



LAKERS GET READY
SEE PAGE 17

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE OTHER SHOE DROPS ISSUE

ENVIRONMENT



A LITTLE TRIM

Historic tree needs some work
STORY BY DAILY PRESS STAFF PAGE 11

LANDMARK NEEDS MAINTENANCE: With its branches stretching out over the Fairmont Miramar Hotel driveway, the landmarked Moreton Bay fig tree is the second largest found in California. Hotel management plans to do some much-needed pruning in May.

Another conviction reached in murder case

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
Associated Press Writer



GOLAYRUTTERSCHMIDT

LOS ANGELES A 75-year-old woman was convicted Thursday of murdering a homeless man to collect life insurance, but the jury said it was deadlocked on another murder charge and a conspiracy count.

The judge ordered more deliberations in an effort to conclude a trial that has spun a bizarre tale of a murder-for-profit scheme carried out by two elderly women.

Olga Rutterschmidt was convicted of the first-degree murder of Kenneth McDavid, 50, a day after she was found guilty of conspiring to murder him for financial gain. Her 77-year-old co-defendant, Helen Golay, was convicted Wednesday of murdering McDavid and Paul Vados, 73, and counts of conspiracy in both killings.

Without saying which way it was leaning, the jury said it was deadlocked 11-1 on the charge that Rutterschmidt murdered Vados and 10-2 on conspiracy to murder him for financial gain.

Superior Court Judge David Wesley ordered jurors to return Monday to try to decide the remaining counts. Those deliberations will have to start from scratch because the judge replaced a juror who told the court he had preplanned travel and could not serve any longer.

The verdicts so far carry life prison terms without possibility of parole for both women. Prosecutors chose not to seek the death penalty.

Thursday's verdict came after the jury heard a second round of closing arguments it requested in an effort to decide the last three counts against Rutterschmidt.

Deputy District Attorney Truc Do told jurors that Rutterschmidt was far from being Golay's pawn.

She was "fully capable of heading this scheme on her own," Do said. "... Golay is not the mastermind of this scheme. They are 50-50 partners."

Rutterschmidt's attorney Michael Sklar argued that prosecutors had not proven that Rutterschmidt had the specific intent to murder anyone.

"What we know is that by Ms. Rutterschmidt's actions, she entered a conspiracy to commit insurance fraud," he said. "On what do the people rely to say it went further than that? They rely on Helen

School officials apologize

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Her voice at times shaking yet sure, Superintendent Dianne Talarico on Thursday publicly apologized to parents and students who have been hurt by the policies and practices in the special education department, taking full responsibility for the district's current predicament.

The words of regret came two weeks after the release of an independent assessment on the finances and policies that fuel what has become a controversial special education department within the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, plagued over the past year by accusations of so-called secret deals and a culture of hostility.

The superintendent returned to the Board of Education on Thursday night with a draft response to the audit, containing within it a series of preliminary action steps that includes using settlement agreements only as a last resort.

But before she presented her recommendations, Talarico prefaced the presentation with a formal apology, hoping the meeting would serve as the first step toward a healing process for the community and the school district.

"I want to acknowledge that we are not perfect, I want to acknowledge that problems do exist in our school district," Talarico said. "What is most apparent and what has become abundantly clear is we must look forward and that we pledge to enter a healing phase in our community."

The district's top official also stressed that changes will need the cooperation from both school officials and the community.

"To the community, I ask for your help because ... we cannot do this critical work alone," Talarico said. "We believe that by throwing the first pebble into a healing pond, we will observe a ripple effect throughout the community."

Her statement was followed by a chorus of apologies by members of the school later in the evening, expressing regret, some calling it one of the most challeng-

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Stopping the show

Santa Monica High School, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Samohi's theatre arts department presents the third annual edition of "Showstoppers." This time it's "The Bad Girls of Broadway" (and a few Bad Boys). For tickets, call (310) 458-5939.

Rolling for the environment

Third Street Promenade, 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Clear Channel and AM 570 Sports are sponsoring a hybrid auto show to help spread the go green gospel. There will be scads of vehicles on display and a gaggle of factory reps to tout their virtues.

Santa Monica on two feet

1436 Second St., 10 a.m.
The Santa Monica Conservancy leads a two-hour tour that explores more than 130 years of Santa Monica history from its wild west frontier beginnings to the metropolis of today. Starting from the 1875 Rapp Saloon, the route includes many landmarks and concludes at the 2003 NRDC building. For information, call (310) 496-3146.

Come try it on

2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m.
"The Hundred Dresses" is a stage adaptation of the 1944 book, a timeless story about the "in" crowd, the painful consequences of teasing, and what is known today as "fashion bullying." Bring the kids to this special theatrical experience.

Reach out and touch someone

1341 Lake St., Venice, 2 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Planet Social Sports games and matches are followed by team gatherings at local bars, which include discounted food and drinks, along with social activities. Men and women must be 21 to play. Check the Web site for specific times and locations www.planet-socialsports.com.

Sunday, April 20, 2008

Rocking the planet

Santa Monica Pier, Noon
Finally, a green event that rocks. The Green Apple Festival features a slate of notable rockers including Taj Mahal, Ziggy Marley and Juliette and the Licks. There will be information booths and loads of vendors. Admission is free.

Getting together at The Gathering

132 Brooks Ave., Venice, 7 p.m.
Creative, conscious, cutting edge, provocative, these are just some of the words used to describe The Gathering. Born out of a yearning for an oasis for heartfelt expression to converge, thrive, and multiply, Stephen Fiske, has brought together an incredible amount of talent for these upcoming events such as musical acts, poetry, spoken word, art, film and mixed media. For information, call (310) 396-8205.

The other Jerry's kids

1348 14th St., 7 p.m.
Cubensis brings the sights and sounds of a live Grateful Dead concert to 14 Below every Sunday. Cubensis is known for whipping its faithful crowd into a swirling psychedelic mass for three hours straight.

Get it while its fresh

Downtown Mar Vista, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Head out to lovely Mar Vista for the weekly Farmers' Market. Located at the corner of Grandview and Venice boulevards, the market includes fresh fruits and vegetables as well as some prepared foods.

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.



Samohi sweeps Inglewood

Vikings improve to 4-0 in league play

BY JON HABER

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN The Santa Monica High School Vikings baseball team completed a two-game sweep Thursday against the Inglewood Sentinels (7-6, 1-3). Thursday's win — Samohi's fifth in six games — brought the Vikings back to .500 (10-10) and kept the team undefeated in Ocean League play (4-0).

The sweep dropped Inglewood's record to 7-6 overall and 1-3 in league play. The Sentinels have lost six of their last seven games.

In the final game of the series, Samohi defeated the Sentinels 22-4 behind strong starting pitching from Paul Salazar and an offensive output that resulted more from Inglewood's

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 13

College journal celebrates 20 years

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC Jim Krusoe vividly remembers the day when he walked into the office of the president at Santa Monica College to interview for a lecturer position in the English Department, only to be asked about his thoughts on starting a literary review.

The interview would spawn both Krusoe's career as a creative writing instructor at SMC as well as the birth of what has become one of the most respected literary journals in the country, now in its 20th year.

The college celebrated the two decade mark of the Santa Monica Review on Friday night with a series of readings by published authors and Krusoe, the founding editor of the journal who is still a creative writing professor at SMC.

SEE JOURNAL PAGE 13



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

SOME SERIOUS FIRE POWER: Santa Monica Police Department Community Resource Officer Brent Crafton, a member of the SWAT team, on Wednesday goes over the various weapons used by the elite unit as participants in the Citizen Police Academy look on.

Grass class

Police teach citizen academy students about drugs, SWAT

Editor's note: For the next four weeks, Editor in Chief Kevin Herrera will be writing a first-person account of what it's like to be enrolled in the Santa Monica Police Department's Citizen Police Academy, which is intended to foster better communication between Santa Monicans and police officers, while giving residents a better understanding of what it takes to preserve the peace.

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Editor in Chief

CITY YARDS Not only do macadamia nuts taste good (especially when they are covered in creamy milk chocolate), they also make excellent crack rocks — just don't try to smoke them.

Undercover narcotics officers often use the nuts during drug buys, catching addicts red-handed. Santa Monica Police Department's Sgt. Bob Almada, who oversees narcotics, loves using them, even

though they may cost more than other nuts.

That was one of the tid bits he shared with my Citizen Police Academy class this week at the City Yards, where police officers and fire fighters train amongst the smell of rotting garbage courtesy of the out-of-date, open-air transfer station, which will without a doubt be the subject of a future editorial.

Almada gave the class a brief presentation on drug dealing in Santa Monica, where marijuana continues to be the drug of choice for most residents, followed by metham-

phetamine, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin and prescription drugs.

"Just about anywhere you want to look, you'll find it," Almada said.

