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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007

Volume 6 Issue 134

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

BOLLYWOOD NUPTIALS
SEE PAGE 17

THE DOGMATIC GOSSIP ISSUE

College shooting hits home

Virginia Tech massacre raises questions about campus security

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE The 23-year-old student who shot and killed 32 people at Virginia Tech on Monday has left students and faculty at college campuses across the country asking themselves the question: Could this happen here?

Cho Seung-Hui, a senior English major at Virginia Tech, went on a shooting rampage on the Blacksburg campus on Monday, killing students and faculty before taking his own life.

"We share the world's grief and horror at the tragic shooting that has occurred at Virginia Tech," SMC Superintendent and President Chui L. Tsang said in a statement released to the campus community on Tuesday. "And as a community, I am sure some of us have questions about safety at Santa Monica College."

SMC student Carlos Brabo was shocked when he learned of the massacre at Virginia Tech. The college freshman said he was especially surprised to learn the gunman was a student.

"I don't think something like that could happen here, but you never know," he said. "There's too much pressure [as a student]."

SEE SAFETY PAGE 12

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

SECURE: **SMC police officers patrol the campus on Tuesday.**

ENVIRONMENT

CARRIED AWAY

Plastic shopping bags may be history

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 11

Christine Chang *news@smdp.com*

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Santa Monica Daily Press

Citywide Reads book discussion at Montana library

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Join others in reading and discussing the Santa Monica Citywide Reads 2007 featured book, "The Time Traveler's Wife," by Audrey Niffenegger at the Montana Avenue Branch Library.

Best Spring day hikes

402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

REI will hold a seminar on hikes, of various lengths, along with ideas on the best gear for day hiking, nutrition and hydration tips, proper footwear and clothing as well as suggestions on low-impact hiking, and safety precautions.

Dysfunctional Family Film Festival

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

The Fairview Branch Library will screen 'Pieces of April' followed by a post-film discussion with family therapist Kathie Adams. This event is free.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre

1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

For more information on this family-friendly theatre experience, call the Playhouse box office at (310) 394-9779, ext. 2 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Venice Art Walk live auction

2525 Michigan Ave., 7 p.m. — 10:30 p.m.

The Venice Art Walk & Auctions is an annual celebration of art, architecture, music and fine cuisine benefiting the Venice Family Clinic. The auction will be held in Building 1 of the Bergamot Station. Free on-site parking is available. Tickets are $100 for one person or $175 for two. For more information or to purchase tickets call (310) 392-9255 or visit www.veniceartwalk.info.

Jackie Breger and friends

2601 Main St., 3:30 p.m. — 4:15 p.m.

Ms. Breger and her group of musicians will bring together the energy of American folk songs and stories for an afternoon full of singing and clapping. No tickets needed.

Thursday evening with LA Opera series

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

The third event in this series will be an information-packed evening presented by Patricia Cochran, member of the L.A. Opera Speakers Bureau. Ms. Cochran will give a multimedia talk on "Porgy and Bess" at the Main Branch Library.

Shy presentation with Kenneth Rasmussen

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

The Santa Monica Public Library in collaboration with Co-Opportunity, Santa Monica's Cooperative Natural Grocer, present Kenneth Rasmussen, a Professional Relations Specialist, who will discuss how assertiveness is essential to well-being and how overcoming shyness can greatly improve your life. To be held at the Montana Avenue Branch Library.

Register for the XTERRA Malibu Creek Trail Run

The sixth-annual XTERRA Malibu Creek Trail Run is scheduled for May 12. Competitors can choose between two distances set in the Santa Monica Mountains — 4 miles or 14 miles. Proceeds from the XTERRA Malibu Creek Trail Run go to the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. More information is available at www.trailrace.com.

Yappy Hour @ Tails of Santa Monica

2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

A social gathering for dogs and their people. There will be light refreshments, dog snacks and play time. For more information, call (310) 392-4300.

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.

Park and dine near City Hall?

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER Enjoying midday weather on Monday, Fernando Cornejo sat on a bench outside City Hall with a brown bag lunch as many of his city government co-workers foraged Santa Monica for a place to eat.

Bounded by Colorado Avenue to the north, Fourth Street to the east, Ocean Avenue to the west and Pico Boulevard to the south, the block of government facilities — consisting of the Santa Monica Courthouse, Public Safety Facility and City Hall — represents slim pickings for employees seeking out lunch options.

But that may soon change, once a new restaurant opens around the corner inside the new Civic Center Parking Structure — an 882-space garage on the corner of Fourth Street and Olympic Drive that finally opened to the public on Monday.

"There is no place really to eat around here," said Elana Buegoff, the senior administrative analyst for the city's Economic Development Division. "[Most people] get in their car and drive or take the long walk to the Third Street Promenade and the food court at the [Santa Monica Place] mall."

The city is currently in negotiations with an applicant interested in opening a restaurant in a 3,500 square-foot space in the Civic Center structure, which includes both indoor seating and an outdoor terrace with an ocean view.

Officials in the Economic Development Division (EDD) hope to finalize an agreement to present to the City Council by early June for approval. If approved by June, the new restaurant should be able to open by the end of this year, Buegoff said.

She could not disclose the type of restaurant the applicant is proposing since the parties are still in negotiations.

"We're looking for an operation serving the Civic Center clientele," Buegoff said.

The city sent out a request for proposals in September 2006, but was not able to offer tours to respondents until recently because the structure was still under construction.

SEE DINE PAGE 10

Good will shopping

Farms Market reminds locals of a time when small business was king

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MONTANA AVE. If Catherine Horrigan and her fiancé ever move into a new home, there must be a neighborhood market nearby.

Like so many of her neighbors, Horrigan has come to rely on Farms Market, a Santa Monica institution that has served residents living near 20th Street and Montana Avenue for more than 50 years.

"How are we going to replace Farms?" asked Horrigan, a graphic designer who lives a few doors down from the market. "Aside from it being so convenient, the people there are very friendly. They know your name and what things you like. They are just really accommodating.

If you want something and they don't have it, they'll order it."

Neighborhood markets like Farms used to be a fixture on nearly every corner of the city when Councilman Bob Holbrook was a boy, but over the years, as supermarkets became more commonplace, many of the family-owned shops closed, leaving residents with fewer alternatives.

Over the years, the City Council has taken a number of steps to preserve the neighborhood markets, including an action taken last week which will allow Farms to continue operating for decades to come. If not for the vote in favor of Farms, the market would have been forced to close in November 2008, according to a city staff report.

Because Farms is much larger than most independent markets, around 3,700 square feet, it exceeds the standard of 3,000 square feet for neighborhood grocery stores. To continue operating, zoning codes had to be modified.

SEE MARKET PAGE 11

DEADLINE

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Screenwriter David Wolkove, 31, stands in line to file an extension on Tuesday, the last day to file taxes with the Internal Revenue Service. The federal IRS recently announced a change to the tax deadline date due to a federal holiday.

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EDITORIAL

When we were rad

Saving Horizons is first step in salvaging skater culture

Sometimes, the simplest of answers are the most difficult to reach. In the case of Horizons West and Zephyr, the compromise being struck to save the surf and skate shops should have been as obvious as an inward heelflip.

Regardless, the decision to maintain the storefront at Main and Bay streets – which formerly housed Zephyr and Jeff Ho Productions – and develop the rear of the property is a sound one. By maintaining the historic, if unexceptional, storefront, developers can continue pioneering in the field of green architecture even as they nod to the city's beach town roots.

Landmarks Commissioner Roger Genser recently labeled the new proposal a "win-win-win-win" situation. While it remains unclear who all the wins represent, Genser hit the nail on the head.

Still, it's going to take more than an outdated storefront to retain Santa Monica's cultural history. Lest the Dogtown nostalgia go the way of Muscle Beach – originally located just south of the Santa Monica Pier, but since synonymous with neighboring Venice Beach – city planners, tourism officials and promoters need to embrace the radical lifestyle that made Santa Monica, well, a rad place to be.

Skateboarding – as the ensuing 30-plus years since the Z-Boys made their mark has shown – is much more than just a novel pastime, it is a definable lifestyle, due in large part to Santa Monicans. The problem is that skateboarders, sometimes referred to as "skate rats," aren't a money-generating demographic from which the city can cash in, hence, the initial nonchalance that greeted plans to tear down the Main Street mainstay. It was only after community members rallied to remind us all that our booming city by the sea was once an accessible beach town that the building was spared.

While saving the Horizons West Surf Shop building at 2001-2011 Main St. is a solid first glide down the drained pool wall, the city can do more to celebrate its '70s era cultural gift to the world. The handful of skateparks around town tend to attract a younger crowd, leaving older 'boarders scrambling. A few years ago, rather than place the current Cove Skatepark along the Santa Monica Beach, it was located adjacent to the Police Activities League on Olympic Boulevard, hardly representative of the rebellious nature of the Z-Boys.

It would seem appropriate that Santa Monica as a whole serve as a Mecca for skateboarders the world over, but throughout the city, benches, railings, steps and building walls are designed in a manner so as to keep them away. By regulating the skaters right off the streets and attempting to confine them to allotted areas we are only going to send them elsewhere, like Venice Beach.

But we'll always have a storefront.

editor@smdp.com

Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Readers better get used to a 'Black President'

THERE IS A TWO-WORD CONCEPT WE, AS Americans, are going to have to get used to over the next year and a half — black president.

There is no chance our next president will be a Republican. The hardcore partisans in either party will be voting for the "D" or the "R" no matter whose name precedes it on the ticket. But the Republican base is split and there isn't a Republican candidate out there who can "unite the right." In order to win, any candidate will have to bring undecided "swing" voters over to his or her side because neither party can hope to carry a national election with only their base (the Republican base can't even carry a local election).

That rules out any possibility of a Republican president in 2008.

Of the Democrats, we can forget about Senators Dodd and Biden, and Gov. Bill Richardson (all of whom will make outstanding Cabinet secretaries). John Edwards might (again) be a compelling candidate for vice president, but hasn't distinguished himself as strong enough to occupy the top spot on a Democratic ticket. That leaves Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. With Feb. 5, 2008 shaping up as a "super Tuesday" national primary, the real race is going to be run this year, and the Democratic "donor base" and "activist base" will play the pivotal role in selecting the next president.

Why Senator Obama and not Senator Clinton? Several reasons, not the least of which being one out of five Democrats say they would not vote for Senator Clinton for president, as do one of every two (all-important) Independent voters. Those numbers spell absolute doom for her in a general election, and no party wants to nominate a candidate who they know cannot win nationally. But the main reason is because no Democratic candidate can win a general election without uniting the donor base and the activist base because the donors provide early campaign funding and the activists supply the energy and enthusiasm. Both now belong to Barack Obama.

