



Santa Monica Daily Press

SCARLETT'S LIPS ARE SEALED
SEE PAGE 17

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE FYI ISSUE

ENTERTAINMENT



REAL FUNNY, MOMMY

Three locals compete to be 'Funniest Mom in America'

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 12

City Hall to dish out cash

More than \$280,000 have been returned to motorists

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL For anyone irked by those silly little parking attendant vehicles and even more aggravated by the little blue envelopes they leave on windshields everywhere, it's payback time.

More than \$280,000 have been returned to motorists who overpaid on their parking tickets, part of a refund program being conducted by City Hall.

So far, City Hall's finance department has received 8,100 requests from drivers for approximately \$412,900. Of that amount, 5,640 requests have been answered to the tune of \$288,000, according to Eva Uren, acting revenue manager.

"We expect to process the remaining requests within the coming weeks," Uren said. "So far, we have received favorable comments from people who are happy we are doing this."

City Hall earned headlines in major newspapers and on local television when it decided in September 2006 to refund money received from overpaid parking tickets — a rarity, with most cities simply pocketing the money.

City officials identified nearly \$1 million in overpayments from more than 18,000 citations issued over a three-year period. Those eligible should have received a notice in the mail in October. Those who did not receive a letter, but believe they are due a refund, can call the city's processing center at (800) 214-1526.

City staff estimated that there would be as many as 400 refunds totaling \$20,000 each month, which would represent approximately 2 percent of the total citation revenue collected by the city.

The refunds are part of City Hall's new customer service initiative, "We Do the Right Thing Right," and were identified by the Finance Department during a review of how money is collected by City Hall. Once identified, staff immediately devised a proactive refund program, whereas before, refunds were only given to those who made a request, City Manager Lamont Ewell said.

"Over the last three years, we estimated overpayments in

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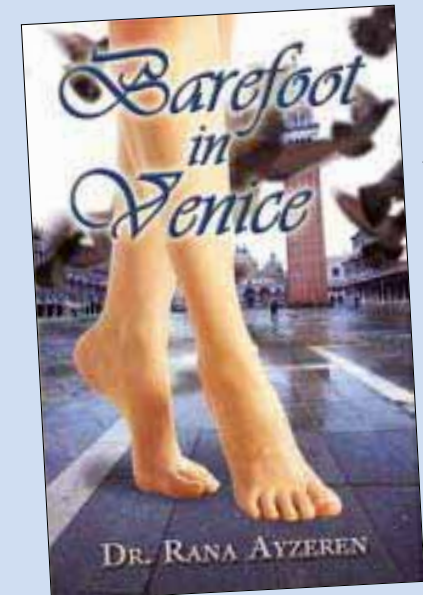
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Calendar

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FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Santa Monica Critical Mass bike ride

Santa Monica Pier entrance, 6:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Ride through the neighborhoods of Santa Monica and Venice once a month.

For more information, visit www.SantaMonicaCriticalMass.org.

Fridays at Santa Monica Bar and Grille

3321 Pico Blvd., 6 p.m. — 1:30 a.m.

Inebriatedinc.com is hosting Friday night at Santa Monica Bar and Grille.

Live music until 10:30 p.m. and a DJ until closing time. For more information, visit www.inebriatedinc.com.

'Ester Goldberg's The Big Show'

8433 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, 9 p.m. — 11 p.m.

The Comedy Store presents this musical-comedy event, starring Ester Goldberg and featuring her orchestra, The Archibald Leeches. Tickets are available by calling (323) 656-3225. Tickets are \$25, with a two-drink minimum.

Santa Monica Rotary

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

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

Saturday, April 6, 2007

Easter egg hunt with Peter Rabbit

1155 Chelsea Ave., 9 a.m. — 11 a.m.

Peter Rabbit will be at Douglas Park, located at Wilshire and 25th, for some face painting, games and egg hunting for kids of all ages. For more information, call Robert at (310) 927-2127 or visit www.smjaycees.org.

Monthly Musical at the Library: 'Easter Parade'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Celebrate Easter a day early with Judy Garland, Fred Astaire and the music of Irving Berlin with this free screening of 'Easter Parade' at the Main Library's MLK Jr. Auditorium. All ages welcome. Seating first come, first served.

Visit the Easter Bunny at the Brentwood Country Mart

225 26th St., 1 p.m. — 4 p.m.

The Brentwood Country Mart will be hosting an Easter event with face-painting, balloon animals, Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny.

'The Longest Week'

1609 S. Barrington Ave., Los Angeles, 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

'The Longest Week' is a musical depiction of the final days of Jesus Christ. This dramatic experience consists of original music composed by Los Angeles composer Christopher Wong and conducted by Ryan Rowles. First Baptist Church of West Los Angeles is located at the corners of Idaho and Barrington avenues. The presentation runs just over an hour and admission is free.

The Three B's plus folk-pop concert

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2:30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Dorothy Spafard Hull and Meredith Chapman will perform a variety of music. All ages welcome to this free program. Seating in the MLK Jr. Auditorium is first come, first served.

Poets in person at Ocean Park Branch Library

2601 Main St., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, the Ocean Park Branch of the Santa Monica Public Library will present poets Norm Levine and Peggy Aylsworth in a reading of their works. For more information, call (310) 392-3804 or visit the library's Web site at www.smpl.org.

'Life ... Death ... and Entertainment'

1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m. — 9:45 p.m.

Susan Damante's autobiographical solo show where life, death and music collide.

Three performances only. Tickets are \$16; proceeds benefit the Save the Santa Monica Playhouse Campaign. For reservations, call the Playhouse Box Office at (310) 394-9779, ext. 1 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

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



Homeless increase on 'row'

City reverses position on the actual count

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Skid row's homeless population showed an increase just two weeks after officials said the destitute sleeping on downtown streets had dropped to around 700 compared to more than 1,800 six months earlier.

The latest Police Department census Tuesday showed there were 921 homeless camped downtown.

The LAPD began counting the number of homeless people sleeping on the streets in February 2006 in response to estimates putting the population downtown as high as 10,000, Central Division Capt. Andrew Smith said.

Last September, before kickoff of the "Safer City" crackdown on skid row, the homeless population was 1,876. The crackdown brought 50 additional officers to skid row starting in late September.

Since then, officers have made nearly 6,000 arrests and seen a 30 percent reduction in crime, Smith said.

The latest figures showing an increase coincides with the closure of most of the county's winter shelters. The numbers are expected to rise even more because the homeless population generally increases in the summer.

"Every time you think you may be making some headway on getting people off the streets, this happens. We aren't providing enough beds and permanent supportive housing to go along with the police presence," Union Rescue Mission president Andy Bales said.

Meantime, University of Southern California geography professor Jennifer Wolch questioned the accuracy of the Police Department census, noting the homeless generally fear uniformed police officers.

"These counts, no matter who takes them, are typically flawed," Wolch said, adding there are "a lot of places for people to evaporate."



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: A filming crew shoots on the Santa Monica Pier recently. The pier has been home to many such shoots.

SM Pier is a real superstar

Local landmark is a favorite spot to film

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA PIER Former Santa Monica Pier Board Chairman Jean McNeil Wyner was standing on the city's most famous landmark one day, chatting up a blonde woman while waiting for her meeting to start. A few moments into the conversation, a short man approached Wyner and rudely asked her to move.

"Jean looked at him and started to respond and realized it was Danny DeVito," chuckled Ben Franz-Knight, executive director of the Santa Monica Pier

Restoration Corporation. "The blonde was Alicia Silverstone."

Soon after, Wyner ran up to the main office, excited that she had just seen actor/director DeVito and Silverstone, most famous for playing Cher Horowitz in the 1995 hit teen film "Clueless." She had no idea who she'd been talking to, Franz-Knight said.

For the millions of tourists who visit Los Angeles every year with a camera in hand and hopes of catching a glimpse of a famous Hollywood star, their best bet for a celebrity sighting may not be Rodeo Drive or Mann's Chinese Theatre. It's likely the Santa Monica Pier.

A symbol of Santa Monica and Los



Image Courtesy

SEE PIER PAGE 14 **CLASSIC:** 'The Sting' was shot at the pier.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drunk drivers are akin to murderers
Editor:

So another liquor-guzzling person driving a gas-guzzling SUV decided in the wisdom of their alcohol-clouded mind it was OK to drive on the PCH ("Father, son die on PCH," April 5). The result is that the world is now deprived of two gifted, contributing individuals.

If the drunk driver turns out to be a rich celebrity, not to worry. A pat on the hand and entrance into a ritzy rehab is all that will happen. Ask Mel (Gibson). If they are regular folks, jail time may be looming. As a former alcohol and drug counselor for 15 years, it still never ceases to amaze me how many alcoholics and drug-impaired individuals still think it's OK to get behind the wheel of a machine capable of killing people. And since everyone who drinks and has a driver's license has at one time or another driven a car when they shouldn't have, it is condoned as not too serious by society.

And you don't have to be diagnosed as "alcoholic" to act in this dangerous and stupid manner. One or two drinks cloud the judgment, so no, you are not operating on all cylinders, even though you may feel you are capable of getting from point (a) to point (b). And almost everyone who has killed someone says they were not that impaired.

In one state, the police videotaped drivers taking a field sobriety test, and when the case went to court and the driver stated they had very little to drink and were not impaired, the police showed the tape. In every case, the driver was stunned and appalled at the impairment the tape all too clearly showed.

If you buy a gun and shoot someone, you are tried as a murderer. If a driver drinks and drives and kills someone they go to rehab – or if not a celebrity, at most, serve a few years in jail.

The fact that alcohol and other drugs impair you to the point where you are likely to kill someone is common knowledge. So if you drink and get into a vehicle and drive on our streets and highways you are, in my opinion, just as murderous as the individual who gets a gun and shoots someone.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

The long and short of it
Editor:

I have come to the conclusion that there is an advantage to getting old. It's the assurance that you will not die young.

Art Chesluk
Santa Monica

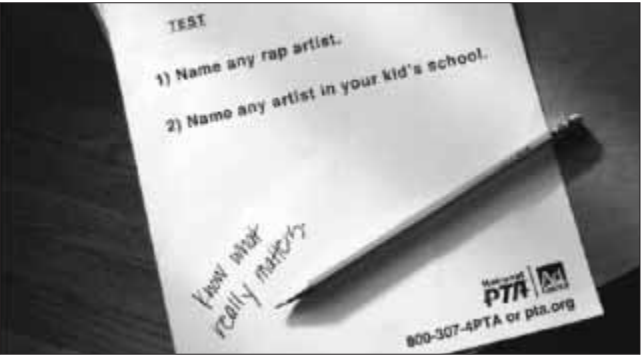
Freeloaders take help from needy
Editor:

This is my home for 58 years. I'm a Santa Monican. Getting back indoors here is a nightmare. The lines (at homeless shelters) of travelers, drugged, drunk and freeloaders make you just one of the numbers. It's more often the loudest are the first to befriend a caseworker and get anything more than a bag lunch.

There are hundreds of beds and many programs that could help, but are filled with people from across the land. Why not a point system, so the people most deserving get something back from the system they supported?

- How's this:
- 2 points – disabled
 - 20 points – women with children
 - 10 points – battered/ abused women
 - 2 points – veterans
 - 2 points – recognizable hardship cases
 - 5 points – Santa Monica resident

Drew Feldman
Santa Monica



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy

THIS WAY NORTH: A group doing Nordic Walking may look funny, but it sure is difficult.

A slightly different
Sunday walk in park

AS THE DAY COMES TO AN END, I OFTEN go to the beach to watch the sunset. I take Oscar, a golden retriever buddy who belongs to a disabled neighbor. Sometimes I ride my bike and Oscar trots alongside. My joke is I'm Burgess Meredith and he's Rocky. Once we were on the bike path when I repeated the joke to a tourist couple from Italy who didn't speak English. At the word "Rocky," the husband excitedly proclaimed to his wife that I was in the movie! I tried to explain I wasn't, but to no avail. I was relieved they didn't ask for an autograph.