Prescription drugs are catching on in popularity as kids raid their parents medicine cabinets in search of pain killers from mom or dad's latest surgery. Kids have been known to trade the drugs with upper classmen for other intoxicants. While most parents are concerned about their liquor cabinets, scolding young Dick and Jane for swiping a bottle of ripple, they don't give much thought to their medicine cabinets where their young ones "are brushing their teeth every

SEE ACADEMY PAGE 12

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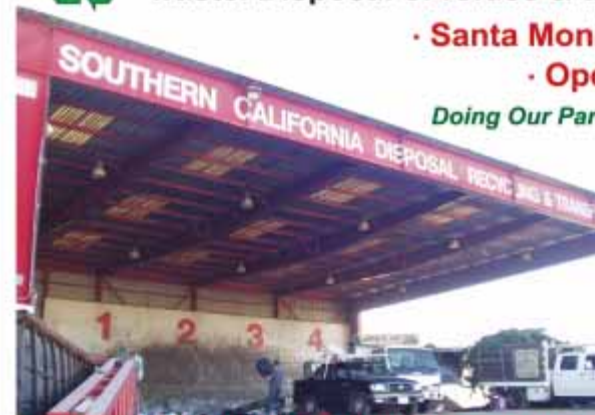


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Put an end to animal cruelty

Editor:

The little one was in a floral dress on a warm spring evening, led on a leash and reaching for the dollar bills thrust into her face. People gathered around her on Third Street Promenade, oohing and ahing, giggling and laughing and snapping pictures with their cell phones. They applauded in delight and the little one's 'guardian' looked hungrily at the dollar bills. Because the little one was a monkey, somehow her small audience seemed to think this freak show was appropriate, presumably because she is 'an animal' (unlike them, of course) and because they are above her, great and noble human beings, while she is a thing, inferior, beneath them, serving to fulfill their whims and appetites

As I gazed upon this barbaric show, I couldn't quite figure out what was more disturbing, the sight of the monkey on a leash, held by her "owner," used as a trained slave, or the reactions of the people – ecstasy rather than outrage, amusement rather than distress.

I wondered how they would like it if they were forced to stand there with a leash around their neck, grabbing dollar bills, or how they'd like it if their little daughter or son solicited funds for them by doing little tricks for a public crowd. And I wondered, as well, how it could be legal to openly exploit and abuse animals in a city which professes to be among the most progressive in the land, with enviable social services, the first "green" library and a sustainable public transportation system. That sight was a sad reminder of just how far we have yet to go, of how a culture of dominance, oppression and violence reigns and how so many collude, themselves becoming the man holding the leash.

Rizwati Freeman

Venice

Playing the blame game

Editor:

Was gas \$4 a gallon when oil men Bush and Cheney took office seven years ago? Did you vote for Bush twice? Are you happy with the return – sky-high gas, food, and housing prices? Was it costing \$50, \$70, \$100 to fill up when oil ministers Bush and Cheney arrived on the scene? Did anyone think to ask the president and (vice president), wedded to the oil industries as they are, what might be the results of their energy policy seven years down the road? Have you heard either of these Republicans explain away the excessive and obscene profits Corporate Oil continues to make?

The one bright spot might be that the environment and nature are taking a breather as gas prices continue to rise and people drive less and less.

Ron Lowe

Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Monica Lewinsky, God and the race

IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT the Monica Lewinsky affair would be a part of this presidential campaign, and I certainly never thought it would be brought up by Hillary Clinton. I was wrong. At the recent "Compassion Forum" at Messiah College, without using Lewinsky's name, Sen. Clinton alluded to the pain she went through because of Bill's affair. In terms that must have been clear to everyone who watched, Clinton said that her faith helped her get through her very public struggle and challenge. Those who are both for and against Sen. Clinton agreed that she was obviously referring to the Lewinsky affair. She certainly wasn't talking about the pain of standing in the express line at the supermarket when the guy in front of her had 11 items instead of 10. So, why would she want to make the public think of Monica Lewinsky at this time?

I may be cynical, but I think there's a very simple answer. Despite that the separation of church and state is one of our country's basic principles, in recent years the line between the two institutions has become more and more obscured. Today it seems to be a requirement that politicians are not just religious, but that they are more religious than their opponents. For whatever reason, John McCain showed the good sense to skip the Compassion Forum, but I guess the Democratic race is too close for either of them to take a chance of letting the other one get ahead in the God-off.

By bringing up the Lewinsky mess, I think Sen. Clinton was saying, "My faith is greater than Obama's. In fact, it's so great, it even helped me forgive my jerk of a husband. Try to top that, Barack."

This Presidential campaign has been riddled with religion. I don't think there has been so much talk of religion in a campaign since the Nixon-Kennedy race in 1960. Of course, Kennedy assured the nation that his faith wouldn't be involved with his political decisions. Today, candidates seem compelled to assure the country of the exact opposite.

Have you ever heard of Messiah College before? I haven't. How would you like to have to play them in basketball? Your team probably wouldn't have a prayer. Imagine you're walking down the Third Street Promenade. You see some people with UCLA sweatshirts, some with USC, and

there's one guy with a sweatshirt that says, "Messiah" on it. It sounds a tad bit extreme, doesn't it?

But there was no way Obama and Clinton would have missed this event. At the "forum," Sen. Clinton was actually asked, "Do you think God wants you to be President?" What do you think the founding fathers would have thought of that question?

How did we get to this point? Certainly, President Bush deserves some of the credit. Too many times, he has characterized the war in Iraq as a holy war. According to him, we represent all that is "good," and we are fighting "evil." The president seems unaware of the irony that these are the same words that those we are fighting have used to characterize themselves and their fight.

Both Democratic candidates represent themselves as agents of change. Apparently, this change doesn't apply when it comes to religion in politics. Skipping the Compassion Forum or telling reporters throughout the campaign that their religious beliefs are none of anybody's business would've been ways to demonstrate their sincerity about change.

Maybe the candidates have rationalized it as just one more thing they have to do to win, like kissing babies, bowling, or eating Philly cheesesteaks. But wanting to win so badly is no excuse for ignoring one of the most sacred, oops, I mean important principles of our democracy.

Sen. Clinton's desire to win is so great that she now points to what was probably the most humiliating event in her life. And it's a shame, because it was an event that she handled with so much dignity at the time. But dignity walked out of this campaign months ago. Now it's all about winning. And I'd say that Clinton wants to win so badly that it shouldn't shock any of us if some day soon we see a commercial for Hillary that ends with, "This is Monica Lewinsky, and I have approved this ad."

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“My savage animal of a rock band is a force to be reckoned with. We definitely won’t be doing an acoustic set [at the festival]. We’re going to do a muscular form or rock ‘n’ roll.”

— Juliette Lewis, noted actress and lead singer of Juliette and the Licks. Her band will be playing the Green Apple Festival Sunday.

“This is a very auspicious moment in Santa Monica history.”

— Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom during a ceremony officially kicking off the redevelopment of Santa Monica Place.

“When you go skating, it is the most awesome thing. It is great people, it is fun, it is inclusive, it is free.”

— David Miles, organizer of Skate Against Violence. He and a dozen other participants skated from San Francisco to Santa Monica to raise support to end violence in society.

“My fear of the permanent record started in the eighth grade when Alyssa Marks asked if she could copy my homework for Mrs. Repa’s social studies class. I hesitated to let her do it, not so much because I was staking my flag in a chunk of moral high ground, but because social studies was one of my weaker subjects. Still, that didn’t deter Alyssa, who shrugged off any quality concerns and copied from me with wild abandon.”

— SMDP columnist Meredith C. Carroll wrote in “Meredith Pro Tem.”

“A story broke in the last few days that has caused me to re-examine a relationship I’ve had since I was a teenager. It’s a relationship that helped me maintain my focus through high school, despite the fact that I was surrounded on all sides by pretty girls in cute outfits who drove me to distraction. Later in life, it kept me from flirting with women on the job who were just trying to work, women on the subway who were just trying to get somewhere, women in the supermarket who were just trying to buy food, and it helped me stay faithful to my girlfriends who would have killed me for cheating on them. I’m talking about my relationship with porn. It’s been my friend for two decades, but porn is now totally out of control.”

— SMDP columnist Kenny Mack wrote in “Word in Edgewise.”

“School Superintendent Diane Talarico is scheduled to return to the board April 17 with a preliminary plan of action. Meanwhile, perhaps a trip to Oz is in order because this dysfunctional school board needs to find some courage, heart and brains. I’m not holding my breath.”

— SMDP columnist Bill Bauer wrote in “My Write.”

“WHEN
PEOPLE HEAR
DARFUR, THEY
DON’T KNOW
WHAT IT IS.”

Fanny Ballantine-Himberg
Co-founder of Santa Monica High School’s Human Rights Watch Student Task Force. The group organized an event at the school to spread the word about the conflict raging in Sudan.



John McGrail, C.Ht.

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Study Session to Review, Comment and Provide Direction on Land Use & Circulation Element
LOCATION: Citywide
APPLICANT: City of Santa Monica

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

Review and comment on the recently held public workshop exploring the integration of Transportation, Economics & Housing in the Land Use and Circulation Element. The Council will discuss and provide direction on issues including, but not limited to economic and affordable/workforce housing opportunities. Citywide policies to manage transportation and provide programs for reducing emissions for a sustainable future will also be addressed.

DATE/TIME:	TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2008 AT 6:45 PM
LOCATION:	City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

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

Address your letters to: City Clerk
LUCE
1685 Main Street, Room 102
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MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Bruce Leach, at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at bruce.leach@smgov.net.

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

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

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

(Re)calling Their Numbers

This past week, Q-line asked:
If you could recall one City Council member, which one would you choose and why?
Here are your responses:

“THAT IS A TRICKY AND LOADED question. You shall know them by their fruits as the saying goes. The whole group of them should be treated as one for what they have committed to happen to this city. Dump them all, say I.”

“YOU MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT. All the councilmembers should be out, but the one that I think is the worst is Richard Bloom. He filed an injunction against Ralphs grocery store going to Cloverfield and Olympic boulevards because he lived on Cloverfield, and he didn’t want cars passing his house. I mean it’s the best market we have around here. What kind of a guy is that?”

“I’D LIKE TO RECALL THE LOT OF THEM. I’ve lived here 10 years, and the same lifers have been on the City Council the whole time. Why don’t they have term limits like anybody else? I would take a recall position for any or all of them. But for starters today I’ll pick Richard Bloom because he’s such a hypocrite. If we can get even one new councilmember it should be someone from the totally underrepresented Pico Neighborhood.”

“ONLY ONE? THAT’S NOT ENOUGH. I want all of them gone.”

“I THINK THE CITY COUNCIL, FOR THE most part, are immoral because they talked about not making a lot of traffic, and they’re building all these stupid-looking buildings. And in particular, Ken Genser.”