Look at donor base incarnate David Geffen and the embodiment of the activist base, Phil de Vellis. Geffen, as the billionaire founder of Dreamworks SKG, has a license to print money and has raised almost $20 million for the Clintons over the years. De Vellis, a web designer and grassroots campaign veteran of the critical 2004 battle for Ohio, is one of the thankless millions of campaign volunteers and canvassers who put their lives on hold — forsaking comfortable beds and a living wage — for the chance to get their candidates elected. Geffen and de Vellis have significantly impacted this race by eroding Senator Clinton's once impenetrable air of inevitability. And it was that overpowering sense that "Hillary is coming and she can't be stopped" which was supposed to carry her through Iowa and New Hampshire and straight to the nomination. But then Geffen came out and said, "everybody in politics lies, but (the Clintons) do it with such ease, it's troubling." In calling out both Bill and Hillary, Geffen told the donor base he's with Obama, while providing cover for others wanting to come along. For his part, de Vellis (aka ParkRidge47) mashed up the revised edition of Ridley Scott's "1984" Apple ad — with Hillary Clinton in the role of "Big Brother." The ad was on cable news for weeks and told the activist base the eventual Democratic nominee doesn't necessarily have to be Hillary.

ONE OUT OF FIVE DEMOCRATS SAY THEY WOULD NOT VOTE FOR SENATOR CLINTON FOR PRESIDENT ... THOSE NUMBERS SPELL ABSOLUTE DOOM FOR HER IN A GENERAL ELECTION, AND NO PARTY WANTS TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE WHO THEY KNOW CANNOT WIN NATIONALLY.

The key was that chinks in Senator Clinton's armor came early enough in the first quarter of 2007 that Senator Obama was able to reap the rewards — as evidenced by his fundraising totals: $25 million to Senator Clinton's $26 million, which wasn't enough of an advantage to marginalize his campaign. In addition, he got 100,000 contributors to Senator Clinton's 50,000 (more contributors means more people he can go back to), about $7 million contributed on-line compared to about $4 million for Senator Clinton (donations on the Web are the acknowledged wave of the future), 90 percent of his contributions are in amounts of $100 or less (far less than the maximum of $2,300 each for the primary and general election cycles), and almost all of it ($23.5 million) can be used for the primary (Senator Clinton hasn't announced her primary vs. general election cycle breakdown).

With any Republican candidate dead in the water, Hillary losing 20 percent of Democrats and half of Independents, and the support of the donor and activist bases of the Democratic party, Barack Obama — a black man — will be the next president of the United States.

Remember where you read it first.

KENNY MACK is a writer and comedian living in Santa Monica. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.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
Kristin Mayer

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Dave Danforth
dave@smdp.com

Carolyn Sackariason
csackariason@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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1427 Third Street Promenade, #202
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

Earth Talk

By the editors of E Magazine

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

COMING ASHORE: **According to Defenders of Wildlife, some of the wildlife species hardest hit so far by global warming include caribou (pictured here), arctic foxes, toads, polar bears, penguins, gray wolves, tree swallows, painted turtles and salmon.**

What will become of the animals?

Dear EarthTalk

I've seen those images of polar bears stranded on small islands of ice and heard that some are now dying by drowning. How are other wildlife populations affected by global warming?

Jessie Walters

MOST RESEARCHERS AGREE THAT EVEN small changes in temperature are enough to send hundreds, if not thousands, of already struggling species into extinction unless we can stem the tide of global warming. And time may be of the essence: A 2003 study published in the journal Nature concluded that 80 percent of some 1,500 wildlife species sampled are already showing signs of stress from climate change.

The key impact of global warming on wildlife is habitat displacement, whereby ecosystems that animals have spent millions of years adapting to shift quickly. Ice giving way to water in polar bear habitat is just one example of this. Another, according to The Washington Post, is the possibility that warmer spring temperatures could dry up critical breeding habitat for waterfowl in the prairie pothole region, a stretch of land between northern Iowa and central Alberta.

Affected wildlife populations can sometimes move into new spaces and continue to thrive. But concurrent human population growth means that many land areas that might be suitable for such "refugee wildlife" are already taken and cluttered with residential and industrial development. A recent report by the Pew Center for Global Climate Change suggests creating "transitional habitats" or "corridors" that help migrating species by linking natural areas that are otherwise separated by human settlement.

Beyond habitat displacement, many scientists agree that global warming is causing a shift in the timing of various natural cyclical events in the lives of animals.

Many birds have altered the timing of long-held migratory and reproductive routines to better sync up with a warming climate. And some hibernating animals are ending their slumbers earlier each year, perhaps due to warmer spring temperatures. To make matters worse, recent research contradicts the long-held hypothesis that different species coexisting in a particular ecosystem respond to global warming as a single entity. Instead, different species sharing like habitat are responding in dissimilar ways, tearing apart ecological communities millennia in the making.

And as wildlife species go their separate ways, humans can also feel the impact.

A World Wildlife Fund study found that a northern exodus from the United States to Canada by some types of warblers led to a spread of mountain pine beetles that destroy economically productive balsam fir trees.

According to Defenders of Wildlife, some of the wildlife species hardest hit so far by global warming include caribou.

Want to get down to earth? Submit questions to earthtalk@emagazine.com.

The Q Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

What to do?

An illegal immigrant recently crashed into and killed a local director and his son on Pacific Coast Highway. Apparently the driver was not only in the country illegally, but was driving under the influence as well.

This week's Q-Line question asks:
What should be done with an illegal immigrant found driving under the influence?

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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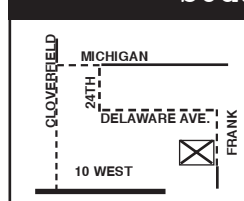

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Massacre evokes Fullerton killings

By the Associated Press

FULLERTON A gunman's massacre at Virginia Tech on Monday resonated at a college campus in California where a janitor shot seven people to death 30 years ago.

On July 12, 1976, Edward Allaway opened fire with a .22-caliber rifle in the California State University, Fullerton, library.

He killed two custodians, a photographer, a retired professor, a library assistant, a graphic artist and an audio technician. Two other people were wounded.

A woman whose father, Frank Teplansky, was among the Fullerton dead, told The Orange County Register that the shooting at Virginia Tech will scar those victims' survivors.

"The ripple effect is going to last forever," Patricia Almazan said in a story posted on the newspaper's Web site. "And it's not something that most people can achieve closure on. It's always going to be there — always."

"You can't conceptualize how a human being can do something so horrific," Almazan said.

Allaway told authorities he killed his co-workers because they teased him about his belief that pornographic movies were being made on campus. At his trial, he testified that homosexual men were using the school's library for sexual liaisons and were plotting to kill him.

A judge found him innocent by reason of insanity in 1977 after a jury was unable to reach a verdict, and he was remanded to a state mental hospital.

In 2001, he testified that he had cured himself of schizophrenia but his last bid to be released from Patton State Hospital was rejected by an Orange County Superior Court judge.

In 2003, the California Supreme Court rejected without comment his appeal for release.

A grove of pine trees on campus honors the victims.

California, Mexico border is no longer friendly to crooks

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Criminals have long fled across borders to escape prosecution, but growing cross-border collaboration between California and Mexico is landing more of these fugitives in court in their native country.

In the past, criminal suspects like Alvaro Gudino, charged in the shooting deaths of two men in Santa Rosa, Calif., would have fallen through the cracks. Instead, the increased international cooperation has landed him in a Mexican jail, where he waits to be tried for the 1995 murders.

Since 1980, California has led the nation in pursuing cases that rely on a little-known Mexican law which allows the American justice system to seek prosecution in Mexico of citizens suspected of committing crimes in the United States. State and local authorities have sought convictions in 277 cases with help from prosecutors in Mexico.

"It's something that's been recognized by both governments," said Val R. Jimenez, special agent in charge of foreign prosecution and law enforcement for the California Attorney General's Office. "You can't share a border and not be able to communicate and work together."

Although the law has been on the books since the 1930s, experts agree the number of prosecutions based on Article 4 of the Mexican penal code has been going up. With a growing immigrant population lending a transnational dimension to crimes ranging from drug trafficking to murder, U.S. law enforcement authorities have found that relying on their counterparts across the border makes sense.

Extradition of Mexicans to the U.S. and vice versa are also up, but there can be advantages to eschewing that route in favor of trying a Mexican citizen in a Mexican court, authorities said.

Other countries, for example, sometimes balk at extraditing suspects to the United States, where they might be exposed to the death penalty. Extradition and the trials that follow, with their need for translators and other services, can also be much more expensive than a trial in Mexico, said Jimenez.

And the Mexican system can function just as well, said Jimenez, who was in Mexico City on Monday with an eight-member team of California law enforcement officials meeting with their Mexican counterparts.

"We're pretty confident that when someone gets convicted here, justice will be served," he said.

Relationships such as they ones they were in Mexico to forge have made not only joint Article 4 prosecutions, but international child abduction cases, drug trafficking investigations and other crimes with a cross-border component increasingly successful.

Gudino was one of the fugitives caught with the help of this kind of purposeful cooperation. After he was arrested in Guadalajara for allegedly assaulting his father, the contact with the Mexican criminal system triggered the long-standing case against him in the United States.

Now he's in jail in Morelia, the capital of his native state of Michoacan, awaiting a trial date in the deaths of Hernandez and Cuevas about 12 years ago.

"It's a great avenue to have," said Sonoma County Sheriff's Sgt. Dennis O'Leary. "Otherwise the suspect may never be brought to justice, and the case may never be heard."

The system has its critics. Among them are the families of two people Gudino is charged with killing, Tony Hernandez, 17, and Marcos Cuevas, 20. They are glad Gudino is being brought to justice.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Using DWP workers instead of contractors cost millions

Some upgrades to the Department of Water and Power's aging system were shifted from private contractors to costly DWP crews, pushing the price tag up millions of dollars, it was reported.

The Daily News reported Tuesday that a DWP review found that using city crews to install trunk lines roughly doubled the cost and the length of time it would have taken private workers to complete the project.

For instance, a private contractor bid $6.2 million to install a 42-inch pipeline beneath Burbank Boulevard and White Oak Avenue, a project estimated to take 250 days.

When the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 18, objected, the project was turned over to unionized DWP crews, who completed the work in 439 days at a cost of $13.8 million.

