INSIDE SCOOP
CONSUMER GROUP EYES NUNEZ PAGE 3 | COMMENTARY STICKS AND STONES DON'T HURT MUCH PAGE 5 | FOOD FINE WINING PAGE 7

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THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 122



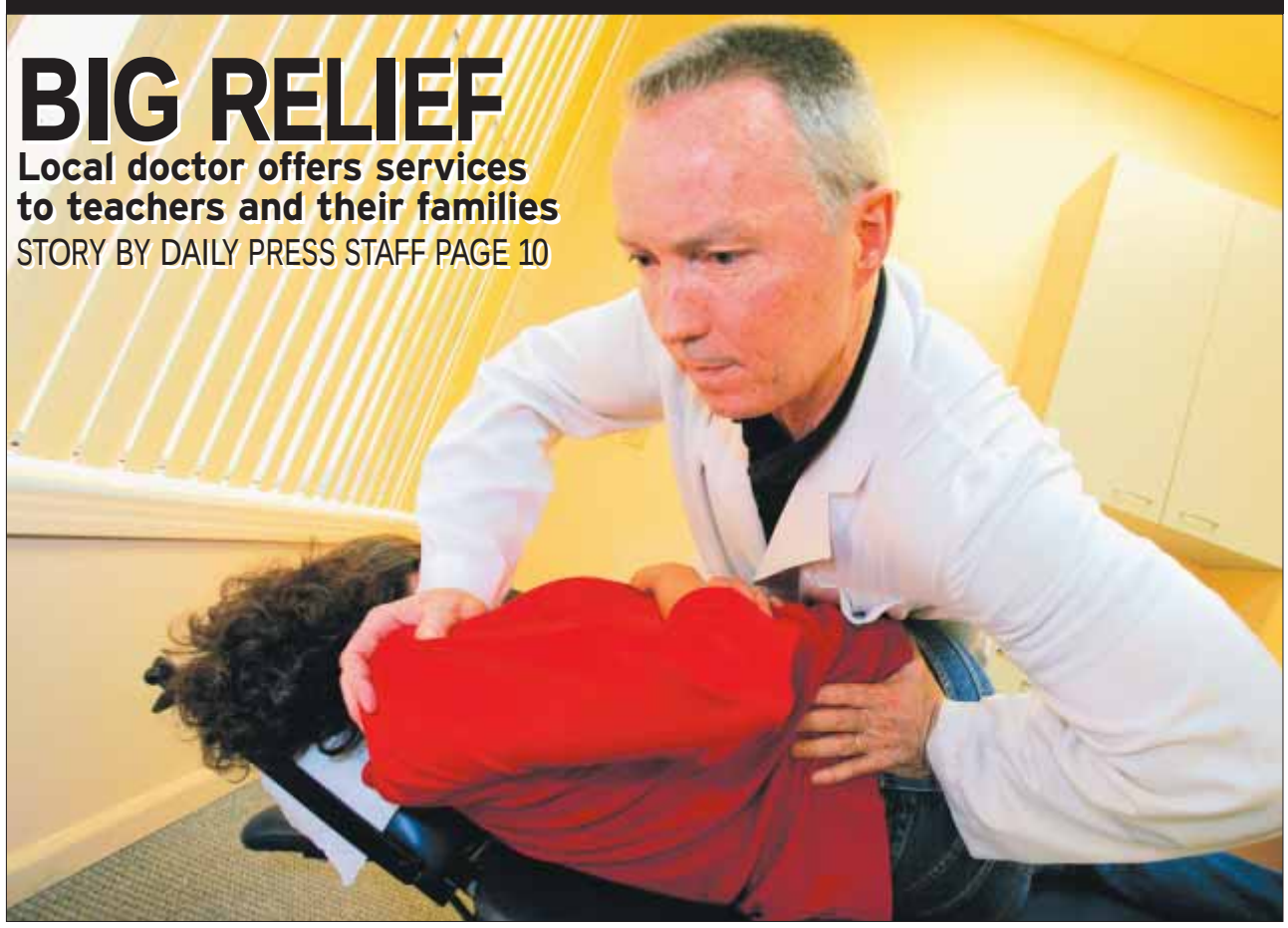
HOT PROSPECT
SEE PAGE 13

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE FOLLOWING UP ISSUE

PHILANTHROPY



BIG RELIEF

Local doctor offers services to teachers and their families

STORY BY DAILY PRESS STAFF PAGE 10

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A glimpse of the near future

Locals asked to contribute to Expo Light Rail project

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Aaron Velick has dreams of one day having the ability to leave Santa Monica on a weekday during the congestion-packed hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The Ocean Park resident said he almost never leaves the city during weekday evenings, comparing the I-10 Freeway to a parking lot.

He might just have the chance to leave home when the Exposition Light Rail comes to the Westside in the next six years, giving locals another option to travel from Downtown Santa Monica to Downtown Los Angeles, bypassing the traffic in between.

"I'm trapped here," Velick said on Tuesday. "I can't go east.

"I would like to sit in the light rail and see all of the people stopped in the parking lot," Velick said of his vision to ride the light rail while watching the congestion on the freeway.

Santa Monica residents got a sneak peek at plans to extend the light rail line from Culver City to the terminal



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

SIZING UP THE PROPOSAL: **The Sears auto lot, located on the corner of Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue, is one of two possible sites for the Exposition Light Rail station terminal.**

on Colorado Avenue during an informal public input session hosted by the Exposition Construction Authority on Tuesday at the Crossroads School.

The purpose of the workshop was to let the public share

SEE RAIL PAGE 10

Special ed costs are on the rise

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The price of special education in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has grown considerably in the past few years even though the population it serves has declined, according to a report released on Monday.

An independent evaluation of the special education program in the public school district, conducted by Lou Barber and Associates, found that expenditures have increased from $16.1 million in the 2001-02 school year to more than $22 million in the current fiscal calendar.

The financial analysis — examining revenues, expenditures and general fund contributions for what has become a controversial program in the past year — comes as part of an overall assessment of the special education program. The findings of the report will be presented to the Board of Education at its meeting tonight.

The evaluation was made mandatory by the Santa Monica City Council last year in order for the district to receive a nearly $500,000 increase in city aid. Several councilmembers expressed outrage during a confrontational meeting with school officials last year, stating they had received phone calls from parents regarding an alleged culture of fear surrounding settlement agreements and confidentiality clauses related to their children's Individualized Education Plan, which outlines specialized services that special needs students receive.

While the settlement agreements and confidentiality clauses served as the catalyst for the independent evaluation, a substantial portion of the report focused on the financial aspect of the program — where the money comes from and how it is spent. The consultant, Lou Barber, interviewed more than 50 parents, teachers and administrators for the study, finding that though settlement agreements and confidentiality agreements are not illegal, there are concerns due to the frequency they are employed.

Aside from critiques relative to the settlement agreements, the evaluation did find that the district provides a full continuum of placement options for special ed students, as well as a wide variety of programs and access to the same books and materials as general education students.

The study found that the expenditure growth is directly related to increases in classified and certificated staffing with approximately 20 positions being added in the 2005-06 school year and 26 in 2006-07.

"They are more richly staffed with speech therapists and

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 11


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Come see the sweetness

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 p.m.

The Main Library presents a free screening of the recent indie romance, "Sweet Land," about a Norwegian-American farmer and his mail-order bride. Seating is first come, first served.

The Meathands have it

4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m.

The "Magic Meathands" perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity based on audience suggestions and participation. The show is presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers delicious coffee, food, drinks and comfortable couches. What sets this improv group apart is their personal connection with the audience and community, so their best material comes directly from the people around them. For information, call (310) 559-8868.

What's new this week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

What's really the story?

3116 Second St., 8 p.m.

The Powerhouse Theatre presents the "What's the Story Festival of New Solo Plays." The festival includes a workshop, founded and facilitated by Stacie Chaiken, for the development of personal stories for the stage, the screen, and the page. In their annual festival, 15 writer-performers perform an eclectic array of new work that is deeply moving, hilariously brave, bawdy, brazen and bold. For information, call (310) 396-3680.

Friday, April 4, 2008

Attending Mass

Santa Monica Pier, 6:30 p.m.

Join legions of bike riders as they take to the streets of Santa Monica and Venice to celebrate an alternative to L.A.'s car culture. This monthly ride is all in good fun and includes people from all walks of life. For more information, visit the Critical Mass Web site at www.santamonicacriticalmass.org.

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) 828-7519.

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.

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.

Watchdog group eyes Nunez

FPPC to investigate Assembly Speaker's fundraising practices

BY CHIARA CANZI
Special to the Daily Press

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) announced on Wednesday that it will investigate allegations brought forth by a Santa Monica-based consumer rights group against Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and his fundraising efforts.

Consumer Watchdog, formerly known as the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, argues that Nunez raised over-the-limit campaign contributions from companies with matters before the legislature.

"The Speaker requested contributions from these companies," said Carmen Balber with Consumer Watchdog. "And these donors admitted that their charitable contribution was requested by a politician."

Balber said Nunez was fundraising for a non-operating charitable organization called Collective Space Downtown Los Angeles.

"He has raised more than $271,000 on requested donations," Balber said. "We want the investigation to go forward for the simple fact that while the speaker was campaigning, the company's nonprofit status was suspended and he was fundraising for a defunct company."

Nunez' Deputy Chief of Staff Steve Maviglio's rebuttal centered on the consumer rights group's goal.

"First of all, the organization at the time was not defunct, it was still active in the community and it was small," he said. "And (Consumer Watchdog's) goal is character assassination, to generate news."

SEE NUNEZ PAGE 11



Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

GOING FOR A RIDE
Caeden Haynes gets a helpful push from mom, Jennifer Haynes, at Clover Park on Tuesday.

Suspect charged

Santa Monica woman was arrested Sunday outside actor's home

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

VAN NUYS A 33-year-old Santa Monica woman arrested over the weekend outside John Cusack's Malibu home was charged Wednesday with stalking the actor.

Emily Leatherman has been in custody since her arrest in Malibu on Sunday by Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies.

The defendant, who listed a Santa Monica address when arrested, is being held on $500,000 bail.

If convicted of the stalking charge, she faces a possible maximum state prison term of three years. Each misdemeanor count carries a possible six-month jail term upon conviction.

Leatherman was taken into custody Sunday after Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies were called to Cusack's neighborhood, where a cab driver reported that a passenger didn't have enough money to pay for the ride to get there, sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said Monday.

As the deputies were responding to the situation, they were flagged down by Cusack.