In addition to sunsets, I enjoy people watching. When I visited France, I went to the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower, but what I enjoyed most was sitting at an outdoor cafe. In Santa Monica, I enjoy it as well — people throwing the Frisbee, jogging or Rollerblading. In front of the Sea Castle, Oscar and I once saw an English bulldog ride a skateboard. (Check him out on YouTube.com. Type in "coolest dog ever.")

Sometimes I think the fitness craze in Santa Monica has gone overboard. Running, skating, bicycling, swimming, surfing ... who do we think we are, Australians? It's ironic the fitness Mecca is also the fast food Mecca. I have friends who spend so much time in the gym they don't have time to cook. There's 1,100 calories in a Big Mac and fries. On the treadmill, it takes me 30 minutes to burn 300 calories.

As the saying goes, you do the math. Still, I admire people who work out, especially in winter. In February, Oscar and I passed a group of hearty souls on the grass next to Perry's Cafe. Bundled up, they were holding ski poles and being lead by an attractive, blonde woman. With their spiked-tipped poles I thought maybe they were picking up litter.

A few minutes later, the group began speed-walking. Grasping their poles, arms pumping and legs striding, it looked like a Monty Python sketch. The journalist in me was "curious." (aka "nosey.") I waited until the class was over and approached the teacher — Malin Svenson, who's about as Nordic as you can get. Malin was born in Sweden, where she was among the top five women long-distance runners. She came to the U.S. in 1989 and in 2002 became the first

female Nordic Walking instructor in America. So what is Nordic Walking? And for that matter, what's wrong with American walking?

Nordic walking was developed in Sweden and Finland in the 1930s by off-season skiers trying to stay in shape. The sport got its official name in 1997 when ski manufacturer Exel marketed lightweight poles. (Six million people are doing it, though, hopefully, not all in Ocean Park.) Nordic Walking is a high-calorie-burning workout that doesn't strain the knees and joints. Ever notice how many joggers look like they're in pain? Having jogged for years, the answer is, they probably are.

By using the poles you target muscle groups you didn't know you had. It gets the abs, triceps, chest and back. I can attest to this because, after putting up with my joke, "Where's the snow?" Malin insisted I try. I was hesitant because walking with poles looks a little goofy. Malin confessed she gets wisecracks from people along the boardwalk, or in the park, but she goes so fast they can't keep up. Plus, with Nordic Walking's popularity, it's less of a novelty. Looking around to make sure no one was watching, I agreed to attempt it.

"Malin's Method for Nordic Walking," as she calls it, is actually simple. After all, it's just walking. (Something I've been doing for a few years now.) You can Nordic walk almost anywhere because the poles have removable rubber tips for hard surfaces, like sidewalks. For grass or sand, you take the tips off and the bottom is like a cleat for traction.

Malin teaches a course for the city, from April 14 through June 1. (She supplies the poles, you supply the legs.) To give people an idea about Nordic Walking, she is offering a free clinic tomorrow, Saturday, at 9:30 a.m. in Ocean Park. The class meets on the grass next to Perry's. (Knowing me, I'd be tempted to grab a slice of pizza before class.)

I may attend Malin's clinic, but I doubt Oscar will. I have a feeling he's more interested in that English bulldog on the skateboard.

MALIN can be reached at info@nordicwalkingusa.com. JACK can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR
Michael Tittinger
editor@smdp.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Kevin Herrera
kevinh@smdp.com

Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

PARENTING
Nina Furukawa
nina@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz
fabianl@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Christine Chang
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Robbie P. Piubeni
rob@smdp.com

Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Cynthia Vazquez
advertising@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Tessa Vergara
tessav@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Frances Casareno
production@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER
Annie Kotok
anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Glenn Bolan
glennb@smdp.com

NEWS INTERNS
Irene Manahan
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SPECIAL PROJECTS
Dave Danforth
dave@smdp.com

Carolyn Sackariason
csackariason@smdp.com

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1427 Third Street Promenade, #202
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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Guest Commentary

Lee Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rushing Congress isn't really the American way

AT THIS MOMENT, IN A SMALL-TOWN café, VFW hall or church basement somewhere, someone is shaking his head and saying, "You know, it's really simple, if Congress would just ..." Maybe he and his friends are talking about the Iraq War or tax reform or farm subsidies. Whatever the topic, they pretty much agree that our representatives on Capitol Hill are needlessly muddying the waters.

At least, that's what I take from a recent poll of public attitudes toward Congress. In it, half the people surveyed said they thought Congress has difficulty arriving at decisions because its members just like to argue, not because the issues are intrinsically complicated.

So I thought it might be useful to look at an issue Congress is working on right now — the new farm bill. It's a perfect example of how, once different regional interests and lobbying groups come into play, matters quickly become very complex.

Farm bills have always been large, but they used to be pretty straightforward. Every few years, members of the agriculture committees would sit down with lobbyists representing corn, wheat, soybean, cotton, rice and dairy interests and deal out billions of dollars in subsidies.

This year, however, things are very different. In part, this is because the range of agricultural interests that want to have an impact on federal farm policy has grown. Farmers who raise vegetables, fruits, nuts or other specialty crops, for instance, want the federal government to spend more on research and marketing programs, and to buy more of their goods for use in school lunch programs.

This will certainly resonate in a country more attuned than ever to the benefits of healthy eating, but it may also run afoul of traditional commodity producers such as corn and soybean farmers, who worry that the more that is spent on fruits and vegetables, the less will be spent on them.

Meanwhile, other interests that you might not think of as "agricultural" also have joined the fray.

The American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association want the government more involved in improving school lunches and promoting healthy foods. The ethanol industry, of course, wants to keep the subsidies it was able to win in previous years; on the other hand, livestock producers and food processors believe that earlier federal programs promoting ethanol have caused corn prices to rise, and they have

announced they will fight them this year.

A range of groups interested in farmland conservation, from Ducks Unlimited to the Nature Conservancy, are banding together to have the Agriculture Department enroll more land in conservation programs. The Humane Society and other animal protection groups are lobbying for regulations to improve conditions for livestock.

Now, there's plenty to shake one's head about. The sheer amount of money spent lobbying on the farm bill is enormous. And it can get a little disheartening watching farmers, agricultural enterprises, and others who extol free markets scrap for the biggest share possible of federal largesse. Today, agriculture is one of the most subsidized industries in America, with more than \$20 billion spent on farm programs last year.

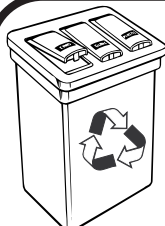
The truth is, all these different lobbying groups represent a pretty decent slice of America, from farmers in Iowa to ranchers in Montana to vegetable growers in New Jersey to hunters, environmentalists and animal-lovers all over the country. They inform members of Congress about what's important to them and, by extension, to the people — often ordinary Americans — who care about their issues.

The problem with lobbying is not the extent and variety of lobbyists, it's the willingness of members of Congress to let a few well-heeled interests amass more clout than everyone else, sometimes forgetting the interests of taxpayers and consumers.

Yet it's also inescapable that, when a lot of lobbyists and interest groups get involved in a piece of legislation, it will take time to sort it all out. This is not a bad thing in and of itself. It means that members of Congress are listening to the country at large and doing what politicians ought to do — seek common ground among competing interests and make hard decisions about how to share limited resources.

So the next time you hear someone say that Congress could get more done if its members stopped listening to themselves talk so much, tell them it's not so simple. There are a lot of people who want to get in a word on Capitol Hill, and more than a few dollars out of it. As frustrating as it can be, that's a lot better than a system in which the only voices members of Congress hear are their own.

LEE HAMILTON is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



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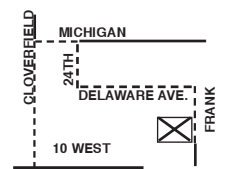


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The Q-Line

We asked and we received
Last week Q-Line asked readers what would they like to ask the general populace. We asked and you responded big-time. Here is the winning question.

This week's Q-Line question asks:
Why do we [the City of Santa Monica] have a \$442.6 million budget? Why do we support all of these expensive and questionable city charities?

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

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**This limited time offer is only available on new Home Equity Lines of Credit with a Loan-to-Value (LTV) of 80% or less and is subject to credit approval. The APR is a variable rate based on the Prime Rate as published in the Wall Street Journal. The APR will range from Prime - 1% to Prime + 1.5% based on credit qualifications and other factors. As of February 26, 2007, the APR ranges from 7.25% to 9.75%. The advertised APR is discounted and requires automatic payments from a First Bank checking account. The APR may increase but will not exceed 18% in CA and TX, 20% in MD and IL. Property insurance is required. Some additional fees and restrictions may apply. CA: Annual fee of \$50 is waived the first year. An early closure fee of \$300 will apply if this Home Equity Line of Credit is closed within three years of the opening date except if the property is sold or refinanced through First Mortgage. A \$75 Deed Release Fee will apply.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Putting a little whip on top

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

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 31 AT 1:30 P.M.

Officers on routine patrol in the 1800 block of Seventh Street were flagged down by a man who was bleeding from his face and screaming, pointing to another man who was walking a few feet ahead of him. Officers pulled over and spoke to the man who was bleeding. He told police that the guy walking in front of him had used a whip to beat him. Apparently, the alleged victim hired an escort off of the popular web site Craigslist.org. When the alleged prostitute arrived, the two got into an argument and she called for her bodyguard, who busted into the room and began whipping the would-be "John," police said. The woman ran out of the apartment and the victim followed. That's when officers spotted the blood man walking down the street. The bodyguard was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. Bail was set at \$30,000.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29 AT 4:20 A.M.

Officers on routine patrol of Palisades Park saw a woman sleeping on a park bench in violation of the municipal code preventing people from sleeping in parks during the evening and early morning hours. Officers searched the woman and found a credit card in her possession that did not seem to belong to her. The name she gave to officers did not match that on the credit card, police said. She was cited for sleeping in the park. Her bail was set at \$500. The credit card investigation is ongoing, police said. The suspect was identified as Charlene Weisbrod, 36, a transient.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 AT 12:25 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1400 block of Fourth Street – Parking Structure No. 5 – after being flagged down by a concerned citizen who saw suspicious men hanging out on one of the floors. Officers drove into the structure and spotted two suspects. The two suspects told officers they were waiting for friends, police said. Officers conducted a consensual search and discovered several burglary tools including a wrench, glass cutter and razor blades, which are often used to cut speaker wires, police said. The suspects were arrested for possession of burglary tools. One suspect was a juvenile at the time of his arrest and therefore police could not release his name. The second suspect was identified as Edwin Alexander Avilez, 20, from Los Angeles. His bail was set at \$36,116.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 AT 4:15 A.M.

Police responded to the 600 block of 26th Street regarding a car alarm that had gone off. When officers arrived, they spoke with a resident who said they heard their neighbor's car alarm going off. When he went outside to investigate, he saw a man running from the car. The witness told police that the suspect ran through houses to 25th Street. Using a canine, officers located the suspect in an alley. In his possession was a rubber coated flashlight, a pair of gloves and some baby wipes, which police said are often used to clean off fingerprints. The car appeared to be fine and the suspect was arrested for attempted burglary. He was identified as Bruce Edwin Myers, 38, of San Diego. His bail was set at \$25,488.

SATURDAY MARCH 31 AT 2 A.M.

