an e-petition:
www.gopetition.com/online/35078.html

Daniel Salisbury
Santa Monica

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
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Your column here

A.F. Cronin

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rage against the cyclists

BICYCLE RIDERS IN SANTA MONICA FACE the wrath of petulant, self-righteous automobile drivers everyday. I've received obscene gestures, been cut off, honked at, screamed at, and lectured to by passing drivers — all because they feel that I somehow intrude into their space. Bicyclists, to their minds, are a public nuisance.

If you think I exaggerate, get on a bike and ride up Wilshire Boulevard some weekday morning.

A few weeks ago, Olympic medalist Kristin Armstrong testified before the state of Idaho's Senate Transportation Committee promoting "measures that would penalize drivers who harass bikers and require motorists leave at least 3 feet when driving past bicyclists."

The legislation is opposed by several groups; including the logging industry. Apparently the regulations requiring vehicles to maintain the 3-foot distance is too onerous a regulatory burden for their massive trucks loaded with freshly cut trees to adhere too.

Interestingly, Idaho has a policy that states:

"Bicycling and walking are two forms of sustainable transportation. These two forms of transportation also help accumulate the minimum daily physical activity requirements recommended for adults and children. If used daily on the commute to work or school, they can help meet your daily physical activity needs."

The Idaho Transportation Department recognizes the value of bicycling and walking and offers opportunities for funding support. The majority of bicycle/pedestrian projects on the state highway system are implemented in conjunction with designated highway improvement projects. Bicyclists and pedestrians are legitimate users of the state's transportation system and all transportation jurisdictions should consider and accommodate their needs.

Idaho has a population of 1,545,000 people. Its population density is 15.64 per square mile.

Nine million live in the greater Los Angeles area, approximately 90,000 in Santa Monica. The population density here in Santa Monica is 5,794-per-square-mile. Yet tiny and sparsely populated Idaho has developed The Idaho Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. It establishes a statewide vision, goals and strategies for bicycle use in that state.

The California Department of Transportation's policy is:

"The Bicycle Facilities Unit is responsible for the Caltrans bike program. Acting as the department's bicycle advocate, the unit's objective is to improve safety and convenience for bicyclists. The unit provides policy, funding, planning and technical expertise in bicycle transportation in consultation with federal, state, and local transportation agencies, Caltrans headquarters and district staff, legislative staff, and the public."

It seems the tiny state to the north has a more considered policy toward cyclists than the trend-setting Golden State.

The city of Santa Monica isn't much better. While the City Council developed and implemented the Sustainable City Plan some years ago, the plan, while beautifully touted on its Web site, is long on lists and recommendations and short on actual programs or policy.

For example, there is a "Greenest Vehicles of 2010" list on the Office of Sustainability and the Environment's home page; but, beside the fact that the city government is tacitly promoting privately owned automobile companies, the list of green vehicles consist solely of automobiles. It leaves out the greenest of vehicles — bicycles.

Here's the extent of what the Office of Sustainability and the Environment has to say about bicycles:

"Many of our environmental challenges are related to transportation. The transportation related decisions that we make as individuals have local and global environmental implications. Alternatives like riding public transportation, an electric skateboard, or bicycles to work or school reduces traffic, improves air and water quality and can save you money."

Brilliant.

The information on the Web site consists of a few bicycle route maps, the places to bring bicycles to be recycled, and a list of bicycle shops in Santa Monica.

There's no program that protects and encourages bicyclists, no attempt to create public awareness, no attempt to curb the aggressive behavior of drivers, and no effort to try and develop a bike-friendly environment in this "sustainable" city.

Bicycle riding, while certainly not a panacea, accomplishes many of the goals "green" living advocates purport to hold dear, and in a compact city such as Santa Monica, it is a viable alternative to driving automobiles. It creates no pollutants, no noise, and little congestion. It increases the fitness and overall health of the rider, and by extension will lower healthcare costs in the long run. But most importantly, to my mind at least, bicycle riding is an attempt by the rider to actively contribute to a cleaner environment by choosing a low-impact mode of transportation and/or exercise. However small and unglamorous its affect on the overall eco-system, bicycle riding is an individual's attempt to contribute to the solution of a global problem.

Such efforts, no matter how small, should be lauded.

Bicyclists do not deserve disdain, fits of road rage, and verbal assaults from motorists. Nor do they deserve to be ignored by the political class and the Office of Sustainability and the Environment.

While the overall impact of bicyclists in the city may be a drop in the bucket, it is a drop in the right direction, and should be nurtured and encouraged.

A single drop in a placid lake causes ripples throughout the entire body of water. The ripples from improved policies and attitudes toward bicyclists in Santa Monica could be far-reaching and beneficial for the entire city, and be a positive drop in the global pond.

A.F. CRONIN is a writer and an actor. He lives and rides his bike in Santa Monica.

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Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Too big to fail: postscript

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HATE PEOPLE. HOMO sapiens are the enemies of nature and it doesn't matter if your family has been hereditary farmers or ranchers for generations, there is always some dirty Greenpeace hippie armed with a flatulently inflated pseudo-degree in eco-busy-body-ology that considers you a criminal if your livelihood is a danger to the existence of some mutated dung beetle.

The mentality of these enviro-weenies, who wouldn't even know how to feed an air fern, is: "I have a college degree, still live in the basement of my parent's house, but I am an 'eco-expert.' What could some yahoo farmer possibly tell me about raising free-range tofurkeys?"

Six weeks ago when I began this series on the U.S. government-induced drought of the farmlands in the San Joaquin Valley, I had a U.S. Fish and Wildlife public relations flack — Steve Martarano — respond to my initial article within six hours after it hit the newsstands. Folks, as a famous nobody I'm lucky if my local detractors harangue me within six days after I publish. Anyway, Mr. Martarano made a feeble attempt to school me on the relative merits of putting farm workers into food lines through a series of op-ed pieces which were written by global warming-friendly columnists that downplayed the importance of the people who grow our food over a near extinct minnow that has an indiscernible earthly merit.

I indulged Mr. Martarano with my customarily impolite demeanor which I reserve for unctuously lazy bureaucrats and informed him that while he was decidedly full of crap, I was also exuberantly grateful that he chose to recognize that I was obviously game to the enviro-con job which he was tasked to disseminate and that I couldn't buy that kind of public recognition. Never forget that the grand-daddy of the "public relations" industry was Josef Goebbels who believed that the best lies are usually the biggest ones told over and over again. It's what has made Al Gore half-a-billion dollars richer.

But, there is good news! Is it an inconvenient truth that in order to bribe two recalcitrant Democrat congressmen, Dennis Cardoza and Jim Costa, into voting for ObamaCare, the Department of Interior announced on March 16 that it was graciously increasing the Central Valley's water ration despite a federal judge's court order? I guess the survival of the delta smelt or obeying the law isn't very important even if you have to hold farm workers hostage to pass an unpopular partisan healthcare bill.

One evening, over scorched red meat, cigars and single-malt scotch with my son Nathan and fellow columnist Dave Alsabery, we expounded upon the concept of "Schrodinger's Fetish." This "fetish" has its roots in the paradoxical thought experiment of Austrian physicist Erwin Schrodinger's infamously imaginary "cat in a box" whereby, according to quantum mechanics applied to everyday objects, that a cat in a box might be alive or dead depending on an earlier entangling random event.

When this thought experiment is applied to the global warming fetishists of enviro-dorkdom, one could only reasonably conclude that environmentalism's intellectual life or death is dependent on earlier entangling random events such as the leaked Climategate e-mails, the IPCC's retreat from several of their key global warming positions and Greenpeace leader, Gerd Leipold, admitting that Greenpeace has lied and exaggerated about global warming and melting polar ice caps regardless of Milankovitch's spank-me-Daddy solar calculations to the contrary.

Meanwhile, the Chicken Littles of environmental doom and gloom are running around and spewing stupid, not only from the lowliest clipboard cuckhold standing outside of Starbucks, but into the rarefied air of corporate America.

Ted Turner, owner of CNN (Commie News Network) and global warming Pimpasaurus Rex claimed two years ago during a PBS interview that, "Not doing [anything] will be catastrophic. We'll be eight degrees hotter in 10, not 10, but 30 or 40 years and basically none of the crops will grow. Most of the people will have died and the rest of us will be cannibals."

Wow! Cannibals?

Yes, folks, you are destined to be cannibals if you don't recycle your trash into the proper receptacles or drive a Prius. But if we're doomed to be dinner, Michael Moore or Rosie O'donnell would be considered the main entree at any Hometown Buffet … for weeks!