"He told them he recognized the woman in the cab and that she had been stalking him," Whitmore said.

He said deputies found evidence at the scene that led to the arrest, but he declined to elaborate, citing the investigation.



LEATHERMAN

Leatherman was arrested for investigation of stalking, violating a restraining order and petty theft.

Whitmore said the 33-year-old woman is "considered a transient in the Santa Monica area."

A call to Cusack's publicist wasn't immediately returned.

In July 2006, Cusack was granted a temporary restraining order stipulating that Leatherman stay at least 500 feet away from him, his home, his work, his car and offices or companies in which he does business.

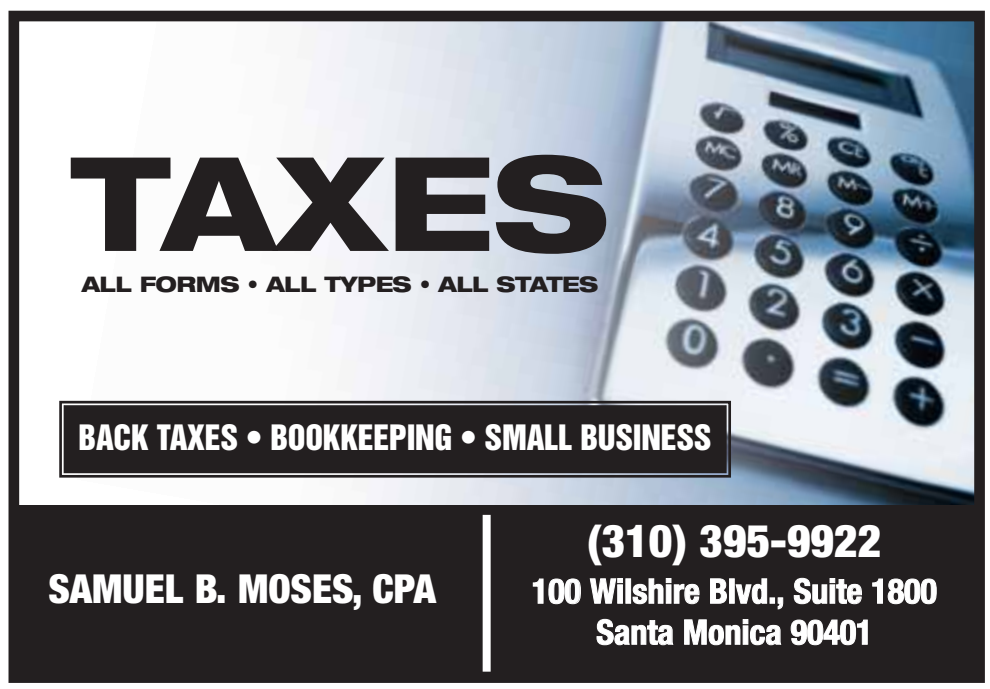
In court papers, Cusack said Leatherman "is showing unusual interest by stalking, throwing long letters of interest over my fence in bags with rocks and screwdrivers inside, making unannounced visits to offices of people I work with in an attempt to meet with me and listing my address as her own during a recent arrest."

Leatherman has claimed she only sent Cusack two letters.

news@smdp.com. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Making the case for Prop. 98

Editor:

Bill Bauer manipulates the truth and hides the great benefits of Prop. 98 for all classes of people in California ("Proposition 98 is a nightmare," page 4, March 24).

Prop. 98 is merely designed to protect private property owners barring government to forcibly seize their property and hand it to another private owner. Prop. 98 is not stopping eminent domain in which the government transfers the property for government use. Private property rights are a cornerstone of any democracy, which is why 42 states have already passed laws very similar to Prop. 98. Ask any of those mom-and-pop owners if they believe eminent domain protection has been a nightmare, I doubt they'll say yes.

Regarding rent control, Prop. 98 will not abolish rent control, it will only phase it out over many years. Right now, if a tenant leaves a rent control unit, the landlord has the right to put it back on the market at market rents. Prop. 98 only will stop that vacant unit from being under the same draconian rent control laws that actually hinder affordable housing, which cause the middle-class in L.A. to leave.

Due to rent control, any new resident in Santa Monica or in any rent-controlled city such as L.A. and West Hollywood must pay higher rent for their unit in order to off-set the ridiculously low rents paid by the rent control units. Sorry folks, the landlord is running a business and if he doesn't have enough income he won't be able to pay for things like repairs, maintenance issues, insurance, water, etc. That is why rent control buildings with low paying tenants are often run-down and unkempt. If the government truly cared for seniors on fixed incomes or working class families, then the government should find solutions on their dime, but not on the mom-and-pop's dime. Prop. 98 is taking the extra step to insure that tenants under rent control right now will never have to worry about losing that right. Many Prop. 98 critics often use scare tactics to make voters think this will eliminate rent control, it simply won't.

The article also stated that private-to-private eminent domain helps build affordable housing. This is totally incorrect. Private-to-private eminent domain has caused many cities across the state to build ultra-expensive condos and hotels on properties once used as homes, small middle class businesses, mom-and-pop stores, restaurants, and centers that give hope to poor and disenfranchised youth. If the government wanted to build more affordable housing, taking away small middle-class businesses and homes in order to build ultra-luxurious condos doesn't seem like one of them. In fact, when more luxury condos and hotels are built, the middle-class leaves; leaving the city with two classes, the ultra-poor and the ultra-rich.

The article states Prop. 99 is a great alternative. Well guess who's funding Prop. 99. The very same developers that are building condos and hotels for the ultra-rich. The supporters behind Prop. 99 have absolutely no interest in seeing affordable housing increase. The pockets of many of our city councilmembers across the state are full of money from the luxury housing developers. Prop. 99 is a sick and perverted way of tricking people into thinking they are being helped.

If the government wants to see more affordable housing, there are many different paths to take. But the government should never have to take away homes and businesses so that the private developers can make their millions.

Louis Eisenstein
Los Angeles

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Political Playhouse

Nick Mockiavelli — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Breaking news from the trail

I AM PLEASED TO BRING YOU TWO political reports. As always, these stories were only broken because of my relentless pursuit of the truth.

BILL AND HILL EXCHANGE RACY TEXT MESSAGES

In January, The Detroit Free Press reported on a series of racy text messages exchanged between Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and his chief of staff. The messages strongly suggest that the mayor lied under oath about their relationship during a whistle-blower trial last summer. This week, Kilpatrick and his former chief of staff were arraigned on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

While the salacious nature of the text messages have made the story an item of national interest, Political Playhouse has learned that a similar series of text messages exist between Bill and Hillary Clinton. While Kilpatrick and his girlfriend use their communications to express a sincere desire to ravage each other's brains out, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton chirp back and forth like two lovebirds addicted to a different type of emotion:

■ Hillary, November 2007: "Got endorsement from Ironworkers Union. Drunk on POWER!"

■ Bill (in response): "Me too! The Big P! One day we'll control country again, just you and me!"

■ Hillary, December 2007: "I'm madly in love with telling people what to do. Imagine being the boss of 300 million people?! LOL. Crazy!"

■ Bill (in response): "If you get elected prez, let's secretly call each other King and Queen (flip to see who's what)!"

■ Hillary, December 2007: "Do you miss me? Miss having another assertive, headline-making, smartest-kid-in-the-class, wonky wonk in your orbit!"

■ Bill (in response): "Heck yeah! Eating a rib sandwich right now, next best thing to having a room hang on your every word, but HECK YEAH!"

■ Hillary, January 2008: "Dreaming about three days holed up with policy binders, issue briefings and legislation that awaits my Hancock. CSPAN on TV 24/7 and VIPs ringing on the celly to get my blessing. Cap it off with a live address from the oval office. HEAVEN!"

■ Bill (in response): "Power Power Power!"

■ Hillary "I adore your 60 percent favorable rating among moderate Pennsylvanian's between the ages of 35 and 47."

■ Bill (response) "Don't you know it."

POLLSTER ADMITS HE CAN'T COUNT

As Barack Obama's campaign attempts to convince Democratic voters and Superdelegates that he's fit to be the party's nominee, news broke today that his top internal pollster, Jason Buckingham, doesn't even know how to count. The revelation couldn't come at a worse time for a campaign that is more reliant than ever on accurate data, analysis, and voter profiling to maintain their slim lead.

"It's shameful, I know," murmured a contrite Buckingham at an afternoon news conference. "Considering I was doing high-level trend analysis and intent segmentation, it's probably one of the more ridiculous things that's been allowed to happen. Wow."

It was revealed that Buckingham didn't even know how to count to 10 when he was doing a live interview on CNN with Anderson Cooper. Referring to Sen. Clinton's recent wins in Ohio and Texas, Buckingham said in that condescending, know-it-all tone we've come to expect from data-driven geeks who appear on TV, "She's seen a nice pop in some of these more rural states. Two days from now, in the April 7th debate in Pennsylvania, we'll see how her message resonates on a bigger stage." After an awkward moment, Cooper commented that April 7th was "12 days from now" causing a panicked Adams to count out the days (unsuccessfully) on his fingers. He then collapsed into a writhing mass on the floor while attempting to count from 1 to 10 over and over. His random numerical shouting of "2," "8," "7," 1089," and "1.8 squared" brought the segment producers onto the sound stage.

As he ended his press conference, Buckingham said, "Hopefully some good can come out of this, there are thousands of people like me out there. They're just not employed by sophisticated data accrual and forecasting firms hired to give candidates top-notch number crunching. I've been living a lie for so long, it's nice to finally say 'not only do I not like numbers, I don't even really know what they are.'"

Before leaving the podium Buckingham offered what is probably his last piece of political prognostication ever: "I will say that if Hillary Clinton can capture "drag racing dads" between the ages of 35 and 40 while maintaining an upward support spike from non-registered agnostics of Pacific Islander descent, she has a chance to close the gap with non-partisan moderates."

Read more of Nick Mockiavelli at Mockiavelli.com. He can be reached at info@mockiavelli.com

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sticks and stones aren't a big deal

THE 2008 PULITZER PRIZES WON'T BE announced until Monday, but unfortunately I already know that I am not among the winners.

Despite Cynthia Tucker's stunning upset over me last year (for what the Pulitzer Board called her "courageous, clear-headed columns that evince a strong sense of morality and persuasive knowledge of the community" in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution ... Blah blah blah blah blah), I was all set to hold my head up high and vie again this year in the Distinguished Commentary category. But alas, the Pulitzer organization inexplicably failed to notify me of the deadline, which passed nearly two months ago.