Police responded to the 2400 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding an assault in progress. When officers arrived they spoke with a parking valet who said the driver of a car he had parked became irate, claiming the valet put scratches on his car. The driver and his friends began to threaten the valet, kicking his booth while trying to grab keys belonging to other cars, police said. During the exchange, the driver allegedly punched the valet in the face and then fled. He was arrested a short time later at 26th Street and Arizona Avenue. He was positively identified by the valet, who was working for Holly's West and the Wilshire Restaurant. The suspect was arrested for assault and battery, and had three outstanding warrants, police said. He was identified as Malcom Christopher Strong, 34, of Pacific Palisades. His bail was set at \$57,000.

Staff Writer Kevin Herrera compiled these reports

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica

Pier Concert Series continues in April

The Sunday Concert Series, a fun, free event for the community for more than a decade, features a line-up of local favorites in jazz, rock and blues. The shows are produced by the Santa Monica Pier Lessee's Association and sponsored by Pepsi-Cola. Limited parking is available on the Pier and in beach lots. Concerts start at 2 p.m. and are held on the Pier parking deck in the Central Plaza through May 20.

April 8 – Latin-Style Rock

Sal Rodriguez & the Latin Kings

April 15 – Soulful Rhythm and Blues

Teresa James and the Rhythm Tramps

President knows U.S. is war weary

BY BEN FELLER
Associated Press Writer

FORT IRWIN President Bush said Wednesday he knows the nation is weary of war and wondering if the U.S. can win.

Still, he said efforts to pull troops home from Iraq only make the U.S. more vulnerable to attack from an enemy that is "pure evil."

"The enemy does not measure the conflict in Iraq in terms of timetables," Bush said to soldiers here, a reference to congressional Democrats' plans to start phasing in troop withdrawals.

"A strategy that encourages this enemy to wait us out is dangerous — dangerous for our troops, dangerous for our security," Bush said. "And it's not going to become law."

While speaking to troops at Fort Irwin, where more combat units are preparing to deploy to Iraq, Bush was trying to keep public pressure on Democrats.

Both the House and Senate have approved war-funding bills that would establish timelines for U.S. troops to return home from the four-year-old conflict.

"It's a tough war," Bush said. "The American people are weary of this war. They're wondering whether or not we can succeed. They're horrified by the suicide bombing they see."

Yet Bush used a horrific tale in Iraq — one in which terrorists put children in a car to get through a checkpoint, then exploded the vehicle — to describe why he won't pull back.

"It makes me realize the nature of the

enemy we face, which hardens my resolve to protect the American people," Bush said. "People who do that are not — it's not a civil war, it is pure evil. And I believe we have an obligation to protect ourselves from that evil."

Bush then left the Mojave Desert for the upscale Brentwood section of Los Angeles. There, at the home of friend Brad Freeman, he hoped to raise \$2.2 million for the Republican National Committee before flying to his family ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Back in Washington, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said congressional proposals to provide war funding only for certain missions could cause more bloodshed in Iraq.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid last week said he would propose legislation to cut off funds for combat operations, and provide money for only three missions: targeted counterterrorism operations, training and equipping the Iraqi security forces, and to provide security for U.S. personnel and infrastructure.

But Gates said that could pull troops from Baghdad neighborhoods, which have been the focus of the latest military buildup in Iraq.

"If we abandon some of these areas and withdraw into the countryside or whatever to do these targeted missions, that you could have a fairly significant ethnic cleansing inside Baghdad or in Iraq more broadly," Gates said.

Bush is on a six-day break from Washington just as he's in a stalemate with Congress.

STATE BRIEFS

Santa Ana Jury awards mother damages from social workers

A Seal Beach mother whose daughters were placed in foster care should get nearly \$6,000 in punitive damages from two Orange County social workers, a jury found.

The jury previously awarded Deanna Fogarty-Hardwick \$4.9 million from Orange County Department of Social Services for violating her parental rights. The decision on punitive damages came last week.

Fogarty-Hardwick's daughters, 6 and 9 at the time, were taken away from her in 2000 based on fabricated and suppressed evidence from two social workers, the mother's lawyers have said.

The \$4.9 million verdict included approximately \$4.5 million in general damages against Orange County for providing inadequate training and/or supervision to the social workers and for showing deliberate indifference.

Fogarty-Hardwick said her children were taken away seven years ago and she was only allowed monitored visits with them for two years when they were placed at Orangewood Children's Home and then with foster parents.

Her ex-husband was given custody of the children in 2002, and she was given visitation two weekends a month, she said. The woman now shares custody of her daughters with her ex-husband.

In May, Judge Ronald L. Bauer will hear the mother's request for an injunction against the county. Fogarty-Hardwick also will seek attorney fees of \$1.5 million, said her attorney, Sondra Sutherland.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Long Beach Father arrested for methamphetamine operation

A father of three was arrested for allegedly running a methamphetamine manufacturing and sales operation in his home.

Faustino Gutierrez, 42, was arrested Wednesday night after a weeklong undercover operation, Sgt. Paul LeBaron said. He was booked for investigation of drug possession, manufacturing and sales as well as child endangerment.

A second man, Juan Rodriguez, 32, was arrested for allegedly selling large amounts of methamphetamines delivered to him by Gutierrez, LeBaron said.

Investigators said Gutierrez was operating a methamphetamine lab and selling the drug out of the Junipero Avenue home he shared with his three sons, ages 7, 15 and 17. The boys were taken into protective custody.

More than a pound of methamphetamine was found in Gutierrez's car when it was stopped by police near Cedar Avenue and Anaheim Street about 5 p.m. Wednesday, the sergeant said. Gutierrez's 15-year-old son was in the car at the time.

AP

Kate Bransfield



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April 8th
From 2:00 - 5:00 pm



1044 - 19th Street #5
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Backup Offer



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North of Montana
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In Escrow
Looking for
Backup Offer

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North of Wilshire
2 Bed + 2.5 Bath Condo

Sunset Park
4 Bedroom Single Family Home

As of Early-April 2007
Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale

	Single Family Homes	Condo & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	= \$ 3,041,500	No Listings
North of Montana	= \$ 3,601,042	\$ 3,129,167
Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 2,335,700	\$ 904,944
South of Wilshire	= \$ 960,000	\$ 653,038
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,291,100	\$ 694,359
Ocean Park	= \$ 1,461,857	\$ 1,070,179

Statistics updated weekly

What is Your Home Worth?

Contact Me to Find Out!

'American Taliban' calls on Bush

PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO The lawyer and parents of John Walker Lindh, the American-born Taliban soldier serving 20 years in prison after his capture in Afghanistan, called on President Bush on Wednesday to commute his sentence and set him free.

The renewed call to shorten the sentence was based on the relatively light term Australian David Hicks received Saturday after pleading guilty to supporting terrorism. Hicks, who had been imprisoned for five years at Guantanamo Bay and acknowledged aiding al-Qaida during the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan, was given a nine-month sentence.

"In the atmosphere of the time, the best John could get was a plea bargain and a 20-year sentence," said Lindh's father Frank Lindh. "We love our son very much, he was wrongly accused when he was found in Afghanistan."

ing to kill Americans and support terrorists but pleaded guilty in 2002 to lesser offenses of supplying services to the now-defunct Taliban government and carrying

Lindh had converted to Islam and went to Afghanistan to fight for the Taliban against the Northern Alliance, Brosnahan said.

"It is a question of proportionality, it is a question of fairness and it is a question of the religious experience John Walker Lindh had and it was not in any way directed at the United States," Brosnahan said at a press conference Wednesday.

The White House referred telephone calls to the Justice Department, which declined to comment because it had not received the petition, said spokesman Dean Boyd.

Neither the president nor the department have acted on two previous commutation requests.

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

IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TIME, THE BEST JOHN COULD GET WAS A PLEA BARGAIN AND A 20-YEAR SENTENCE."

Frank Lindh, Father of the Accused

John Walker Lindh, 26, a Marin County native, was captured in Afghanistan in November 2001 by American forces sent to topple the Taliban after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He was charged with conspir-

explosives for them.

Attorney James Brosnahan brokered the plea deal and said it was the best he could do amid the political climate immediately after Sept. 11.

Man who burned son in 1983 gets 25-to-life for third strike

BY KIM CURTIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A 66-year-old man who burned his son two decades ago to prevent his estranged wife from getting custody was sentenced Wednesday to 25 years to life in prison by a judge who called him the "kind of individual for whom the three strikes law was passed."

Charley Charles was re-sentenced in San Francisco Superior Court for possessing a gun after an appeals court said the judge erred in not applying the so-called three strike law to a pair of convictions in the fire that severely injured his son.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Cynthia Ming-Mei Lee cited Charles' lengthy criminal record, which dates back to 1958 and includes multiple felony convictions in three states for robbery, forgery and weapon charges.

"There really has been no substantial time period where the defendant has been law abiding," Lee said.

In 1983, Charles, then known as Charles Rothenberg, took his son to a Southern California motel room and gave the boy a sleeping pill. He then doused the room with kerosene and lit the fuel before leaving. At the time, he said he was distraught about losing the boy to his wife in a custody battle.

The boy survived and Charles served seven years for attempted murder and arson. The relatively light sentence drew outrage and helped pave the way for stricter sentencing guidelines.

At issue Wednesday was Charles' 2005 conviction for being a felon in possession of a handgun and ammunition. At the time, Lee gave Charles seven years after ruling the attempted murder and arson from 1983 should only count as one strike, not two.

The 1st District Court of Appeal overturned that decision in January.

Defense lawyer Gabriel Basson argued the crime should be considered one strike because it involved "a single act and a single victim." He said Charles could've been charged with endangering the lives of others by setting fire to a motel room, but he wasn't.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Restaurant Listing

SM's only local listing for fun eats



AT THE VICTORIAN

2640 Main Street in SM
(310) 314-3250

Originally built on Ocean Avenue in 1893, The Victorian was moved to it's present location in 1978. Many successful events and happy customers later, we are proud to introduce The Victorian Baker Cafe to Santa Monica. Specializing in down home, tasty fare, we hope to give our customers a place to relax and enjoy each other's company. Have a seat on our patio and enjoy the California sunshine.

HOURS MON-SAT 7AM-2PM SUNDAYS AT FARMER'S MARKET 8AM-2PM



1551 Ocean Avenue
(310) 451-7800

In the tradition of Italy's trattorias, the sight, sounds and aromas of authentic Italian cuisine are recreated everyday at Il Fornaio. Mornings bring crisp crusted bread hot from the oven accompanied by the scent of fresh brewed espresso. During lunch and dinner, pastas and flavorful sauces simmer while meats and vegetables roast over hot coals.

HOURS M-TH11:30am-10pm, F11:30-11pm, S9am-11pm S9am-5pm



118 Entrada Drive
(310) 459-8596

For over 20 years, the best south-of-the-border Tex Mex munchables and the most "Kick Ass" margaritas are found at Marix Tex Mex Playa in Santa Monica. Fresh ingredients, great prices, excellent service and a location just steps from the beach, keep the grazers coming back for more. Open Daily. Banquets, catering, take out and delivery.

HOURS MON-THU 4pm-10pm FRI-SUN 11:30am-11pm



1920 Santa Monica Blvd.
(310) 829-9597

Come hungry, leave happy. The Santa Monica IHOP is located at the corner of 20th Street and Santa Monica Blvd. Try our variety of pancakes such as Pumpkin, Country, Harvest Grain 'N Nut. Lunch and dinner specials offered daily as well as senior discounts. Best value service in all of Santa Monica.

HOURS MON-SUN 6:30am-10:00pm



1447 4th St.
(310) 260-1423

For more than 40 years Benihana chefs have been cooking up a feast on the hibachi grill. Steak, chicken, seafood and vegetables are all prepared teppan-style "right before your eyes." Start your meal with a sushi appetizer, then relax and enjoy the show while sipping exotic cocktails served in collectible ceramic mugs.