Speaking of whale sushi, why is that Santa Monica's moral relativity rears its head over a few pounds of whale meat while celebrating to sacramental levels a few pounds of locally aborted baby fetuses? It's a simple demonstration of liberalism's faux-rage and moral equivalency that dead whales are more important than dead babies.

Or as Ted Turner might intone, "Save the whales, be a cannibal."

STEVE BREEN thinks The Hump got a raw deal and is still "the best looking retired mailman in the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com or at his new office at the Library Ale House on Main Street.

The Q Line

Celebrating a half century

The Santa Monica Playhouse is celebrating its 50th year of entertaining the masses.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What is your fondest memory of the venerable playhouse?

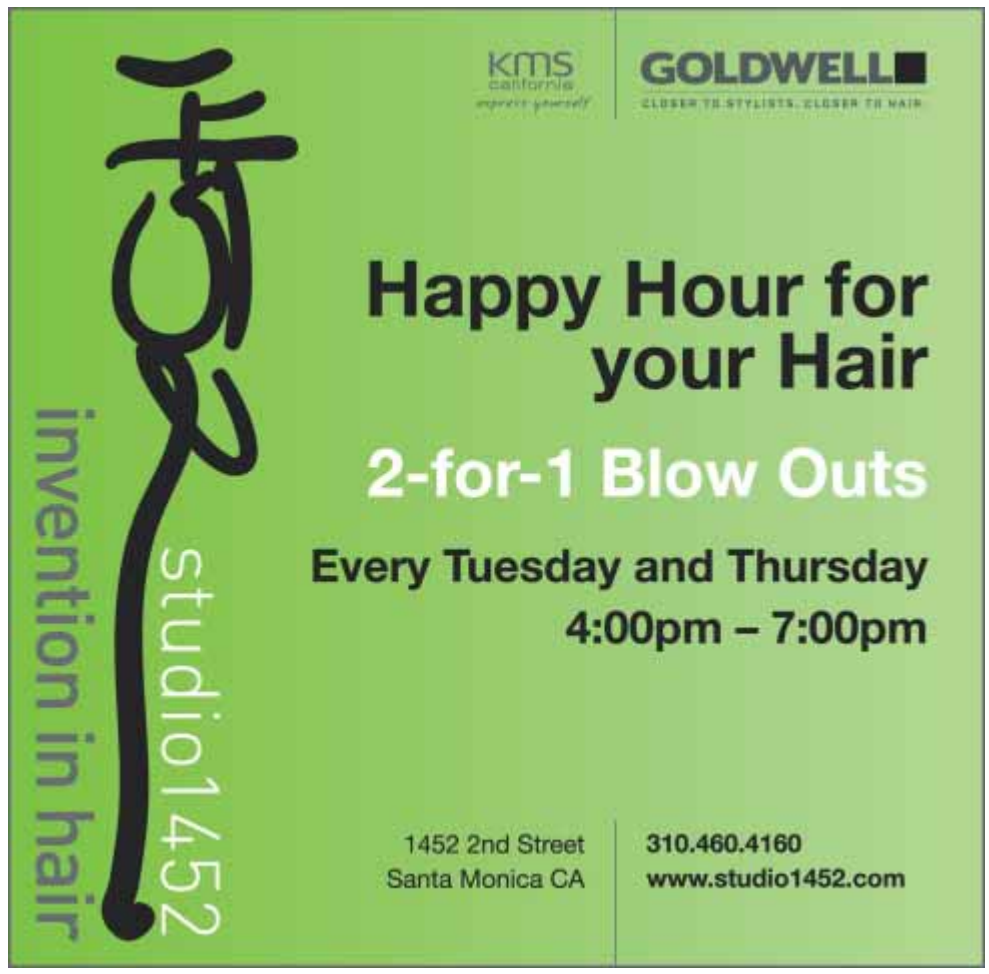
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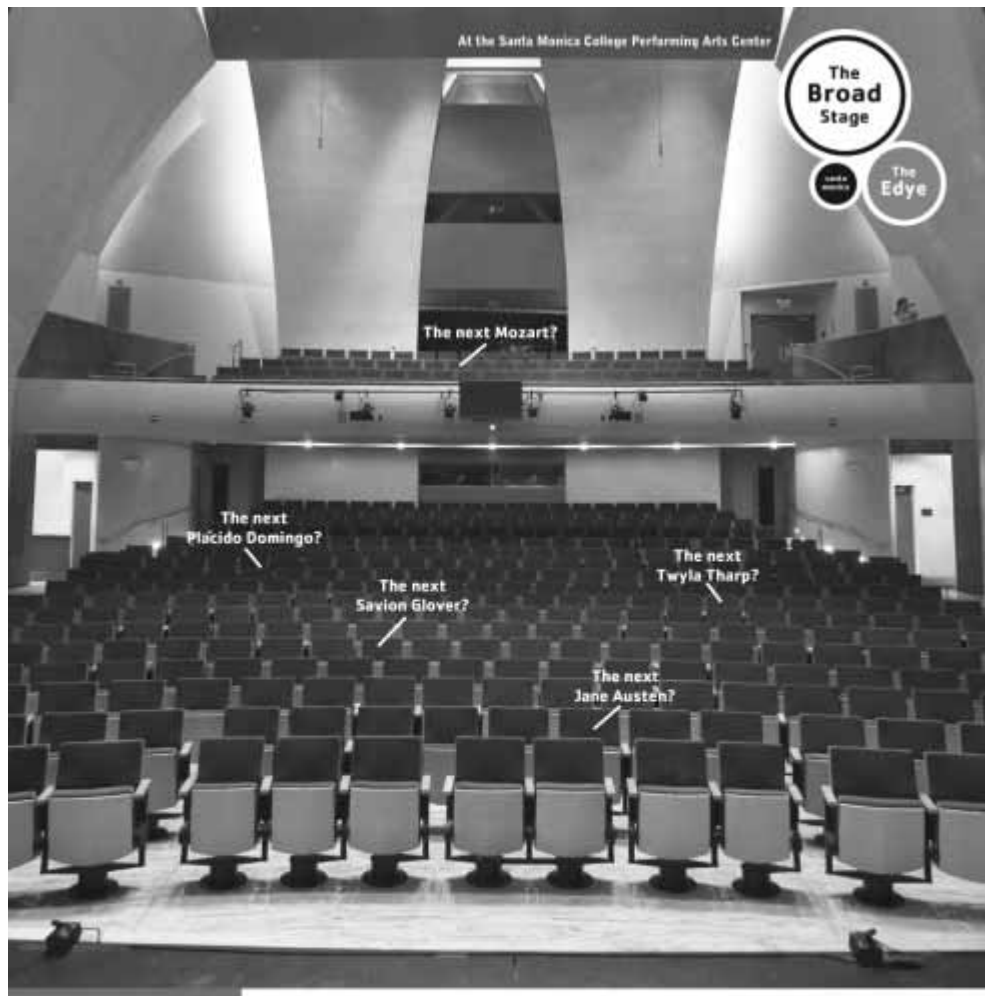


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BOYS VOLLEYBALL				
Mar 31	JV/Var	Bishop Amat	Bishop Amat	5/6:30pm
TENNIS				
Mar 31	Var	La Salle	Reed Park	3pm
BOYS GOLF				
Mar 31	Var	Practice	Penmar	4pm
BOYS BASEBALL				
Mar 31	JV	Cathedral	Marine Park	3pm
Mar 31	Var	Cathedral	Cathedral	2:30pm
TRACK				
Mar 31	Var	Mary Star	CSHM	3:15pm

Santa Monica High School

DATE	TEAM	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
BOYS BASEBALL				
Mar 31	Var	St. Francis High School-La Canada		3:15pm
Apr 3	Var	Crescenta Valley Tournament	Buena	10am
Mar 31	JV	St. Francis High School-La Canada	Brookside Park/ Rose Bowl	3:15pm
Apr 3	JV	Royal		11am
Mar 31	Fr/Soph	St. Francis High School-La Canada	Memorial Park	3:15pm
Apr 3	Fr/Soph	Royal	Royal	11am

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WALL STREET

Stocks waver after positive economic data

STEPHEN BERNARD
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The stock market moved closer to closing out another strong quarter with a modest advance Tuesday.

The Dow Jones industrial average added 12 points for its fourth straight gain following a rise in technology stocks. Apple and Verizon jumped after The Wall Street Journal reported that Apple was making phones that could be used on Verizon's network.

With one day left in the January-March quarter, the Dow has gained 4.6 percent for the period. The index is on track for its best first-quarter performance since 1999.

Stocks have now had a nearly unbroken advance since early March of last year. The Dow made an even larger leap of 7.4 percent in the fourth quarter.