“WHICHEVER COUNCILMEMBER VOTED to poison our drinking water with fluoride is the one I would choose. If they all voted for this travesty, then I would recall every one of them.”

“THE COUNCIL PERSON WHO SHOULD be recalled is Pam O’Connor. O’Connor is no longer interested in city politics. All she cares about is transportation. She should just be doing that. And she’s backing the loser light rail anyway. If she was smart, she would at least be on the subway to the sea stuff. As far as city politics, she sits in the meeting, she barely doesn’t say anything, she’s no good to anybody. She’s been there too long, we need her out.”

“WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE multifaceted responsibilities of the Santa Monica City Councilmembers on a daily basis from popcorn, hot dogs and peanuts to the development of high-rise office buildings and condos, while expending a monumental effort attempting to placate the rank-and-file residents of Santa Monica and the carpet-bagging dairy men who wish to bring their milking machines and stools to milk what is left of Santa Monica in an attempt to facilitate their thirst of wealth and their lust of greed, one would wonder why any person would want to be elected to this municipal government post. I will not criticize the City Council until I walk in their moccasins. And should a pair of moccasins be offered me, I would respectfully say no thank you. Instead of removing any member of the present City Council from office, I would award each member with a gold medal for their enduring capabilities of facing the daily trials and tribulations of the many indifferences that rage in this city.”

“I AM SO DISGUSTED WITH THE City Councilmembers, except of course Kevin McKeown, not only because they stick to ridiculous projects like destroying our ficus trees, but they have the nerve to use our taxes to send out readings that do not give an honest picture of the project. It has become very difficult to wait until the election to right their wrong.”

“YES, I WOULD LIKE EVERY SINGLE ONE of the City Councilmembers, except Kevin McKeown, to go.”

“WOW, HOW DO I CHOOSE? THEY ARE all so bad. It’s very difficult making a fair decision choosing someone responsible for all the important blunders in this town. Smoking, plastic cups, bags, jets, one-lane streets, low-income housing, dog parks, artists, dishwashers, maids, bums, green power. When you look at the untold damage done to Santa Monica over the past 20 years, the prize goes to Ken Genser.”

“IF I WERE A COUNCILMEMBER STUPID enough to go along with the destruction of the ficus trees, I hope I would have had the decency to resign by now.”

“SO MANY CHOICES OF WHO TO RECALL. I would have to say number one would be Ken Genser for his short-sighted, narrow-minded, SMRR point of view and nasty, nasty attitude toward the public.”

“I WOULD GLADLY RECALL KEVIN McKeown. He’s way too idealistic, impractical, and he just loves to talk about himself and his ideas. He pontificates far too long wasting too much time at city meetings.”

“I THINK THAT BOBBY SHRIVER SHOULD be recalled. I think all of them should, except for Kevin McKeown, but that’s my opinion.”

“EVERY FOOL WHO VOTED FOR BUYING toxic, industrial waste, or fluoride, and dumping it into our water should be followed. And if they are caught with bottled water, they should be flushed down our sewers.”

“HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY PICK JUST one?”

“MY CITY COUNCIL PERSON THAT I would like to see removed would be Bobby Shriver. He doesn’t seem to pay any attention to the council, get there on time or have a very good record of being there. He was elected in 2004 when he got his dander up about his hedge being too high. He promised when he ran that he was going to do something about homelessness. But all he did was pass the buck to Ed Edelman, who virtually did nothing, and it cost the city \$400,000. Now, I think Shriver is vain, and he’s simply not effective. And, I think his ego is bigger than anything. Please remove Shriver.”

“EXCEPT FOR BOB HOLBROOK AND maybe Bobby Shriver, the whole lot should be recalled. None of them have any economic sense. They spend out tax money

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recklessly on ridiculous projects. They live in a dream world and support every crackpot idea proposed by every socialist constituency, while real problems that affect all of us are ignored. How can I choose just one?"

"I WOULD DEFINITELY RECALL FIVE councilmembers: Richard Bloom, Bob Holbrook, Herb Katz, Pam O'Connor and Bobby Shriver. They do not represent the residents of the city, but they seem to be representing some outside interests. And even Ken Genser on the tree issue doesn't seem to be listening to the people. We need councilmembers who listen to the people of this city."

"THEY ARE SO NON-RESPONSIVE TO THE desires of the residents, I would recall every one of them except Kevin McKeown. All of them, except McKeown, voted to kill the trees. They all need to be removed except McKeown."

"I WOULD RECALL ALL CITY COUNCIL members with the exception of Kevin McKeown. Their incredible arrogance, they're anti-science, they're anti-environmental. They're attacking all the trees all over Santa Monica, not just on Second and Fourth streets. People are going to be surprised in the future. Their total disregard of 8,000 signatures of people who want to keep the trees of all the businesses, of all the neighborhoods associations. They're

acting more like royalty than City Council people, and they should all be recalled."

"I'D RECALL BOBBY SHRIVER BECAUSE he's a hypocrite. He's for hedges but not for trees. I'd also recall Ken Genser. How can somebody be so smart and be so dumb when it comes to trees?"

"QUITE FRANKLY, I DON'T TRUST MOST of the City Council. And if we had to recall any of them, it would be a toss up between Bob Holbrook and Herb Katz. I don't trust either one. I think they're in the pockets of the developers. It's Holbrook or Katz. I don't trust either one. I can't stand them."

"THE PERSON WHO SHOULD RESIGN should be councilmember Pam O'Connor for two reasons. One, allegedly she used metro funds for bicycles and valet parking in Santa Monica. Number two, because she has a personal vendetta against Kevin McKeown to block him to become mayor."

"EVERYBODY SHOULD BE FIRED EXCEPT for Kevin McKeown. He's the only person who cares about the people, the only person who fights for the people. All the other members, their only agenda is their pocketbook."

"SORRY, I CAN'T PICK ONE councilmember in response to your question. I think they're all guilty of ruining Santa Monica."

Second elderly woman found guilty of murder

FROM GOLAY PAGE 1

Golay's actions."

He suggested that Rutterschmidt can't be convicted judging by the acts of her co-defendant alone.

Do said jurors should not believe the defense contention that Rutterschmidt paid rent and bought food for Vados and McDavid because she cared for them.

In the case of Vados, who died in 1999, Rutterschmidt told others she was his daughter or his cousin and noted that both were refugees from Hungary. But Do said it was all a ruse, as were her tears when Vados died.

"Is she capable of feigning grief and hurt?" the prosecutor asked. "Of course she is."

Vados and McDavid were run over by cars in dark alleys, incidents that authorities said were staged to look like hit-and-run accidents. The women collected \$2.8 million on insurance policies they bought for the men.

They were arrested in 2005 after an investigation into McDavid's death earlier that year led to a link with the then-unsolved Vados killing.

Do portrayed Rutterschmidt as a cold-hearted killer who bought a car to use as a murder weapon, kept it in waiting for a year and a half and all the while kept visiting McDavid.

"She looked this man in the eye and knew she was going to kill him to collect \$3.7 million," said Do. "She not only knew she was going to kill him but she knew exactly how."



McDAVID



VADOS

Do told jurors that by convicting Rutterschmidt of conspiracy in McDavid's killing they had already accepted that she was a murderer. The prosecutor played for the panel again an excerpt from a surreptitiously videotaped conversation between the women in a jail lockup after their arrest.

She noted that Rutterschmidt was talking then about how she planned to set up a business in Canada and told Golay it would be "the same thing."

"She's talking about murder to collect life insurance benefits," said Do. "She's got two dead bodies and has collected close to a million dollars and is talking about a new business with the same setup."

Before jurors resumed their deliberations, Rutterschmidt's attorney suggested that the panelists could rescind any of the verdicts already reached. The judge scheduled Golay to be sentenced on June 24. He said that if the jury changed its verdict in any way, he could change the date.

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A map of Los Angeles divided into six color-coded regions. From left to right, the regions are: Montana Ave. (light red), Mid-City (red), Pico/Sunset Park (yellow), Downtown (teal), Main Street (blue), and Venice (light blue). A thick black line separates the Mid-City and Pico/Sunset Park regions from the Downtown, Main Street, and Venice regions.

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Italian marriage proposal soup

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS IT FINALLY happened. I got my first marriage proposal. The secret, ladies, is in the soup. I made a soup so good that it caused a man to propose marriage. Who knew it was that easy? You've heard of Italian Wedding Soup, right? Well, I can't promise a wedding but a proposal of marriage is a possibility.

I have been trying to decide how to best put my skills to use; as a clinical dietitian who can help people with medical conditions, as a holistic chef who can cook disease fighting energy enhancing food for people or teach them how to do it themselves, as a personal trainer which is how this whole profession got started more than 20 years ago, or as a writer, like I am doing now and have done when I worked in publishing.

For some reason, people keep trying to steer me in the direction of being a personal chef. I tried it a few months ago. I was hired by a wealthy client in Malibu. It was nice, sometimes, but also sometimes stressful, often times humbling, to be someone's "servant." To cook for a man and his children, a family that was not mine. I tried to look at it as having the opportunity to put love into my food for these people who have more money than God but who don't really know how to love, but I wasn't really appreciated.

I fell in his house and broke my foot and the gig was over. I knew in my heart that this was not meant to be. I got my "break" from this situation and a chance to re-eval-

uate my life.

One afternoon I received a call from an actress who was being trained by Frankie, one of the "trainer's to the stars" from my gym. It seems that the chef they had been using for their clients, who was also named Elizabeth, also broke her foot and could not cook. Desperate to keep his clients in "lean mode" he thought that perhaps I could jump in. I didn't want the job, but thought it could be fun to try some of his recipes.