"Experience indicates that contractors can complete trunk line projects on a substantially shorter time period than in-house forces," water system chief James McDaniel wrote in a memorandum to DWP general manager Ronald Deaton.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO

Local panel requests July 4 alcohol ban at beach

A planning group in the laid-back Pacific Beach neighborhood asked the San Diego City Council to ban drinking at the community's beaches and bay shores on the Fourth of July.

In a letter Monday to the area's council representative, Kevin Faulconer, the planning group chairman said the planning committee voted unanimously to back a one-day prohibition to reduce alcohol-related crime, trash and police costs associated with the holiday.

"The town just turns into a drunk haven the Fourth of July," said chairman Mark Mitchell. "I don't think our forefathers intended the younger generation to celebrate our Independence Day with a drunken party."

Pacific Beach is split on the issue, said Town Council President Ruby Houck. She said a community vote last year narrowly favored seeking a year-round beach-drinking ban.

Drinking on the beach is permitted from noon to 8 p.m. at Pacific Beach, as well as in neighboring Mission Beach and Ocean Beach.

AP

SAN ONOFRE

SoCal river ranks 2nd on national most-endangered list

One of Southern California's last free-flowing streams has been named the second-most threatened river in the U.S. by a national environmental group.

The 16-mile San Mateo Creek, which starts in the Cleveland National Forest and meets the Pacific shore at San Onofre State Beach on the San Diego-Orange County line, ranked just behind a river in New Mexico, according to a survey released Monday by conservation group American Rivers.

The group said the creek, whose cobble deposits feed the renowned Trestles surfing beach, is in danger of being destroyed by a planned toll road extension of State Route 241.

"We're trading something that is irreplaceable for something that is basically just a big parking lot," said Rebecca Wodder, president of the 65,000-member American Rivers group.

The organization wants regional, state and federal agencies to deny permits to the toll-road builder. Approval is required from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Coastal Commission, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game and others.

AP

MURRIETA

'Fight Club' teen gets 6 years-plus for crimes

A teenage "Fight Club" member who went from backyard brawls to armed burglaries, robberies and assaults was sentenced to more than six years in prison.

Gilberto Cuevas, 18, of Murrieta, the fourth "Fight Club" defendant to agree to a plea deal in the crimes, pleaded guilty to grand theft, steroid possession, burglary and receiving stolen property and admitted to being involved in a gang.

Riverside County Superior Court Judge Judith C. Clark sentenced him Monday to six years, four-months in prison. If convicted by a jury, he faced up to 15 years in prison.

The Murrieta "Fight Club" gang was formed in 2004 and police said they were involved in a two-year crime spree. Eleven members of the gang were arrested earlier this year.

William J. Unmacht IV, 21, pleaded guilty Friday to burglary and the gang allegation and was sentenced to four years in prison; Travis Baker, 20, was sentenced Friday to seven years after pleading guilty to burglary, assault with a deadly weapon and a gang allegation.

Two weeks ago, Christopher Bredesen, 18, pleaded guilty to burglary and a gang allegation in exchange for three years in prison. He will be sentenced April 27.

The remaining seven defendants were due in court Friday for a felony settlement conference.

The Murrieta gang was modeled on the gang depicted in the 1999 film "Fight Club," starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton.

AP

SANTA ANA

Jury convicts 'Sixth Sense' murderer

A man was convicted of the unprovoked shooting death of a teenage friend while watching a video of the movie "The Sixth Sense."

It took a Superior Court jury less than 25 minutes to convict Manuel Salas, 27, of the April 1, 2000, killing of Robert Ornelas, 16, who was shot in the face as he sat on a couch.

Salas was also convicted of attempted murder for shooting Joshua Salas eight times when he rushed in to help his cousin Ornelas. Manuel and Joshua Salas are not related.

Orange County attorneys couldn't remember a faster murder verdict.

Salas faces a possible 82-year-to-life term in prison when he's sentenced May 18.

Defense attorney Edward Munoz said Manuel Salas became detached from reality after a four-day methamphetamine binge when he attended a party at the apartment in Santa Ana with Ornelas, Joshua Salas and five young women.

AP

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		Single Family Homes	Condo & Townhomes
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North of Montana	=	$ 3,448,857	$ 2,514,346
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,581,714	$ 875,196
South of Wilshire	=	$ 1,024,000	$ 644,786
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,318,246	$ 613,919
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,634,714	$ 1,016,050

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REAL ESTATE

Mortgage defaults highest in a decade

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Mortgage defaults in California increased on an annual basis in the first quarter to the highest level in nearly a decade, a spike fueled largely by people who bought a home or took out an equity loan in the past two years, a real estate research firm said Monday.

A total of 46,760 default notices were sent to homeowners in the first three months of the year, up 148 percent from 18,856 in the first quarter of 2006, according to DataQuick Information Systems.

The latest figures represent a 23.1 percent increase since the fourth quarter of 2006, when a revised 37,994 defaults notices were sent out statewide, the firm said.

Most of the mortgage loans that went into default in the most recent quarter were taken out between April 2005 and May 2006, the firm said.

The last statewide peak in default notices was in the second quarter of 1997, when 47,912 were recorded.

"Today's activity reflects a peak in the number of home loans made back in the summer of 2005," said Marshall Prentice, DataQuick's president. "The loans being made back then were riskier because of the subprime activity, as well as higher appreciation rates."

In recent weeks, more than two dozen mortgage lenders have gone out of business and others have been forced into bankruptcy due to rising mortgage defaults, primarily involving riskier subprime loans and adjustable rate mortgages.

The adoption of adjustable-rate mortgages as a primary loan on a home peaked at 77.8 percent in May 2005 and has declined since then, DataQuick said.

Mortgage defaults have been on the rise statewide since fall 2005, coinciding with a slowdown in sales and lagging home appreciation that began that year. The notices serve as an early indicator of possible foreclosures.

When home appreciation slows, it makes it harder for homeowners who fall behind on payments to sell their homes.

The first quarter of 1996 saw the most default notices in California, with 61,541.

The median age of the loans in default last quarter was 15 months, DataQuick said. The median amount of primary loans in default was $331,200; the median amount homeowners fell behind was $10,784.

On lines of credit, borrowers owed a median of $3,580.

> **TODAY'S ACTIVITY REFLECTS A PEAK IN THE NUMBER OF HOME LOANS MADE BACK IN THE SUMMER OF 2005."**
>
> Marshall Prentice
> DataQuick's president

Most of the default notices were sent to Southern California addresses, with homeowners in Los Angeles County receiving the largest number.

About 40 percent of homeowners who had previously been in default lost their homes to foreclosure during the quarter — up from 9 percent in the same quarter of 2006, DataQuick said.

The number of foreclosed homes last quarter was 11,033, compared with 1,223 in the first-quarter of 2006 and 6,078 in the fourth quarter of last year, the firm said.

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

'Zero-emission' homes on the rise

BY HEATHER MAY
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY Architect Bill Arthur says his inspiration for home designs comes from the land they sit on.

So how do you make a 5,000-square-foot mini-mansion mesh with a hillside surrounded by forest and a nature preserve?

To start, you color the houses "green."

Arthur and developer Steven Keyser are collaborating on an unusual subdivision in Salt Lake County's Emigration Canyon that will include seven "zero-emission" homes powered by the sun and maybe the wind. In other words, they should generate as much energy as they use.

And all of the homes' architecture must be contemporary — typically characterized by open floor plans, seamless indoor-outdoor spaces, natural materials and floor-to-ceiling windows.

The latter will take advantage of the panoramas from the ridgeline. On this unfortunate day, the view looks out at a smoggy Salt Lake Valley. The homes also will face Forest Service land and a preserve.

"We want to do something nobody's done," Keyser said during a recent trip, in his Hybrid Highlander, to the subdivision site.

There are other so-called zero-energy homes. Up to 10 such houses are planned in Cedar City. Sacramento sports a subdivision with 95 houses. And a Santa Fe-based nonprofit group called Architecture 2030 is calling for all new buildings to be carbon-neutral in 23 years. Buildings are responsible for 48 percent of all energy consumption.

Keyser's research found the average four-person home annually generates almost 19 tons of carbon dioxide, which is primarily blamed for global warming. Building seven carbon-neutral homes would be equivalent to eliminating 30 cars from the road, he said.

His project, dubbed Snowberry Ridge, was born out of frustration.

Keyser, who considers himself "extremely design conscious," couldn't find a contemporary home to buy. And he struggled to find a suitable green builder.

He bought 70 acres about four miles up Emigration Canyon, sitting above the Emigration Oaks subdivision, and planned to build one home for his family. Then he decided he wanted his two children to have friends to play with. "I might as well make sure all the homes are impeccably designed," he figured.

Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Harnessing the power of the mighty Internet

IN THIS DAY AND AGE FEW TOOLS ARE as powerful as the Internet. You can look for old high school buddies, find obscure information, discover a new hobby or even look for a new home. The Internet can help both novice and experienced real estate investors or homeowners. Several sites allow a person to navigate through the plethora of real estate information on the Internet.

A lot of people are familiar with sites such as Yahoo!, but few may know about the tools it offers for someone searching for a home. Yahoo! Inc., recently posted a new redesigned real estate section on their main site, which lists foreclosures. The company that developed the section for Yahoo! is RealtyTrac.

"We believe the current market presents a unique opportunity for any buyer looking for a bargain," RealtyTrac's CEO, James Saccacio said.

The MLS, or multiple listing service, is the tool used by real estate brokers and agents to list properties. However, the guest website (www.themls.com) allows a person searching for a home to see what the current market values are by checking listing prices. The guest website is not as up-to-date as the MLS, but unless you are a real estate professional and paying the MLS annual fee, you will not be able to access it.

What if you are just curious as to how much your home is worth? The website you want to check out is zillow.com. Zillow.com is a great free website that offers tools to homeowners and investors. On zillow.com you can search for a home value, comparable sales, ask real estate professionals questions, and find a great deal of other real estate related information. It is easy to spend a lot of time on zillow.com, but it could be time well spent.

If you are looking for a property that is for sale by owner, or FSBO, the website for you is fsbohotsheet.com. You do have to pay a fee, but for your money, you get daily listings of FSBO listings in your area. The site does all the legwork for you, combing through newspaper and magazine FSBO ads and sending subscribers the information. If you are looking for an FSBO deal this service could be invaluable to you.

The web is also great for real estate professionals. Two sites which real estate brokers may find valuable are realestatevoices.com and reliberation.com. The sites allow brokers to share news and other information, which could lead to networking, while two other websites — realtown.com and realestatenetworkers.com — offer brokers discussion groups and forums.