The mood in the market was upbeat Tuesday after a report that consumer confidence grew more than expected in March. A separate report showed home prices inched higher for the eighth consecutive month.

Analysts expect trading to be erratic Wednesday because of the end of the quarter. Money managers often engage in what's known as window dressing, or trades intended to boost returns on reports sent to shareholders. Many investors refrain from big moves. Tuesday's volume was light as many traders took the day off for Passover or ahead of Easter.

A steady climb in stocks over the past two months could give investors reasons to collect some profits. The Dow has risen 19 of the past 23 days and is now at its highest level since September 2008.

"A bout of profit-taking would be normal and expected after the rise we had," said Mitch Schlesinger, managing director of FBB Capital Partners in Bethesda, Md.

The day's economic reports provided new evidence that the economy is improving, albeit slowly.

The Conference Board, a private research group, said its consumer confidence index rose to 52.5 in March, from 46.4 last month. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters had forecast it would rise to 50. A reading above 90 means the economy is on solid footing. Analysts hope that increased confidence will lead consumers to spend more.

"We're starting to see consumers come back in an adequate manner," said Larry Rosenthal, president of Financial Planning Services in Manassas, Va. "Not strong, but adequate."

The Dow rose 11.56, or 0.1 percent, to 10,907.42. The Dow was up as much as 44 points in morning trading.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.05, or less than 0.1 percent, to 1,173.27, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 6.33, or 0.3 percent, to 2,410.69.

Advancing stocks narrowly outpaced those that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 4.1 billion shares compared with 4.4 billion Monday.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index, which measures home values in 20 major metropolitan markets, rose 0.3 percent in January compared with the previous month. It was the eighth consecutive monthly gain.

The index was down 0.7 percent compared with the year-ago period. That was slightly better than the drop forecast by economists.

Investors have been tolerant of uneven housing reports and are instead focused on jobs. Analysts say stocks won't be able to push higher without an improvement in the job market.

The Labor Department releases its monthly employment report Friday. Economists expect it to show employers added 190,000 jobs in March. That would be only the second increase since the recession began in late 2007. Some of the growth is expected to be tied to temporary government hiring for the 2010 census. The stock market will be closed for Good Friday when the report arrives.

Investors will get another snapshot of jobs on Wednesday from payroll company ADP. Economists forecast the ADP report will show private-sector employers added 40,000 jobs in March.

Apple Inc. rose $3.46, or 1.5 percent, to $235.85. The stock reached a record of $237.48 during trading. Verizon Communications Inc. rose 78 cents, or 2.6 percent, to $31.23.

Apple's iPhone has been available only to subscribers of AT&T Inc. in the U.S. AT&T fell 56 cents, or 2.1 percent, to $25.95.

Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.86 percent from 3.87 percent late Monday.

The dollar rose against most other major currencies. Gold fell.

Crude oil rose 20 cents to $82.37 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 1.69, or 0.3 percent, to 683.94.

Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.7 percent, Germany's DAX index dipped 0.2 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 0.3 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 1 percent.



REAL ESTATE

Strong rebound boosts home price index

ALAN ZIBEL & ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writers

LOS ANGELES A surprisingly strong rebound in California's real estate market helped lift a key home price index for the eighth month in a row.

That's good news for people who plan to sell their homes this spring. Prices are now up almost 4 percent from the bottom in May 2009, but still almost 30 percent below the May 2006 peak.

Prices rose 0.3 percent from December to January on a seasonally adjusted basis, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index released Tuesday. Prices increased in 12 cities in the index.

The biggest monthly gain was in Los Angeles, where prices rose 1.8 percent from December. And real estate agents say there's a distinct sense the worst of the downturn is over.

Buyers are "seeing that prices are creeping up," said Tony Middleton, a real estate agent with ZIP Realty who concentrates on the San Fernando Valley. "They're losing bids on homes and they have to bid again."

Prices in San Diego, meanwhile, rose by almost 0.9 percent. Phoenix had the third-largest gain at 0.8 percent.

Compared with the same month last year, the 20-city index was off just 0.7 percent from last year at a reading of 146.32. That was the smallest decline in almost three years and in line with analysts' expectations, according to Thomson Reuters.

Rising home prices also could boost consumer optimism. For most Americans, their home is their largest asset, so as values climb from the depths of the housing bust, homeowners feel wealthier and more comfortable spending. And, for homeowners who owe more on their mortgages than their properties are worth, rising prices rebuild equity.

Consumer confidence rebounded in March after a February plunge, according to a survey released Tuesday. The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index rose to 52.5 in March, recovering about half of the nearly 11 points it lost in February.

Still, shoppers remain cautious and there are signs that last year's housing rebound won't last. Home sales sank during the winter, and government incentives that have propped up the market are ending.

Another reason for the positive news is simply that the Case-Shiller index measures a three-month average of home prices. So January's report included November's strong home sales.

However, bargain-hunting homebuyers continue to pack open houses in California, often facing off with investors for foreclosed homes.

"We're seeing multiple offers in most of the markets here in the San Francisco Bay area," said David Kerr, an agent with ZipRealty in Oakland, Calif. "People are getting off the fence."

In February, bank-owned properties made up 44 percent of all resales in the state, according to MDA DataQuick. In Southern California, they accounted for more than half of resales.

With such high demand, supply is dwindling, driving prices higher.

Meanwhile, the state's unemployment rate has flat-lined of late, and that's made buyers more comfortable about purchasing a home than they were just six months ago, said Richard Green, director of the Lusk Center for Real Estate at the University of Southern California.

California home sales will likely get a boost in coming months thanks to a new serving of government stimulus.

Last week, state lawmakers enacted a tax credit of up to $10,000 for homebuyers that kicks in May 1. The state allotted $100 million for first-time buyers and another $100 million to anyone who buys a newly built home. California had a round of tax credits last year that proved to be popular; that program ended in July.

The latest incentive picks up where a federal first-time homebuyer tax credit of up to $8,000 is scheduled to leave off when it expires at the end of April. Should the Obama administration extend the federal tax break, that could give homebuyers in California even more reasons to buy.

Still, there remain pockets of weakness. Sales of homes priced above $500,000 are sluggish. And despite rising prices, more than one-third of all homeowners with a mortgage still owe more on their loans than their homes are worth, according to First American CoreLogic.

Among the cities showing monthly price declines in January, the biggest drop was in Portland, Ore., where prices fell 1.8 percent from December. Chicago and Seattle saw declines of 1.7 percent, while prices in Atlanta fell 1.5 percent.

Many analysts expect the Case-Shiller 20-city index will again turn downward in the coming months as more foreclosures in other states hit the market.

"It is only a matter of time before the index records a double-dip in prices," wrote Paul Dales, U.S. economist with Capital Economics, who forecasts a 5 percent drop. The market will be tested in the second half of the year, he wrote, when a tax credit that has boosted sales is gone.

The Case-Shiller index measures home price increases and decreases relative to prices in January 2000. The base reading is 100; so a reading of 150 would mean that home prices increased 50 percent since the beginning of the index.

ECONOMY

Consumers slowly show signs of springing back

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK Signs of life in consumer spending are sprouting this spring.

A partial rebound in consumer confidence, a positive report on January home prices and an expected strong March from retailers suggest Americans are cautiously perking up.

The Conference Board said Tuesday its Consumer Confidence Index rose to 52.5 in March, recovering about half of the nearly 11 points it lost in February.