One is called "Champion Stew." I made some and left it at the gym for Frankie to try. The next day as I was working out, Frankie walked over to me and said, "I have to ask you to marry me. When I ate it I thought to myself, I have to ask this woman to marry me."

It really is not a difficult recipe, just a soup chock full of nutritious vegetables. But what makes it so special is the intention behind it. I did not make it for money. I made it out of love. Intention is the most important ingredient of all. When you make this soup, don't focus on the specific ingredients or techniques, simply focus on your intentions for making it and if they are good, your "Champion Stew" will be great and you too may get a marriage proposal.

ELIZABETH BROWN is a registered dietitian, certified holistic chef, weight management specialist and personal trainer in Santa Monica. She can be reached at eat2liv@earthlink.net.

Italian Marriage Proposal Soup

1 cup dry lentils (prepare with 3 cups water or brewed tea & 1 piece Kombu)
2 cups chopped carrots
6 stalks celery, chopped (including leaves)
1 cup small diced potatoes
1 (16oz) bag frozen corn
1 (16oz) bag frozen green beans
1 yellow onion, chopped
1 Tbsp Tamari or Bragg's Liquid Amino Acids
2 Bay leaves
1 bunch fresh parsley chopped
Plus whatever fresh herbs you wish to use up. I also included fresh dill & sage
1 Tbsp dried oregano
1 tsp ground thyme
1 tsp marjoram
32 oz organic vegetable broth
4 cups filtered water
28 oz can organic diced tomatoes

1) Prepare the lentils by rinsing them in a sieve first. Add lentils & water to a medium size sauce pot. Cover with a lid.

2) Bring to a boil & reduce to simmer. Keep covered. Cook on low to avoid bubbling over.

3) While lentils are cooking, wash and chop the vegetables

4) Place each chopped vegetable into individual bowls

5) Heat 1 cup water in a skillet that is about 11" round X 3" deep

6) Add onion and heat until fragrant, stirring constantly

7) Add the potatoes, carrots, celery

and more water as needed. Steam sauté for about 10 minutes. Cover with a lid.

8) Add the Tamari, the bay leaves and the dry herbs. Stir to blend flavors

9) Add the corn & green beans & stir

10) Add half of the vegetable broth, replace the lid and allow to steam sauté for 10 minutes. Check after five minutes and stir. Add more liquid as needed to prevent ingredients from sticking

11) When the lentils are done, remove from heat. Remove the Kombu & cut into pieces. Add chopped Kombu back to lentils.

12) I keep lentils in a separate container in the fridge & add to the soup each time I heat up a bowl.

13) Pour the tomatoes into a bowl and mash with a Potato masher

14) Add the tomatoes to the sauté pan with the other ingredients. Add the rest of the broth & simmer.

15) Allow the soup to simmer on low heat for about 30 more minutes. Stir every 10 minutes.

16) When the soup is done, be sure to taste it and add more seasonings or liquid as needed.

Per serving: 1 cup, 90 calories, 1g fat, 15g Carbs, 4g Fiber, 5g Protein, 90 percent DV Vitamin A, 15 percent Vitamin C, 18 percent Folate and greater than percent DV for every Vitamin & mineral except for B12. Add 1 Tbsp Nutritional Yeast Flakes for a Vegetarian source of B12.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

IMPORTANT PROJECT: Officials at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel are making plans to trim the historic Moreton Bay fig tree.

Time for a trim

Historic Moreton Bay fig tree to receive some maintenance

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN Standing just inside the gates of The Fairmont Miramar Hotel, the impressive Moreton Bay fig tree has been welcoming guests and visitors from around the world for more than a century.

While it hasn't been that long since the historic landmark was last trimmed, the tree has seen better days and those at the hotel are planning to give it some tender loving care in the next few weeks to ensure it stays around for another 100 years.

"There are certain areas of the tree that are carrying an awful lot of weight and some of those branches are so heavy and fragile that it has become a safety issue," said Ellis O'Connor, general manager of the Fairmont.

"We just want to get the word out and let people know what we are planning to do because the tree is one of the focal points of Santa Monica," O'Connor added. "Everyone is proud of it and we want them to know we are doing this for the right reasons, for the best interest of the tree."

Ever since City Hall decided to remove dozens of ficus trees on Second and Fourth streets residents have been paying closer attention to Santa Monica's urban forest. A group of residents known as Santa Monica Treesavers formed to fight the removal of the ficus trees. The removal, which was part of a more than \$8 million streetscape improvement project, has been put on hold pending a court decision.

O'Connor said the Fairmont has been working with City Hall and professional arborists to come up with the best plan to preserve and strengthen the fig, which could include using cables to support some of the larger limbs. Fairmont is awaiting approval from the Landmarks Commission and hopes to start trimming May 1.

"We have done extensive reports about the effects of pos-

sible over trimming to see how much should be taken off of it," O'Connor said. "We have been in close communication with the city of Santa Monica and their tree department."

The company that will perform the work is ValleyCrest. The job should take anywhere from five to 10 days, O'Connor said.

The Fairmont's fig has a rich history. Dating back more than 100 years ago, an unknown sailor from Australia is believed to have carried the original sapling off his ship into a local Santa Monica watering hole. Unable to pay for his drinks, he gave the sapling to the bartender as payment. The bartender, having no use for the sapling, gave it to the wife of Nevada's Sen. John P. Jones, who founded Santa Monica in 1885 and who built the original Miramar as a family mansion in 1889. The Jones' gardener, a man by the name of W.H. Lee, planted it in the garden amongst some rare and exotic plants, some of which are still thriving today.

The Jones family sold their home shortly before the senator died in 1912 and it was converted into the Miramar Hotel in 1921. By this time, the original sapling had already grown to an impressive size and was widely recognized as the "Jones Family Tree." Although a modern building replaced the Jones' residence in 1938, the tree continued to serve as a focal point for outdoor meetings and local festivities, a tradition that is still followed today.

In 1969, the Santa Monica chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held a special ceremony commemorating the planting of the tree and issued a memorial plaque which is now affixed to the tree's base among the flowers near the sidewalk path. The Santa Monica Landmark's Commission during the United States bicentennial year in 1976 declared the tree an historic landmark.

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City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2257
and 2258 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following are summaries, prepared by the City Attorney, of Ordinance Numbers 2257 and 2258, which were adopted by the Council on April 8, 2008:

Ordinance Number 2257(CCS) temporarily suspends certain municipal code provisions and other legal requirements for one night for the purpose of conducting a one-night arts festival on July 19, 2008 in the vicinity of the Pier and southern end of Palisades Park. The laws and requirements that will be temporarily suspended for that night only in and around the festival area include, but are not limited to, the park closure law, certain other laws governing use of public space, and permit conditions limiting hours of business operation. This ordinance will not be codified in the Municipal Code because it only applies for one night.

Ordinance Number 2258(CCS) modifies the method for levying assessments under a state law, the Property and Business Improvements District Law of 1994. The local modifications would lengthen the duration of the assessment to up to twenty years and would lower the initiation threshold to permit initiation of assessment proceedings with the approval of property and business owners responsible for paying a total of 40% of the assessment.

These ordinances will both become effective thirty days after their adoption.

The full text of these ordinances is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica; phone: (310) 458-8211.

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Learning the lingo

FROM ACADEMY PAGE 3

night," Almada said.

And don't believe everything you see in the movies. Police do not have sophisticated equipment that can pick up a conversation from hundreds of yards out. They have a hard enough time deciphering what people are saying in a car just a few yards away. That's because when an undercover officer is wearing a wire, the sound quality isn't all that great.

Another myth is one seen in plenty of movies, too. It has to do with honesty. No, a cop does not have to disclose their identity if asked. A cop can lie through his or her teeth to get a conviction if they are undercover.

What was funny were some of the slang terms used to describe drugs. Words like "grass," and "flake" were thrown around and made me laugh. I mean, who calls marijuana grass or cocaine flake? You just don't hear it any more, not that I would know.

The class was also treated to a presentation by vice and the SWAT team, which is comprised of officers trained in special weapons and tactics. These officers are called upon to serve high-risk warrants, apprehend dangerous suspects and diffuse hostage situations, as well as escort dignitaries, such as presidents, vice presidents and religious leaders. They have snipers, scouts and breachers who all work together to apprehend a suspect or make sure a VIP gets through town safely.

The scouts go out first, looking for anything and everything that can tell them what is going on inside a location, such as a private residence where a suspect has barricaded himself or herself inside. Officer Brent Crafton, a SWAT member and scout, said when he surveys a location he looks at the type of doors that must be breached to see if there is a metal security door that may need to be pulled off with the assistance of an armored car. He also scans the yards for children's toys, which could mean there are kids inside.

"We have no margin for error when it comes to human life," Crafton said as he stood in front of a display of guns, shields, bulletproof vests and grenades, all tools of the trade.

The trick is to overwhelm the suspect with force. Basically that means to use gas, stun grenades or other non-lethal



ARTY SHADE OF BLUE

Geoffrey Dunn news@smdp.com

Former Los Angeles Dodger Tommy Davis (left) talks to artist Stephen Holland during an exhibition of Holland's work at Gallery 319 on Thursday. Holland, the official artist of the 50th anniversary of the Dodgers, unveiled a new painting of Don Drysdale.

measures to get the suspect to surrender instead of fight back. Officers would rather here the click-click of the handcuffs than the boom-boom of shots fired.

Officers can gain the advantage by arriving quietly on scene. By using stun grenades they can draw the suspect's attention away from SWAT officers. The grenades are very powerful. SWAT officers showed the class just how powerful when they pulled the pin on one and threw it several yards away. The sound it made was incredible.

The team trains regularly, about two days a month, and they participate in competitions with other teams from

across the state. I'm proud to say that our SWAT team is one of the best around. They have to go through grueling physical fitness tests as well as shooting tests and oral exams to test not only their endurance, but also their intelligence. So far no female has been able to pass the physical fitness test, but not for a lack of trying. One applicant blew her knew out trying to make the team.