The situation is frustrating. Not for me, of course, as the money and prestige that accompany the award have no bearing on why I write my heart out for the world to read each week. No, it's just so disappointing for the followers of this column whose support and praise for my artful expressions continues to pour in like a stick of butter on corn flakes. I don't want to brag, but if the accolades of my devotees are any indication, I would have been a shoo-in.

Take, for instance, the high praise I received after writing "Playing hooky on the High Holidays" (Sept. 20, 2007), in which one Meredith Pro Tem aficionado encouraged me to rise to even greater heights, saying, "New Rule for the New Year. No writing columns without a point … Even you can do better." On the same piece, another supporter offered invaluable religious guidance: "Do not go anywhere without your Rabbi."

Some of my most popular columns are written about my husband, Rick. Like "One mismatch made in heaven" (Oct. 4, 2007), the heartfelt sentiment of which inspired one admirer to suggest, "[He] should present you with several dozen rolls of double-quilted, extra-absorbent Charmin."

Often times my writing moves readers to become politically active. Like the reader who recommended, "Retroactive abortions should be legal" after I wrote "A pair of brown socks doesn't always fit the bill" (Sept. 27, 2007). Another fan chimed in, saying helpfully, "Maybe just absenting your put-upon self from [your dad's] birthday celebration would be enough gift this year."

Few things are as satisfying as knowing I've brightened the day of my readers by giving them reason to smile. Like the one who wrote in response to "New traditions for a new house" (Nov. 22, 2007).

"Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha. Yes, there are apparently still issues. Thank you so much for sharing yours. Looking forward to your being away."

One groupie commended me after I wrote "A-list help is vital in White House race" (Dec. 6, 2007). He or she clearly beamed when responding, "You have set a new benchmark in empty-noggin twithood [sic]. Congratulations, I guess."

It's always flattering when people assume my physical beauty must be extraordinary because I craft words that glide so gracefully across the page. Like the admirer who tried to guess my age after reading, "Nice dinner for two without cholesterol" (Jan. 31, 2008), asking, "How old are you people … 30????"

Of my Nov. 7, 2007, column, "It's the tragically (and aged-ly) hip," one of my hangers-on glowed it was "tactless and tediously petulant." Another well-wisher reacted to the same piece by saying, "That's OK what she wrote because will [sic] look in the mirror one day and realize that time does not stop for anyone." And yet another sweetly warned, "God will punish you."

Rush Limbaugh even joined my legion of fans this past year. After reading "Living vicariously through baby names" (Dec. 20, 2008), El Rushbo spent the first four minutes and 24 seconds of his next show discussing my writing.

Apparently I confounded him with my extensive wisdom, prompting him to wonder aloud, "Now, I read this and thought: What is it that [she] know[s] that I don't know?" And, like the scores of requests I'm rarely, if ever, able to honor but receive daily from well-wishers hoping for just a few minutes of face time, Rush even lamented that he "didn't meet this babe that wrote this."

And sometimes my columns move readers so much they're rendered speechless. Like after I wrote "Honesty — it's such a truly lonely word" (Feb. 21, 2008), one loyal fan responded by simply writing, "BLINK."

Oh well. There's always next year.

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

The Q Line

Grounding the FAA

The City Council last week passed a ban of the largest and fastest jets that operate out of the Santa Monica Airport. The Federal Aviation Administration has vowed to challenge the ruling.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think the city should stand its ground and take the FAA on or do you believe the city should seek a compromise?

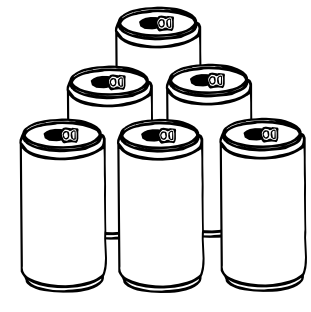
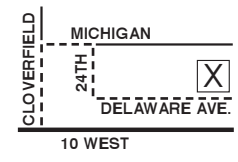
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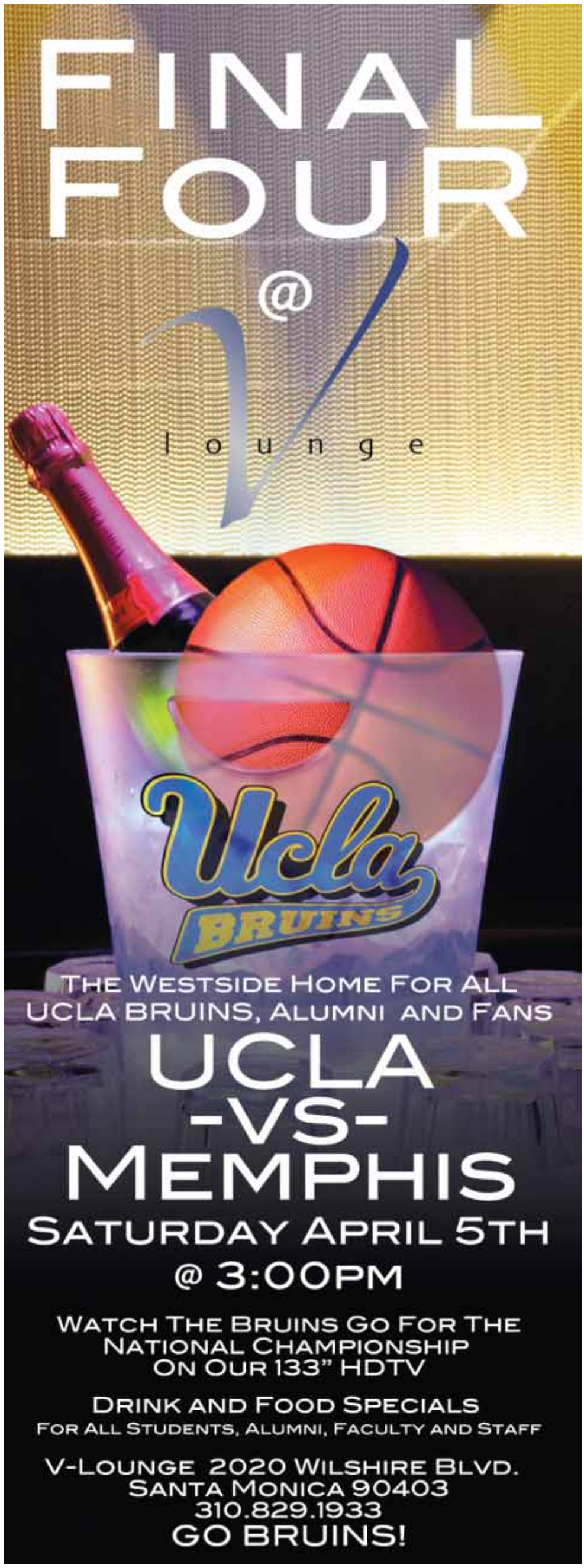
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Boxer chides Kempthorne over polar bear decision

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The chair of the Senate Environment Committee Wednesday slammed Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne for failing to appear before her panel to explain why the Bush administration has delayed a decision on whether to protect polar bears under the Endangered Species Act.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said it was wrong that Kempthorne declined her invitation to appear before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

"It's wrong that Mr. Kempthorne is not here," Boxer said after the hearing, which went on without an appearance from Kempthorne or any other administration official. "I like him, but it's wrong."

The deadline for a decision on listing Alaska's polar bears as threatened under the Endangered Species Act was Jan. 9. Conservation groups petitioned to list polar bears as threatened more than three years ago because their habitat, sea ice, is shrinking from global warming.

Boxer said Kempthorne and other administration officials were "ducking their responsibility to the American people" by delaying a decision on the bears — and then failing to appear at a hearing to explain why.

Boxer said she was especially troubled because the administration did not hesitate to open a major bear habitat to oil leases. The Interior Department opened a large area of the Chukchi Sea to oil and gas leases in early February, despite sharp criticism from environmentalists who note that one-fifth of the Arctic's polar bears depend on sea ice in their hunt for food.

"There's a rush to drill, and no rush to list" polar bears as threatened, Boxer said.

A spokesman for Kempthorne declined immediate comment, but in a letter to Boxer, Kempthorne said he "respectfully" declined her invitation to appear at the hearing, since he is a named defendant in a lawsuit over the polar bear listing filed by an environmental group.

Kempthorne, a former Idaho governor and senator, said he understands that the delay in the polar bear decision is frustrating to Boxer and others who advocate additional protections for the bear.

But he said the oil and gas leases opened up in February do not pose a threat to the bear, citing the "localized nature" of the proposed oil and gas developments. If the bear is listed as threatened, any oil and gas exploration would be subject to the Endangered Species Act, regardless of when the leases are sold, Kempthorne said.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., said he spoke with Kempthorne this week, and Kempthorne expects a decision on polar bears "before early summer."

Actors, producers ready to talk

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The Screen Actors Guild announced it will begin negotiating a new contract with Hollywood producers on April 15.

Talks are set to start more than two months before SAG's contract expires with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers on June 30.

A-list actors such as George Clooney and Meryl Streep have pushed SAG to start talks quickly as the industry reconnects with viewers after the recent 100-day writers strike.

The 120,000-member SAG has said it will focus on getting the producers to provide favorable pay for new forms of media and a larger share of home video revenue.

It appears Tuesday night's announcement means SAG will beat its fellow actors union, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, to the bargaining table. AFTRA had no immediate comment.

The two unions had for decades negotiated together with producers, but they parted ways last weekend. Some 44,000 actors are members of both unions, and the two groups had long sniped at each other over who better represents them.

AFTRA President Roberta Reardon had said the last straw was SAG's trying to persuade actors from the soap opera "The Bold and The Beautiful" to abandon the federation.

But Guild President Alan Rosenberg called the suggestion that SAG was trying to poach the actors a "cynical" excuse by AFTRA to hasten the end of their partnership.



RE-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sizing up the

FRIENDS TELL ME THAT TO WRITE AN article that's going to be widely read, the title has to include either the words "Britney" or "Paris." Well, this time I've got it. Wine bars are as hot as Britney, and my favorite one is in Paris.

What is a wine bar? It's a place to get together, drink well, and enjoy simple fare. Since my first experience in a wine bar was in Paris in the 1950s, that's the image that comes to my mind.

For me the quintessential wine bar against all others are compared is L'Ecluse. Located in the Place de la Madeleine in the heart of Paris, it's in the same square as some of the great food sites of the world. Fouchon, perhaps the most famous food specialty store in the world, is on one corner. A specialty store for caviar, smoked salmon and sturgeon occupies a small space a few doors down. And the Lucas Carton restaurant is just down the street, as well as two or three other great Parisian restaurants of equal renown, but lower prices. And a few doors away is Lavinia, the hottest wine bar in Paris, and the largest wine store in Europe, with an unheard of selection of 3,000 New World wines.