No one website is going to be the holy grail for anyone looking for real estate information. Nevertheless, with the Internet being such a useful tool it is easy to see why so many people use it for information. While getting the advice of a real estate professional is essential, the Internet can be a wonderful supplement.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual Multi-Family Loan Consultant. He can be reached at 310-428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

JOB MARKET

Unemployment reaches new five-year low across the nation

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON If you were looking for a job as a teacher last month, you were in luck. Same goes for health workers, retail clerks and building contractors.

All told, the economy added 180,000 new jobs, dropping unemployment to a 4.4 percent rate that matched a five-year low.

The mostly positive snapshot of the nation's employment climate, released by the Labor Department on Friday, showed that companies ramped up hiring and paid workers more. That's good news for employees and jobseekers, and bodes well for the national economy, too, which is suffering a sluggish spell and a painful housing slump.

"For most people, the job market is still hitting on a lot of cylinders, especially for people who are willing to upgrade their skills. It is not leaving a large number of people stranded," said John Challenger, chief of Challenger, Gray & Christmas, an employment research firm. "But there are pockets where people are having a difficult time," he said.

Those include people looking for work at factories, where jobs in March were cut for the ninth straight month. Makers of autos, furniture, clothing and textiles all eliminated jobs last month. Another soft spot: residential construction, a casualty of the housing slump.

But there were many more job winners than losers. Construction jobs led the way, especially for contractors and for commercial building. Retailers, health care providers, educational services and leisure and hospitality companies were among those boosting their payrolls.

"Businesses have a very good appetite for hiring workers. The job market is sturdy," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "It is a good time to be looking for a job, particularly if you have skills and education."

Against that backdrop, unemployment fell from 4.5 percent in February to 4.4 percent in March. That matched the rate in October — the lowest in five years.

Here, too, there were winners and losers.

The unemployment rate for Hispanics dropped to 5.1 percent, a three-month low, while the rate for blacks climbed to 8.3 percent, a three-month high.

The rate for women held steady at 3.8 percent. The rate for men declined to 4 percent.

The economy ended up adding 32,000 more jobs in January and February combined than the government estimated a month ago.

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http://santa-monica.org/farmers_market/Musician%20RFQ%202007.pdf

1.0 Introduction and Project Description
The City of Santa Monica is requesting applications from interested and qualified bands or individuals for a musical performance opportunity at the Sunday Santa Monica Farmers' Market located at 2640 Main Street., Santa Monica

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Each band or individual selected will be granted a minimum of one performance date during the fiscal year '07-'08

Performance Rate
All bands are paid a performance fee of $250.00 and solo performances are paid a performance fee of $125.00.

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FREE PARKING IN REAR

Poetic group

Assemblies in Motion offers individuals a place to release the pain brought on by life

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK Her legs trembling, voice quivering and hands shaking as she gripped a piece of paper, a young woman bared her soul to the audience, recounting the story of how her mother recently relapsed back into drug addiction.

The audience at the Edgemar Center for the Arts silently absorbed the performance, some with their eyes closed, others looking on as if she was telling the story of their own lives. It was a story to which many could relate.

At the end, the audience applauded and praised the young writer for her courage. Another young artist followed, this time to talk about a relationship in his life. Then another young artist rose, and then another — all with stories about difficult relationships in their lives.

With an encouraging smile, the organizer of Monday's program — Leila Steinberg, the former manager of slain singer Tupac Shakur — sat to the side, nodding along as her young disciples performed.

Through her non-profit organization, Assemblies in Motion, the Venice resident has helped hundreds of confused teenagers, former juvenile hall inmates and once-misguided youths find their way through art.

Art is "the most substantial way to reach young people," Steinberg said.

Every Monday night, the doors to the Edgemar Center for the Arts is open to anyone interested in participating or viewing Assemblies in Motion's two hour long performance session. At the end of each, Steinberg assigns a topic for participants to perform their interpretations the following week, be it through song, rap, poetry or essay.

Previous topics have included pain, abandonment, love, friendship and respect.

This week's topic was relationships.

The performances are a part of the healing process for many of these individuals whose lives have been scarred by drugs, crime, or some other form of personal struggle.

"Art allows us to have that initial conversation," Steinberg said. "My method is helping young people identify and go to the heart of their issues."

The ongoing issue that 13-year-old Jeremy Naidoo has faced his entire life is the relationship with his parents. Currently living with his foster parent, Naidoo was reunited with his father on Monday night.

> "IT'S A PLACE WHERE ALL DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, ALL DIFFERENT STORIES CAN FINALLY BE IN A SPACE."
>
> Leila Steinberg
> Founder, Assemblies in Motion

Sitting a few rows back, Naidoo's father sat and watched silently as his son performed a rap song about their relationship, a song that questioned why his father left. It was a performance that drew a standing ovation from the audience.

Standing along the wall, Cheryl Rich of Culver City, the woman who reunited the family, praised Naidoo's father, who is sobering up from a drug addiction. She briefly told him her story of drug addiction and how her own son was killed.

SEE POETRY PAGE 12

City officials expect to finalize deal bringing restaurant to new structure

FROM DINE PAGE 3

The staff at the EDD informally surveyed the workers in the Civic Center area, which also includes the RAND Corporation, asking employees what they would like to see offered at the new restaurant. Most said they would like the restaurant to offer a diverse menu and coffee on the go.

A fresh face himself in city government, Cornejo started his post last week as the revenue operation analyst for the city's Finance Department. Eating a mango chutney chicken sandwich from Vons on Monday, Cornejo said he has brown bagged his lunch every day since he started working, mainly because of a lack of time to go out and find food.

"I'm eagerly looking for an alternative to the brown bag," Cornejo said.

In the new Civic Center space, Cornejo would like to see health food served, especially since many of the mid-range priced eateries in Downtown Santa Monica serve fast food or bar food.

"I'm going to burn out on brown bags," he said.

PARK AND STAY AWHILE

The parking structure was designed with the idea it would serve as the gateway to the Civic Center area and be more than a storage for cars. The new garage also includes the restaurant space on the second floor and several office/retail spaces along the ground level.

> "I'M EAGERLY LOOKING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE BROWN BAG."
>
> Fernando Cornejo, City Hall employee

The city has not began recruiting applications for tenants to fill the office spaces.

Project architects from the firm of Moore Ruble Yudell Architects in Santa Monica designed the terrace with the idea that a restaurant would utilize it for outdoor dining.

"We love the idea of taking something that was ordinary and mundane in some way, like a parking structure, and changing it," said James Mary O'Connor, principal of Moore Ruble Yudell Architects.

The Civic Center parking structure is expected to achieve certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design by the United States Green Building Council, a national recognition for environmental friendly design. If it is able to do so, the Civic Center structure might have the distinction of being the first and only LEED-certified city parking structure in the country.

It would also be one of the few structures with its own restaurant.

"One of the important things of architects' work today is to make cities more livable," O'Connor said. "For architects today, to make places more livable means incorporating places for people to gather."

melodyh@smdp.com

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

Putting plastic on notice

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA Paper or ... cotton?

Plastic bags at local supermarkets could soon be obsolete in unincorporated areas of the county under a proposal being studied by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Officials are concerned about the estimated six billion plastic grocery bags sold in the county, of which only 1 percent are recycled. By enacting a ban similar to one in San Francisco, officials are hoping plastic bags go the way of pull-tab soda cans.

For years, environmentalists have pointed to the devastating impact plastic has on marine life, particularly sea turtles, which confuse the bags for jelly fish and eat them, causing many to suffer from intestinal failure and die.

"What I can tell you right now is plastic bags are a major problem in the aquatic environment," said Mark Gold, executive director of Heal the Bay, an environmental watchdog that stages beach clean-ups.

"If you look at any local urban stream — the L.A. River, Compton Creek — especially after a rain, it looks like the trees are growing plastic bags," Gold added. "There are literally thousands and thousands of plastic bags that rest in our creeks, rivers and streams, making their way in the marine environment."

Plastic pollution is starting to grab the attention of policy makers both locally and at the state level. Last month, San Francisco became the first city in the nation to ban grocery bags made from petroleum-based plastic in favor of biodegradable brands.

In February, the California Ocean Protection Council called for an aggressive crackdown on plastic fast-food containers, a ban of those containing toxic chemicals and a program to reimburse police for vigorous enforcement of littering laws.

A state law authored by Assemblyman Lloyd Levine, D-Van Nuys, requires major supermarkets and pharmacies to accept plastic bags for recycling starting July 1.

And back in August 2006, the Santa Monica City Council passed a ban on Styrofoam and other non-recyclable plastics used to store take-out food. The ban, which targets Styrofoam cups, plates and clam-shell take-out containers, applies to all public, private, and non-profit entities which use those products.

While banning Styrofoam will not eliminate litter from the beaches, council members said it is an important first step in protecting the Santa Monica Bay and the city's beaches, which are constantly inundated with Styrofoam waste flowing in from storm drains, or is scattered by birds picking through trash cans that have no lids to keep garbage from being tossed around.

When it was approved, representatives from the grocery industry urged the council to reconsider, citing an increase in costs and a potential drop-off in the recycling of plastics. A move to compostable bags, they say, could jeopardize the state's grocery bag recycling program.

Peter Larkin, president of the California Grocers Association, said the county study was premature given that the state's plastic bag recycling program has not gone into effect.

"Grocery retailers look forward to working with the county on increasing recycling efforts, and in finding new ways for retailers and consumers to reuse, reduce and recycle," Larkin said.

Many CGA members already offer at-store plastic bag recycling, Larkin added, including several in Santa Monica, such as Ralphs and Albertsons, which pay customers anywhere from 5 cents to 3 cents for each plastic bag they bring in.

Co-Opportunity, a smaller market run by shoppers, or members, uses bags made from recycled plastics and sells cloth bags to customers in the hopes they use those instead of paper or plastic.

"We definitely support recycling programs throughout the city and if a ban means not carrying plastic bags that are going to end up on our beaches, we support that," said Angelique Dolan, marketing manager for Co-Opportunity.

City Hall did consider enacting a ban on plastic bags, however, backed off at the advice of the city attorney because of state law. Now that San Francisco and other cities are moving forward, the issue could come back to the Council for further consideration.

"We're working on it," Gold said. "We need to move away from this one-use culture where we are getting a bag to use for five minutes between putting our groceries into the car and unloading them at your house."

As for the county, supervisors said they want a report back as soon as possible on how a ban would affect recycling programs and the local economy.