As for vice, I had to skip that part of the class. I had to pick up some ... um ... macadamia nuts , so I bolted early.

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Samohi looks ahead to Redondo Tournament

FROM SAMOHI PAGE 3

poor defense than the Vikings' offense.

A parade of Sentinel passed balls and wild pitches led to a quick four-run lead for the Vikings in the first inning. Samohi continued to tack on runs, and by the end of the third, the team had built a double digit lead.

Although the team managed to plate 22 runs, Samohi head coach Rob Duron felt the score was more indicative of Inglewood's subpar performance rather than his hitters' approach in the batter's box.

"We ended up having 12 strike outs [Thursday], and that's not making an adjustment," Duron said about his team's approach at the plate. "It was a big win, a big score, but [the hitting approach] definitely puts it in a different light as to how it happened.

"Our hitting needs to make adjustments and say 'OK, we're going to use the whole ballpark.' If we do that, we can compete with anybody."

Alex Kovacs shined, going 2 for 4 with two doubles, four runs batted in and two runs scored. Tyler Skaggs also hit a double, drove in two and scored two runs.

While the offense kept putting runs on the board, Samohi's pitching — which has been consistent all year — kept the Sentinels in check from pitch one. Salazar started the game and pitched four innings, struck out four, walked three and allowed one earned run.

"Salazar's been solid ... He's tough. He throws strikes, he throws hard, and he's got a good split," Duron said. "He's always throwing strikes and getting ahead of hitters. That's the key at any level."

Will Dickinson came on in relief for Salazar in the fifth inning and pitched one inning, allowing three earned runs and two walks. Nick Lerner tossed the last two innings and struck out three.

After the blow-out victory, Duron feels his team is still lacking the mentality it needs to continue to be successful in all aspects of the game.

"All [good] teams have that attitude that we're always going to come after you, and we don't have that yet," he said. "The difference is the kids have to bring that attitude out there and work hard. At some point, somebody needs to say 'hey, we want to do this.'"

Samohi's victory followed a pitchers' duel Tuesday in the opening game of the series. The Vikings won the game 2-0 behind a 13 strike-out, two-hit, complete game shutout by Skaggs.

"Skaggs pitched really well," Duron said. "He was in command right from the beginning, and he made some nice defensive plays off the mound."

The game was deadlocked at zero in the fifth inning before Samohi's Ricky Gomez scored on a fielder's choice. The Vikings added an insurance run in the sixth on Kovacs' RBI double.

The Sentinels put a rally together in the bottom of the seventh, loading the bases with one out. But Skaggs reached back to strike out the last two batters to end the game.

The Vikings look to match their season-high winning streak of three games Saturday against Chaminade in the fourth game of the Redondo Tournament. Samohi will send out Logan Witchurch, whose last start came in a winning effort against El Segundo March 15.

Duron said in order for Samohi to win the game, they will need to once again rely on good starting pitching, and the offense will need to "hit the ball."

First pitch is set to be thrown at 11 a. m. at Samohi.

news@smdp.com

Journal marks 20th year with special edition

FROM JOURNAL PAGE 3

"What I wanted to do was to have a magazine that would have world class writers mixed in with new writers," Krusoe said on Friday.

The staff at the review marked the birthday with a special anniversary edition, the first in which the cover was printed in color. The book kicks off with a piece written by Krusoe, who served as the editor for seven years before passing on the post to Lee Montgomery.

The nationally distributed magazine publishes twice a year in the fall and the spring and served as a launching point for several writing careers. Among the notable writers were Charles Baxter and John Cage.

The magazine is currently headed by Editor Andrew Tonkovich, a former student of Krusoe's who currently serves as a lecturer in the English Department at the University of California Irvine and hosts a weekly radio show.

"It's a real opportunity for the aspiring writers to find a place," Tonkovich said in an interview on Thursday.

Tonkovich, who has written for several magazines, has never had a piece published in the review. In fact, his first and only submission was rejected by his immediate predecessor.

The 20th anniversary edition, which costs \$7, is 226 pages and features 14 pieces. The review, the size of a standard paperback book, does not include any poetry, photog-

raphy, drawings or paintings but rather places an emphasis on fiction and non-fiction, a shift made about 10 years ago.

"We wanted to create a little niche of serious, sometimes avant garde writing, funning writing, political writing," Tonkovich said.

The magazine has developed a reputation as being a place for quality writing, Tonkovich said, adding that he has received calls from literary agents in the past, inquiring about certain writers in the review. While some SMC student works have been published in the past, the magazine is geared more for student reading, not publishing, Krusoe said. The journal receives thousands of submissions from around the country each year.

"These literary reviews in many ways are the first step to getting published," Krusoe said.

Krusoe recalls the early days of the journal before technological advances, laying out sheets of submissions on desks in his classroom, putting the magazine together and gluing in corrections.

The journal is considered to be the longest running of its kind in the country, a longevity that Tonkovich credits to Krusoe.

"You can't swing a dead cat in Southern California without hitting a serious writer who hasn't crossed paths with Jim Krusoe," Tonkovich said. "The fact that it is still around is a tribute to Jim and to the college because that is the real story."

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School officials hope to move forward

FROM APOLOGY PAGE 1

ing issues that the school district has faced in nearly a decade.

The source of contention centers around the settlement agreements and confidentiality clauses, which some parents have entered into after an impasse is reached during the negotiations for the Individualized Education Plans, which outline services that their children receive during the school year.

Many of these parents have alleged a culture of secrecy and hostility surrounding the IEP process, some claiming they felt coerced into signing a settlement agreement, unsure of what they were agreeing on. The issue came to a head last summer when the City Council threatened to withhold \$530,000 in funding unless the board impose a moratorium on the confidentiality clause until an independent review was concluded.

The board did place a moratorium in July but several settlement agreements with confidentiality clauses had been executed since then.

The council is expected to discuss the findings of the report at its meeting on Tuesday to determine whether the district has met the conditions placed on them.

Barber's report basically said that while settlement agreements and confidentiality clauses were legal, there was an alarming amount of such agreements entered into in the past three years — more than 140. The report did note that while there were concerns with the settlement agreements,

the special education department did do a good job of providing quality services to the students with a rich staff.

Talarico outlined the draft response in five key areas, including creating a culture of inclusion, promoting collaboration and professional development, conducting a regular review of the special education programs, modifying existing practices and better financial management.

Among possible future actions include reorganizing and decentralizing the central office, placing more power at the school sites, providing more training for personnel about special education laws and appointing a task force that will review professional development needs.

Talarico is also proposing that she be responsible for signing off on all settlement agreements.

"It is the district's goal to create a culture in which special education is an integral part of the overall educational system," Talarico said. "Students with disabilities are welcomed, supported and fully included in the district's programs and all parents and staff are treated with civility and respect."

As in previous meetings concerning special education, the sequel on Thursday was filled with emotional testimonies by parents who accused the district of bullying and urged that changes be made immediately.

Claudia Landis asked the board include the services in the settlement agreements into the IEP, which was a recommendation made by the consultant. By signing a settlement agreement, parents are signing away the rights of their children, one of which is the right for the child to have an accu-

rate and intact educational record, she said.

"My child's IEP is in shreds," she said. "The student ID number, the Social Security Number, and the address are all wrong, plus it is half blank."

Many parents spoke in favor of the district hiring an ombudsman to represent the parents in negotiations, a recommendation made by Barber. Those sentiments were echoed by the board.

The parents received words of support from the PTA Council whose president, Rebecca Kennerly, read a formally-adopted statement in which she talks about the organization providing more support for special education parents, perhaps forming a subcommittee, much like PTAs in other communities.

She acknowledges her "passivity" in the issue, accepting the party line and her own role, as well as others, in fueling the culture by looking the other way.

"To the special ed parents in our district, I would like to say don't trust us," she said. "PTA Council has not been a good friend or advocate for you in the past."

"Don't trust me or any of us simply on our words, judge us by our actions," Kennerly added. "When you see general ed parents inviting special ed kids home to play, when you see middle school students invite special needs classmates to eat lunch with them ... then maybe we have started to earn your trust."

The problem could be attributed to a law that creates a scenario in which there is conflict, according to Christopher Knauf, an attorney who has represented the district on several occasions.

Knauf said he has tremendous respect for the staff in special education and added that strides have been made in the past five years.

"It was here five years ago under the previous special ed regime where really special education was spiraling out of control," Knauf said.

At least one council member made an appearance at the meeting, one who was a former special education student himself.

Councilmember Bob Holbrook told his own struggles, growing up with a speech impediment and struggles with math and reading comprehension until he got the help he needed.

Holbrook went on to attend Santa Monica College and USC.

"We just got to help these people and their children and make it a top priority in the district," he said.

CHANGES TO BE MADE

The board gave a directive to Talarico to look into different options to incorporating the settlement agreement into the IEP. The superintendent was also given strict orders that the temporary moratorium on confidentiality clauses be adhered to and if a parent wants a settlement agreement with a confidentiality clause, it be put into writing that the request came from them.

All confidentiality clauses must also be approved by Talarico.

The board also expressed a need for an ombudsman and training for new parents on special education law.

Several school board members appeared reluctant to impose a ban on settlement agreements in the district, noting that the legal consultant on the independent audit had said in some cases the agreements could be warranted.

One board member also hinted at a change in personnel being part of the solution.

School board member Maria Leon-Vazquez mentioned a situation at Santa Monica High School a few years ago when there was some on campus conflict between students and nothing had been done by the leadership to resolve the issue.

"The situation had not calmed down until the leadership moved," she said. "Since then we have not heard anything in terms of the unsettling situation."