HOURS CALL RESTAURANT FOR HOURS



2834 Santa Monica Blvd.
(310) 828-7582

The closest it comes to dining in Japan! This new restaurant features authentic Japanese dishes, a Tokyo trained sushi chef, and Asian fusion cuisine. The soft shell crab with ponzu sauce and broiled butter fish are must have appetizers. Enjoy the newly remodeled atmosphere and savory creations prepared by a true Japanese chef.

HOURS Lunch MON-FRI Dinner MON-SAT



1222 Wilshire Blvd.
(310) 820-1021

The newest authentic Japanese restaurant and sushi bar on the Westside. The freshest fish, traditional entrées like chicken teriyaki, donburi and a wide variety of your favorite sushi and sashimi. Excellent prices, the best quality.

HOURS Lunch MON-FRI Dinner MON-SAT

Daily Press readers spend nearly \$1 million per week on dining and entertainment.
CALL US TODAY TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS LOCAL LISTING.

(310) 458-7737

The Art Palette
Hamp Simmons

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Week's fare calling out to all art lovers

ART LOVERS OF ALL GENRES, DISCIPLINES, TASTES AND SIZES WILL BE HEADING INTO Santa Monica on Saturday night. So if you're out and about, I'd recommend following the traffic flow directly to the 18th Street Arts Center quarterly ArtNight. It will definitely be the hippest happening in town! On Saturday afternoon, make a pass by the Santa Monica Library where you can pick up a scintillating new book after enjoying a free concert. You can also visit a Barker Hangar artist studio on Saturday afternoon for a peek into the creative process.



ARTNIGHT AT 18TH STREET
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
18th Street Arts Center
1639 18th St.
(310) 453-3711

You'll see spellbinding visual art, hear world-class Afro-Caribbean tones, meet beguiling new compadres, munch on enticing delectable treats and sip mesmerizing concoctions on Saturday night when the 18th Street Arts Center presents ArtNight. With opening receptions in two galleries, a concert and at least a dozen open artist studios, 18th Street is the only place to be on Saturday night. Take a look below to see just how much this night has to offer!



GROUP SHOW OPENING IN THE MAIN GALLERY
Alex Donis
Cross Sections
Main Gallery
18th Street Arts Center

Twelve outstanding artists speak to issues of race, gender, sexuality and personal identity. Curated by Bruce Picano and featuring works by artists Laura Aguilar, Lavielle Campbell, Alex Donis, Michael Massenburg, Stacy Pyles, MonaLisa Whitaker and others, the multi-disciplinary exhibition imparts viewers with new insight through its unflinching observations.

CUBAN COLLECTIVE AT PROJECT SPACE GALLERY
Bos Taurus
Project Space Gallery
18th Street Arts Center

Known for presenting dynamic experimental art, 18th Street reinforces its reputation with this taxidermy-based installation by artist collective Los Animistas, composed of a visual artist, a video artist, a biologist and a taxidermist. The team places taxidermy creatures into an artistic environment, posing them before us to consider aesthetic, ethical, and ecological issues regarding the animals we have hunted, killed, eaten, sacrificed and worshipped.



CAUTION: ARTISTS AT WORK
Diego Teo, Zapato (artista buscando arte para ARCO)
Open Studios
18th Street Arts Center

The Center's International Program brings artists from around the world to Santa Monica. Currently in residence are Stepanka Simlova, a media artist from Prague in the Czech Republic; Grant Stevens, a visual artist from Brisbane; and Mexico City based visual artist Diego Teo. These and other local artists- in-residence at 18th Street will show new and recent work in their studio and live/work spaces.

If you missed the Santa Monica Airport Art Walk you've can still get a look at the inside of an artist's studio at the Barker Hangar on Saturday. C.J. Strawn and Neidel of New York will open their space for a special sale of Strawn's plein aire paintings and Neidel's handpainted furniture. Be sure to check it out before you go to 18th Street!

HAMP SIMMONS is the cultural affairs coordinator for the City of Santa Monica. Send comments or suggestions for the Palette to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net.

If you would like to subscribe to the Santa Monica Arts Palette via e-mail, please send a blank e-mail with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net

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**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

Conditional Use Permit 07-001, 620 Santa Monica Boulevard. An application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow an increase in the number of seats of an existing 2,400 square foot, sit-down restaurant which offers the on-site sale and consumption of beer and wine. The applicant is proposing to increase the number of seats in the restaurant from 50 to 90 seats. No additional floor area for the restaurant is proposed as part of the application. According to SMMC 9.04.10.18.020 a Conditional Use Permit is required for the on-site sale and dispensation of alcoholic beverages. [Planner: Ariel Socarras] **Applicant/Property Owner: JSM Sorrento, LLC.**

Tract Map 07-006 & General Plan Amendment 07-001, 2401 Twenty-Eighth Street. The applicant requests approval of Tentative Tract Map No. 66778 pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.20.04.030 for a six unit airspace subdivision in conjunction with the construction of six (6) new residential condominium units. Additionally, a General Plan Map Amendment is sought to rectify a mapping error of the City's General Plan Land Use Map to designate the subject site as Low Density Housing. [Planner: Masa Alkire] **Applicant: Christine Rohdu, aARTs Architecture. Property Owner: Gale Williams.**

Tract Map 07-003, 1171 Franklin Street. The applicant requests approval of Tentative Tract Map 07-003 (No. 67000) to subdivide one lot into six airspace parcels in conjunction with a proposed six-unit residential condominium development. The application has been filed pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.20.04.030. [Planner: Masa Alkire] **Applicant: Durell Hensley. Property Owner: Wayne J. Harman.**

WHEN: Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR BIDS

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

BID# 2928 – FURNISH AND DELIVER FOURTEEN (14) EACH 2007 OR 2008 NEW AND UNUSED BMW MOTORCYCLES

- Submission Deadline is April 26, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. PST

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the Purchasing Agent, City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-8242, or by e-mailing your request to diane.howell@smgov.net. Proposals must be submitted on forms furnished by said Purchasing Agent.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

DATE/TIME: April 11, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
 LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
 Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- ARB 06-384, 1253 Seventeenth Street: Multi-Residential
- ARB 06-525, 2121 Oak Street: Multi-Residential
- ARB 07-023, 510 Wilshire Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB 07-028, 1736 Twenty-Second Street: Private School
- ARB 07-032, 802 Montana Avenue: Commercial
- ARB 07-055, 1738 Berkeley Street: Office/Industrial
- ARB 07-065, 1429-1431 Third Street: Commercial
- ARB 07-111, 2404 Second Street: Single-Family Residential

More information is available on-line at <http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arb agendas.htm> or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). Call 310-458-8341 or TTY 310-450-8896 for disability accommodation requests. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8 serve City Hall.

A novel direction

Former DP staffer's book tells the untold L.A. story of sex, drugs and 'Breedlove'

BY KRISTIN MAYER
 Special to the Daily Press

TARZANA The rock 'n' roll dive bar Seven Black Cats reeked of heavy liquor. Old couches were crammed into one corner, a candlelit bar manned the other. A stage was located in the back of the room, with stickers from old bands clinging to the walls.

A New Year's Eve excursion to the Tucson, Ariz., bar inspired local writer Ryan Hyatt's debut novel, "The Death of Rock 'n' Roll: A Biography of Darrell Breedlove."

"I pretty much saw the whole novel in a vision when I was at the bar," said Hyatt, a former Daily Press staff writer. "After I conceived it, I let it sit in my head and grow for a while until I exploded and had to put it on paper."

Hyatt credits a lot of coffee, wine, chewing tobacco and sleepless nights with propelling him through the three-month writing process. The 30-year-old calls his novel a "period piece," a tale of 20-something life. His friends call it a dark "Nouveau Western."

Out of the bar and onto the page stepped Darrell Breedlove — the son of an eccentric auto mechanic, who plays the guitar as well as he fires a gun. Darrell's foray into adulthood is met with a series of nightmarish events, culminating in a gunfight on New Year's Day. In self-defense, the protagonist's marksmanship puts to shame the son of a judge who once sent Darrell's brother to prison, re-igniting a feud between the two families.

"It's about the struggles, trials and tribulations of artists, writers and musicians from an underground perspective," Hyatt said. "These are people I know from my day-to-day experiences. We don't have enough stories told from the perspective of real people, real heroes."

Hyatt's life story closely resembles that of his central character. He lives the artist's life, jumping from one job to the next to support his writing passion.

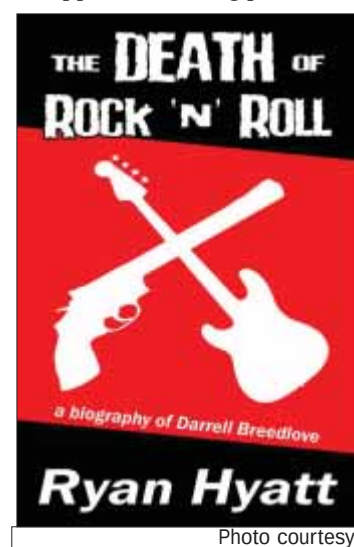


Photo courtesy

"The protagonist in the story embodies the struggle a lot of people face in our society," Hyatt said. "The struggle is how can you live by your principles and, in so doing, be an asset to the world around you, especially in a world in which it seems to pay off — or it's at least easier — to be mediocre, to be selfish, to be spiteful, and, most importantly, to be ignorant."

A love of rock 'n' roll and a fascination with the people who flock to Los Angeles to pursue their dreams in artistic industries served as inspiration for Hyatt.

"In reality, you have so many people who came here and are so talented, but their stories are never told," Hyatt said. "Nonetheless, their stories have value."

Hyatt wrote his first short story at age 11, and soon found writing to be an outlet for coping with his parents' divorce. "My mom has been married three times and my father five, so there was a lot of transition, a lot of emotional upheaval in the house," he said.

Hyatt graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, focusing on history, psychology and creative writing. Following graduation, he edited a defunct horse trade magazine and worked as an auto liability investigator.



Photo courtesy

DEEP IN THE ZONE: Ryan Hyatt has gone from the newsroom to the book store thanks to his revamped career direction.

THE STRUGGLE IS HOW CAN YOU LIVE BY YOUR PRINCIPLES ... ESPECIALLY IN A WORLD IN WHICH IT SEEMS TO PAY OFF TO BE MEDIOCRE, TO BE SELFISH, TO BE SPITEFUL, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO BE IGNORANT."

Ryan Hyatt
 author, 'The Death of Rock 'n' Roll'

At one point, Hyatt's journey took him on a psychedelic adventure and near-death experience in Las Vegas that involved running through the Bellagio and jumping off a balcony into a fiberglass verandah for fear of a bomb threat.

"After that experience, I realized that I was compelled to keep trudging my path at all costs, in the sense that I wanted to continue writing," Hyatt said.

Within six months, Hyatt had quit his liability investigator job, sold his car and moved to the artistic boomtown of Barcelona, Spain.

A subsequent reality check sent him home to pursue various writing jobs in Arizona and California, including his stint with the Santa Monica Daily Press in 2005.

"It's the story of my generation, the people who turned the other way from the system and wanted to find their own path," he said of his novel.

Hyatt currently works at a substitute teacher in the San Fernando Valley to support himself as he works on his follow-up, "Stay Young Longer," which takes place in Los Angeles 50 years from now.

"The Death of Rock 'n' Roll," published by Publish America, is available online and at select bookstores.