Christine Chang *news@smdp.com*

WASTEFUL METHOD: **Plastic shopping bags litter the area outside of Albertsons super market on Wilshire Boulevard.**

kevinh@smdp.com

Market is a gathering place for Santa Monica residents

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

SERVICE STOP: **Jeff Pixen, a clerk at The Farms on Montana Avenue for the past 13 years, rings up customer Carol Beitcher on Tuesday. Beitcher has been shopping at the neighborhood market for 16 years.**

FROM **MARKET** PAGE 3

City staff recommended approving the modification because of the market's value to the community, providing residents who do not have transportation a convenient place to buy their essentials, like milk, eggs, butter, bread and meat. The market also reduces the number of vehicle trips in the city.

More than 1,000 people signed a petition in support of saving the market.

"Local markets are very important for the fabric of this community," said Holbrook, who used to run to a market at Seventh and Marine streets almost every day for his mother. "These are places where people run into each other, share the gossip and trade stories about their lives and pass the word around.

"They really help to provide a sense of community."

That friendly nature is what keeps Tolly Beckett coming back to Farms, even though prices may be a bit steeper than at larger chains.

"They open the door for me and my kids. That goes a long way," Beckett said. "I'm a mother, so I'm always running out of milk and veggies. This is very convenient."

Marty Hartman, an employee at Santa Monica College who lives about a block from Farms, knows a lot about convenience. Aside from buying groceries, Hartman often cashes checks at Farms. If she ever forgets her wallet, employees there send her home with food anyway, trusting her to phone in her credit card number. She even scores free cigarettes every once in a while.

"It really has that small-town feel in a big city," she said as she sipped coffee in her backyard. "Everybody up here uses it."

kevinh@smdp.com

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Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

COLOR SPLASH: **A performer for Assemblies in Motion shows off two of his paintings Monday.**

Songs, poems, relief

FROM **POETRY** PAGE 10

"Jeremy is a child prodigy, coming from circumstances that even I don't understand," Rich said on Tuesday. "Jeremy is hungry for an opportunity to have support around him."

Many performances were followed by a brief feedback and support session where several members of the audience would praise the performer for showing the courage to publicly tell such personal stories. The Monday night Assemblies in Motion sessions are not about performances, it's about supporting each other and passing no judgment.

"It's a place where all different backgrounds, all different stories can finally be in a space, can finally begin to have a dialogue, through one poem, one song, one rap to understand that we are not that different," Steinberg said.

For 27-year-old Skim, a native New Yorker who now lives in Los Angeles, Assemblies in Motion is like a sanctuary.

Like everyone at Assemblies in Motion, Skim has her own personal struggles. An Asian-American who immigrated from South Korea, Skim believes that she is a minority within a minority.

"I embody all contradictions anyone can imagine," she said. "I'm an immigrant female in a patriarchal world. A female who doesn't look like a typical female and who is gay."

melodyh@smdp.com

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SMC has partnerships with regional police departments

FROM **SAFETY** PAGE 1

Taking a break from her studies on Tuesday, Sonia Ruiz, a freshman at SMC, said she isn't sure if a similar attack could occur on her campus. What she does know is that there isn't anything that anyone could do, including police, to stop a similar incident from happening.

"Even if we have security, there is only so much that they can do," Ruiz said. "We're an open campus. Anyone can come in and you can't control everything."

But if there is a shooting spree or similar tragedy at Santa Monica College, Ruiz hopes school officials will respond in a more timely manner than did officials at Virginia Tech.

Virginia Tech officials and police have been criticized for their handling of the incident, mainly because a notice about the shooting wasn't sent out to the campus community until about two hours after the initial shots were fired. Authorities have defended their actions, saying that they believed the first incident, in which Cho killed two students in a dormitory, was an isolated domestic incident.

"Santa Monica College has an excellent safety record and an outstanding and highly visible police force that is trained in emergency procedures," Tsang said in his statement. "We also have a relatively small campus that makes it easier for our police officers to secure. Some of our buildings can be locked remotely from the SMC Police Station, blocking entry."

The college also holds agreements with both Santa Monica and Los Angeles police departments for response in emergency situations.

The statement released by Tsang includes tips for students if they do hear gunshots on campus. Students should stay put and not leave the premises, Tsang advises.

"In general, be alert to suspicious behavior," Tsang said. "Do not approach anyone who you believe might be displaying suspicious behavior, but contact police."

The incident will force college campuses across the country to take a hard look at their emergency response policies. Dr. Britt Minshall, a former law enforcement officer and member of INTERPOL, hopes the incident will also force federal legislators to get guns off the streets.

"Next time a kid gets mad, he will pick up a pole and hit one kid and the others will stop him," he said. "With a semiautomatic weapon, nobody will stop him."

To Minshall, it appears that the university made its decision to delay sending the notification of the initial shooting as a way to maintain its pristine image, whether it is for enrollment or grant purposes.

"They're completely forgetting the other 30,000 students on campus," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

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NBA

The clock runs out on West in Memphis

By the Associated Press

Jerry West left retirement and the comforts of California to see if he could transform the woeful Memphis Grizzlies. Five years later, the Lakers great decided to stop trying.

He said Tuesday he will leave as the Grizzlies' director of basketball operations July 1 at the end of his contract. Injuries, losses, weariness and uncertainty became too much.

"I'm not a youngster anymore," said West, who turns 69 next month.

West oversaw the Grizzlies' only three playoff berths, although he never got to enjoy a postseason victory. This season, there were problems on several fronts: The Grizzlies not only had the worst record in the NBA but were up for sale.

West said "the wear and tear of the season, particularly like this," took a toll.

"There's been a lot of turmoil here," he said. "The ownership thing have made it very difficult to concentrate on what we need to do here to improve our basketball team."

Billionaire owner Michael Heisley said Monday night the team will be off the market if a viable offer doesn't come by May 1.

West, whose silhouette from his playing days forms the NBA logo, disclosed his plans during a 20-minute session with reporters. But his departure had been the worst kept secret in Memphis, with his contract up after this season. He put his 18-room home up for sale in February, calling that a "downsizing" move after his son left for college.

West is staying through June 30 and will advise Heisley on his replacement and a new coach and in a draft that could deliver 7-foot center Greg Oden or college player of the year Kevin Durant. Then he said he would be open to working as a consultant.

"We need a big tough rebounder, and there's a kid who's a big tough rebounder in this draft who played on great teams," West said. "That's one of the things we need. We need to upgrade our backcourt. ... You need a leader back there."

Heisley brought in West in April 2002. But West never had the advantages he enjoyed in the large market of Los Angeles, where he signed Shaquille O'Neal and traded Vlade Divac for Kobe Bryant.

He was hamstrung at the start by bad moves from the team's early days. The Grizzlies landed the No. 2 pick overall in the 2003 draft. West never got to decide between Carmelo Anthony or Dwyane Wade because that pick went to Detroit to complete a 1997 trade.

> **"WE NEED A BIG TOUGH REBOUNDER. THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS WE NEED. WE NEED TO UPGRADE OUR BACKCOURT. YOU NEED A LEADER BACK THERE."**
>
> **Jerry West,** NBA great

His biggest deal? Ridding the Grizzlies of Jason Williams in a five-team trade in August 2005. His trade of Shane Battier to Houston for rookie Rudy Gay shows promise.

"We've got some very good players," he said. "Pau Gasol is an All-Star, but we need a superstar. And if that doesn't turn the people on, then I wouldn't know what would do that."

West lured Hubie Brown out of TV and to the bench. Brown won NBA coach of the year honors with 50 wins in 2004, the year West was honored as the league's executive of the year.

When Brown retired unexpectedly, West replaced him with Mike Fratello. But the Grizzlies were swept out of the playoffs in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

They started a youth movement to rebuild and save money.

West fired Fratello in December and replaced him with Tony Barone Sr. after the worst start in the NBA. It didn't help.

The Grizzlies, 21-60 entering Wednesday night's finale at Minnesota, clinched the worst record in the league last week and their poorest victory total under West.

NCAA BASKETBALL

USC's Nick Young decides to enter NBA draft to help out his mother

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Southern California's Nick Young decided to pass up his senior season and enter the NBA draft because of what it means to his family.

"I want to buy my mom her first house. That's one of the main reasons I made this decision," Young said Tuesday at a news conference on campus. "It was tough for us. They've been behind me all the way.

"The opportunity was there to help them have a better life. It's a blessing. I'm very grateful for everything that's going on."

Young, the sixth-leading scorer in USC history, said he will hire an agent, making his decision irrevocable. His parents, Charles and Mae Young, attended the news conference.

"I think he did the right thing, it's the right thing to come out now," Young's father said.

"Wherever he plays, they'd better get ready because here I come," Mrs. Young said. "I've got a lot to shout about."

The 21-year-old junior said he spoke with several people, including USC coach Tim Floyd and his assistants; his high school coach, his parents, his brother and his Trojans teammates.

"Nick has played well enough to receive consideration from the NBA," Floyd said in a statement. "He has our support and we wish him the best."

Floyd was on a recruiting trip and didn't attend the news conference.

Young averaged 17.5 points and 4.6 rebounds this season, scoring in double figures in USC's last 25 games.

He led the Trojans into the NCAA tournament for the first time in five years and scored 20 points in a 77-60 first-round victory over Arkansas; 22 in an 87-68 second-round triumph over Texas, and 15 in a 74-64 third-round loss to North Carolina.

"What we did last year was very outstanding. I had dreams of doing it next year," Young said. "It was a tough decision. It was a tough thing, leaving this program. I just love this program."

The 6-foot-6, 200-pounder scored 1,486 points in 96 games at USC. He averaged 11.1 points and 4.1 rebounds as a freshman and 17.3 points and 6.6 rebounds as a sophomore, and was chosen to the All Pac-10 first-team the past two years.

"Coach Floyd didn't want me to leave, but he said, `First round, I'd do the same thing.' It was hard telling him," Young said. "He's an NBA coach — he did everything possible to help me on defense, make me a better man."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

MLB
Freel signs extension with Reds

Versatile veteran Ryan Freel agreed to a $7 million, two-year contract extension through the 2009 season with the Cincinnati Reds.

Freel will get base salaries of $3 million next year and $4 million in 2009, when he would have been eligible for arbitration. He is in the final year of a two-year deal that pays him $2,325,000 this season.

The 32-year-old Freel hit .271 with 37 stolen bases in 132 games with the Reds last year. He has led the Reds in stolen bases the last three seasons. He is hitting .243 in 12 games this season.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLF
Weekley doesn't blow it

Boo Weekley didn't blow his latest chance for a first PGA Tour victory, chipping in on the final two holes to hold off Ernie Els and win the Verizon Heritage.