"We're in that same situation in here I think in special ed," she said. "We're in an impasse."

Leon-Vazquez added that the school site teachers and special education staff need to be empowered.

Board member Kathy Wisnicki said she hoped that the public would not lose sight of the successes made through the IEP. She mentioned a letter the board received from 25 principals that they felt empowered and supported by district staff.

"I don't want us to forget the good things happening also," Wisnicki said.

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Airports begin using revealing body scan

BY DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Airports in New York and Los Angeles have become the latest equipped with body scanners that allow security screeners to peer beneath a passenger's clothing to detect concealed weapons.

The machines, which are about the size of a revolving door, use low-energy electromagnetic waves to produce a computerized image of a traveler's entire body.

Passengers step in and lift their arms. The scans only take a minute, and Transportation Security Administration officials say the procedure is less invasive than a physical frisk for knives, bombs or guns.

Someday, the "millimeter wave" scans might replace metal detectors, but for now they are being used selectively.

Los Angeles International Airport and John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York saw their first scanners installed Thursday, each at a single checkpoint. Phoenix Sky-Harbor International Airport got one of the machines in October.

Modest travelers may have concerns about the images.

The black and white, three-dimensional scans aren't as vivid as a photograph, but they do reveal some of the more intimate curves of the human form, maybe with as much clarity as an impressionist sculpture by Auguste Rodin.

TSA officials say the system comes with

privacy protections. Officers reviewing the images don't interact with passengers, or even see them. They sit in a separate area, look at the pictures on a monitor and push a button to either clear travelers or alert security about a suspicious item.

Images will not be recorded or stored. Passenger faces are blurred to further protect their identities.

For now, the scans will also be voluntary. Flyers selected for a secondary screening after passing through the metal detectors will have the option of stepping into the wave scanner, rather than undergoing a physical pat-down.

"We're giving people a choice," said TSA spokeswoman Lara Uselding.

Barry Steinhardt, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's program on technology and liberty, said he nevertheless had concerns.

"The images that I've seen are quite revealing," he said. "I guarantee you that as this gets more commonly used, you'll be seeing these images on the Internet."

The TSA said millimeter wave scanners, which cost as much as \$120,000 apiece, are already in limited use at international airports in seven countries and at a handful of courthouses and jails in five states.

Their introduction to U.S. airports is on a trial basis while authorities evaluate their effectiveness. The TSA said the devices pose no health risk and project 10,000 times less energy than a cell phone transmission.

STATE BRIEFS

PALMDALE

Man arrested for kissing boy

A 61-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly stalking a preteen boy at an Antelope Valley elementary school and kissing him on the lips.

Jorge Aparicio pleaded not guilty Thursday to two felony counts of lewd acts upon a child. He's in jail with bail set at \$1 million.

The boy told school officials he had been approached eight different times by Aparicio in the Joshua Hills Elementary School cafeteria restroom. Aparicio allegedly gave the boy \$10 for a kiss, then \$2 for a second kiss.

Sheriff's Sgt. Dan Scott says Aparicio regular took lunches to his nephews in the school cafeteria.

The sheriff's department set up a "sting" operation at the school on April 11 and Aparicio allegedly gave his nephews their lunch and followed one boy into the restroom, where he was arrested.

The sergeant says Aparicio "admitted to have a sexual interest in the child."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Circus tigers evicted after city finds them in small cage

Five Circus Vazquez tigers have been evicted by Los Angeles animal welfare officials because the big-cats earlier attacked and killed another tiger in their small cage.

The city Department of Animal Services pulled the Circus Vazquez conditional use permit Thursday and ordered removal of the tigers.

Department general manager Ed Boks says the tigers killed one of their own in Huntington Park on March 31 and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cited Circus Vazquez for having too many tigers in close proximity to each other.

AP

CARSON

Head-bop scandal ends with anger management classes

The scandal around the videotaped head-swat during a Carson council meeting last year has ended with a whimper.

Former Councilwoman Vera Dewitt is seen on the popular YouTube video using a sheaf of papers to deliver a light tap on the head of mayor ally Jan Schaefer, who hesitated before dramatically falling to the floor in shrieks.

Dewitt had just spoken during a tumultuous Feb. 6, 2007, council meeting about her efforts to recall Mayor Jim Dear when she left the podium and walked past Schaefer, who muttered something that prompted the head-bop.

AP

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Sex offenders may face tougher scrutiny

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO State lawmakers on Thursday said California needs better long-term supervision of sex offenders after an audit raised concerns that some may be living in homes used for child daycare and foster care.

The audit found that the addresses of 49 registered sex offenders matched those of 46 child care facilities throughout the state.

The state Department of Social Services has suspended licenses for nine of the homes. Officials said there is no immediate indication that any children were abused.

Nevertheless, the report angered the two lawmakers who requested the audit, Assembly members Anthony Adams, a Republican from Hesperia, and Fiona Ma, a Democrat from San Francisco.

"My biggest concern right now is the number of sex offenders that are in child care facilities," Ma said during a Capitol news conference. "Parents who go to work, drop off their kids in the morning, pick them up, should not have to worry about the safety of their children."

The audit also showed that about 51,000 registered sex offenders in California have little supervision because they have complet-

ed parole. Another 8,000 sex offenders are currently being supervised by parole agents.

"What we found is shocking," Ma said. "There is not a good monitoring system in place."

State auditors matched the addresses of 75,000 licensed facilities, including foster family homes and in-home daycare centers, with the state's database of registered sex offenders. Auditors recommended that the state departments of justice and social services share their databases to ensure that sex offenders are not living at licensed homes.

Adams said he will seek legislation requiring agencies to cross-check their databases.

"Government has absolutely failed in this regard," he said. "They don't speak to each other at all."

Some of those who had their licenses revoked reacted angrily.

Dorothea L. Morris was among those whose licenses were suspended because her address matched the one given by her son, a registered sex offender. She had operated Morris Family Child Care in Pacoima, north of Los Angeles.

"He's not living here," her husband, Jimmie Morris, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "He's not even in the

state. He's back East. He hasn't lived here in over seven years."

The Department of Social Services also suspended the license of Harriett J. Hunter, who had operated Hunter Family Child Care in Los Angeles.

Hunter said she obtained her license in 2002 but had never cared for a child other than her niece for a few hours each day. That stopped before her fiancé, Raymond Carreon, moved to the home in 2005, she and Carreon said.

Carreon was convicted in 1996 of committing a lewd act with a child under 14, according to the audit. He told the AP that he properly registers as a sex offender each year as required by law and has no contact with children.

"I'm not even well," said Hunter, 65, who said she suffers from arthritis and other ills. "I haven't done child care, I don't do child care, I don't intend to do child care."

Of the 46 address matches identified in the audit, 25 were in Los Angeles, eight in the Central Valley, seven in the San Francisco Bay area, four in San Diego, and one each in San Bernardino and Sacramento.

Only nine licenses were suspended because in most cases inspectors for the Department of Social Services could not ver-

ify that a sex offender was living at the location. In other cases, no children were present where the offenders were living.

Under state law, those with daycare and foster care licenses must report the names of any adults living in or associated with their facilities. Ma said she will seek legislation stiffening penalties for licensees who violate that law.

The audit also found cases in which multiple sex offender parolees were living at the same address. Under most circumstances, state law prohibits a sex offender from living with other offenders while on parole.

The locations matched by state auditors often turned out to be drug treatment programs, hotels and apartment complexes. In some instances, they were hospitals or jails.

State Auditor Elaine Howle said some parolees were living in a hotel two to a room, a violation of state law. Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation spokesman Gordon Hinkle, however, denied that any of the sex offender parolees had living arrangements that were illegal.

Howle called for the Legislature to clarify the residency restrictions. Adams said his bill would close a loophole that allows up to six sex offenders to live together in group homes.

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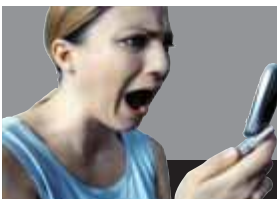
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NBA

Lakers begin preparing for Nuggets

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO In the words of coach Phil Jackson, the Los Angeles Lakers set themselves up for success by entering the playoffs as the No. 1 seed in the West.

What does that really mean?

Not that much.

"You can throw a blanket over the first six teams in this conference," Jackson said Thursday, referring to the fact that those six were separated by only three games at season's end.

Dallas and Denver weren't bad either, giving the West a full complement of eight playoff teams with a minimum of 50 wins. So the Lakers realize that starting with the Nuggets, they figure to have a tough time no matter who they meet in the postseason.

"To see how close one through eight is, that's truly amazing," Derek Fisher said.

"That team could be where we are now," Lamar Odom said of the Nuggets. "This is playoff time. It's going to be a challenge. They're great 1-on-1 players, they've got four or five guys who can get 20 points in a game."

Game 1 in the best-of-seven series is Sunday at Staples Center, where the Nuggets have gone 2-15 against the Lakers since the arena opened in 1999.

There's where the homecourt advantage comes in, and the Lakers have that throughout the conference portion of the playoffs.

The Lakers were 3-0 record against the Nuggets this season, winning by an average

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

BARKING COMMANDS: Phil Jackson (center) considers every team in the west a threat.

of 16.3 points. But the teams haven't played since Jan. 21.

"Hopefully it means we understand that if we play the way we're capable of playing, we can beat this team," Fisher said when asked about the significance of the season sweep.

"They're going to be a lot better team now than they were the last time we saw them," Luke Walton said.

The freewheeling Nuggets are led by Allen Iverson and Carmelo Anthony, who ranked 3-4 in the NBA's scoring race, just behind Lakers star Kobe Bryant.

Anthony was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol earlier this week, but Bryant said he didn't believe that would be a distraction.