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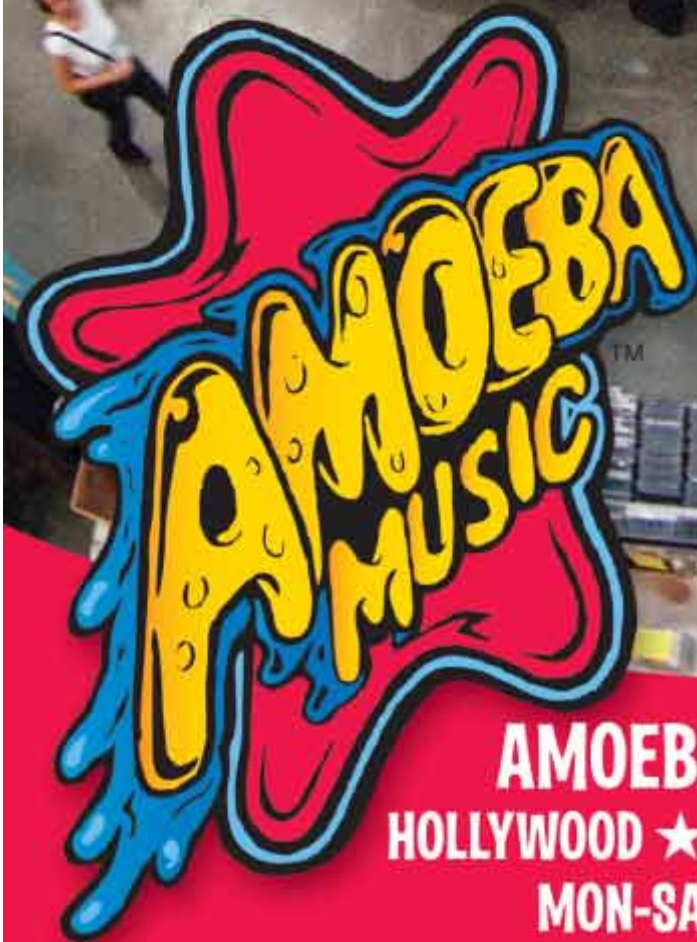
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Local moms may be the 'Funniest'

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

ON STAGE In the background, Jan Davidson's kids could be heard killing each other. Not literally, but the kind of violence that siblings often inflict on one another.

She doesn't yell. Instead, Davidson, a mother of two, politely puts down the telephone and calmly talks to her son, a freshman at Santa Monica High School. Soon the ruckus subsides and she goes back to her conversation unfazed. Instead of being embarrassed, Davidson chuckles.

"It helps me to deal with being a single mother," she said of her willingness to laugh at life. "If I don't laugh at it, then I might cry."

Davidson has more reason to be happy now. The Ocean Park resident and aspiring stand-up comedian is one of 13 finalists in Nick@Nite's reality contest show "Funniest Mom in America," now in its third season.

Actress and comedian Roseanne Barr will serve as the host when the series premieres next Thursday at 9 p.m. The series finale will be broadcast on Mother's Day, May 13. In addition to exposure, the winner will receive \$50,000.

"It's been pretty overwhelming, especially with this group of female comedians," said Davidson, who began practicing stand-up in Boston. "It was like I was taken back to Catholic school and someone threatened to fight me after school. I'd rather meet an ex-con in a dark alley."

"But after meeting some of the women, they really were great," Davidson said. "They really changed the way I think about everything as far as this business goes."

Davidson isn't the only Santa Monica mom bringing the funny. Two others — local performer Janine Hayes, a mother of four from Pico Neighborhood, and Cathy Ladman, a professional comic and actress from Ocean Park — have also joked their way into the finals.

Each of the three women went through an audition at the Laugh Factory in Los Angeles before judges Kim Coles and Hal Sparks. As to be expected, most of the competing jokesters talked about their kids and life at home, while others touched on the differences between races, and the trials and tribulations of dating with teenagers still at home.

One comic greeted the audience by saying, "It's great to be here. In fact, it's great to be anywhere my kids aren't."

Barr and the judges narrowed that list down to 13, including one Internet pick — Hayes. From there, six moms are eliminated after one episode, and then one each week thereafter.

Finalists are given the chance to live together and compete for a spot in the series finale — an hour-long stand-up comedy competition. While the challenges will be comedic, the competition will be real, as each episode will include eliminations, surprise visits from celebrity guests and more than a few laughs. Over the course of the series, viewers will get to know each of the moms and their stories.

'WILD AND CRAZY' GALS

For Ladman, the audition was a fluke. She was coaching a friend, helping her put together a set for the show. The friend asked Ladman why she wasn't entering the contest and Ladman had no excuse, so she decided to go for it.

"I just showed up," she said. "It was really a lark. I didn't have my comedy notebook,



Courtesy of Nick @ Nite

YUK IT UP: Cathy Ladman doing her thing.

which I would never go on without it, but I just said to myself that I've been doing this for 25 years so I think I'm prepared."

Like the rest of the comics, Ladman enjoys making people laugh.

"I just think it's really thrilling," she said. "It's so disarming when someone laughs, and to be able to make them do that is really exciting."

For Hayes, performing has been a lifelong dream. As a kid in Haverhill, Mass., she would constantly get in trouble for her wild antics. When she heard Steve Martin's "A Wild and Crazy Guy" album, she knew her future was in comedy. Like many beginners in the field, Hayes had to work hard to get over her stage fright and she credits comedy club owners for encouraging her and giving her stage time.

"It's been very difficult for me over the years," Hayes said. "I left an abusive marriage. I'm a single mom with four kids and working full-time, but somehow managing to pursue my dream. I hope that the tough times I've been through can be a comfort, an inspiration to other women in similar situations to not give up and continue to pursue their dreams."

"I just want to provide a good example for my kids."

As for Roseanne, each woman said they found the host to be supportive and genuine, not nearly as harsh or confrontational as she comes across on television. Ladman knew Roseanne from their days performing in local comedy clubs in the '80s. The two were performing at the Comedy Store when Roseanne was discovered, and later went on to write for her Emmy-award winning television show "Roseanne."

"You've read all this stuff about her over the years, so when she smiles and is sweet to you, you are surprised, but pleasantly so," Davidson said. "She can really make your day. She has a great sense of humor and was very honest and supportive."

If they come out on top, the three Santa Monica moms said they would most likely spend the \$50,000 prize on their families, either helping with bills or repairs to the home.

Still, each said money is not the greatest reward. It's the chance to practice their craft and make people pee their pants.

"Regardless of what happens, I lucked out," Ladman said. "I got to do my work and in front of an audience. That's always a lucky thing. There is no losing when it comes to this. Many people thought Van Gogh was a loser because he never sold a painting. I feel sorry for those people."

kevinh@smdp.com

Remembering 'The Misfits'

BY MARTIN GRIFFITH
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. Like the rest of her work, Inge Morath's photographs of Marilyn Monroe shot around Reno in 1960 go right to the heart of her subject. Monroe may be smiling on the outside, but her vulnerability also is revealed.

Rare photos of Monroe, Clark Gable, Montgomery Clift and other stars of the film "The Misfits" are featured in an exhibit, "Inge Morath: road to reno," running through July 15 at the Nevada Museum of Art.

Morath also photographed the man she later married — playwright Arthur Miller, who wrote "The Misfits" and was in the final stages of his marriage to Monroe at the time.

About 70 photos on display — mostly black and whites — record Morath's 18-day road trip to Reno from New York City and her time on the set for the photography agency Magnum Photos, which was hired to document the shooting of the offbeat movie about a group of Nevada loners.

"The Misfits," filmed almost exclusively around Reno from July to November 1960, was the only movie Monroe and Gable appeared in together, and was the last completed film for both.

"(Morath) is not interested in simply capturing the star power and the legends," said Ann Wolfe, the museum's curator. "She was looking for a greater truth behind the surface. It was a bittersweet melancholy encapsulated in some of her photos."

The Austrian-born photographer's Reno assignment was among the highlights of a prolific career that spanned more than 50

years, said John Jacob, director of The Inge Morath Foundation based in New York City.

Morath, who won international awards, was involved as a photographer, writer or both in the publication of more than two dozen books. Her interests ranged from celebrities to the Soviet Union.

The charming, witty Morath had a knack for capturing the essence of her subjects, Jacob said.



Photo courtesy The Inge Morath Foundation/Magnum Photos

GETTING UP CLOSE: Inge Morath, Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller in their suite in Reno's Mapes Hotel after a day's shooting, 1960, Gelatin Silver Print.

"Most people put up a wall when they have their picture taken," he said. "She seemed to be able to allow people to let down their guard."

"Her time in Reno has to be one of the highlights of her career because that's where she met her husband. They certainly became friendly then, but not involved then," he added. One of Morath's more captivating photos shows Monroe and Miller alone in their suite.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Political puberty

The Odyssey Theatre presents "Romeo and Juliet," opening on April 6 and running through April 26.

Red States, Blue States and mindless states of political divisiveness drive a teenage couple to desperation in this classic tragedy. Two powerful families breed partisan gangs, hatred, and murder as the non-stop action takes hold of an entire community in Verona, California, 2007. This abridged version of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" is presented with the bard's original language.

Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

The Odyssey Theatre is located at 2055 Sepulveda Blvd. in Los Angeles; just north of Olympic Boulevard. Ample parking is available. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling (323) 960-7846 or by visiting www.plays411.com/Romeo.

DAILY PRESS

The spy who exhibited me

Maxwell Smart's shoe phone, Jim West's blue suit, Agent 007's gun, Emma Peel's leather pants and John Steed's bowler hat are among the 400 items selected from Danny Biederman's SPY-Fi Archives to be exhibited in "The Incredible World of SPY-Fi" opening aboard the Queen Mary on April 7. The exhibit is expected to inexplicably dematerialize in September.

Today, Biederman's collection contains more than 4,000 items and spans 50 years — from the 1959 Alfred Hitchcock spy thriller "North by Northwest" to such recent fare as "Austin Powers" and the TV show "Alias."

Admission for the SPY-Fi exhibit is included in the Queen Mary First Class Passage ticket at \$27.95 for adults, \$24.95 for seniors and military and \$16.95 for children ages 4 to 11. First Class Passage also includes the Self-Guided Shipwalk Tour with the Ghosts & Legends Show and two, one-hour historic guided tours. For those who only wish to visit the new exhibit, the ticket is \$10 per person. Secret agents with proper ID will be admitted free. Attraction hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily with the box office closing at 5:30 p.m.

The Queen Mary is located at the south end of the 710 Freeway at 1126 Queens Highway, Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 435-3511 or visit www.queenmary.com or www.spyfiarchives.com.

DP



FLY GUY

UCLA sophomore Adham El Sherif, 19, jumps five feet into the air on his Flybar.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

City officials decide to return over-paid cash

FROM CASH PAGE 1

the amount of \$950,000," Ewell said in an interview with the Daily Press in September. "We need to give that money back. It's the right thing to do."

The refund initiative is not expected to increase operating costs, Ewell said.

In addition to refunds, city staff engaged in conversations with the company that manages parking ticket payments — ACS Inc. — to see if customer service can be enhanced. There is also talk of extending the time period allowed for payment before a fine is issued.

Ewell said City Hall already allows more time for drivers to pay fines than most cities — 35 days. The penalty for non-payment is typically double the original fine.

Conversations are still ongoing as to what changes can be made, Uren said.

"A lot of the overpayments were just people making mistakes, so we are looking at ways to that make it easier for people to pay without making those mistakes," Uren said. "We're continuing to look for trends."

Overpayments are generally made by those who pay a parking ticket weeks after it is issued, city officials said. That delay causes a notice to be sent to a driver, who may send money again thinking their initial payment was not received. A spouse may do the same, thinking their significant other was forgetful.

In other cases, the Department of Motor vehicles collects citation payments at the time of vehicle registration, even after an individual has already made a late payment

to City Hall. The DMV later remits these payments, city officials said.

City Hall collected \$12.6 million in revenue from parking tickets in 2005, with \$4.6 million going to pay for operating expenses. This left \$8 million in actual revenue, a very small portion of the \$256 million allocated to the general fund, which pays for essential city services such as public safety, city officials said.