Weekley looked as if he would give back all of a three-shot lead after his bogey on the 16th hole and his muffed chip behind the 17th green. Weekley followed the blunder with a 40-foot, par-saving chip to keep a one-stroke lead.

Weekley finished with a 68 and was one in front of Ernie Els (70) and two ahead of Stephen Leaney (68). Masters champion Zach Johnson continued his inspired play a week after slipping on the green jacket with a 71 to finish sixth.

AP

NFL
Court refuses to hear Mobley's appeal

Colorado's Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from former Denver Broncos linebacker John Mobley, who was sentenced to seven days in jail for a drunken driving conviction.

Defense attorneys had implied during Mobley's trial in April 2004 that his conviction was the result of racial profiling.

Prosecutors had said Mobley would not have to serve his sentence until his appeal was complete. It was unclear when he might be jailed.

AP

NCAA BASKETBALL
Texas' Barnes gets raise

University of Texas regents approved a $200,000 raise for Rick Barnes, boosting his salary to $2 million per year.

Barnes has led the Longhorns to the NCAA tournament in each of his nine seasons, including a trip to the Final Four in 2003.

Texas went 25-10 last season behind freshman Kevin Durant, The Associated Press Player of the Year. Last week, Durant announced he would leave the Longhorns to enter the NBA draft.

AP

NHL
Duchesne dies while training

Gaetan Duchesne, who played in the NHL for 14 seasons and helped the Minnesota North Stars reach the 1991 Stanley Cup final, died while training at a gym. He was 44.

Duchesne collapsed and could not be resuscitated, said his former junior team, the Quebec Remparts. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Duchesne played for five NHL teams — Washington, Quebec, Minnesota, San Jose and Florida — and retired after the 1994-95 season. The forward appeared in 1,028 NHL games, totaling 179 goals and 254 assists. He was in 84 playoff games.

AP

U.S. SOCCER
Women's team to take on Norway in East Hartford

The U.S. women's soccer team will play Norway on July 14 in East Hartford, Conn., as part of a six-game exhibition series before the Women's World Cup.

The Americans had previously announced matches against China on June 16 in Cleveland and Brazil on June 23 in East Rutherford, N.J. The U.S. team also plans to have games on July 28, Aug. 12 and Aug. 25 ahead of the tournament, to be held in China starting Sept. 10.

AP

CYCLING
Landis' 'B' sample being examined

France's anti-doping laboratory began analyzing Tour de France champion Floyd Landis' "B" urine sample.

The tests, which were requested by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, were taking place at the Chatenay-Malabry lab outside Paris — the same lab that revealed Landis' positive test after he won the 17th stage of last year's Tour.

The results will be sent directly to USADA.

Landis, who tested positive for a high testosterone to epitestosterone ratio, insists the tests aren't necessary because, except for his sample following last year's 17th stage, the other primary "A" samples were negative for banned substances.

AP

SWIMMING
Brazilian swimming great Lenk dies

Maria Emma Hulda Lenk, the first South American woman to swim in the Olympics and a pioneer in the development of the butterfly stroke, has died. She was 92.

Lenk fell ill while swimming at the Flamengo club pool and was taken to Copa D'Or Hospital still conscious. She had a heart attack as doctors were preparing to operate to treat an aneurism, the hospital in Copacabana said.

AP

SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 55°**

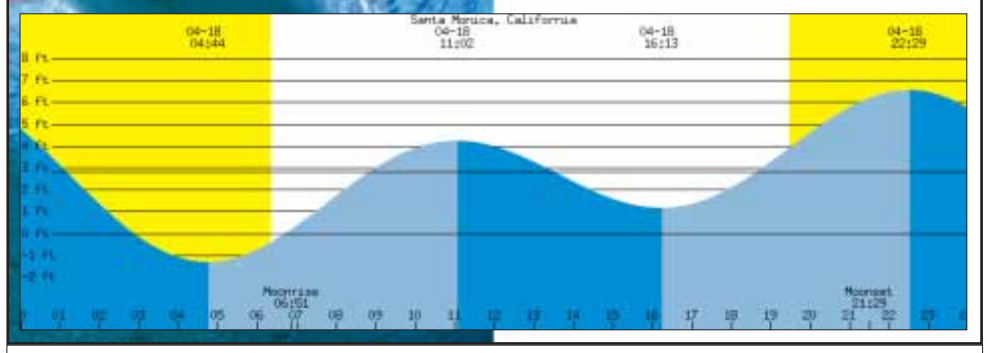
SWELL FORECAST (5-8 FT)

Today into Thursday the 19th we have more NW due from that system we've been watching since last week in the western Pacific. But as with recent storms, this one will get close to our area as well, bringing some wind issues along with it. No rain should accompany this low, but conditions are still not looking favorable due to its winds, which could start blowing onshore early in the morning.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

MORE WIND PROBLEMS THIS WEEK...

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**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 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 Ford

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	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
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco 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

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

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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Act on impulse, 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)

★★★ Your high energy, mixed with your strong instincts, punctuates your decisions. Understanding will take you down a new path if you remain open to feedback. A risk could be a really bad idea. Think in terms of restraining yourself. Tonight: Gather your bills.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Friends push you in one direction, as they want you to do what they feel is right. Remember, ultimately you answer only to yourself. Be more positive about your energy and direction. Someone has his or her own agenda, which means this person might be difficult. Tonight: Act on impulse.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Take your time making decisions. You need more information. Listen to your instincts. Someone you respect might push you quite hard. Stay on top of your work and responsibilities, even if you want to assume a low profile. Tonight: Relax.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Aim for what you want, and you'll land on the right path. Experience a change and be more optimistic. You might want to rethink a decision that involves friends or a meeting. Visualize more of what you want. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might decide to take a stand and handle a problem differently. Try another approach. You might be hard on a boss. Your creativity surges but might not help on the professional or responsibility front. Tonight: A must appearance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Take a risk and reach out for someone. Your understanding takes you to a new level. The knowledge you gain helps you see life far differently. You could push yourself far too hard. Remember, even you have limits. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You might need to head in a new direction. Understand more of what is needed and be willing to provide just that. A friend could be unusually difficult and tough. Work around a problem rather than make it bigger. Tonight: Make time for the apple of your eye.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others understand much more than you realize. Investigate and get to the bottom of an issue. Understanding will evolve if you let go of a certain tenaciousness or need to have things your way. Tonight: Easy does it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Listen to your instincts and understand where you are coming from. You might need to follow an even pace, especially as information heading in your direction could be quite upsetting. You know what you are doing! Tonight: Mix rest with a touch of exercise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your creativity must bubble forth in order to jump over an obstacle a partner drops on you. A financial issue could come to a head. You have answers, but at the same time, you might not want to touch the situation. Honor what bothers you. Tonight: In the whirlwind of fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ An appearance involving a family member or your personal life must take precedence. You could have a problem with people in general who let you know they don't agree. You might not even care. Tonight: Happy at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You say what you think and could find that you are subject to some strong reactions. Someone you deal with could be quite tough. Know when you have had enough, and go in your own direction. Think before you act. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.

Born Today

TV host Conan O'Brien (1963),
Actress Hayley Mills (1946)
Author Kathy Acker (1947)

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Happy Birthday!

The time feels right to restructure your life this year and head in another direction. Know when to say that enough is enough. You understand far more than you realize, especially as you frequently tap into new resources for learning. Your creativity might be slightly askew or unusual. Your intuition often guides you regarding money. Still, use care. If you are single, you look at people differently, hence your choices could be very different too. A change might work! Try it. If you are attached, you will want to spend more downtime with your sweetie. Sometimes you don't feel as frisky as you would like.

No Bermuda

Island is cut as stop on Rosie O'Donnell's gay family cruise

A summer cruise for gay and lesbian families organized by ROSIE O'DONNELL has cut Bermuda from its planned itinerary because of possible protests by church groups in the British island territory.

O'Donnell's charter company said it wanted to avoid the type of protests that greeted passengers when one of its cruises stopped in Nassau, Bahamas, in 2004.

The tour is scheduled to leave New York in July on a ship owned by Miami-based Norwegian Cruise Line. But the charter company, R Family Vacations, said on its Web site that it would replace the Bermuda stop with two other ports of call in Florida.

In the statement, the company said Bermuda's prime minister had assured them they would be welcome as tourists and they had also received hundreds of supportive e-mails from people who live in the wealthy British enclave.

Still, organizers felt they could not be certain there would be no protesters greeting them upon arrival. "We feel that our cruise would be more enjoyable with an alternate itinerary to ports where we know we are welcome by everyone."

In 2004, about 100 protesters chanting anti-gay slogans met one of the company's cruises when it arrived in Nassau, Bahamas, with about 1,150 passengers.

O'Donnell, 45, is a co-host on ABC's "The View."

R Family Vacations has offices in Nyack, N.Y. It was founded by Gregg Kaminsky and Kelli O'Donnell, partner of the talk-show host.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Country's Big & Rich cancel SoCal concert

BIG & RICH left fans disappointed after they backed out of an April 12 concert at the last minute because of a dispute over a young guest.

The country music duo of "Big Kenny" Alphin and former Lonestar singer John Rich had been set to perform at the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino.

To accommodate the wishes of an ill 5-year-old girl, a local radio station had arranged for the young fan and her family to meet Big & Rich and see the show. But the casino, which bans anyone under 21, wasn't notified.

"While we are sympathetic to the request from the young fan, we are held accountable to the requirements that prevent anyone under the age of 21 from entering our facility at any time," Steve Lengel, director of casino operations, said in a statement.

Big & Rich then canceled the show.

About 1,600 people were allegedly kept waiting in the arena for over an hour before it was announced that Big & Rich wouldn't perform. Refunds were offered.

"This was an unfortunate incident and caused great inconvenience for our guests," Lengel said.

"We did have the opportunity to spend some quality time with the young girl and her family on our bus that evening.

"I am sorry for the girl, the family and all our fans that did not get to see the show," Rich said.

AP

BOLLYWOOD UNION

AISHWARYA RAI will wear a traditional hand-embroidered sari with intricate goldwork on her wedding day, the actress' favorite designer said Tuesday.

Rai, a former Miss World, will marry actor Abhishek Bachchan on Friday. Bachchan, 31, comes from a famous Bollywood family — his father, Amitabh, and mother, Jaya, are among India's best known actors.

A red-and-blue air-conditioned tent with huge mirrors was being readied in a garden adjoining the Bachchan's suburban family home for what is billed as India's "wedding of the year."

Bachchan and Rai, 33, became engaged in a private ceremony in January. Family friends have asked the media to respect the families' wish for privacy.