At L'Ecluse the specialty is Bordeaux, and there are usually 20 or 30 for sale by the glass. The bar, with some tables, is in the front, and there is a lovely glass covered patio in the back. The food is simple, and much of it, like the foie gras, is what is customarily served with certain special wines (Loupiac, with the foie gras). So the emphasis is on the wine, and the food is there to accompany it. But in reality the emphasis is on the people: The Parisian wine bar is a place where people come to eat, drink, and above all mingle. Clients come before and after theater, after work, a "stop in" not unlike "Cheers" from the TV show, where the regulars know each other and trade jibes with the owners and bartenders. One might even discuss politics.

Well, we have some similar spots in Los Angeles, but some of the charm has been lost in translation.

Perhaps the best known wine bar in Los Angeles is the AOC. AOC pioneered the idea of "grazing," where one eats or shares a number of small plates with a large selection of food styles to go with a large selection of wines by the glass. They serve 50 wines available by the glass.

If mingling is your goal, and you don't care about the noise factor, I recommend Primitivo on Abbot Kinney. It's close to home, there's good food, and good wine at reasonable prices and the emphasis is clearly on the wine and the mingling. The place is generally packed with young, beautiful people, and just getting from the front door to the bar is an erotic experience.

And then there's Rustic Canyon. This is the wine bar I would rate as the closest to the original concept, even though there are still problems. The service is vastly superior to most small restaurants in Santa Monica. The food is excellent and reasonably priced. The mixed Moroccan salad plate, with it's variety of flavors, can't be surpassed anywhere. The baked breads and deserts are of superior quality. Most important, the owner, Palisadian Josh Loeb (and sometimes his brother) is right there to greet customers and chat. Even the pastry chef came out to chat and show off some new deserts the last time I was there, and introduced us to her father at the next table. And the last time I had lunch there, with my partner, Chef Alain Giraud, between us we knew and chatted with people at three of the tables.

One wine bar that has avoided a number of these problems is Bodega, near Seventh Street and Broadway in Santa Monica. The space is modern and sleek, with a feeling of open space, and the noise level is low for Los Angeles. The food is minimal, a selection between four pizzas, four sandwiches, two salads and four or five mixed cold plates, and three desserts. But it's enough for a light dinner. There's an excellent selection of about a dozen white wines and a dozen red wines, and all the wines are $8 per glass, $20 for a carafe, or $30 for a bottle. That makes life really easy and affordable, plus I love to order by the carafe. For what it is, Bodega is terrific. The only possible negative is that Bodega is not for the serious wine lover, nor gourmand. There are no expensive wines by the glass, and the vintages are not even listed on the wine list.

Culver City is becoming known for its new food and wine bars. While not formally known as a wine bar, I would consider Ford's Filling Station pretty much of one. The food is typical for a wine bar and there is always a nice selection of wine by the glass. The emphasis on cheese board, ham, salamis and other cured meat tasting plates makes this a wine friendly destination.

Bottlerock, at 3847 Main St. around the corner from Ford's, is a genuine wine bar. The appearance is high tech, but it looks more like a wine store than a bar. The wine selection is excellent, and the selection and the price range is very broad. While the food is mediocre, the cheese selection is better than most. The lunch menu needs help. Business is booming from the Sony Pictures crowd. The owners, the brothers that own Fireside on Montana in Santa Monica, are rarely there, and have delegated management to various pleasant young folks on site. Good luck with that: The wines are not kept in any saving system, and it's not uncommon to get a pour from a bottle that's been opened for two or three days. Fortunately the bar tender usually puts the opening date on the bottle, so you can check for yourself.

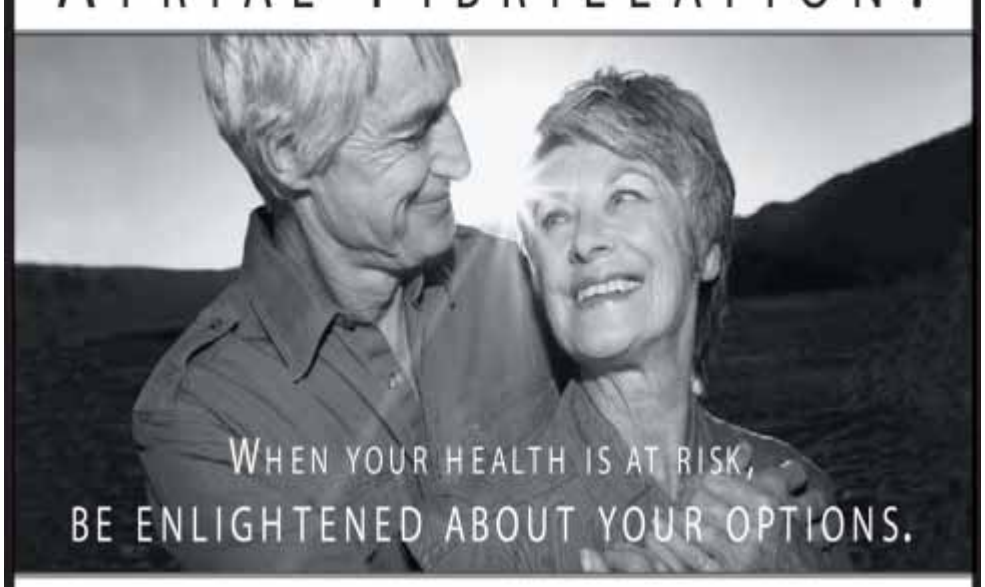
A new concept in wine bars is the "serve yourself" "automat" bar. Under this system, you buy a card, and use the card to serve yourself wines from a dispenser. In Culver City, Vinum Populi, operates with this new system, as will a new wine bar in Malibu, near the site where Granita was, which will open soon with this same technology. The idea of "grazing" with wines is interesting, but without good food and some sort of "host" to watch the service and advance the mingling, it's not really a wine bar.

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

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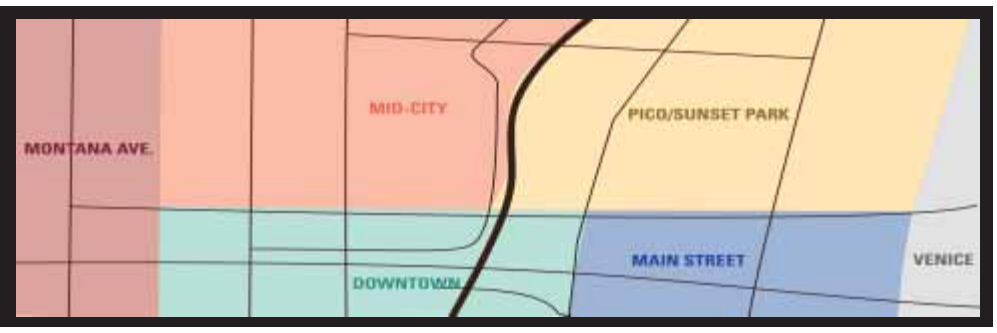

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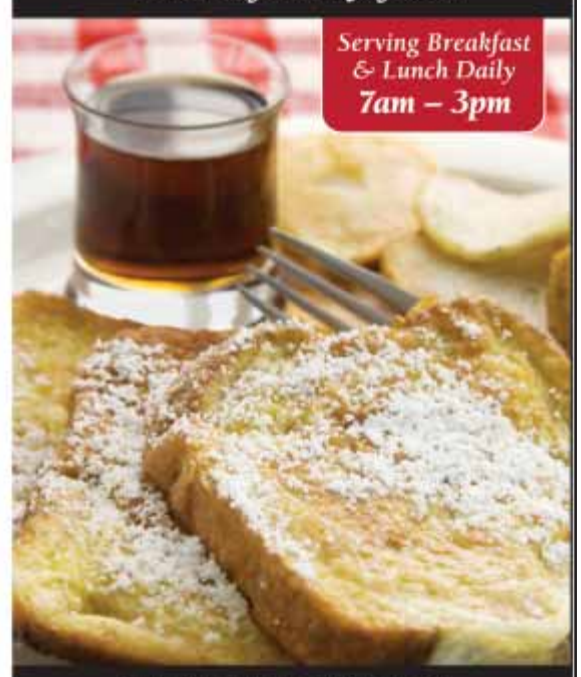


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An exam for teachers

Local chiropractor offers free medical care to educators, members of their families

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

MID-CITY With all of the reports of possible budget cuts that directly impact local schools, an area chiropractor has a plan to provide some much-needed relief for educators.

Dr. Brenden Murray at the Institute for Spine and Sports Care has designated April as "Teacher and Faculty Appreciation Month," and is offering free exams, including a health history consultation and orthopedic and neurological exam — a $200 value — to all teachers, faculty and their families.

"I come from a family of teachers; my mother was a teacher for 30-plus years, my aunt, my sister, two of my sisters-in-law, are all teachers," Murray said. "I was raised in a household where the importance of learning was stressed and the value of what a teacher does for their students was understood. I wanted to give something back to a vital profession and to my community.

"It's important to take care of those who take care of our children."

Patients will be required to show proof of their employment, or family member's employment, prior to the appointment. All medical information is confidential. Appointments can be set up by calling (310) 998-5800.

Teachers especially are in need of treatment considering they spend a lot of their day either hunched over writing or grading papers, or standing watching children on the playground, Murray said.

"This tends to lead to headaches, back and neck pain," Murray said.

Murray is a native of Santa Monica. He graduated Magnum Cum Laude from Cleveland Chiropractic College for both his bachelor's and doctorate degree with his emphasis being in sports healthcare. For over 20 years, he has been a doctor for many athletic teams at the high school and professional levels.

He is currently the team doctor for the United States Weightlifting Team competing in the Pan Am games this spring.

news@smdp.com



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A LITTLE WELL DESERVED HEALING: **Taking his time to carefully work out the knots, Dr. Brendan Murray helps a patient recover from a stressful day at work Tuesday afternoon.**

Two alignments considered for Expo project

FROM **RAIL** PAGE 1

their thoughts and suggestions on the second phase of the light rail project as it's currently proposed, commenting on station and parking locations, grade crossings and possible alignments.

The workshop was set up as an open house format, held inside of a community room whose walls were covered with renderings and aerial maps demonstrating the various options for the light rail project.

"We wanted to give the public the opportunity to look at what's been done so far," Monica Born, the project director for the second phase of Expo, said.