It is estimated that City Hall loses \$2 million annually because many fail or refuse to pay.

Refunding all of the \$950,000 sitting in City Hall's coffers may be impossible given that 80 percent of those who overpaid live outside of the city or were driving rental cars at the time. Ewell said every effort will be made to locate all who overpaid, but some may prove difficult to find.

Money that is not refunded will remain in the general fund.

The top four cases in which people received citations are: parking at a meter where time has expired; parking in a preferential parking zone without a permit; parking in a no parking zone, such as a fire lane; and blocking driveways and exits.

Those who believe they may be eligible for a refund are urged to fill out a verification form online at www.smgov.net, or call the processing center at the number already provided.

Uren said there is no time limit to submit a claim. There have been some bogus claims so far, but for the most part, they're legit.

kevinh@smdp.com

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Turning the page on the old pier

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA PIER With the centennial celebration of the city's most recognizable landmark just two years away, Santa Monica Pier staff hopes to capture the past 100 years in a definitive page-turner.

The staff at the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation (SMPRC) is hoping to receive the go ahead from its board to produce a book chronicling the first century in Santa Monica Pier history. The board approved the book in concept at its meeting on Wednesday, but asked SMPRC Executive Director Ben Franz-Knight to conduct a cost analysis for the production of the book since the research and writing will be done by pier staff. The SMPRC would also assume copyrights over the book.

Office Administrator Jeff Harris, who has functioned as the pier historian and manages the archives, will be commissioned to pen the tome.

The last book published about the pier was "Santa Monica Pier — A History from 1875-1990" by Jeffrey Stanton, which has been out of print for several years.

"It's our bible here," Rachel Waugh, the pier spokeswoman, said of the most recent pier book.

The idea to publish an updated book, which would cover a gap of about 19 years from the last copy, evolved out of a walking pier history guide that the SMPRC published in 2006. The free brochure, titled "A Guide to Historic Santa Monica Pier," has been received with positive reviews, Franz-Knight said.

The new book would cover the opening of Pacific Park in 1996 and essentially, the rebirth of the Santa Monica Pier as a major tourist destination.

Besides a few restaurants scattered along the boardwalk, the pier was fairly dead before Pacific Park came along, he said.

SMPRC staff hopes to launch the book in January 2009.



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

melodyh@smdp.com

GRAND OLD PLACE: The Santa Monica Pier has a long and distinguished history which may soon be fodder for a book on its past.

'24' and 'Ugly Betty' have been shot at pier

FROM PIER PAGE 3

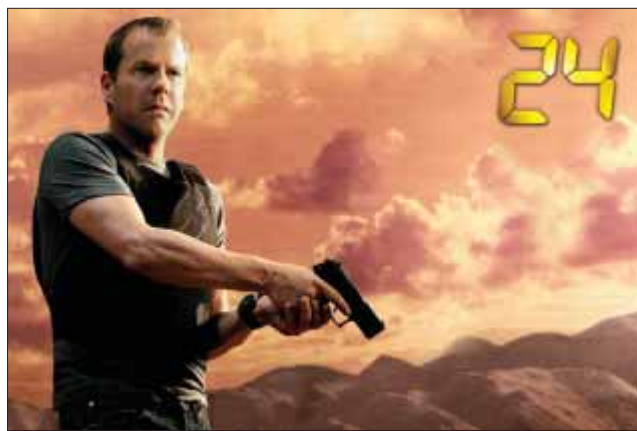
Angeles, the venerable pier is a favorite shooting location among movie and television directors and producers, with at least one filming occurring at the pier each week, according to Rachel Waugh, spokeswoman for the Santa Monica Pier.

Just in the past few months, the pier has appeared in the opening sequence for the 79th Academy Awards, which depicted Mumble, the penguin from "Happy Feet," being picked up by the Volkswagen bus from "Little Miss Sunshine" in front of the famous pier sign. The pier also made cameos in the Fox hit drama "24" and ABC drama "Ugly Betty," and commercials for Dr. Pepper, Nissan and Time Warner Cable.

Perhaps the most famous shot at the Santa Monica Pier was for the 1973 hit film "The Sting."

"It's a great place to shoot because it's not just the pier, it can double for many other different types of location," said Myrl Schreiber, a professor of production at UCLA. "Santa Monica Pier is not just a pier out of which people fish, but it has the amusement (park) on the pier, it has a life of its own that is indigenous to the pier and makes it a popular place to shoot."

The Santa Monica Pier has appeared in many forms in movies and television. In an episode that aired on Feb. 8, "Ugly Betty" co-stars Rebecca Romijn, Judith Light and Eric Mabius were filmed striking each other in bumper cars in Pacific Park. However, in the show, the scene took



Fox

OH, KIEFER: '24' is one of the shows to film at the pier.

place on Coney Island. The pier has also been transformed on television to be Brighton Beach in the United Kingdom, and Point Pleasant Beach in New Jersey.

One of two professors who teach a class on shooting locations, Shreiber said the pier lends itself to being used in several different ways on camera. The pier up above with Pacific Park and stores and restaurants can be shot for a light-hearted scene. The area underneath can be used for darker, more dramatic scenes.

"The pier itself can have a variety of different looks depending on the needs of the story," he said.

PERMISSION GRANTED

In order to film on the Santa Monica Pier, production companies must first receive permission to film in the city limits from the Environmental Programs Division with the city of Santa Monica. A permit must then be filed with the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation, a permit that can cost anywhere from \$100 to more than \$2,000. Rates vary depending on whether it's a permit for still photography or movie filming.

The pier is usually open during filming and film crews must maintain public access of at least 20 feet. The pier has been closed in the past to accommodate scenes that recreate car chases, which usually requires police presence to stop traffic from Ocean Avenue down to the pier ramp.

For shoots in the amusement park, a separate entity on the pier, producers must apply for a separate permit from Pacific Park, where "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Iron Man" and "Shark" have recently shot.

Filming, no matter how small the project, is usually a big draw for tourists who crowd around a shoot to snap pictures. Even the staff gets a little star struck sometimes, though they try to remain professional and are instructed not to ask actors for their autographs, said Kristin Wasiluk, filming and private events manager for Pacific Park.

"It's such a LA icon," Wasiluk said of the pier. "It's a one-of-a-kind venue."

melodyh@smdp.com

WNBA

Cooper back in as Sparks coach

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Sparks fired coach Joe “Jellybean” Bryant on Wednesday and replaced him with former coach Michael Cooper, who led the team to WNBA titles in 2001 and 2002.

“We are delighted to have Michael coming back to a place where he has enjoyed so much success,” Sparks’ co-owner Carla Christofferson said in a statement. Christofferson and Kathy Goodman bought the Sparks in December.

Bryant, the father of Lakers star Kobe Bryant, led the Sparks to a 25-9 record and a trip to the conference finals last season, where they lost to the Sacramento Monarchs. The Monarchs had eliminated the Sparks in the first rounds of the 2004 and 2005 playoffs. Bryant had one year left on his contract.

He was hired as an assistant to his former Philadelphia 76er teammate Henry Bibby in July of 2005, then took over when Bibby resigned with five games left in the season after just 28 days on the job. Bryant went 29-10 overall.

Bryant will continue coaching the Tokyo Apache of the Japanese BJ league, his job in

the WNBA off-season.

The 50-year-old Cooper, a 12-year NBA veteran who won five NBA titles with the Lakers, coached the Sparks from 1999 to 2004, going 116-31. In 2000, he led the Sparks to the best season (28-4) in franchise history and was the WNBA coach of the year. He followed that with back-to-back titles in 2001 and 2002.

He was signed to a one-year deal with options. The team did not release the terms.

“I am thrilled to be returning home and to have the opportunity to coach a team that provides me with so many fond memories,” Cooper said in a statement. “The franchise is starting a new chapter and we want to bring another championship banner to Staples Center.”

Hired as an assistant for the Denver Nuggets before the 2004 season, Cooper served as interim head coach for a month before returning to an assistant job when George Karl was hired in January of 2005.

He has been coaching the Albuquerque Thunderbirds, a team he led to an NBA Developmental League title last year.

The Sparks season begins with a game at Chicago on May 22.

SPORTS BRIEFS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Coaching great Robinson passes away

Eddie Robinson, who sent more than 200 players to the NFL and won 408 games during a 57-year career, has died.

He was 88.

Robinson was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease shortly after he retired in 1997 and had been in and out of a nursing home during the past year.

Super Bowl MVP quarterback Doug Williams, one of Robinson’s former players, said the former Grambling State University coach died about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday. Robinson had been admitted to Lincoln General Hospital on Tuesday afternoon.

Robinson’s was a career that spanned 11 presidents, several wars and the civil-rights movement.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Michigan’s coaching odyssey

Michigan desperately wanted to hire John Beilein and was willing to make him the highest-paid basketball coach in school history.

Beilein clearly coveted the job because he’s going to pay his previous employer to leave – and he accepted an offer without visiting the Ann Arbor campus.

His contract with West Virginia had a \$2.5 million buyout clause – \$500,000 for each year remaining on his deal – and he said his lawyers are taking care of that.

Michigan will pay Beilein \$1.3 million a season, plus bonuses, as part of a six-year contract.

AP

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Bzdelik in as Colorado’s coach

Coach Jeff Bzdelik became the new coach at Colorado, leaving the top job at Air Force and signing a five-year deal with the Buffaloes.

Bzdelik, who had two successful seasons at Air Force, agreed to a deal worth \$750,000 annually plus incentives, Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn said.

At Air Force, Bzdelik had a 50-16 record with an NCAA tournament appearance last season and a trip to the NIT final four last week.

Colorado paid Air Force \$270,000 to buy out Bzdelik, who had four years left on his contract with the Falcons.

AP

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Butler names Stevens coach

Butler hired assistant coach Brad Stevens, two days after Todd Lickliter left to take the job at Iowa.

Stevens was an assistant for six years at Butler under Lickliter and predecessor Thad Matta, now the coach at NCAA runner-up Ohio State. During that time, the Bulldogs have gone 131-61, won three Horizon League regular-season titles and made four trips to the postseason.

AP



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SURF REPORT

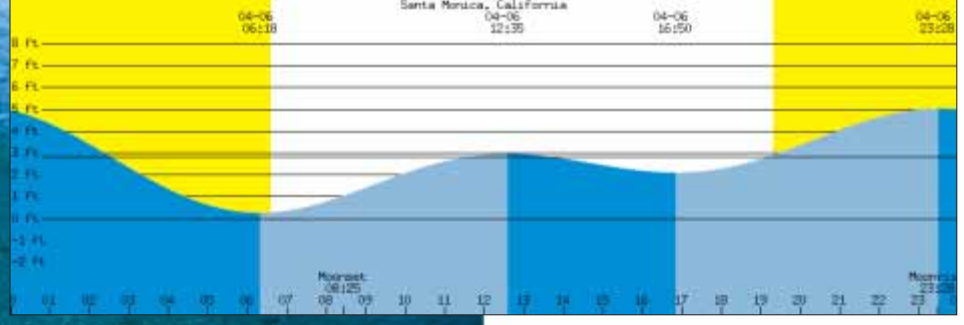
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 58°

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)
Today's size will be backing off as the SW swell fades. Some WNW wind swell is still expected though. South facing breaks are looking at mostly chest high stuff with some pluses still coming through around head high, but not as frequent as today. West facing breaks should hover around waist to chest. Winds should be light in the morning, but the tide will be rather low around dawn.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
NW and SW Sunday but weather and wind concerns...