The Lakers haven't won a playoff series since 2004, when they reached the NBA

finals. They failed to qualify for the postseason in 2005 and lost to Phoenix in each of the last two postseasons, when they entered as underdogs.

That's not the case this year.

"It's much different," Bryant said when asked for a comparison. "Last year we were still searching for an identity going into the playoffs. We've had an identity for a while."

The Lakers have momentum as well, entering the playoffs having won eight of their last nine games.

"We just need to continue doing what we've been doing," Bryant said.

While No. 8 seeds seldom eliminate No. 1 seeds, it happened just last year when Golden State upset a Dallas team that won 67 regular-season games.

"They're probably the most (dangerous No. 8 seed ever)," Odom said of the Nuggets.

The Warriors lost to Utah in the second round.

Jackson pointed to defense as a key for the Lakers in this series.

"This is a team that will allow you to take a shot so they can run," he said. "It's going to be a wide-open series. I don't think this is going to be a 90-point series."

The Nuggets and Lakers ranked second and fourth, respectively, in the NBA in scoring. The Lakers did a much better job defensively.

"There's going to be a point in every game where we're going to have to play team defense," Jackson said. "You hope your team defense is adequate to hold them down to a reasonable number."

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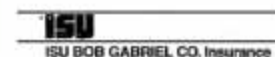


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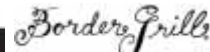
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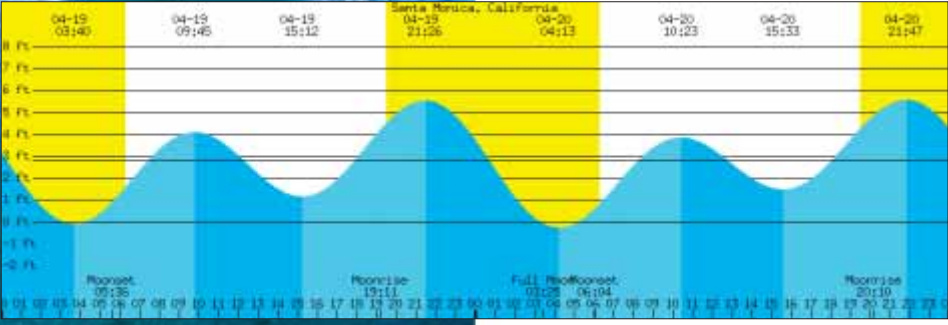
SWELL FORECAST (5-7 FT)

NW wind swell is expected to increase throughout the day as SW remains small. Early AM sessions are looking at waist high waves most everywhere, but then chest+ at west facing breaks as the day progresses and the wind swell fills in.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WIND SWELL LINGERS INTO NEXT WEEK...
NOTABLE SHIFT IN WEATHER AND WINDS THIS WEEKEND...

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

April 16, 2008

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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0

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

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 35 / ns

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

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

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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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NFL Stadium plans unveiled to bring team to L.A.

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Billionaire developer Edward P. Roski Jr. has made a commitment to build the kind of stadium an NFL team needs to thrive in Los Angeles. Now, he's hoping one will commit to play there.

Roski, a part owner of the Kings and Lakers who has spent years trying to lure the NFL back to this area, unveiled plans Thursday for a 75,000-seat facility in the City of Industry he said could be finished in time for the 2011 season.

"I intend to develop our stadium project that meets all of the NFL requirements, and more," Roski said at a Staples Center news conference, where stadium models and artist renditions were displayed. "Always the most important thing has been the certainty of doing this. A team is not going to commit to coming to Los Angeles without a stadium. We've taken this one point of uncertainty and made it a certainty. The stadium is a certainty and it will be built."

And, Roski added, without public money. "Absolutely no taxpayer dollars," he said. "There's no taxpayer dollars to get."

The proposed 600-acre site, near the southern intersection of the 57 and 60 freeways about 20 miles east of Los Angeles, would be surrounded by a shopping mall, and located on a vacant property which Roski already owns. Roski said around 12 million people live within 25

miles of the site.

"We are aware of it and are monitoring all stadium-related developments in southern California," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said from his New York office.

Roski said the cost would be around \$800 million, adding the stadium will be built into a hillside meaning far less steel will be required. And that, he said will result in a cost of about \$400 million less than it might be otherwise.

Roski said the site is already zoned and an environmental impact report was approved in 2004.

"A supplemental EIR is currently in progress," he added, saying construction could begin as early as the final quarter of this year and parking requirements would be met. "We'll make it happen, just as we did here at Staples Center with the Lakers and Kings.

Roski and Philip Anschutz, the head of AEG, headed up construction of Staples Center. The Lakers, Kings and Arena Football League's Los Angeles Avengers play their home games at the facility, which opened in October 1999. AEG is not involved in this venture.

The one obvious obstacle standing in the way is a tenant for the new stadium. Possibilities might include the New Orleans Saints, Jacksonville Jaguars, Minnesota Vikings and San Diego Chargers because of their stadium uncertainties.

NBA

Clippers season a disaster

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Two years ago at this time, the Los Angeles Clippers were about to begin a playoff run that ended one win shy of the Western Conference finals.

Now, they're headed home for the summer after completing a most disappointing campaign in which they finished 23-59 — their worst record in eight years.

Actually, the Clippers were doomed to also-ran status in the powerful Western Conference three months before the season began when Elton Brand, one of the NBA's better players, tore his left Achilles' tendon during a personal workout. And that was only the beginning for a team that had its players lose an NBA-leading 321 games to injury or illness.

"The injury part of it is the frustration part," Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy said. "We probably had close to \$30 million of the salary cap on the sidelines every night. If you let me take \$30 million off every team we play, I'll take my chances."

Brand sat out 74 games before returning to action, but by that time, the Clippers, who started 4-0, were out of playoff contention and undermanned as well. They wound up losing their last seven games and 26 of their last 30.

"This was not at all what I wanted," Brand said. "I wanted to come back and get some wins, but the other teams wore us down a little bit. It definitely gave me some piece of mind that I can play. After the summer and working out again and playing again and getting my bearings, I expect

to have a great season."

Brand and leading scorer Corey Maggette can both opt out of their contracts, but both have expressed a desire to return if things can be worked out. The Clippers have only five players on the roster with guaranteed contracts for next season: Chris Kaman, Brevin Knight, Cuttino Mobley, Tim Thomas and rookie standout Al Thornton.

Shaun Livingston, who hasn't played since sustaining a serious knee injury 14 months ago, is due a \$5.8 million qualifying offer this summer or he becomes an unrestricted free agent.

"Until you see him play against guys 5-on-5, it's kind of hard to say," Dunleavy said regarding Livingston's future with the team. Livingston was the fourth overall pick in the 2004 draft, but hasn't played more than 61 games in a season because of injuries.

Kaman had by far his best season this year, often displaying All-Star ability. But he was limited to 56 games by several injuries.

"If we're healthy next year, it makes us believe that we're as good or better than two years ago," Dunleavy said. "We've got guys like Kaman, Brand, Maggette, Thornton and Mobley who can go for 20 points a night."

Thornton, the 14th overall pick in last year's draft, averaged 12.7 points and 4.5 rebounds in a team-leading 79 games.

"I think we're better than that team (two years ago) because we have Thornton in the mix," Dunleavy said.

The Clippers used an NBA-leading 39 different starting lineups, a factor in what Mobley called a season full of aggravation for him.

MOVIETIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Avenue (323) 466-FILM Glengarry Glen Ross (R) 1hr 40min 7:30 AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third St. (310) 458-1506 The Bank Job (R) 1hr 50min 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00 Stop-Loss (R) 1hr 53min 4:45 Street Kings (R) 1hr 47min 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45 Pathology (R) 1hr 33min 2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15 Under the Same Moon (PG-13) 1hr 49min 1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25 AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262 21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min 11:05 a.m., 1:00, 1:50, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:40 Nim's Island (PG) 1hr 35min	11:15 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 The Ruins (R) 1hr 31min 3:00, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00 Prom Night (PG-13) 1hr 38min 1:30, 2:40, 3:40, 4:50, 5:50, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:10 The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 53min 11:00 a.m., 11:45 a.m., 1:40, 2:25, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 10:00, 10:45 Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min 11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15 Prom Night (PG-13) 1hr 28min 1:45, 4:10, 7:05, 9:20 LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741 Bra Boys (R) 1hr 30min 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15 Remember the Daze (R) 1hr 41min 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15 The Counterfeiters (NR) 1hr 38min 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30 Smart People (R) 1hr 33min 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	Young@Heart (PG) 1hr 47min 1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40 MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599 Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed (PG) 1hr 30min 12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:50, 12:10am Superhero Movie (PG-13) 1hr 25min 11:40 a.m., 4:40, 10:10 Leatherheads (PG-13) 1hr 54min 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 Shine a Light (PG-13) 2hrs 02min 1:50, 7:20 The Take (NR) 1hr 36min 12:40, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20 Where in the World Is Osama Bin Laden? (PG-13) 1hr 33min 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40, 11:50
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Let others understand the extremes in your life. Though not all bad, it does take some sense of balance. Tonight: Let someone voice his or her opinion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Seize the moment to finish errands or a project that perhaps has been on hold for too long. Think "summer" and think "fun." Perhaps a diet or new exercise program is in order. Tonight: Easy does it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You are so playful, it is hard to imagine that you even have a serious side. Investigate rather than risk. You are likely to be lucky, but you could have the reverse effect. Think positively. Tonight: Pretend to be your favorite romantic hero or heroine.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your sense of well-being comes from home and family. Is it surprising that is where you want to be? However, a recent bout of frustration could be causing crankiness. Tonight: Order in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Verbalize more. Though you can be vocal, you often don't express your deeper feelings. If you are not in touch with your inner emotional currents, you could say something you regret much later. Tonight: Bring friends together for dinner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Use your conservative streak with funds. Someone might push you hard to spend. After you blow a wad of money, you could feel out of sorts. Tonight: Fun really doesn't need to cost.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You are the ringleader that everyone answers to. Your personality draws others like a magnet. You cannot be resisted by those who count. Tonight: Nowhere else but in the lime-light.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Reach out for a dear friend or loved one at distance. He or she might surprise you with his or her response. Tonight: Note the change in a key partner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ As long as you are surrounded by people, a big smile can be found on your face. Don't allow someone's caustic remarks to get to you. For the sake of peace, let the comment go. Tonight: If you aren't going to a party, throw a spontaneous one!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Defer to someone you care deeply about. Sometimes you have difficulty rooting out a problem. If you are hitting a wall of anger, let it defuse before you have a much-needed talk. Tonight: A must show.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Plug your high energy into a hike or maybe explore a new section of town. Some might meet friends at an art gallery or go off on a similar adventure. Blend mind and body, and you will feel great. Tonight: Go to a new spot that might sound a touch exotic!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Work as a team with your loved one. Together you'll gain greater insight into a child and his or her behavior. Knowing when you have had enough might be more important than you realize. Tonight: Try togetherness.