The Expo project is split into two phases, the first one taking the light rail from Downtown Los Angeles to Culver City and the second phase continuing on to Santa Monica. Construction for phase one kicked off last year and the second portion is in its early stages, still undergoing an environmental impact study, which will be available for public comment this fall. Construction for the project is anticipated to commence in 2010, with the line available for service around 2014.

The project's cost could run anywhere from $1 billion to $2 billion, depending on whether the Westside extension is constructed on the existing Expo right-of-way, which travels along the I-10 Freeway and near the Westside Pavilion, or the pricier alternative, which would take the tracks along Venice/Sepulveda Boulevard, requiring more groundwork and dollars, according to Stephen Polechronis, a consultant to the Exposition Construction Authority.

There are at least two stations planned for Santa Monica — at the Sears auto lot on Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue, and Bergamot Station — and a third proposed option at 17th Street and Olympic Boulevard near the site of the community workshop.

Howard Robinson, a land-use consultant who represents Wayne Blank, the operator of Bergamot Station, said the art complex could see the inclusion of a restaurant and boutique hotel if a light rail stop is added.

The nearly 5.5 acre complex, considered the largest art gallery center in Southern California, was historically called Bergamot Station, a transit stop for the old Pacific Electric Railway. The old train station became a manufacturing facility and then an art gallery complex in the 1990s.

"There is a tremendous opportunity to do something unique and wonderful," Robinson said.

The 17th Street station is an ideal location because it would be a straight shot to Santa Monica College and is located near St. John's Health Center, a major area employer, Polechronis said.

"It's a nice station to serve the area," he said.

The existing plans show that parking lots will not be constructed for either the proposed 17th Street station or Bergamot, which already has several parking spaces. The reason is because of the high cost of real estate, which would inflate current construction figures, Polechronis said, adding that there could be shared-use opportunities at Bergamot.

There are two alignments proposed for how the light rail will reach Downtown Santa Monica from Bergamot Station — one that will run along Colorado, which would entail taking out two lanes of traffic and more than half of the on-street parking spaces; and one on Olympic Boulevard where the train could travel on the existing median.

Both Velick and a friend, Elan Glasser, said they would like to see the alignment kept on Olympic Boulevard to minimize the traffic impacts. The two Santa Monicans also suggested adding a stop on Lincoln Boulevard near the freeway, one of the busiest intersections in the city.

"(Olympic) lies between the commercial on Colorado and the residential south of the freeway," Glasser said.

There is also a possibility that the Downtown station will be located near the corner of Second Street and Colorado instead of on the Sears auto lot, an option that City Hall asked the Exposition Construction Authority to explore. The scenario would require shutting down part of Main Street and taking out the east-bound lane on Colorado, Polechronis said.

Andy Agle, the housing and economic development director, said if the station is located on Second and Colorado, the Sears auto lot would still be used for transit-related purposes, a use that will be determined through public dialogue.

"Under any circumstances, there will be a great opportunity to utilize the site in a way to really maximize on its proximity to the transit," Agle said on Tuesday.

A public input session is scheduled tonight from 6:30-8:30 at Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services at 3200 Motor Ave. in Los Angeles.

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Consultant puzzled by special ed costs

FROM **DISTRICT** PAGE 1

psychologists than the state average," Barber said in an interview on Wednesday. "They have more administrative support than the state average."

The gap between income and expenditures as related to staffing increases seemed to puzzle the consultants.

"That was probably the one piece we looked at that didn't make as much sense," Francie Heim, who conducted the financial analysis, said in an interview on Wednesday.

The study also found that the district should not change its contracts with outside providers, but the contracts for supplementary services, such as speech and language therapists should be examined to see whether they can be covered by existing staff.

Special education funding, which is based on the average daily attendance for the district, is received by the Tri-City Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), of which SMMUSD is a part, and is then distributed to its member districts. The Culver City and Beverly Hills school districts are also members of the Tri-City SELPA.

The SMMUSD represents about 50 percent of the total average daily attendance for the SELPA.

The study found that the district spent 57 percent more than it received in special education funding in the 2001-02 school year, though that number isn't nearly as high as the 98 percent expected in 2007-08.

"Put another way, the district expenditures as a percentage of income were 158 percent more in 2001-02, and they are now almost 200 percent of income," Barber states in the report.

The unfunded cost of the special ed program is also considerably higher than the state average — SMMUSD unfunded cost ratio was 41 percent in the 2004-05 school year, as compared to 25 percent for the state.

"This translates to a difference of approximately $3 million," Barber said.

Those numbers came as a surprise to school board President Oscar de la Torre, who said on Tuesday that he was under the impression that costs had been going down.

"I was made to believe that our cost in special education was decreasing or that people had put in cost cutting measures," de la Torre said. "In the report, it shows that our student population in special ed has decreased but our cost have increased, and not by a little."

Paul Silvern, the chair of the Financial Oversight Committee, said on Wednesday that he was pleased a funding component was incorporated into the study, adding that the FOC had been interested in exploring the issue further for quite some time.

"We have a long-standing interest of having a better understanding of detail of special ed expenditures beyond some information we generally receive from staff," Silvern, who had not yet looked at the study, said. "We never felt we had a complete picture of all expenditures and had hoped this report would provide more detail."

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Consumer Watchdog makes complaint against speaker

FROM **NUNEZ** PAGE 3

In November, the Los Angeles Times reported questionable donations made by more than 20 corporations for Collective Space. According to Consumer Watchdog these funds were in turn spent on public events sponsored by Nunez's staff.

"The events were called 'Speaker Nunez Soccer Fest' and things like that," Balber said. "They prominently featured the speaker in promotional material."

Maviglio said that the FPPC's investigation is a formality.

"We are confident that the FCCP will dismiss this complaint against the speaker, just like it has every single other complaint lodged by this publicity-seeking organization," he said. "These charges were generated for the purpose of a press release."

The complaint alleges that six of the donors — Blue Cross of California, the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, The Gas Co.-Sempra and Zenith Insurance — gave the speaker the maximum amount allowed in the state of California to Nunez's 2005-2006 campaign.

"A politician cannot under the law solicit funds for charitable organizations," Balber said. "He benefited by advancing his political profile."

Roman Porter with the FPPC said in a statement that his organization has responded to the complainant and that "we will be investigating the allegations."

The FCCP's mission is to promote the integrity of representative state and local government in California through fair, impartial interpretation and enforcement of political campaigns, lobbying and conflict of interest laws.

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When it comes to sex, length matters

Sex therapists say 3 to 13 minutes is best

BY MEGAN K. SCOTT
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Maybe men had it right all along: It doesn't take long to satisfy a woman in bed.

A survey of sex therapists concluded the optimal amount of time for sexual intercourse was 3 to 13 minutes. The findings, to be published in the May issue of the Journal of Sexual Medicine, strike at the notion that endurance is the key to a great sex life.

If that sounds like good news to you, don't cheer too loudly. The time does not count foreplay, and the therapists did rate sexual intercourse that lasts from 1 to 2 minutes as "too short."

Researcher Eric Corty said he hoped to ease the minds of those who believe that "more of something good is better, and if you really want to satisfy your partner, you should last forever."

The questions were not gender-specific, said Corty (who, it must be noted, is male). But he said prior research has shown that both men and women want foreplay and sexual intercourse to last longer.

Dr. Irwin Goldstein, editor of the Journal of Sexual Medicine, cited a four-week study of 1,500 couples in 2005 that found the median time for sexual intercourse was 7.3 minutes. (Women were armed with stopwatches.)

It's difficult for both older men and young men to make sexual intercourse last much longer, said Marianne Brandon, a clinical psychologist and director of Wellminds Wellbodies in Annapolis, Md.

"There are so many myths in our culture of what other people are doing sexually," Brandon said. "Most people's sex lives are not as exciting as other people think they are."

Fifty members of the Society for Sex Therapy and Research in the U.S. and Canada were surveyed by Corty, an associate professor of psychology at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, and student Jenay Guardiani. Thirty-four members, or 68 percent, responded, although some said the optimal time depended on the couple.

Corty said he hoped to give an idea of what therapists find to be normal and satisfactory among the couples they see.

"People who read this will say, 'I last five minutes or my partner lasts 8 minutes,' and say, 'That's OK,'" he said. "They will relax a little bit."

City of Santa Monica

Community Meeting for 2001 Main Street Mixed-Use Project

April 10, 2008
6:30 PM

Community Room
Santa Monica Public Library Ocean Park Branch
2601 Main Street



You are invited to attend a community meeting to review the design for a new commercial/residential (mixed-use) project located on the south east corner of Main Street and Bay Street, proposed by Howard Laks Architects. The project consists of 14 residential units and 4,130 square feet of commercial space on an 18,090 square foot parcel. The project has been redesigned to accommodate the existing one-story commercial building that was recently designated as a city landmark by the City's Landmarks Commission.

This meeting is a new City Planning initiative to solicit comments from the public prior to the project being heard by the Planning Commission. You will have an opportunity to provide direct feedback to the staff and the developer with regards to the project design. For further information, please contact Steve Mizokami, Associate Planner at (310) 458-8341.

RSVP appreciated to (310) 458-8341.

ESPANOL
Esto es una noticia de una reunión de la comunidad para revisar el diseño de la applicaciónes 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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Smoking habit may run in the family

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON Scientists have pinpointed genetic variations that make people more likely to get hooked on cigarettes and more prone to develop lung cancer — a finding that could someday lead to screening tests and customized treatments for smokers trying to kick the habit.

The discovery by three separate teams of scientists makes the strongest case so far for the biological underpinnings of nicotine addiction and sheds more light on how genetics and lifestyle habits join forces to cause cancer.

"This is kind of a double whammy gene," said Christopher Amos, a professor of epidemiology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and author of one of the studies. "It also makes you more likely to be dependent on smoking and less likely to quit smoking."

A smoker who inherits these genetic variations from both parents has an 80 percent greater chance of lung cancer than a smoker without the variants, the researchers reported. And that same smoker on average lights up two extra cigarettes a day and has a much harder time quitting than smokers who don't have these genetic differences.

The researchers disagreed on whether the variants directly increased the risk of lung cancer or did so indirectly, by causing more smoking.

The three studies, funded by governments in the U.S. and Europe, is being published Thursday in the journals Nature and Nature Genetics.

The scientists studied the genes of more than 35,000 people in Europe, Canada and the United States. They aren't quite sure if what they found is a set of variations in one gene or in three closely connected genes.