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 27, 2007**

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 3

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

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

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

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

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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Easy does it, Taurus

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic

★★★★★ Positive

★★★★ Average

★★★ So-So

★ Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Take a risk. Break your patterns. You might be delighted by what comes up if you simply flow. Not everything is as you think it is. You'll have much to smile about if you let your feelings get out of control. Tonight: Happy working as a team.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You might want to work with someone. Relate on an independent, one-on-one level. You have a way that makes your point stand out loud and clear. You have a special opportunity – go for it. You discover how important a partner is. Tonight: Easy does it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You have a lot going for you. The smart action is none at all. Allow others to seek you out. Just sit back and make a decision. You could be very happy with the outcome. Pressure builds at work. Tonight: Say “yes” to an opportunity.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Plug into work and get the job done. You might be sorely tempted to do something different. You want to break a pattern and reach out for others. Planning a trip might work well for you. Tonight: Relax, please.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Home is where the heart is. You cannot push someone so hard, so fast. Understanding can and will take you to a new level of involvement with a child or loved one. A partner might have high energy on a money or key issue. Tonight: Mosey on home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Chat up a storm if need be. Understand what makes you or someone else tick. Others might be very confusing, and no matter what you do, you cannot seem to resolve a problem. Revamp your thinking if possible. Tonight: Munchies with a favorite person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Expenses need to be curbed, at least for now, if not for the long term. You might want to ponder a decision and consider your options more carefully than in the past. Your instincts suggest an unusual course. Tonight: Why not?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You are in the thick of life, making choices accordingly. If you stop, you could be overwhelmed. Expenses could become out of control, or a bill finds you that should have found you sooner. Chin up – you can handle it all. Tonight: Gather the bills first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You finally energize and feel better than you have in a long time. Act like the world is your oyster, and then it just might be. You have more charisma and vavoom than many. Display your true colors. Tonight: Let what you want happen.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might want to make waves or do something differently. The timing isn't the best. Talk and plot right now. Postpone actions for a while. Your ideas need to grow and evolve. A sounding board might help. Tonight: Take some personal time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A sense of direction will take you to the end results you desire. Sometimes you could be overwhelmed by what is going on. Friends have strong ideas and point you in a certain direction. Use care with spending. Tonight: You are where the party is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You might not agree with someone. The question that remains is, How will you express your frustration or difference of opinion? Use your energy in the most positive way possible. Perhaps getting a lot done quickly will cheer you up. Tonight: A must appearance.

Born Today

Artist Raphael (1483)

Pianist, composer Andre Previn (1929)

Actress Marilu Henner (1952)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>

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Happy Birthday!

Think before you leap” needs to be your motto this year. Understand ramifications and long-term ideas. Clarity of mind will result in strong, successful actions. Even you might need to understand when to pull back or go on a new trail. You don't hesitate to move forward often, but do stop and check that quicksand doesn't lie ahead. Anger sometimes explodes within, and actions made from this head space frequently backfire. If you are single, you will meet people easily. Choose someone who is a bit different or offbeat. If you are attached, schedule a very unique trip together.

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Scarlett mum Johansson is quiet on so-called fling with Justin

Did **SCARLETT JOHANSSON** have a fling with Justin Timberlake? She's not saying.

"We live in a world today where if two people are single – and one's a guy and one's a girl and they're both famous – you're going to be linked with somebody," the 22-year-old actress tells Seventeen magazine's May issue, on

newsstands Tuesday.

"If it's somebody one week, it's going to be somebody else the next week. It's either me or Jessica Biel," Johansson says with a laugh.

Timberlake, a former member of boy band 'N Sync, and "Charlie's Angels" actress Cameron Diaz – who had been dating since 2003 – confirmed

their split in January. Timberlake's high-profile relationship with Britney Spears ended in 2002.

Johansson, who broke up with Josh Hartnett last fall, says she's not focused on finding another boyfriend. If she were in a relationship, the actress says she'd create a sense of mystery.

"I can't stand mind

games," she says. "But I think you should be mysterious and flirtatious. You should always have some mystery in a relationship. You don't wanna know what the person's thinking all the time. And you don't want him to know what you're thinking all the time."

What does Johansson, whose screen credits include "Lost in Translation," "Girl

With a Pearl Earring" and "Match Point," like most about herself?

"Other than my ability to do the running man (dance) and the fact that I can sing all the words to Salt-N-Pepa songs? I think it's that I find beauty in unusual things, like hanging your head out the window or sitting on a fire escape."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAK RIDGE BOY GIVES BACK

WILLIAM LEE GOLDEN of The Oak Ridge Boys always talked about restoring the roof of his historic home to its original height. He just didn't know the opportunity would come because of a tornado.

The 6,000-foot house, built in 1786 by Revolutionary War Capt. James Franklin, took a direct hit from the storm that swept through Sumner County and killed nine people last spring.

Golden, his wife, Brenda, and 5-year-old son, Solomon, huddled in a bathroom in the center of the basement as the tornado passed.

As they began to emerge, they saw light where the roof had been.

A structural engineer told them the house would have been rubble if it had been built in the past 50 years.

The family recently finished restoring the home, raising the level of the roof to its original height in the process. Ironically, a tornado took off the old roof in 1892.

Golden and his family have experienced a similar rebirth; one that includes a renewed faith in God and a new gratitude.

AP

Beyonce does video relay routine

BEYONCE may be one of the hardest working women in show business. She cranked out eight videos in two weeks for her new DVD, "B'Day Anthology Video Album."

"I always wanted to do a video album," Beyonce said in a recent interview, noting that her fans "can watch it whenever they want and not have to go to YouTube."

The 25-year-old singer told AP Television News she was able to pull it off because everyone was well-rehearsed and prepared.

"I knew all the choreog-

raphy before I started filming the videos. I knew what every hairstyle was going to be before I did it. I knew what every look (was going to be); as far as the makeup and the wardrobe, we already had the fittings," she said.

"B'Day Anthology Video Album," released Tuesday, features songs from her Grammy-winning "B'Day" album. The DVD coincides with the release of a deluxe edition of the disc, with seven tracks in Spanish.

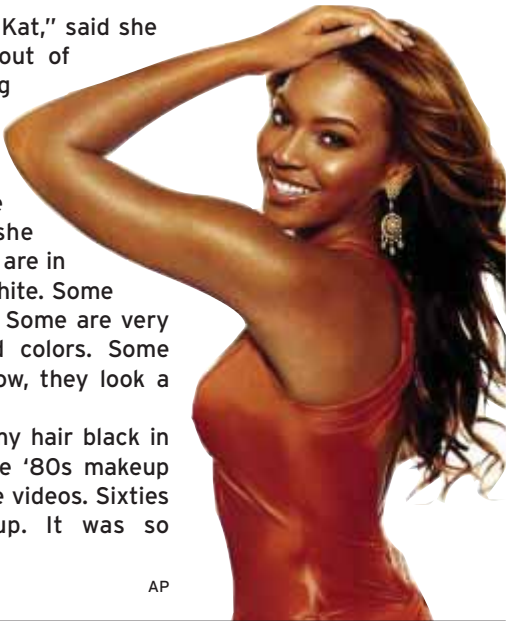
Beyonce, who rides a giant black cat in one glammed-up video for the

song "Kitty Kat," said she got a kick out of reinventing her look.

"I didn't want them to look the same," she said. "Some are in black and white. Some are Super8. Some are very bright, vivid colors. Some are, you know, they look a little retro."

"I wore my hair black in some. I wore '80s makeup in one of the videos. Sixties Mod makeup. It was so exciting."

AP



Selling artifacts from Jackson's history

More than 1,100 Jackson family items are set for auction in Las Vegas next month, but a representative for Michael Jackson says the pop star is considering legal action to stop the sale.

"Mr. Jackson was not aware and he is extremely upset that his memorabilia was included amongst the memorabilia that is being auctioned off," said spokeswoman Raymone K. Bain.

The Jacksons Auction is scheduled May 30-31 at the Hard Rock hotel resort.

Guernsey's auction house said items include Michael Jackson's gold record for his "Thriller" album, handwritten lyrics for The Jackson Five hit "ABC" and a "Victory Tour" program signed by Jackson family members.

Arlan Ettinger, founder and president of Guernsey's, compared the sale to an auction of Elvis Presley/Graceland memorabilia he conducted in Las Vegas in 1999.

"It certainly is in that sphere of landmark, high-

profile, extraordinary auctions," Ettinger told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Michael Jackson, 48, has been living in Las Vegas while he evaluates proposals for a comeback after his 2005 acquittal in California on child molestation charges.

His father, former Jackson Five manager Joe Jackson, also lives in Las Vegas. He didn't respond to a phone message seeking comment.

Ettinger said the collec-

tion was owned by luggage transportation company Universal Express Inc., of Boca Raton, Fla., which bought it last year from a New Jersey construction company owner.

The former owner, Henry Vaccaro, claimed a warehouse full of Jackson memorabilia after a failed business venture wound up in bankruptcy court. Michael Jackson and his sister Janet Jackson sued to stop Vaccaro from taking ownership.

AP

Clooney decides to chill out

A group of kids on spring break thought setting up a lemonade stand near **GEORGE CLOONEY'S** movie set might be a good business move. They were right.

The star paid \$20 for his lemonade, which 10-year-old Carter, 6-year-old Chandler and 5-year-old Chase Fontaine were selling for 25 cents.

Clooney made his way over to the lemonade stand Wednesday after-

noon after shooting scenes for "Leatherheads," a movie about the early days of professional football that he is directing and acting in.

The boys' mother, Courtney Fontaine, offered Clooney the lemonade for free. He had posed for pictures with her and some other women.

But Clooney, 45, insisted on paying, sending someone over with a \$20 bill. Chandler

enjoyed telling people afterward that Clooney's representative didn't want any change.

Before long, Carter had made another sign that read, "George Clooney was here!" and planted it at the road.

The movie, which is being filmed mostly in North and South Carolina, also stars John Krasinski and Renee Zellweger.

AP

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Firehouse Dog (PG)
11:20a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
Grindhouse (R)
11:00a.m., 1:00, 3:00, 5:00,
7:00, 9:00, 11:00
The Lookout (R)
11:40a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:40,
10:15

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

300 (R)
11:05a.m., 1:45, 4:35, 7:25,
10:10
Are We Done Yet? (PG)
11:00a.m., 1:25, 3:40, 5:55,
8:15, 10:35
Blades of Glory (Pg-13)
11:00a.m., 1:15, 3:30, 5:40,
7:10, 8:00, 9:40, 10:20
The Hoax (R)
11:10a.m., 1:55, 5:00, 7:50,
10:40
The Last Mimzy (PG)
11:40a.m., 2:05, 4:45
Reign Over Me (R)
11:20a.m., 2:05, 4:50, 7:40,
10:30
TMNT (PG)
11:15a.m., 1:20, 3:35, 5:45,
7:55, 10:05

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
**1314 Wilshire Blvd
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Amazing Grace (PG)
4:15, 9:45
Black Book (Zwartboek) (R)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
**The Wind That Shakes
the Barley (NR)**
1:15, 7:00

LAEMMLES MONICA FOURPLEX
**1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741**

**Avenue Montaigne
(Fauteuils d'orchestre) (PG-13)**
1:45, 4:30, 7:10
The Host (Gwoemul) (R)
9:45
**The Lives of Others (Das
Leben der Anderen) (R)**
1:10, 4:20, 8:00
The Namesake (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
The TV Set (R)
12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45,
10:00

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The Hills Have Eyes 2 (R)
4:30, 10:00
Meet the Robinsons (G)
11:40a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:10,
9:40
**Meet the Robinsons in
Disney Digital (G)**
11:00a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 6:30,
9:00
The Reaping (R)
11:30a.m., 12:10, 2:30, 4:20,
5:00, 7:30, 9:20, 10:10
Shooter (R)
11:10a.m., 1:00, 2:00, 4:50,
7:00, 7:40, 10:30

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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