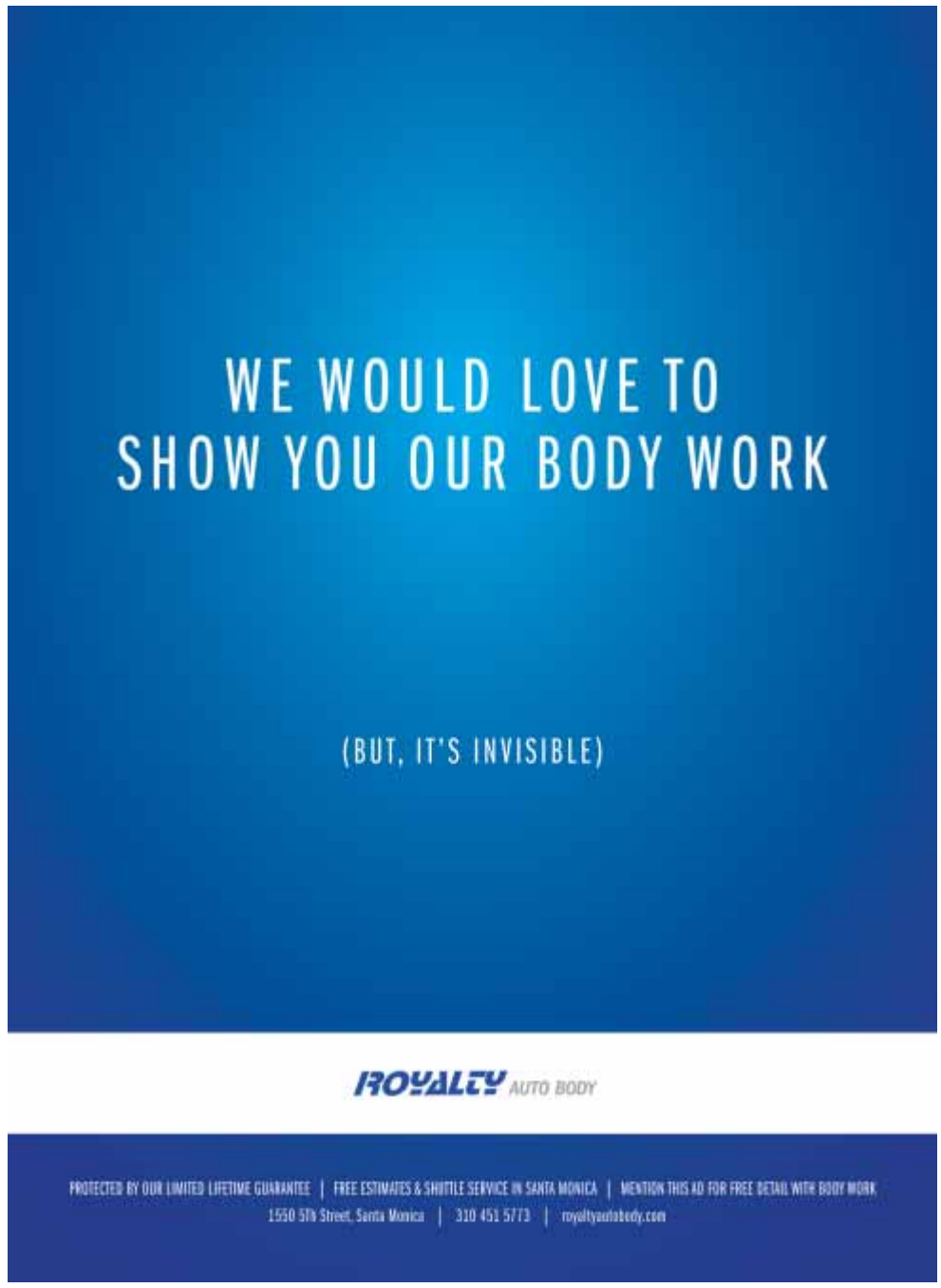
Analysts expected a reading of 50 for March, but the index is still far below the 90 reading that's considered healthy.

February's 46.4 marked the lowest level since April 2009 and also erased three consecutive months of improvement. In January, the reading was 56.5.

Economists watch the figures closely because consumer spending, including health care and other major expenses, accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity and is critical to a strong economic recovery.













Final decision on game suit expected in coming weeks

FROM SUIT PAGE 1

Before he filed suit, Lamle had been slapped with numerous criminal charges for performing on the promenade without a permit, using a table with illegal dimensions, possession of milk crates, which is against California law, and operating a business without a license.

Lemle said he could easily make up to $300 a day selling the Farook game on the promenade and enjoyed interacting with a diverse group of people, from gang members to college professors.

A Santa Monica Superior Court judge dismissed many of the charges, allowing Lamle to proceed with his federal suit.

Lamle was denied a performance permit in 2002 because City Hall considers his game a personal service and not a performance. Under the municipal code, Lamle would have to apply for a license as a vendor.

City officials said Lamle couldn't get a business license because only a limited number of certain types of vendors — including carts, sidewalk cafes and Farmers' Market retailers — are allowed to sell their items on the promenade.

Lamle claims it is his right to express himself by playing and selling his game Farook, which is billed as a high-level strategy game with similarities to Chinese checkers and chess.

Unlike the work produced by other artists, the City Attorney's Office contends the game Lamle sells is not a "tangible art project," which is what the street performer ordinance dictates. Attorneys for City Hall argued that Lamle doesn't deserve the same status as an artist who sells a painting or a bumper sticker with a political message.

The magistrate judge, Stephen J. Hillman, ruled that Farook do not fall under the scope of the First and Fourteenth Amendments protecting speech, arguing that the game did not convey any deeper message than simply how to play and win the game itself.

The fact that the game comes with information on the meaning of Farook, which is "one who distinguishes right from wrong" in Arabic, is irrelevant, the judge ruled.

"Without [Lamle's] explanation and discussion of the philosophy of Farook, one could play the game and remain ignorant of the philosophy," Judge Hillman wrote.

Lamle countered, saying Farook teaches players how to negotiate and dominate, "but nothing gets destroyed, nothing gets killed. And that's critical to the philosophy.

"The philosophy is to improve your power, improve your freedom, try to go ahead and box the opponent in with less power and freedom, and in non-violent ways, try to achieve one of many potential goals."

Lamle, who is representing himself in the case, is an inventor who holds dozens of patents, several in the field of games. Based on his experiences as a news correspondent in Vietnam during the 1970s, he said he began developing a way of thinking he called the "Philosphy of Farook." According to this philosophy, human progress can be well served if people seek to attain goals by following certain "negotiation-oriented, non-violent, multi-step algorithms that form a new type of high-level game play."

"This isn't bowling, this is an exchange of ideas," Lamle said Tuesday during an interview from a restaurant in New Jersey. "It's a somewhat abstract way of expressing these ideas, but then again so are Jackson Pollock's paintings."

Lamle sees his game as a fun way to promote peaceful resolution and believes spreading that philosophy is more important now then ever before as corporate greed spreads and the threat of terrorism grows.

This is not the first time Lamle has represented himself against a more well-equipped legal team. While he is taking on City Hall's best and brightest, including City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, it is nothing compared to the force he faced in battling the world's largest toy company, Mattel Inc., which owns the brands Barbie, Hot Wheels and Fisher-Price.

In 2005, he won a multi-million dollar breach of contract claim against Mattel. The non-lawyer fought for over seven years against a team of lawyers from the nation's largest pure litigation law firm. The ruling at the U.S. Court of Appeals gave Lamle the right to have a jury trial in federal court. Lamle said he received an undisclosed amount of money from the toy giant in a settlement that year that he described as "huge."

Lamle plans to continue fighting City Hall and will file an appeal with the Ninth Circuit Court if the district judge accepts the magistrate's recommended ruling. A magistrate judge was called to review the case since Lamle is representing himself. A decision is expected in the coming weeks.

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Written notice given to Pacific Park

FROM SIGNS PAGE 1

Monica Pier during the Los Angeles Marathon on March 21, Gould said, but have since come down.

The ads were apparently put up especially for the event, which brought tens of thousands of runners and spectators to the race's finish line on Ocean Avenue near the pier.

Gould said he had intended to cite the amusement park operators for violating the ordinance but later learned that Pacific Park had only received a verbal warning to heed the sign rules, not a written one, before Sunday's event. City Hall's policy is to provide a written notice before issuing a fine.

"We cannot cite and fine at this point," Gould said. Future sign ordinance violations at Pacific Park would result in a $250 fine each day an illegal sign is up, he said.

Gould said he was planning to discuss the violations with Mary Ann Powell, Pacific Park's CEO, but hadn't reached her by Tuesday afternoon.

In a brief statement issued Tuesday, a spokesman for the amusement park said the company is cooperating with City Hall.

"Pacific Park continues to work in good faith with the city of Santa Monica to resolve any signage compliance issues related to the Los Angeles Marathon," the statement read.

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Judge sentences serial killer to death

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA Relatives of victims poured out their grief and anger Tuesday before convicted serial killer Rodney Alcala was sentenced to death in a packed courtroom in the 1970s strangling of four women and a 12-year-old girl.

Some distraught family members and friends addressed Alcala directly, telling him their lives had been torn apart by his crimes.

Choking back tears, some said they had night terrors. Others detailed their fear of strangers or their devastating depression and anxiety.

"For 25 years, I looked over my shoulder, never knowing who or what I was looking for. I never felt safe," said Anne Michelena, sister of victim Georgia Wixted. "I still feel anxious when I walk in a dark house."

Other relatives begged Alcala to admit to the murders to give family members a measure of peace.

"There's murder and rape, and then there's the unequivocal carnage of a Rodney Alcala-style murder and rape," said Bruce Barcomb, brother of victim Jill Barcomb. "Give up your dead, Rodney: all victims, all states, all occurrences. Own your truth."

Alcala, 66, showed no emotion and kept his head down as families took turns condemning the amateur photographer and UCLA film school graduate.