The gene variations, which govern nicotine receptors on cells, could eventually help explain some of the mysteries of chain smoking, nicotine addiction and lung cancer. These oddities include why there are 90-year-old smokers who don't get cancer and people who light up an occasional cigarette and don't get hooked.

"This is really telling us that the vulnerability to smoking and how much you smoke is clearly biologically based," said psychiatry professor Dr. Laura Bierut of Washington University in St. Louis, a genetics and smoking expert who did not take part in the studies. She praised the research as "very intriguing."

The smoking rate among U.S. adults has dropped from 42 percent in 1965 to less than 21 percent now.

The new studies are surprising in that they point to areas of the genetic code that are not associated with pleasure and the rewards of addiction.

That may help explain why some people can quit and others fail, said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse in Bethesda, Md., which funded one of the studies.

"It opens our eyes," Volkow said Wednesday. "Not everyone takes drugs for the same reason. Not everyone smokes cigarettes for the same reasons."

One clue is in the location of the just-discovered variants, on the long arm of chromosome 15, Volkow said.

Obama eyes Gore for cabinet post

BY DEVLIN BARRETT
Associated Press Writer

WALLINGFORD, Pa. Sen. Barack Obama said Wednesday he would give Al Gore, a Nobel prize winner, a major role in an Obama administration to address the problem of global warming.

At a town-hall meeting, Obama was asked if he would tap the former vice president for his Cabinet to handle global warming.

"I would," Obama said. "Not only will I, but I will make a commitment that Al Gore will be at the table and play a central part in us figuring out how we solve this problem. He's somebody I talk to on a regular basis. I'm already consulting with him in terms of these issues, but climate change is real. It is something we have to deal with now, not 10 years from now, not 20 years from now."

Since leaving the White House, Gore has gone on to become one of the world's leading voices for combating the greenhouse gases blamed for global warming. His work earned him a share of the Nobel last year.

Popular among Democrats, Gore is perhaps the single most coveted endorsement up for grabs in the long-running competition between Obama and rival Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The relationship between Gore and the Clintons became strained after Gore limited Bill Clinton's campaigning on his behalf in the 2000 presidential race which elected George W. Bush.

Obama said he would use Gore to help forge a cap-and-trade system for carbon emissions designed to lower pollution.

The Illinois senator cautioned that such a system could mean an increase in electricity bills from power companies that rely on coal-burning, and that some of the money generated from a cap-and-trade system may be used in the beginning to help lower income or fixed income customers with those bills.

He also called on individuals to do their part to lower energy consumption.

Keyboardist, TV gardener team up on conservation

BY JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press Writer

ROLAND, Ark. The field filled with concentric circles hundreds of yellow daffodils was no ordinary stage for the Rolling Stones keyboardist and his black grand piano.

But this was no ordinary performance.

The rocker Chuck Leavell teamed up with popular television gardener P. Allen Smith to talk conservation from Smith's hundreds of acres outside of Little Rock. A camera crew followed the two throughout the day as they talked about an issue dear to both men.

"We just thought it would be a fantastic opportunity to have Chuck here and have him in the middle of our daffodil field playing music," Smith said during a break. "We have sort of a visual harmony going on and he's bringing a beautiful musical harmony to the space."

The message: It is easy being green, after all.

On a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River, Smith is building an 1840s Greek revival farmhouse from the ground up, incorporating old farmhouse standards like Rumford fire boxes with new "green" materials like insulated windows and soybean insulation.

The metal roof collects heat for a water system underneath that warms the home. Cisterns also collect rainwater.

"We want to show people you can make responsible green choices at every turn," Smith said. "If you want a 'green' house, it doesn't necessarily have to look like a spaceship."

The conversation was filmed for Allen's syndicated weekly program "P. Allen Smith Gardens" and "P. Allen Smith's Garden Home," which airs on public television stations.

Smith's homey touches appeal to Leavell, himself a conservationist with a model tree farm near Macon, Ga., that raises Southern yellow pine for use in homes and paper products.

Last year, he donated nearly 300 acres of his hunting preserve as a conservation easement.

The keyboardist, who first joined the Stones on their "Tattoo You" tour in 1982, said he liked what he saw throughout Smith's pastures and home.

"Allen stands for stewardship here," Leavell said. "Not only the land and what he's done with the garden and the grounds, but the animals as well."

Those animals stood nearby during shooting. Swans flapped their wings along the banks of a pond, their wooden, V-shaped roost homes nearby. Atticus and Kit, two horses, looked down from the top of a nearby hill. And Moose, a large donkey, wandered down between Smith and Leavell during one shot.

The two men were also filming segments for the sponsor they share, the chain saw manufacturer Stihl. Both said the sponsor fit their focus on "working forests."

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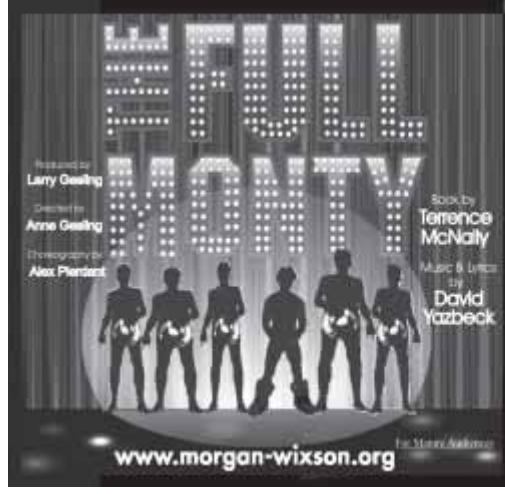
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- New Rapid 7 service
- More Line 14 trips
- Line 3 summer service
- Update on New Facility & Buses

Come to a meeting especially if you're a:

- Sunset Ride or Line 7 Rider
- Resident of 17th St.
- SMC Student or Staff Member
- JAMS Parent or Staff Member

When and Where:

Wednesday, April 2 6-8 PM	Virginia Park (Thelma Terry Center) 2200 Virginia Ave. at 22nd St.
Saturday, April 5 10 AM-12 PM	Ken Edwards Center (Room 100 A-B) 1527 4th St. at Broadway
Monday, April 7 6-8 PM	Santa Monica Main Library (Multi-Purpose Room, 2nd Floor) 601 Santa Monica Blvd. at 7th St.
Tuesday, April 8 12-2 PM	UCLA (Ackerman/Viewpoint Community Room A201) Westwood Plaza, north of Strathmore
Tuesday, April 8 6-8 PM	Fairview Branch Library 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. at 21st St.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may submit written comments to the Big Blue Bus Customer Relations Manager, 1660 7th St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.

For additonal information contact Linda Gamberg, Public Information Coordinator at (310) 458-2201 ext. 6326.

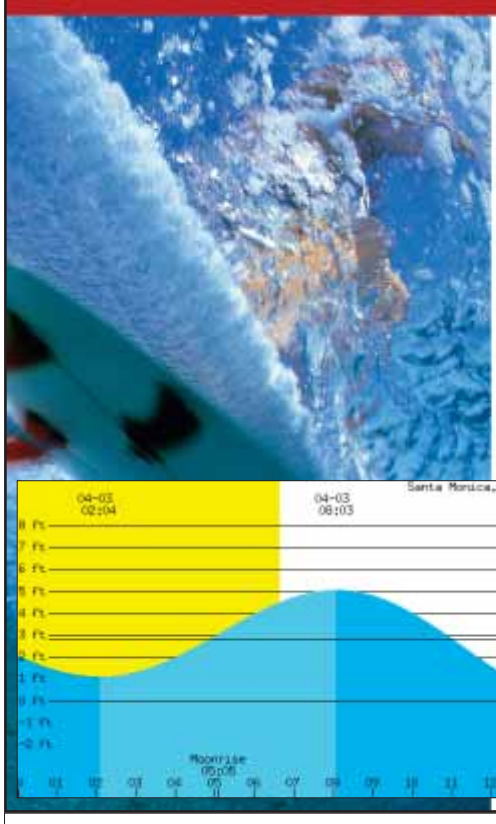
Big Blue Bus strives to ensure that all persons wishing to benefit from its services and participate in its programs are given equal opportunity to do so. To this end, we make every effort to ensure meetings are held in accessible venues and will provide translation services if requested at least 72 hours prior to each meeting.

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For more information, see www.bigbluebus.com



SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 51-59°**

SWELL FORECAST (5-8 FT)

Today the SW should fill in more as weather slowly improves. There's still a slight chance of rain for Thursday morning, but looking at the weather models tonight, it looks like an offshore flow should start to develop on Thursday. In either case, swell periods will still run rather long on Thursday, around 16-18 seconds from around 200 degrees.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WEATHER, WIND ISSUES WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **March 25, 2008**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 3
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 32 / 21
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 22

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

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

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

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

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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NCAA BASKETBALL

Driven and ready

BY AARON BEARD
AP Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. Tyler Hansbrough closed his eyes, hoping for a good night of rest. Instead, his mind kept racing, turning over and over the thought of finally getting North Carolina to the Final Four.

"I couldn't really fall asleep," he said. "I kept thinking about this game coming up."

It's somehow fitting that Hansbrough—a relentless All-American and a star from his first college game—doesn't even take a break even when he should be sleeping.

That he's feeling anxious these days is no surprise. After all, he has worked with every play of his career to win a national championship, a goal now two wins away.

It's why Hansbrough can't talk about his first trip to the Final Four without immediately adding that he wants more.

"It means a lot," said Hansbrough, whose team plays Kansas on Saturday night in San Antonio. "It's a goal we set out. Obviously, we beat some good teams to get here and we feel like we're playing really well. We want to keep on moving."

Few players have embodied that approach better than the 6-foot-9 junior. He has spent seemingly the entire year earning a personal accolade for every victory the Tar Heels (36-2) managed in what has become the winningest season in the storied program's history. He was a unanimous All-America choice by The Associated Press this week.

Hansbrough, averaging 22.8 points and 10.3 rebounds, will be just the eighth Tar Heel to have his jersey retired. In last weekend's win over Louisville, he scored 28 points to move past Sam Perkins for second on the school's career scoring list with 2,151 points, trailing only Phil Ford (2,290) for a record he'll easily set if he returns next year.

"I didn't make Tyler that hard worker. I've just been a guy who benefited from it," coach Roy Williams said.

He's done it with an unyielding will that has him chase every rebound and loose ball while scoring despite constant contact. It's an approach that as a freshman earned him the nickname "Psycho T"—he screamed to motivate himself to keep going during a grueling conditioning drill. Aron Baynes, Washington State's Australian forward, called him a "thrashing croc in the paint" before the team's matchup in the round of 16 last week.