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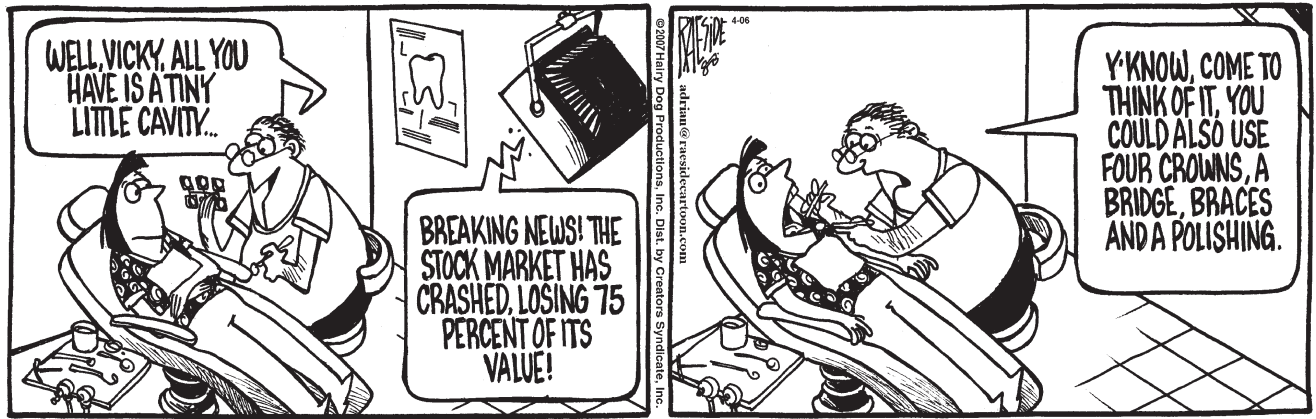
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



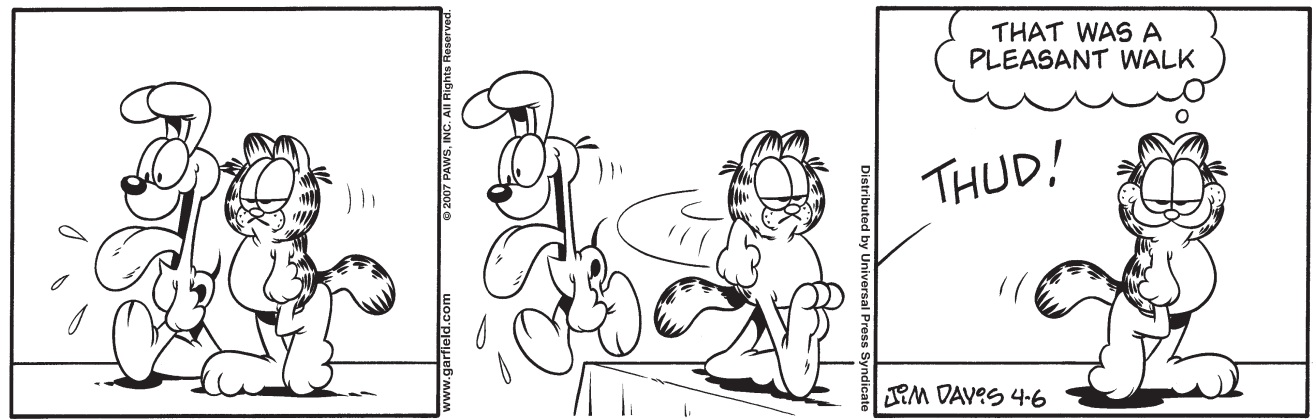
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

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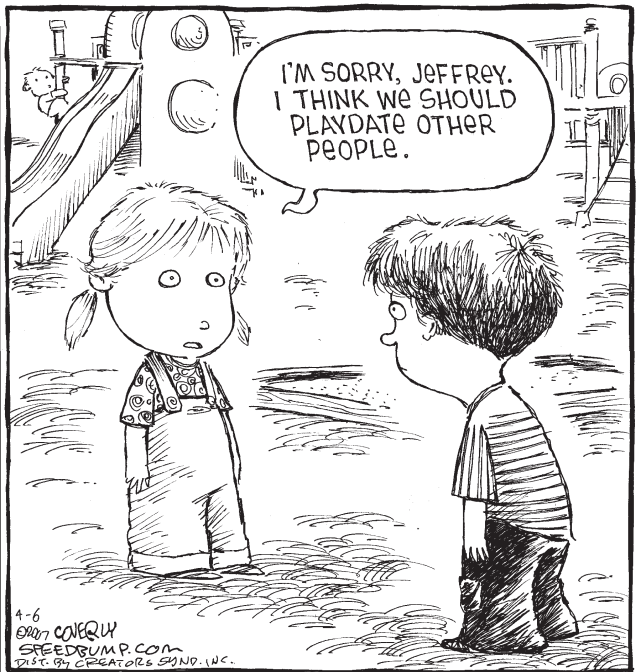
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Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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 - 5 Back muscles, for short
 - 9 Pasty
 - 11 Flu symptoms
 - 13 Peace goddess
 - 14 Lift
 - 15 Collar
 - 16 Remarkable
 - 18 Satellite of 1962
 - 20 Afternoon break
 - 21 Mandolins' cousins
 - 22 Suggestion
 - 23 Cochlea setting
 - 24 — Paulo
 - 25 Black
 - 27 Shorebirds
 - 29 Isle in the Irish Sea
 - 30 Summon
 - 32 Formal letter
 - 34 Hot blood
 - 35 Hiss of history
 - 36 Mino-taur's home
 - 38 India's first prime minister
 - 39 Suffered
- DOWN
- 1 Coat of many colors
 - 2 Jordan neighbor
 - 3 Joseph Wambaugh book
 - 4 Hankering
 - 5 Surgical tool
 - 6 Deeds
 - 7 Joseph Wambaugh book
 - 8 Mariner
 - 10 Less messy
 - 12 Nodded off
 - 17 Used to be
 - 19 Order to Rover
 - 22 Rocky
 - 24 New York native
 - 25 Clarifying phrase
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 - 33 Blood fluids
 - 37 Southern resort

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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			

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MEGA MILLION 16 26 33 34 46
Meganumber: 38
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Super LOTTO 17 18 22 26 35
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$17M

Fantasy 5 3 9 13 23 38

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 7 0 3
EVENING: 1 1 1

DAILY DERRY 1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:44.82



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Fire officials in Crystal River, Fla., stopped the planned performance in January of Jesse Aviles, "The Human Bomb," who was set to lie face down across two bar stools at the Oar House Restaurant and Lounge and have himself blown across the room by explosives. According to Oar House, the performance was canceled for the lack of permits. City Manager Andrew Houston, asked by the St. Petersburg Times what kind of permits might be necessary for a person to be exploded from a barstool, said, "I have no earthly idea."

■ Garri Holness, 39, is one of the Britons in a bad place at the time of the July 2005 subway bombings, and he suffered the loss of a leg, for which government programs compensated him with more than 100,000 British pounds (about \$190,000). That is more than 10 times the amount of government compensation (in 2005 pounds) received by each of the two teenage girls from a vicious 1985 gang rape that Holness was convicted of participating in (and for which he served seven years in prison).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1814 Napoleon abdicates. He is then exiled to Elba.

1830 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized by Joseph Smith, Jr. and others at Fayette, New York.

1862 American Civil War: Battle of Shiloh begins

1865 American Civil War: Battle of Sayler's Creek - Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia fights its last major battle while in retreat from Richmond, Virginia.

1917 World War I: United States declares war on Germany

1931 Little Orphan Annie debuts on the Blue Network of NBC.

1965 Launch of Early Bird, the first communications satellite to be placed in synchronous orbit.

1968 In Richmond, Indiana's downtown district, a double explosion kills 41 and injures 150.

1970 Newhall Incident: Four California Highway Patrol officers are killed.

1972 Vietnam War: Easter Offensive - American forces begin sustained air strikes and naval bombardments.

WORD UP!

deign \DAYN\, intransitive verb: 1. To think worthy; to condescend -- followed by an infinitive. 2. To condescend to give or bestow; to stoop to furnish; to grant.

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National trade company requires an ex-
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of Aug. 2007 to

Wanted

May of 2008) at Santa Monica Jr. Col-
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She needs a place to stay, possibly in
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spends most of
her time studying and with sport activi-
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6 MO./6 MO. ARM 5%
APR 7.24%

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APR 8%

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WYOMING RANCH DISPERSAL 35 acres - \$59,900; 75 acres - \$108,900. Snow-capped mountain views. Surrounded by gov't land. Abundant wildlife. Recreational paradise. Low taxes. EZ Terms. Call Utah Ranches, LLC. 1-888-703-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

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Personals

Talk to a Model 24HRS. 877-EZ MARIA 877-396-2742 \$10-17 for 15 min. ATM/CC/Checks by phone www.USLove.com

Notices

NOTICE OF AMENDED PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: KEITH ROBERT FREEDMAN CASE NO. SP006985

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of KEITH ROBERT FREEDMAN.

AN AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by LISA B. DESFORGE in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that LISA B. DESFORGE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE AMENDED PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 04/27/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner In Pro Per LISA B. DESFORGE 22 LEICESTER ROAD MARBLEHEAD, MA 01945 3/30, 4/2, 4/6/07 CNS-1110830#

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'06 Focus \$11,995
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Auto, A/C, CD P/W, Cruise and More! (4008990)
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'07 Caliber SXT ... \$12,995
Chrome Wheels
(7051079)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

Vehicles for sale



'04 Jetta GLS Turbo .. \$14,995
Leather, Moon Roof, CD, Auto & Lots More! (1M023757)
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'06 Accent \$11,995
Auto, A/C, CD
(6U003215)
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'02 Explorer Spt .. \$8,995
Automatic, CD, A/C, Alloys & Full Power (2U037397)
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'03 Galant \$9,995
(3E212783)
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'06 Solara Red \$17,788
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Auto, AC, Pwr, CD & More!
(5B356295)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'05 Corolla \$11,995
Under 10K Mi, AC
(5Z447475)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'04 Hybrid Civic \$12,995
Auto, AC, Car Pool
(4S007972)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Jetta \$12,995
Auto, AC & More!
(3M115974)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Infiniti FX45 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Met. brown, Bose premium sound,
Loaded!! (I6303A)
\$29,123
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'03 325i \$19,995
Auto, Lthr, Mnr, Perfect, Sport &
Premium Pkgs (3KP80423)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

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Vehicles for sale



'06 Infiniti G35 Coupe 2D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
D. Blue, V6 3.5L, Auto, RWD, MP3,
Leather, Alloy Wheels
(P1525) \$27,993
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'05 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Bose Prem. Sound,
Leather, Moon Roof, Alloy
(P1535) \$29,994
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

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'02 BMW 3 Series 325i Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
D. Blue, 6-Cyl. 2.5L, Auto, RWD,
Telescope wheel, Traction, ABS
(P1554) \$16,892
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'04 Infiniti I35 Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, A/C, Bose pre-
mium sound, ABS (P1563)
\$21,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'03 Infiniti G35 Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, RWD, Bose
Sound, Air Bags, ABS (P1520A)
\$22,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'06 Chrysler 300C Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V8 5.7L HEMI, Leather, Trac-
tion, Moon roof, Premium Wheels
(P1549) \$23,992
Infiniti Santa Monica
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Vehicles for sale



'04 BMW M3 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
L.Blue, 6-Cyl. 3.2L, 6-sp. SMG,
Leather, Alloy Wheels (P1557)
\$35,993
Infiniti Santa Monica
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'04 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
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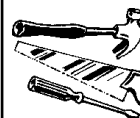


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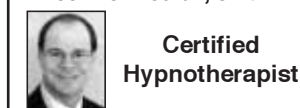
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