Designer Neeta Lulla said she created the sari and a red-and-gold embroidered flowing skirt and cropped blouse for Rai to wear at a mehendi ceremony Wednesday. In Indian weddings, mehendi, or henna, is applied.

AP

Merkel debriefs Bono on G-8 summit

German Chancellor ANGELA MERKEL told U2'S BONO on Tuesday that the future of Africa will play a major role when Group of Eight leaders meet in June, the government said.

Bono met Merkel at the chancellery to press his call for the continent to remain high on the agenda of the world's leading industrial countries. Germany, which chairs the G-8, will host their annual summit in the Baltic sea resort of Heiligendamm.

Merkel pledged that Africa will play "an outstanding role," with a focus on issues such as improving the climate for investment, a government spokeswoman said on customary condition of anonymity.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair made debt relief for Africa a key issue when he hosted the G-8 summit in 2005, and has called for a redoubling of momentum this year.

Bono has echoed that call, saying at January's annual meeting of the World Economic Forum: "Africa is this magical, extraordinary continent and we've got to start describing it more as an opportunity than a burden."

The 46-year-old Irish rocker is co-founder of the organization DATA, or Debt, AIDS and Trade in Africa, which seeks to raise awareness for Africa.

AP

Chow Yun-Fat drops out of Woo's 'Red Cliff'

CHOW YUN-FAT'S withdrawal from a major Chinese historical epic directed by John Woo — the man who made him an icon — has raised questions about whether a local son has forgotten his roots.

Chow, who starred in Woo's classic 1986 film, "A Better Tomorrow," dropped out of the director's $80 million "Red Cliff" just as shooting got under way. He was the film's biggest star.

The 51-year-old Hong Kong actor said he submitted a request to pull out through his lawyers Friday because he only got the script last week and didn't have enough time to prepare. Officials for the movie dispute this, saying they couldn't work with Chow because he made unreasonable demands.

It's unclear what those demands were, but Woo's business partner-producer, Terence Chang, told Chinese news Web site Sina.com the movie's Hollywood insurer opposed 73 clauses in Chow's contract.

"There are too many (clauses we couldn't accept), and many exceed industry standards," Chang said.

China Film Group publicist Wen Wengli confirmed Chang's remarks.

Chang said Chow received a copy of the script last year and the version he got a week ago was a revision that incorporated his suggested changes.

The producer said Chow was promised $5 million for the movie, plus royalties from box-office returns. "We didn't mistreat him," Chang said.

Chow says he took a pay cut and agreed to be paid in installments. However, he acknowledged that he used a Hollywood-style contract.

"My contract is indeed based on contracts I use for Hollywood movies in America. Maybe everyone hasn't gotten used to Hollywood contracts because so many investors are involved," Chow said in a statement.

Filmmakers said the movie remains on schedule and Chow's replacement will be announced this week.

Chang has said the Chinese government views the film, based on an ancient battle, as a showcase of Chinese history and wants it released before the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

"Red Cliff" marks Woo's return to Chinese film after directing Hollywood movies such as "Broken Arrow," "Face/Off" and "Mission: Impossible II."

Chow's screen credits include "Anna and the King," "Bulletproof Monk" and the upcoming "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End."

AP

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
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(310) 395-4990

Call theatre for showtimes.

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Grindhouse (R)
1:00, 4:50, 8:45, 9:30
The Lookout (R)
2:15, 4:45, 7:05
Pathfinder (R)
2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
Slow Burn (R)
1:50, 4:00, 7:15, 9:45

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

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

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Black Book (Zwartboek) (R)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
Killer of Sheep (1997) (NR)
12:00, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

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
Year of the Dog (PG-13)
12:45, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

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, 4:05, 6:30, 9:00
Music and Lyrics (PG-13)
1:50, 6:50
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
GOLD

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

4/18/07

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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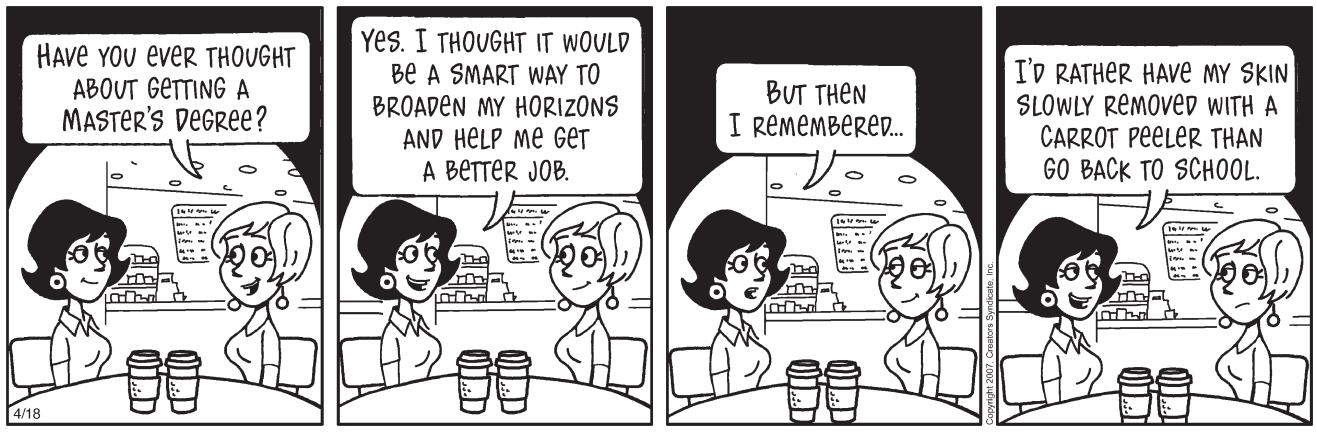
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

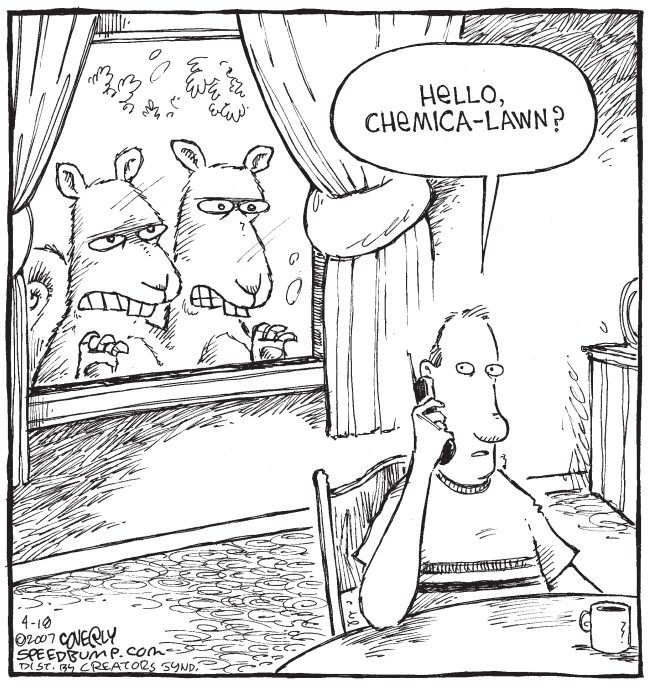
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Scoop
5 Rink need
11 Meal starter
12 Frolic
13 Dissolve
14 Kitchen come-ons
15 Building wing
16 Matured
17 Stop
19 Needle source
22 Shop fill
24 Computer part
26 Responsibility
27 Ran, as color
28 Brawl
30 Sneaker parts
31 Filming site
32 Early Mexican
34 New York city
35 Metal source
38 Parcel out
41 Diamonds, e.g.
42 Eaves dropper
43 Aware of
44 Glanced
45 Jazz's Getz

DOWN

1 "Woe —!"
2 Coward of comedy
3 Kind of press
4 Choose
5 Surgery reminders
6 Cager Abdul-Jabbar
7 Promise
8 Cruise in the movies
9 Important age
10 Ave. intersectors
16 Ozone, e.g.
18 Lohengrin's love
19 Batting situation
20 Understanding words
21 Some wines
22 Fling
23 As soon as
25 Reed instrument
29 Con quest?
30 Pork place
33 Like urban areas
34 Watch sound
36 Poet Dove
37 Harrow rival
38 Tatter
39 Pro
40 Tether
41 Urgent call

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

Yesterday's answer

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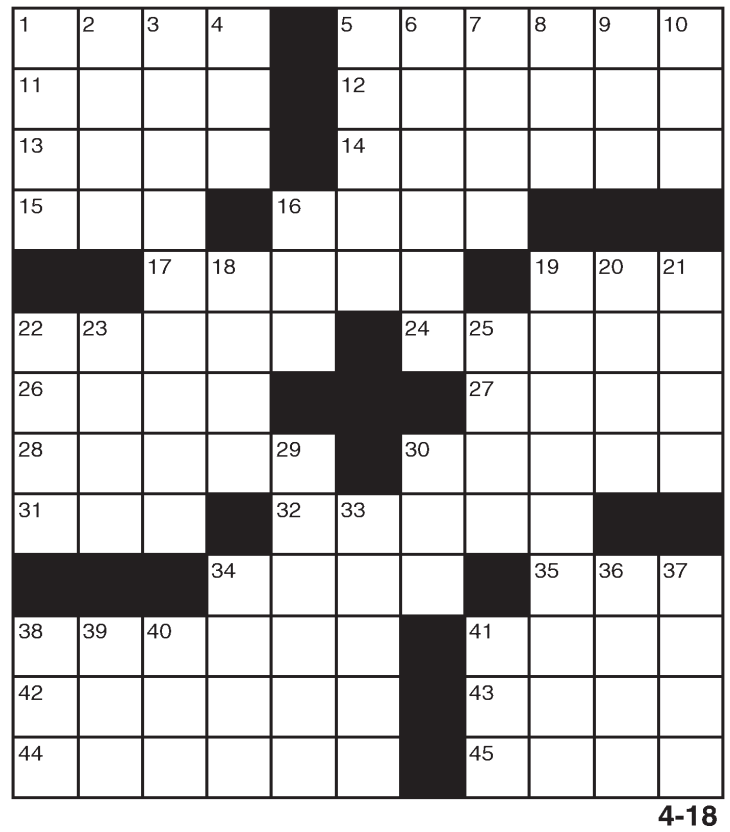

4-18

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 1 4 11 31 47 Meganumber: 37 Jackpot: $27M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 27 29 34 38 Meganumber: 16 Jackpot: $25M

Fantasy 5: 5 17 27 29 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 8 1 EVENING: 0 1 6

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 03 Hot Shot 2nd: 11 Money Bags 3rd: 08 Gorgeous George RACE TIME: 1.41.51

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ "(Death row) is the calmest place I've ever been in," said convicted murderer Paul John Fitzpatrick in March to a judge in Largo, Fla., hoping to avoid a mere life sentence, which would place him in the general prison population. "I probably found the most peace I've ever had in my whole life (in his previous experience) on death row," he said. "It's just a hell of a lot easier ... doing time with murderers than it is with fools." (A decision was still pending at press time.)