But Hansbrough has also shown an expansive shooting range. His jumper has proved reliable while creeping out past 15 feet, whether it was his last-second shot to beat Virginia Tech in the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament semifinals or the two clutch shots he hit over Louisville center David Padgett to help the Tar Heels hold their tenuous second-half lead in the East Regional championship.

That performance—a 28 points, 13 rebounds—left coach Rick Pitino offering plenty of praise. Yet his teammates have grown accustomed to the exceptional—Hansbrough averaged 28 points and 12 rebounds during the nearly seven full games that point guard Ty Lawson was out with an ankle sprain in February.

"After you play with him for a while, you see some of the things that he can do," sophomore Wayne Ellington said. "He makes tough shots with a lot of defenders around him. I know he's capable of that. It doesn't really surprise me anymore when I see him make a tough shot."

His father, Gene, could probably say the same thing. He first saw his son's hypercompetitive drive when the 5-year-old Tyler practically ran over every defender to score goals in soccer games. Soon, Gene had to pad the area around the basketball goal in the basement of their Poplar Bluff, Mo., home because Tyler's games against older brother Greg became so fierce.

Things changed when Greg was diagnosed with a brain tumor when he was about 7. The surgery to remove the tumor left him partially paralyzed and forced him to learn to walk again. Greg eventually recovered enough to play basketball again and run marathons, an effort that left an impression on Tyler.

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The Bank Job (R) 1hr 50min
2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40
College Road Trip (G) 1hr 23min
2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:15
Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day (PG-13) 1hr 32min
2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35
The Grand (R) 1hr 35min
2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35

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Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who (G) 1hr 28min
1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05
The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13)
1:30, 4:10, 7:05, 9:55
Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns (PG-13) 1hr 40min
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
Under the Same Moon (PG-13) 1hr 49min
2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min
1:00, 2:15, 3:45, 5:00, 6:30, 7:50, 9:30
Stop-Loss (R) 1hr 53min
1:50, 4:25, 7:15, 9:50

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
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The Hammer (R) 1hr 29min
12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
Married Life (PG-13) 1hr 30min
1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 10
Snow Angels (R) 1hr 46min
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
The Band's Visit (PG-13) 1hr 29min
12:45, 2:55, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45

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Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:30am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 10:00
Vantage Point (PG-13) 1hr 30min
11:50am, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
10,000 B.C. (PG-13) 1hr 49min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 **Be Shutter (PG-13) 1hr 25min**
12:10, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Run Fat Boy Run (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:40am, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
Superhero Movie (PG-13) 1hr 25min
12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10

More information email news@smdp.com

Hang out, Capricorn

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Take your time with a situation and get ahead of the game. Yes, you might not know the whole story, and truthfully, you might not want to. Pressure builds from outside, but remember that you do have a choice. You don't need to respond. Tonight: As you like.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ How you deal with a friendship could define the quality of the long-term bond. A smart Bull will distance himself, rethink and evaluate. Tonight: Go for it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Clearly you have the ability to make a difference. Whether you choose to do so really is your call. A relationship might be actively changing before your very eyes. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Sometimes you might not have as much control as you would like. The likelihood of shutting someone out is high. Tonight: Ask, and you will receive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Work with one other person. Listen to others, but work with one person individually, and you'll get results. Don't take a matter too personally. Your work levels are changing dramatically, as is your approach. Tonight: Teamwork counts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Others assume control. Let them. How you say what you feel could change substantially. Creativity emerges in a brainstorming session. Follow along this trail, and everyone will be able to identify and join in. Tonight: Say yes to an invitation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Sometimes you can be overworked or tired. Today might be a classic example. How you delegate or ask for support will determine others' willingness, but also the quality of the end result. Don't give in to whimsy. Tonight: Laugh and lighten up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You might want to open up and allow others to see and experience your rich imagination. Sometimes you hold back so much that others cannot see your special creativity. Tonight: Could be very nice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Possibilities happen because you want them to. Emphasize home base, security and perhaps a slightly more dynamic approach, if possible. Tonight: Don't hesitate to ask for what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might want to understand a lot more about what makes someone tick. You feel your reaction, but the question remains whether you are able to control and discipline it. Tonight: Hanging out is fun to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Give yourself space with finances and money. You might not want to even think about certain matters. Never fear, you will be on top of your game. Tonight: Think in the game.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Knowing the strength of your energy and high focus, you can and will take on whatever is necessary. Understanding your friends and their desires could be instrumental to making a long-term goal happen. Tonight: Live it up.

Happy Birthday

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

Think and evaluate before you take action this year. Power issues come to the forefront. Refresh your thoughts before making a statement or taking an action. Investigate and move forward in a classic and direct way. Often you need to research ideas or go back into your mind before deciding on a course of action. Your instincts often help. If you are single, you grow and evolve to a new level this year. Be careful who you choose, as he or she might not be emotionally capable of what you want. Walk with care; approach with care. Check out this person. If you are attached, your relationship will open up given nurturing and understanding. PISCES helps you understand what seems to be impossible.

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



CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #2933: PROVIDE MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND SERVICE FOR THE LNG/CNG FUELING FACILITY AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.
❑ A MANDATORY JOB WALK WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 15, 2008 AT 9:00AM (PDT).

BID# 2911: PROVIDE COMPLETE REFURBISHMENT OF THE TWO-TANK & THREE-TANK LNG SYSTEMS AND RELATED COMPONENTS ON LNG BUSES AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.
❑ A MANDATORY JOB WALK WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 15, 2008 AT 10:00AM (PDT).

❑ SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR BOTH BIDS IS MAY 2, 2008 AT 3:00 PM PDT.

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Kimberlie Nimori at the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-2211, or by e-mailing your request to kimberlie.nimori@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/



Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
BRONZE

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

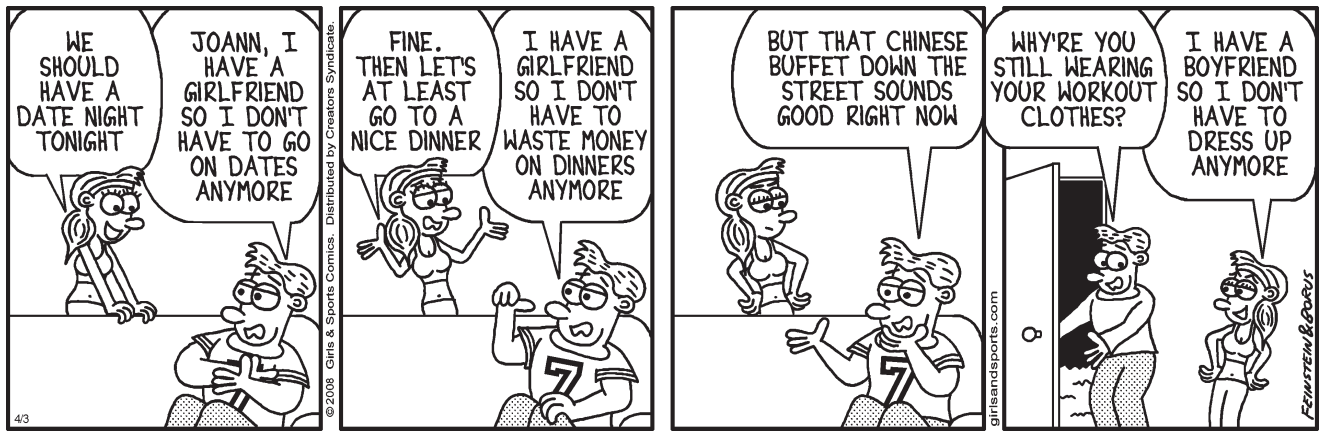
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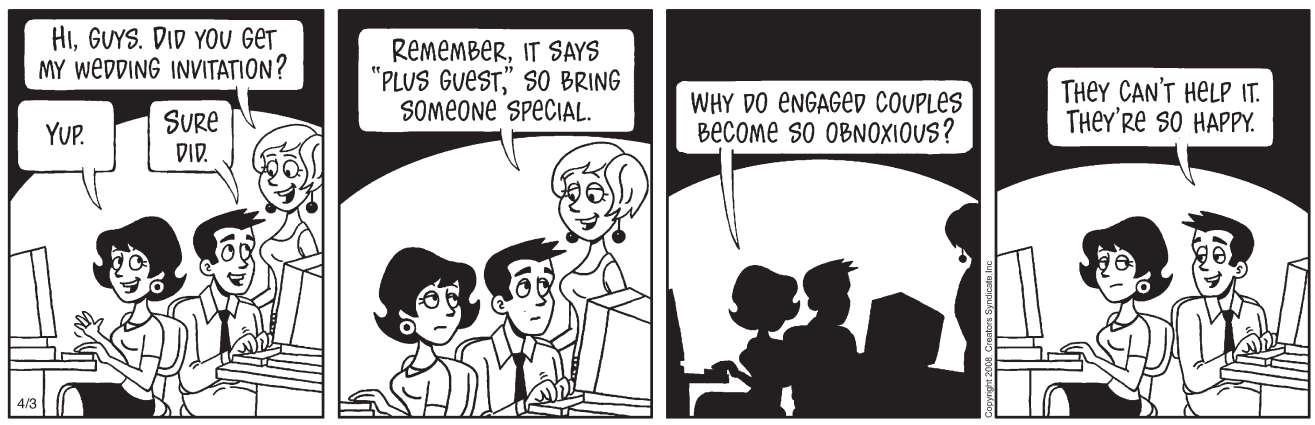
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



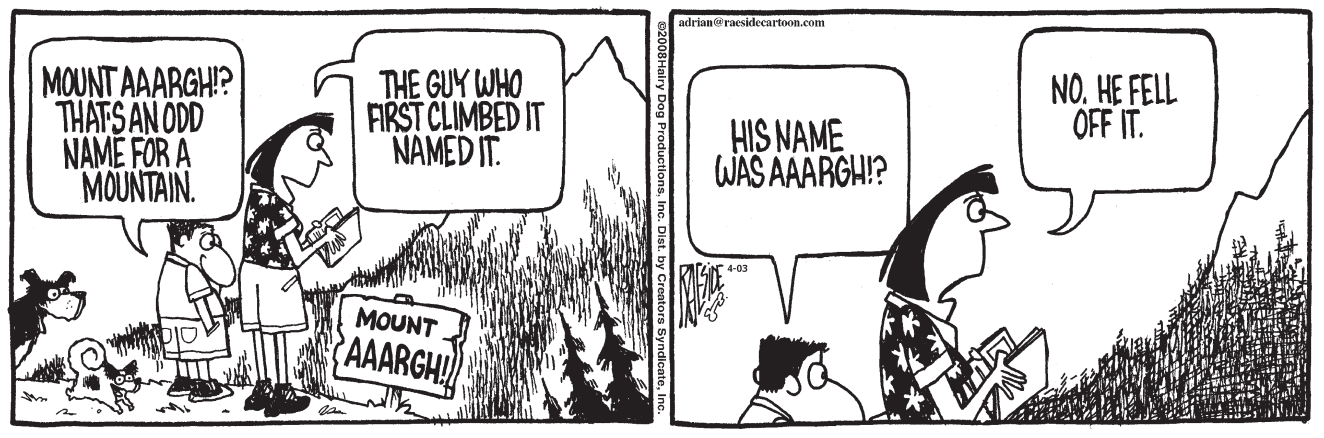
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