His death sentences will be automatically appealed.

Alcala was convicted last month of five counts of first-degree murder after a bizarre and sometimes surreal trial.

He acted as his own attorney and unveiled a rambling defense that included questioning the mother of one of his victims, playing an Arlo Guthrie ballad and showing a clip from the 1970s TV show "The Dating Game."

After the verdict, authorities released more than 100 photos of young women and girls found in Alcala's storage locker in hopes of linking him to other unsolved murders around the country.

Authorities are pursuing more than a half-dozen cases in New Hampshire, Washington, California, Arizona and New York, although those investigations are just beginning, prosecutor Matt Murphy said. None of the photos have been confirmed as missing or murdered women, but some are "looking interesting," Murphy said.

Alcala has been sentenced to death twice before in the 1979 murder of young Robin Samsoe, but those verdicts were overturned on appeal. Prosecutors refiled charges in that case and added the four other murder counts against Alcala in 2006 on the strength of DNA samples and other forensic evidence.

Those cases, which had gone unsolved for decades, went on trial for the first time this year.

During trial, prosecutors outlined Alcala's penchant for torturing his victims. One had been raped with a claw-toothed hammer, another had her skull smashed in with a 7-inch rock, and one was strangled so fiercely the pressure broke bones. Several of the victims were posed nude in sexual positions after their deaths.

The 12-year-old Samsoe disappeared on June 20, 1979, while riding a friend's bike to ballet class in Huntington Beach in Orange County. Her body was found 12 days later in Angeles National Forest, and a cause of death could not be determined because it had been mutilated by wild animals.

Along with Samsoe, Alcala was convicted of killing Barcomb, 18, who had just moved to Los Angeles from Oneida, N.Y.; Wixted, 27, of Malibu; Charlotte Lamb, 32, of Santa Monica; and Jill Parenteau, 21, of Burbank.

Samohi works on finer points during break

FROM **SKAGGS** PAGE 1

we're going to do it. We have a lot of seniors."

Those seniors include four players who have signed letters of intent to play for NCAA Division I schools next season. Shortstop Kalie Nakao (Hawaii), catcher Emma Woo (Tennessee Tech), pitcher Celisha Walker (New Mexico State) and outfielder Hayley Condon (San Jose State) give Skaggs a formidable squad that has the ability to create its own destiny, she said.

"We have the experience, but it's the team that is playing the best at the end of the season that wins it all," Skaggs said. "The better team doesn't always win."

She likes what she's seen thus far as the Samohi Vikings have amassed a 9-5 record against a schedule that has included games against the likes of El Toro, Los Alamitos and Torrance South.

The team's highlight to date was the matchup with Los Alamitos in the semifinals of the MaxPreps Tournament of Champions in Arizona. The team fell, 3-1, and lost some of the momentum that the Vikings enjoyed during a 4-0 start to the season.

"We shot ourselves in the foot [during the MaxPreps Tournament]," Skaggs said. "It showed us that there are things that we need to work on."

The team will work on those finer points during the next few weeks as the team enjoys an extended break between games. Before the Vikings return to action on April 13 against Ocean League rival Inglewood, Skaggs hopes her team tightens up the loose ends and prepares for a stretch run that she hopes includes an extended stay in the playoffs.

"Overall, this is the most talented team I've had," Skaggs said. "It's a pretty tight group, we'll see what happens."

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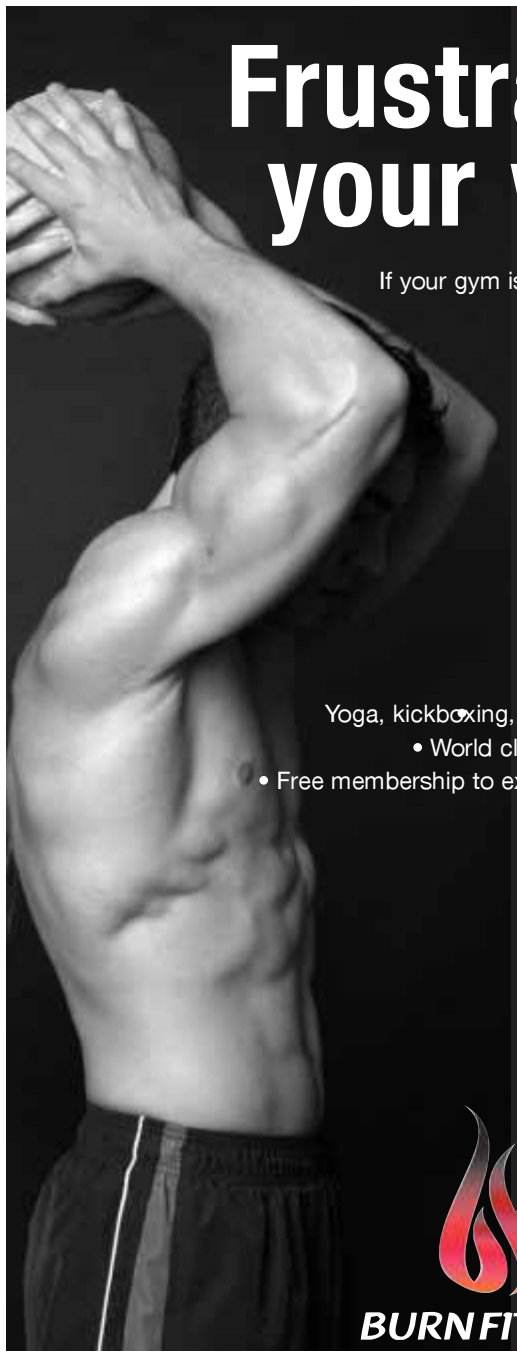

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Photo courtesy Apparition

BIO PIC: **Dakota Fanning (left) and Kristin Stewart star in 'The Runaways.'**

MOVIE REVIEW

'The Runaways' a frenetic ride

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

Director Floria Sigismondi's "The Runaways" is a frenetic ride into the turbulent love-hate partnership of guitarist Joan Jett and singer Cherie Currie and their tumultuous rise to fame in their pioneering, titular band – the first all-girl, hardcore rock band of the 1970s.

The film stars Kristin Stewart ("Twilight") and Dakota Fanning ("War of the Worlds") as the famed duo and depicts an ultra-compressed slice of the band's time – the formation of The Runaways, their brief and meteoric rise to fame with their hit song, "Cherry Bomb," and their eventual dissolution.

Unfortunately, Stewart phones her performance in, walking through her scenes with as much enthusiasm as a zombie – a dead zombie. Fanning, however, may have given the best performance of her yet young career. She does such a good job embodying Currie's downward spiral through a haze of drugs, alcohol and sexual proclivities that it is almost too difficult to watch – it feels so very real.

Other notable performances include Michael Shannon in the role of rock 'n' roll impresario Kim Fowley (the manager of The Runaways). You may remember Shannon for his outstanding delivery of a mentally ill young man in "Revolutionary Road." Here he plays Fowley's character, according to the real Kim Fowley as a "Darth Vader version of a used car salesman." Shannon steals almost every scene. And yes, for those of you who are wanting to see that much anticipated make out session between Stewart and Fanning, there are a couple scenes of them kissing, tongue included. When asked if the sex scenes between the girls were accurate Joan Jett said, "Things happen, people experiment, teenagers do this, they did it before me, they did it during me, they did it after me, it's no big deal. But to be 'accurate' it would have had a lot heavier rating."

First-time director Sigismondi was able to elicit strong performances from the rest of the cast as well, but her kinetic camera-style, which enhanced the scenes of drug-use, adding an unmistakable queasy quality, never slowed, leaving us little room to catch our breath. One scene in particular – when Currie crushes drugs with her high heels, then bends down and snorts them from the floor – is a stand out. The film takes great leaps between the actual events and what was crafted for screen. In real life, for example, Currie won the talent show sequence dressed as Bowie, in the film she did not.

Ultimately "The Runaways" may have been better served had it been shot from Jett's point of view and depicted Jett's struggle and her inevitable rise to fame, but it is based on Currie's autobiography, "Neon Angel: A Memoir of a Runaway," and thus focuses more on Currie's personal story. Today, Jett has become one of rock 'n' roll's most respected and talented musicians; a driving force in music, a legend if you will, and Currie is ... wait for it ... a chainsaw artist living in the Valley.

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✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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Republicans say Steele will survive nightclub flap

CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Democratic groups tried Tuesday to make a campaign issue out of news that the national Republican Party spent $1,946 at a sex-themed California nightclub, but GOP activists said party chairman Michael Steele will weather the hubbub.