■ In January, Georgia's devout governor, Sonny Perdue, ignored religion as the reason he supports the state's Sunday no-beer-sales law (and religion would be a constitutionally impermissible basis for the law, anyway). Rather, Perdue said, the real beauty of the Sunday law is merely to force Georgians to manage their time better, by getting everyone to finish their shopping for spirits by Saturday.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1506 The cornerstone of the current St. Peter's Basilica is laid.

1518 Bona Sforza is crowned as queen consort of Poland.

1797 Battle of Neuwied - French victory against the Austrians.

1880 A F4 tornado strikes Marshfield, Missouri, killing 99 people and injuring 100.

1942 World War II: The Doolittle Raid on Tokyo occurs.

1946 The League of Nations is dissolved.

1949 The Republic of Ireland Act comes into force.

1974 Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto inaugurates Lahore Dry port.

1983 A suicide bomber destroys the United States embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 63 people.

1987 Mike Schmidt joins the 500 home run club.

1988 U.S. launches Operation Praying Mantis against Iranian naval forces in retaliation for damage to the USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG-58). The one-day action is the world's largest naval battle since World War II.

1999 Hockey player Wayne Gretzky's number (99) is retired league wide in the NHL.

WORD UP!

efficacious \ef-ih-KAY-shuhs\, *adjective:* Possessing the quality of being effective; producing, or capable of producing, the effect intended; as, an efficacious law.

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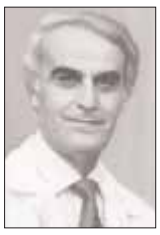
Obituaries



ABOLFATH B. ARDALAN,
72, Prominent Surgeon

Abolfath Bani Ardalan, M.D., a physician with a wide-ranging career in surgery and surgical instruction in Iran, Washington, D.C., Ohio, and California, died of a heart attack on April 12, 2007. He was 72.

Dr. Ardalan was born June 30, 1934 in the city of Bahar, in the Hamadan province in northwestern Iran, to the late Essa and Sadigeh Ardalan. He was educated at the University of Tehran, earning a degree in Medicine. Following his graduation, he was awarded a medical residency internship to the United States, and he completed his residency in general surgery at Akron City Hospital in Ohio, becoming a board-certified surgeon in 1965 and ultimately becoming the hospital's Chief Surgical Resident. On September 25, 1965, he was united in marriage to Farideh Nahid-Sepehr in Tehran.

From early in his career, Dr. Ardalan was active in efforts to make health care available to underprivileged people in Iran. As his family grew, his medical career took him to surgery positions in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. (Fairfax Hospital), Tehran (Iran-Mehr Hospital and Park Clinic), and back to Ohio (Barberton Citizens Hospital and Cleveland's Marymount Hospital). In 1984, Dr. Ardalan, concerned about social and political conditions in his home country and eager to establish a life for his family in the United States, arranged for his wife and three children to emigrate from Iran, settling his family in Akron. He served as a surgeon at Akron's St. Thomas Hospital – later Summa Health System. At St. Thomas/Summa, a generation of younger surgeons received their training at the hands of Dr. Ardalan, where his general surgery practice thrived and he developed a specialization in cardiothoracic surgery. He later served as a surgeon in a Beverly Hills, California private practice.

An accomplished gardener, Dr. Ardalan brought joy to many Akron families with his gifts of home-grown strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and other vegetables. He had a special fondness for growing basil, mint and other herbs used in traditional Persian cuisine. He believed in a lifetime of learning and was an avid reader, with interests ranging from history and politics to art, geography and culture.

He is survived by his beloved wife Farideh, his sons Kayvan and Kamran, and his daughter Sheila Laudan and her husband Sean A. Dennis.

A private burial service will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica, CA on Thursday, April 19. Relatives and friends are welcome at a memorial service to be held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 6, at the hotel Casa del Mar at 1910 Ocean Way in Santa Monica. In lieu of flowers, tribute donations may be made in Dr. Ardalan's name at Doctors Without Borders (1-888-392-0392 or www.doctorswithoutborders.org/donate).

Miscellaneous

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PART-TIME CIVIL litigation assistant. M-F 10am-2pm Will perform transcription, and word processing, court filings, service of pleadings, should be familiar with Word and Timeslips. Type 70wpm. Self-motivated with pleasant disposition. Email resume to: tuckerlaw@verizon.net

PERMANENT PART time position, flexible hours, afternoons & Mondays preferred. Front desk small medical office, phones, greeting patients, filing, prefer experience. Basic computer skills and strong English nessecary. Available immediately. Salary dependant upon Experience . Fax resume to 310-453-4060

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Notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. HC-99566-C Loan No. 0441590783 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 6/14/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by the duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. TRUSTOR: SIAMCK ANSARYAN, A SINGLE MAN Recorded 6/23/2006 as Instrument No. 061383284 in Book, page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: 5/2/2007 at 10:30 AM Place of Sale: AT THE WEST SIDE OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, DIRECTLY FACING NORWALK BLVD., 12720 NORWALK BLVD., NORWALK, CA Property Address is purported to be: 2234 Delaware Avenue #A, B & C Santa Monica, CA 90404 APN #: 4274-023-003 The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is $949,748.78, which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Date: April 09, 2007 EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES, LLC 15455 SAN FERNANDO MISSION BLVD SUITE #208 MISSION HILLS, CA 91345 Sale Line 714-259-7850 ILEANNA PETERSEN TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER

Notices

ASAP# 841735 04/11/2007, 04/18/2007, 04/25/2007

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)
(UCC Sec. 6101 et seq. and B & P Sec. 24073 et seq.)
Escrow No. 41299-JH
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license(s) is about to be made. The name(s), Social Security or Federal Tax Numbers and business address of the seller(s)/licensee(s) are: YAZMEEN LLC, 1323 MONTANA AVE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403
Doing business as: YU RESTAURANT
All other business names(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s)/licensee(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s)/licensee(s), is/are: MONTANA RESTAURANT & LOUNGE, 1323 MONTANA AVE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403
The name(s), Social Security or Federal Tax numbers and address of the buyer(s)/applicant(s) is/are: HILLSTONE RESTAURANT GROUP, INC, 1323 MONTANA AVE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403
The assets being sold are generally described as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, LEASEHOLD INTEREST AND IMPROVEMENTS and are located at: 1323 MONTANA AVE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403
The type and number of license to be transferred is/are: Type: ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE, License Number: 47-421010 now issued for the premises located at: 1323 MONTANA AVE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403
The bulk sale and transfer of alcoholic beverage license(s) is/are intended to be consummated at the office of: BUSINESS TITLE ESCROW INC, 25152 SPRINGFIELD CT, STE 285, VALENCIA, CA 91355 and the anticipated sale date is UPON THE ISSUANCE OF THE ABC LICENSE
The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.
The purchase price or consideration in connection with the sale of the business and transfer of the license, is the sum of $192,500.00, including inventory estimated at $NONE, which consists of the following: DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT: CHECKS $192,500.00
It has been agreed between the seller(s)/licensee(s) and the intended buyer(s)/transferee(s), as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions code, that the consideration for transfer of the business and license is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.
YAZMEEN LLC, Seller(s)/Licensee(s)
HILLSTONE RESTAURANT GROUP, INC, Buyer(s)/Applicant(s)
PCTS LA128822 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 4/18/2007

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JAMES ROBERT MURPHY aka ROBERT MURPHY
Case No. SP007092
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JAMES ROBERT MURPHY aka ROBERT MURPHY
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Patrick Murphy in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE requests that Patrick Murphy be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administra-tion of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representa-tive to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important ac-tions, however, the personal re-pre-sentative 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 May 11, 2007 at 9:15 AM in Dept. No. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.
IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should ap-pear 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 per-son 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 ap-praisal 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.

Attorney for petitioner:
JOHN B JAKLE ESQ
SBN 49540
HARDING LARMORE MULLEN JAKLE KUTCHER & KOZAL LLP
1250 SIXTH ST STE 300
SANTA MONICA CA 90401-1602
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN774427 MURPHY Apr 18,19,25, 2007

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ROBERT LOUIS UPCHURCH
Case No. SP007073
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ROBERT LOUIS UP-CHURCH
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Carol Sibilio in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE requests that Carol Sibilio be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administra-tion of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representa-tive to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important ac-tions, however, the personal re-pre-sentative 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 May 4, 2007 at 9:15 AM in Dept. No. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.
IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should ap-pear 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 per-son 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 ap-praisal 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.

Attorney for petitioner:
ROBERT R MALLICOAT ESQ
CHRISTOPHER R MALLICOAT ESQ
321 S BEVERLY DR
STE A
BEVERLY HILLS CA 90212
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN774428 UPCHURCH Apr 18,19,25, 2007

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
MARJORIE B. RICHARDS
CASE NO. BP103877

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MARJORIE B. RICHARDS.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ERWIN BLEDL AND HENDRIKA BLEDL in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ERWIN BLEDL AND HENDRIKA BLEDL be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
THE 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 05/07/07 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
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.
Attorney for Petitioner
RONALD E. COOMBS
COOMBS & COOMBS, ATTORNEYS
11100 WASHINGTON BLVD
CULVER CITY CA 90232
4/11, 4/12, 4/18/07
CNS-1116835#
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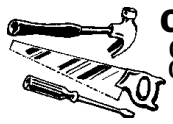

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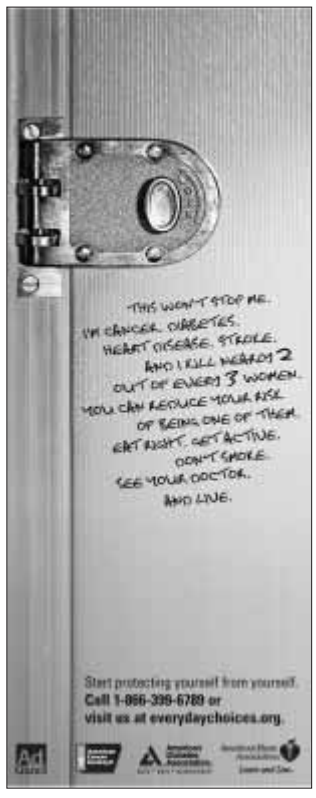

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