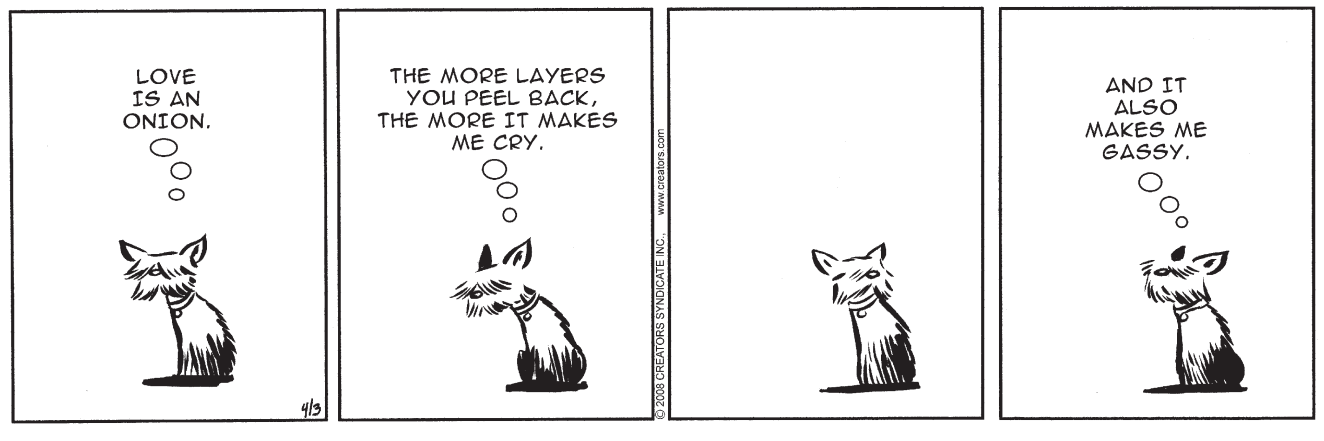
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

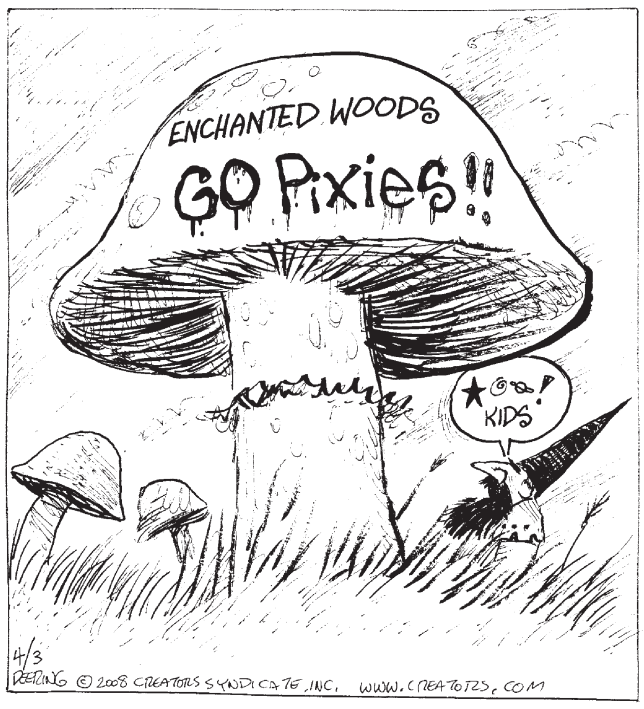


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Gangsters' guns
5 Lock
10 Sprawling tales
12 "Luck of Roaring Camp" writer
13 On the up and up
14 Cook's wear
15 "En-tourage" agent
16 Acrobat's wear
18 "Citizen Kane" estate
20 Recent: Pref.
21 Tooth-paste flavor
23 Brownish gray
24 Super-hero's wear
26 Door fastener
28 High hit
29 Fix socks
31 Hang out
32 Saw red
36 Connected facial feature
39 Man-mouse link
40 Mission head
41 Poor sport's cry
43 Spurred (on)
44 Clinic worker
45 Marsh plants
46 Change machine inserts

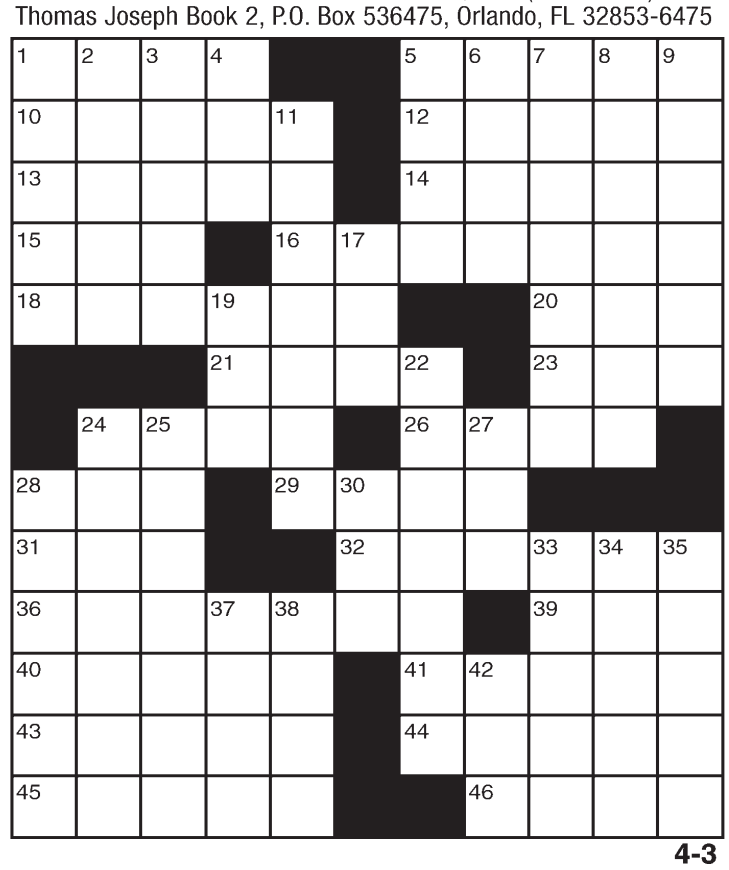
DOWN

1 Take it easy
2 Sung drama
3 "Eat!"
4 Sch. subj.
5 Asian native
6 All ears
7 Gofer's work
8 Stockpile
9 Forward, as a message
11 Prepared for finals
17 Habit inhabitant
19 Band blaster
22 Add for free
24 Invented word
25 Shorten
27 Termite's cousin
28 Singer Cyndi
30 Hitherto
33 Lament
34 Occur
35 Calendar numbers
37 Raised
38 Some wines
42 Status —

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



4-3

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 17 26 46 56 Meganumber: 25 Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 5 7 21 29 43 Meganumber: 22 Jackpot: $25M

FANTASY 5: 10 14 25 32 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 2 1 EVENING: 3 1 3

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 01 Gold 2nd: Rush 3rd: 12 Lucky Charms RACE TIME: 1.41.19

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■Toronto police announced in February that they had arrested the man who had stolen a backhoe with the intention of driving it to a car wash in order to break down a wall and get at the facility's coin machine. The call to police came from a snow plow that was hot on the backhoe's heels, with the driver having diverted from his route to chase the thief.

■Working its way through multi-million-dollar proposals for naming rights on campus buildings in exchange for donations, the University of Colorado decided in January to accept the offer of venture capitalist Brad Feld, who made a $25,000 donation to the school in exchange for having a second-floor men's room named for him in a campus technology building.

■A man, 20, showing off to friends after miscounting bullets, fatally shot himself in the head (Dallas, January).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1783 author Washington Irving was born in New York.

1860 the legendary Pony Express began service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif.

1865, Union forces occupied the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.

1882 outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo., by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

1936 Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, N.J., for the kidnap-murder of the Lindbergh child.

1946 Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed by firing squad outside Manila.

1948 President Truman signed into law the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist Communism.

1968 North Vietnam agreed to meet with U.S. representatives to set up preliminary peace talks.

1974 deadly tornadoes struck wide parts of the South and Midwest before jumping across the border into Canada; more than 300 fatalities resulted.

1996 an Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

WORD UP!

deus ex machina \DAY-uhs-eks-MAH-kuh-nuh; -nah; -MAK-uh-nuh\, *noun:* Any active agent who appears unexpectedly to solve an apparently insoluble difficulty.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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GIVE OF YOURSELF volunteers wanted at the discovery shop. Help us contribute to the American cancer society by spending 4 hours per week assisting in our resale shop in Santa Monica. Contact Terry or Shaunna at (310)458-4490

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* Minimum typing speed 50 WPM
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Notices

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. SS016606
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of JOSHUA SANTANA for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: LORENA LIMON filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: JOSHUA SANTANA to JOSHUA MATTHEW SANTANA-LIMON. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 05/08/2008 Time:8:30, Dept. A, Room 104
The address of the court is 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: MAR. 25, 2008
GERALD ROSENBERG, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 4

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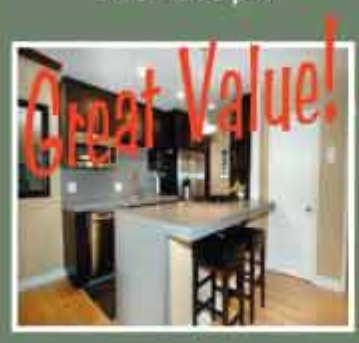
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		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	=	$ 3,667,360	$ 2,101,550
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 1,860,444	$ 996,459
South of Wilshire	=	$ 862,300	$ 751,083
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,372,437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

Statistics updated every Friday

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