The Republican National Committee fired a staffer who helped organize the Jan. 31 visit to Voyeur Hollywood West, which features topless dancers, bondage outfits and erotic themes. It said it will recoup the money from a donor who paid the tab and was reimbursed by the party on Feb. 4.

The episode raises new questions about Steele's oversight of the RNC. But party officials said Steele knew nothing of the nightclub visit by a group of young Republicans, which was listed in a federally required financial disclosure report, and they promised to tighten accounting practices.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee pressed numerous GOP candidates to say whether Steele should remain as head of the NRC. But GOP activists predicted the matter would blow over soon.

"I don't think there's going to be anyone who wants to challenge him," said Washington-based consultant John Feehery, who has advised several Republican candidates and officeholders. Steele generally has done a good job of catering to the needs of RNC members, Feehery said.

New Mexico-based GOP consultant Eddie Mahe said "it would be the height of stupidity" to dump a party chairman seven months before a national election, even if some party donors might be grumbling.

An RNC memo released Tuesday said the nightclub visit involved several members of the Young Eagles group who had been in Los Angeles for a meeting. The memo, from RNC chief of staff Ken McKay, did not name the fired staffer, but said the person had been warned that such activities did not qualify for reimbursement.

A Republican official said the staffer fired was Allison Meyers, who headed the Young Eagles, which tries to recruit major GOP donors 45 and younger. The official spoke only on the condition of anonymity in order to discuss a party personnel matter.

The RNC sent $1,946 on Feb. 4 to Erik Brown of Orange, Calif., the donor-vendor who billed the GOP for the club visit on behalf of the attendees. McKay said Brown has agreed to return the money.

Bullying raises questions about schools' vigilance

DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON A gay teenager in New York wins $50,000 from a school district that failed to stop taunts about his sexual orientation. The Justice Department investigates complaints that administrators ignored racial bullying in a Philadelphia school.

And in Massachusetts, a 15-year-old girl hangs herself after she is mercilessly harassed for months — taunting and threats that school administrators knew about but did not stop.

Now, with nine students charged in the bullying of Phoebe Prince, who hanged herself at her family's home in January, questions have arisen about how accountable school officials should be for stopping bullying.

Barbara Coloroso, a nationally known anti-bullying consultant, had been contacted by South Hadley school officials months before Phoebe's death, after a young boy in nearby Springfield killed himself. She spent a day there in September, training teachers and administrators on how to recognize and deal with bullying.

Coloroso said school officials made mistakes by failing to stop the bullying and, after Phoebe hanged herself, by allowing at least some of the students involved to continue to attend classes and a school dance with no visible signs of discipline.

"The questions to ask are: Did they follow their own rules and did they keep Phoebe safe? Obviously not. And, did they deal effectively with the bullies? Obviously not," Coloroso told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Authorities say Prince, who had recently emigrated from Ireland, endured months of verbal assaults and threats after she briefly dated a popular boy. She was harassed mostly in school, but also on Facebook and through other electronic forms.

District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel said the inaction of school officials was troublesome but not criminal.

More than 40 states have anti-bullying laws that generally require schools to adopt a set of preventive policies. But Marlene Snyder of Clemson University's Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life said laws and policies don't necessarily help if schools don't follow through with intensive training for teachers and staff.

"In defense of teachers, very few of them have ever had training on bullying prevention, much less how to intervene without making the situation worse," she said. "Some people don't understand the dramatic and devastating effect that this kind of treatment can have on a child."

In upstate New York, the Mohawk Central School District agreed Monday to do more to protect students from harassment as part of a settlement with a gay teenager who claimed he was relentlessly bullied.

The boy, described only as 15-year-old Jacob, now goes to another school, and his father said he hopes other districts take note of what happened in the working-class village.

"I wish some other schools would follow in the footsteps of this school and make changes," said Robert Sullivan, who has a different last name than Jacob. "A lot of schools are going through the same thing as this school."

In Georgia, 11-year-old Jaheem Herrera committed suicide at his Atlanta-area home last year after his parents say he was repeatedly tormented in school. School officials denied it and an independent review found bullying was not a factor, but his family rejects that conclusion.

And at South Philadelphia High School, Asian students say they've endured relentless bullying and racial epithets by black students while school officials ignored their complaints. The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a complaint in January with the U.S. Justice Department.

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Notice Inviting Proposals
Café/Restaurant on the
Santa Monica Pier

The City of Santa Monica seeks proposals from interested and qualified entities to lease and operate a limited service non-formula convenience restaurant with or without alcohol service at 330 Santa Monica Pier. The City of Santa Monica offers the experienced restaurateur the opportunity to plan, design renovate, operate and maintain the restaurant in one of Southern California's most famous and distinctive seaside environments.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) contains the key questions and informational requirements for respondents to address. To download the RFP, please go to http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearchform.cfm?StateID=52, or call the Economic Development Division at (310) 458-8906 to request this package. A site visit is scheduled for Apri1 15, 2010 at 10:00a.m.

Proposals are due by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2010. They may be delivered by mail or by hand to the City of Santa Monica Economic Development Division, 1901 Main Street, Suite E, Santa Monica, CA 90405 to the attention of Donna Rickman.

This was our message in the 1970's...
Some things just don't change

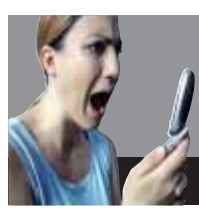
HEADACHE INSURANCE.



Shopping around for the best automobile coverage and the best price can be a real headache. Now, we can help you get rid of that nagging problem by using our computer – display system, right in our office. We have immediate access to exactly what over 25 major companies have to offer in the way of auto insurance for your car. What a relief.

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Same day service available if dropped before 10 am
$1.00 Lb 10 lbs minimum For limited time
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WASH & FOLD DROP OFF LAUNDY
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2 Load Front Washers, 3:00pm to 6:00pm
(310) 314-5555
1865 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, CA (Corner Pico Blvd.)



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Sound off every week on our Q-Line™. See page 5 for more info.
Santa Monica Daily Press
Visit us online at smdp.com



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

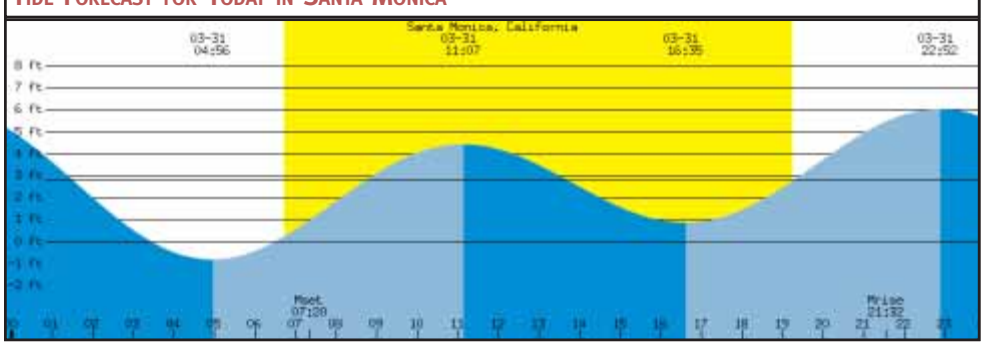
Swell Forecast

Expect to see stormy swell hit the coast. Size today points to at least 2-3 feet overhead sets at well-exposed west facing breaks in the early AM Wednesday, possibly bigger later in the day. Conditions look trashed.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see the peak of the stormy swell, with sets running DOH at west facing breaks, but trashed.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **March 23, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 30
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / 12

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, simplehuman, SIMA

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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MLB

Stults scratched by Dodgers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE, Ariz. Dodgers left-hander Eric Stults was scratched from his spring training start Tuesday amid reports his contract was being sold to a team in Japan.

Stults was a candidate for the Dodgers' fifth starter spot, but posted a 5.06 ERA in 5 1-3 innings in Arizona. He pitched three hitless innings in one of the Dodgers' two exhibition games earlier this month in Taiwan.

He did not travel with the Dodgers on Tuesday for their game against the Colorado Rockies at Tucson. He was in street clothes in the Dodgers' locker room during the mandatory workout for players not on the travel squad.

The 30-year-old said he could not discuss why he was cleaning out his locker. The Dodgers don't plan to have an official announcement until Wednesday.

There were multiple media reports that Stults' contract was sold to the Hiroshima Carp of Japan's Central League.

"Stults is no longer a candidate for fifth starter," manager Joe Torre said. "Nothing is done with him yet, though."

Stults was out of minor league options meaning that if he didn't make the major league roster, he would have had to pass through waivers before the Dodgers could assign him to a minor league affiliate.

NCAA BASKETBALL

UCLA dismisses center Morgan

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES UCLA dismissed sophomore center J'mison Morgan from the basketball team on Tuesday, making him the second player to leave this season.

Morgan will transfer to another school closer to his Dallas home. He'll have two years of eligibility remaining after sitting out a year.

The 6-foot-10 center played in 40 games over the past two seasons as a reserve with the Bruins. He averaged 2.1 points and 1.1 rebounds, less than the Bruins expected when they recruited him.

Morgan was suspended for one game earlier this month for missing a team meeting, and he didn't play in UCLA's two Pac-10 tournament games. He also missed seven games recovering from a partially torn quadriceps and struggled with conditioning throughout the season.

"I decided it was in the best interest both for our program and for him to leave here," coach Ben Howland said on a conference call. "There's a point in time where you have to move forward."

Morgan's departure leaves UCLA with three scholarships available during the April signing period.

Howland met for the last time with Morgan earlier Tuesday.

"What I tried to impart on him is the No. 1 thing he needs to be focused on is his academics," he said, noting Morgan leaves in good academic standing. "That's still going to be the most important thing in the future."

In December, sophomore forward Drew Gordon left the team after he and Howland mutually agreed to part ways, with Gordon intending to transfer. Gordon was the Bruins' third-leading scorer and started six games.

In both cases, Howland declined to discuss specifics about the departures.

Off the court, senior forward Nikola Dragovic was accused of assaulting a man after a concert in Hollywood, although the felony charge was dropped earlier this month for insufficient evidence.

UCLA finished 14-18, its worst record since 2003-04, Howland's first season in Westwood.

Meanwhile, Howland said his top assistant, Donny Daniels, is leaving after seven years to take a similar job on the staff of Gonzaga coach Mark Few.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Lavin agrees to become coach at St. John's

JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK Former UCLA coach Steve Lavin agreed to become the basketball coach at St. John's on Tuesday.

The school said a news conference to introduce Lavin would be held Wednesday.

Lavin has been an analyst for ESPN since UCLA fired him in 2003. He had a 145-78 record with UCLA, leading the school to the NCAA tournament's round of 16 five times. The Bruins reached the final eight in 1997, his first season.

St. John's, which fired Norm Roberts after six seasons, has not been to the NCAA tournament since 2002.

The Red Storm lost to Memphis in the first round of the NIT to finish the season at 17-16, giving Roberts an 81-101 record with the school.

St. John's returns all five starters and 94 percent of its scoring from last season's team.

Georgia Tech coach Paul Hewitt rejected an offer from St. John's last week. Al Skinner, who was fired by Boston College on Tuesday, also was interviewed.

Lavin was fired by UCLA after going 10-19, his only losing season and the school's first in 55 years. It was the only season in which one of Lavin's UCLA teams did not win at least 20 games.

He was succeeded by former Pittsburgh coach Ben Howland.

Lavin, who had five years remaining on his contract when he was fired, fell into the job when Jim Harrick was fired in November 1996 — only a week before the season began and 19 months after the Bruins won their 11th national championship. With Harrick assistants Mark Gottfried and Lorenzo Romar already having taken head jobs, then-athletic director Peter Dalis promoted Lavin from unproven assistant to head coach.

His teams at UCLA beat four No. 1-ranked teams, but in his final season, the Bruins had a then-record 10 losses at Pauley Pavilion and the average attendance of 8,348 in the 12,819-seat arena was the lowest since 1993.

Ten of UCLA's national championships were won under coach John Wooden in the 1960s and 1970s. The other was under Harrick in 1995 — when Lavin was the No. 3 assistant.

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Chloe (R) 1hr 36min
12:20pm, 3:00pm, 5:25pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Greenberg (R) 1hr 47min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:55pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Our Family Wedding (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:10pm, 2:35pm, 5:00pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

The Runaways (R) 1hr 45min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) 1hr 33min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, 9:15pm

The Bounty Hunter (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Alice in Wonderland (in Disney Digital 3D) (PG) 1hr 49min
11:30am, 1:20pm, 2:20pm, 4:10pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm, 7:55pm, 9:50pm, 10:40pm

Shutter Island (R) 2hrs 18min
12:30pm, 4:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

She's Out of My League (R) 1hr 44min
11:35am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:35pm

Hot Tub Time Machine (R) 1hr 40min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

The Eclipse (R) 1hr 43min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

The Ghost Writer (PG13) 2hr 23min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

A Prophet (R) 2hr 44min
1:50pm, 5:10pm, 8:30pm

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (NR) 2hr 49min
1:00pm, 4:30pm, 8:00pm

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Repo Men (R) 1hr 51min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Green Zone (R) 1hr 55min
11:40am, 1:10pm, 2:20pm, 3:50pm, 5:10pm, 6:40pm, 7:50pm, 9:20pm, 10:30pm

Remember Me (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:10am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

How to Train Your Dragon (PG) 1hr 38min
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) 1hr 38min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:05pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm, 11:30pm

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Head home, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could be entrenched in a certain mind-set and not know it. An argument might be the beginning of a more dynamic partnership, whether you are open to it or not. Let another person know that he or she is appreciated. Tonight: Dinner for two.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others could be unusually forward and direct. Clearly, they want what they want. If you express your feelings, even anger, for whatever reason, the other party sees you as gentle, sweet and caring. You might really need to play the Bull seeing red. Tonight: Relax with a friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Use your wit and energy to accomplish what you want. Why not express your caring through actions, if that is easier? Don't judge others and their statements. You actually could be hurting yourself unnecessarily. Tonight: Put your feet up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You cannot rein yourself in when you seem so full of energy and ideas. Do quickly nix a bad idea or a high risk. A friend demonstrates his or her caring. This person lends his or her support to nearly any project you come up with. Tonight: Live it up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Your independent streak comes out. Understand what is going on behind the scenes, but also be sensitive to the acting powers. Rethink a decision that involves your work and daily life. Communication could be stifled. Tonight: Happy to head home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Listen well. Ask the right questions. Conversations open up a new perspective. Relax and detach from a problem. Trust that you will find the solution. Expenses could build. Use your creativity when turning down a risk. Tonight: Catch up with your friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Someone clearly goes out of his or her way. Relate to this individual, but focus. A situation on the personal or domestic front could be creating a lot of pressure. Transform what is happening, and use it to empower yourself. Remember, you are not changing anyone! Tonight: Buy a treat on the way home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your instincts point the way. You still might antagonize someone you need in your professional life. This person is proud and might not forgive easily. Pick and choose your words with care. Someone demonstrates his or her feelings. Be sensitive. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Assume a low profile, with the exception of a trusted associate at work. You also might run into a friendly person or two while running errands. Take some much-needed time to think and revamp ideas. At this point, you are likely to pick up information that is usually not available. Tonight: Screen your calls.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Ask yourself if you are ready to enact some changes. Friends will support you on your path, even if they think you are off-base. A partner's argumentative nature might be a direct reflection of his or her insecurity. Relax with this person. Time will help. Tonight: Only what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ There might be days or times you want to duck. No matter which way you turn, you might not be content with the results. Close friends and partners could be argumentative. A boss or higher-up could be riding you hard. The instinct to cocoon might not be that far off. Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Though people are certainly verbal and other associates are pushy, you seem to be able to detach and get a look at the big picture. Communicate to a receptive audience exactly what is on your mind. You'll gain support and even more insight. Tonight: Let your mind relax to good music.

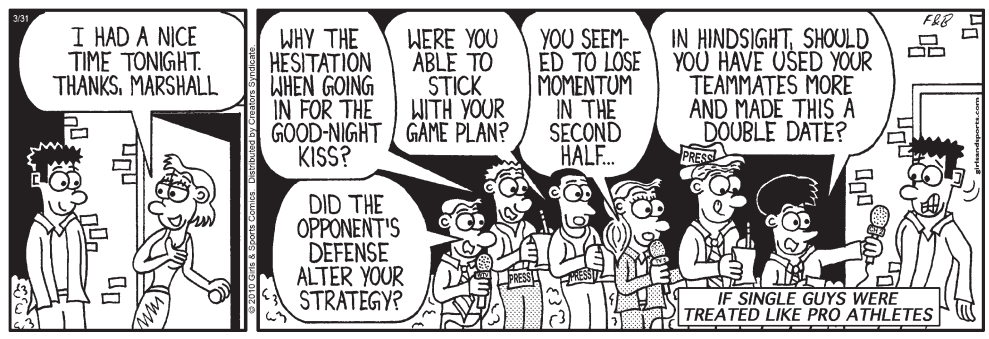
Happy birthday

This year, partnerships prove to be instrumental. Unusual creativity and a homed-in intellect mix to help you come up with a lot of ideas and solutions and help you relax. If you are single, you tumble into a passionate relationship. Expect a spark or two. If you are attached, the two of you find a new intensity. Use it to draw closer. TAURUS has a very nice style.

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

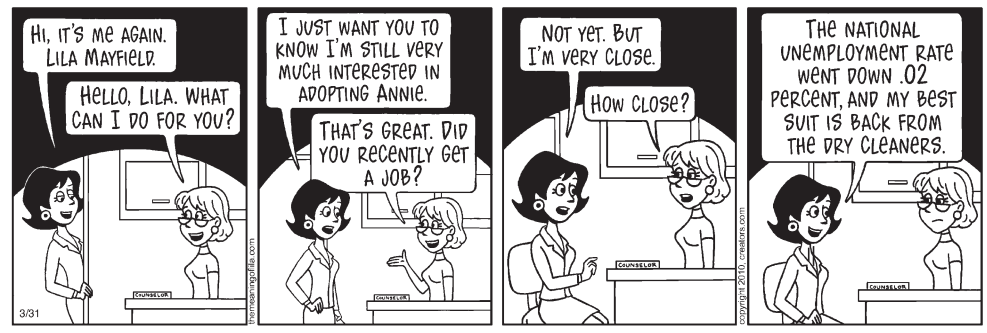
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



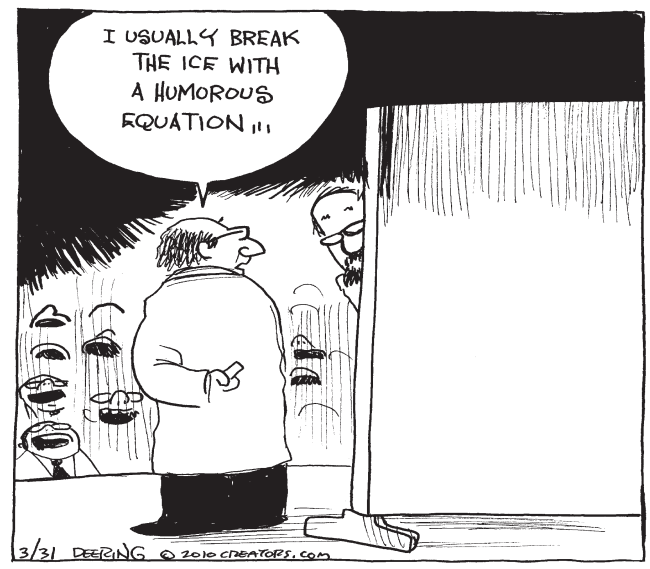
Garfield

By Jim Davis



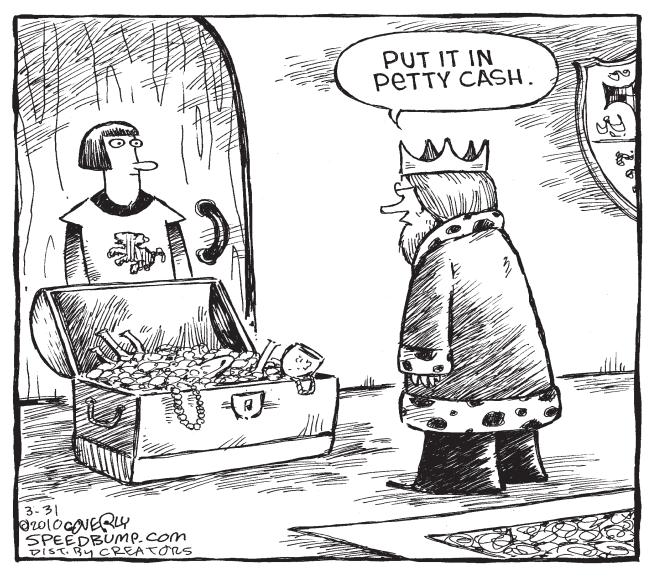
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Be a Fraud Fighter!
Senior Fraud Prevention Call Center
Volunteers needed ages 55+
• Call seniors and educate them about fraud
• Free lunch
• As little as 3 hours per week
• Parking available
WISE & Healthy Aging
(310) 394 -9871
1527 4th St.
Santa Monica, CA

Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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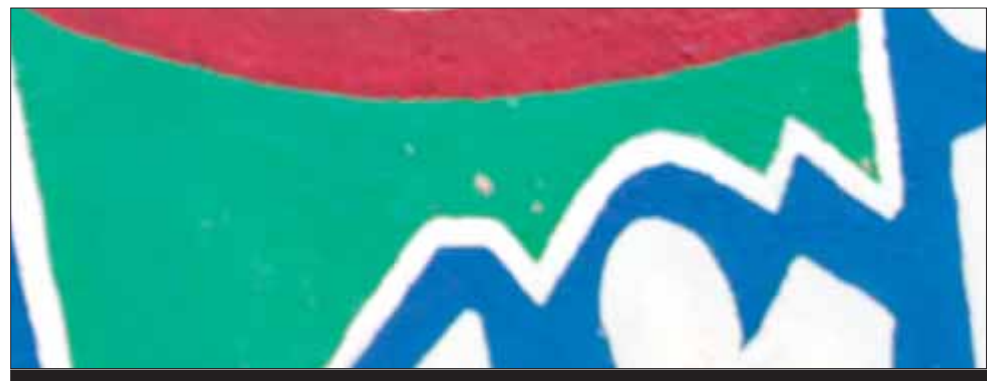
START TALKING BEFORE THEY START DRINKING

Kids who drink before age 15 are 5 times more likely to have alcohol problems when they're adults.

To learn more, go to www.stopalcoholabuse.gov or call 1.800.729.6686

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

Ad Council



MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Totaled
7 "The jig —!"
11 Moon mission
12 Ship of 1492
13 Wyoming range
14 Physics bit
15 African expanse
17 Fail to fail
20 Rocker setting
23 Film's Lupino
24 Start without a key
26 Director's cry
27 Symbol of wisdom
28 Sailing site
29 Ex checks
31 Slugger Williams
32 Barber's aid
33 Secret-agent TV show of the '60s
34 Fly or flea
37 Raccoon feature
39 "Shoo!"
43 Pot starter
44 State without proof
45 Relaxed
46 Ohio city

DOWN

1 Scoundrel
2 Big galoot
3 Negating word
4 Lipstick's kin
5 Radius partner
6 Luxurious
7 Consecutively
8 Indian lute players
9 One, for Juan
10 Grier of "Jackie Brown"
16 In a fitting way
17 Print units
18 Grown-up
19 Swift and others
21 Move furtively
22 Potent
24 Court sport
25 Possess
30 Zoo favorite
33 Florence's home
35 Old oath
36 Rum mixer
37 West of films
38 Santa —, California
40 Drenched
41 In the past
42 Hankering

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

Yesterday's answer

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

3-31

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 1 11 24 38 44
Meganumber: 41
Jackpot: 51$M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 11 16 29 41 46
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: 34$M

Fantasy 5: 13 17 24 37 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 5 3
EVENING: 3 6 6

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:40.06

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Two-time convicted bank robber Mark Turner filed a lawsuit against Canada's National Parole Board in 2001 because the board had released him early from prison in 1987 from a previous sentence. The board should have kept him inside until that sentence ran out in 1994, he said, and it was thus the board's fault that while on parole, Turner had robbed another bank and had again been locked up. By 1994, he said, he would have been more mature and would not have re-offended, and for the parole board's error, it should pay him the U.S. equivalent of almost $1 million.

■ It's a simple recipe, said A-List New York City chef Daniel Angerer: a cheese derived from the breast milk of his wife, who is nursing the couple's 3-month-old daughter. As a chef, he said, "you look out for something new and what you can do with it," and what Angerer could do is make about two quarts of "flavor(ful)" cheese out of two gallons of mother's milk. "(T)astes just like really sweet cow's milk." He posted the recipe, "My Spouse's Mommy Milk Cheese," on his blog and invited readers' participation: "Our baby has plenty (of) back-up mother's milk in the freezer, so whoever wants to try it is welcome to try it as long as supply lasts (please consider cheese aging time)."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1946 The first election is held in Greece after World War II.

1949 The Dominion of Newfoundland joins the Canadian Confederation and becomes the 10th Province of Canada.

1951 Remington Rand delivers the first UNIVAC I computer to the United States Census Bureau.

1957 Elections to the Territorial Assembly of the French colony Upper Volta are held. After the elections PDU and MDV form a government.

1959 The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, crosses the border into India and is granted political asylum.

WORD UP!

popinjay
\POP-in-jay\ , noun;
1. A vain and talkative person.

Classifieds

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Ocean Park	$1,522,000	$599,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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