Happy birthday

The dynamics of many of your relationships, friendships and business ties could transform this year. Attempt to walk in others' shoes more often, and you will gain enormous understanding. These insights will carry you much further than just relating to the person in question. Demands and pressure mount. Learn effective ways to eliminate stress. If you are single, many people could vie for the role of No. 1 in your life. Discriminate. If you are attached, work on nurturing each other more. LIBRA cares but demonstrates his or her feelings in a very different style.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

★★★★★Dynamic	★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive	★ Difficult
★★★ Average	

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

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

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

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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

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

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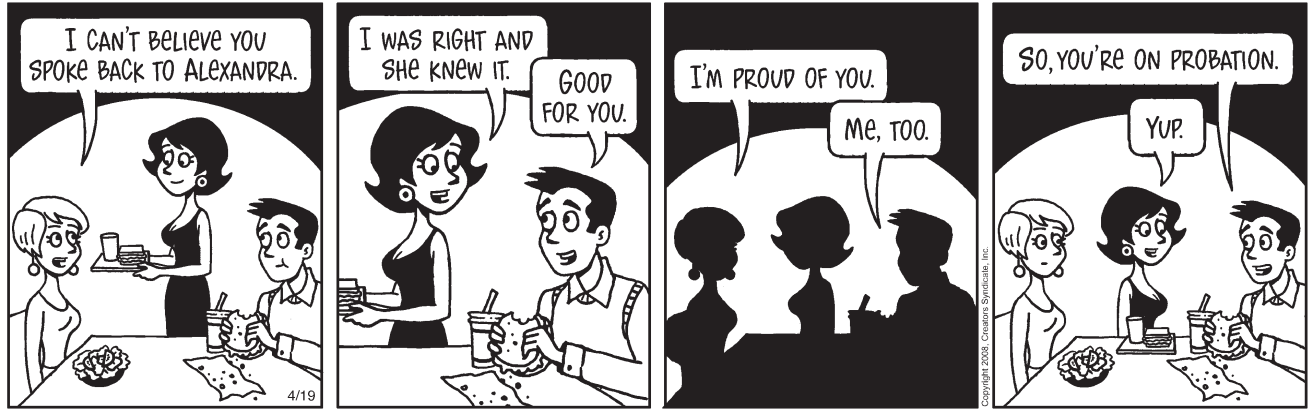
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



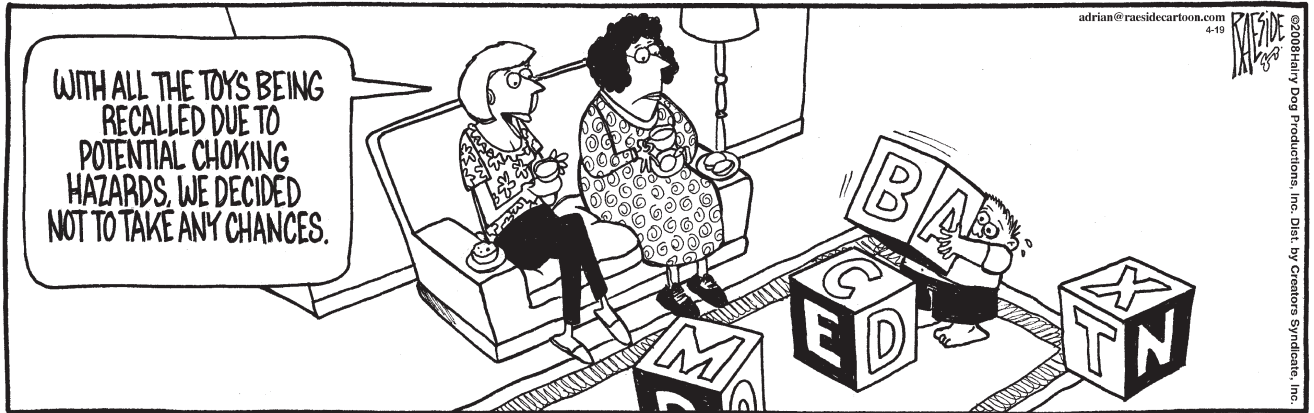
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis

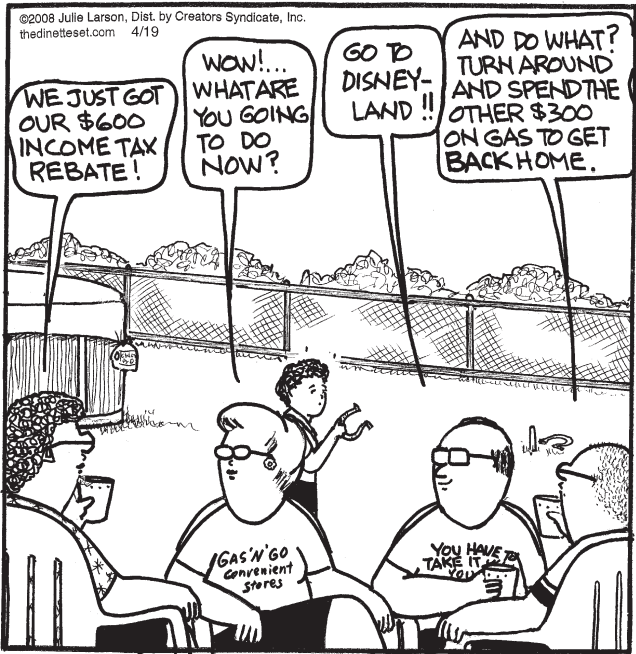


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



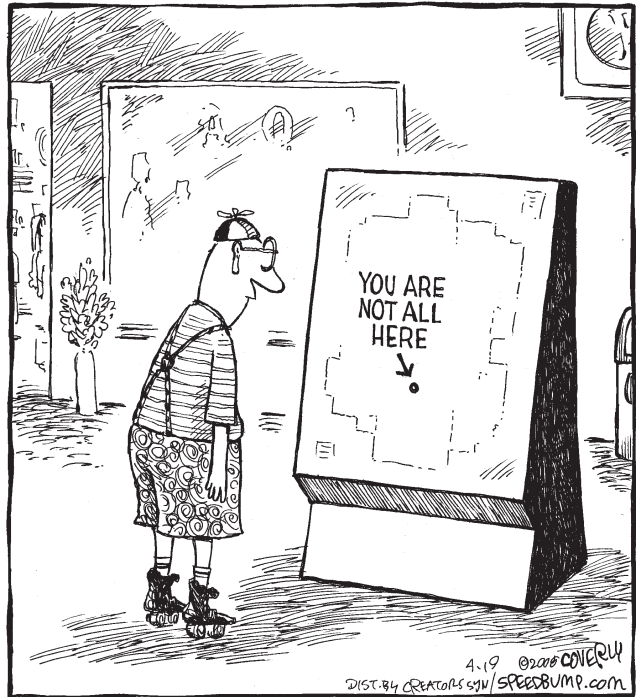
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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Last letter

- 1 Ties
6 Ship poles
11 Ryan of film
12 Peony part
13 Open square
14 Game site
15 Packing a wallop
17 Cash dispenser
18 Apple taster
19 Pasture plants
22 Bear lair
23 Floated on the breeze

DOWN

- 1 Hit
2 Smitten
3 Tidy up
4 Stunned state
5 "Brewski," for one
6 Sauna site
7 For each
8 Comfortable
9 Ha-ranged
10 Criticizes
16 Stupors
20 Book finish
21 Hog home
24 Swamp stuff
25 Missouri motto
26 Plug's place
27 Idaho export
28 Saws
29 Hampers
30 Thread buy
34 At a distance
36 Big head
37 Almond

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

Comics & Stuff

DAILY LOTTERY



24 28 36 50 53
Meganumber: 29
Jackpot: \$48M



5 13 14 27 37
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$11M



3 5 16 33 35



MIDDAY: 1 9 8
EVENING: 1 1 3



1st: 03 HOT SHOT
2nd: 07 EUREKA!!!!
3rd: 09 WINNING SPIRIT
RACE TIME: 1:48.11

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ More People Having Sex with Inanimate Objects: (1) Art Price Jr., 40, was charged with public indecency for several instances of walking naked into his back yard and (according to neighbors' videos) simulating intercourse with a picnic table (Bellevue, Ohio, March). (2) A 36-year-old man faced several charges after allegedly masturbating on a woman's bicycle seat (explaining that he felt "an overwhelming calm" when he smelled the handlebars of a woman's bike) (Ostersund, Sweden; February). (3) A building contractor was caught by a security guard simulating sex with a canister vacuum cleaner (and claiming that he was merely vacuuming his underpants, which he said was a "common practice" in his native Poland) (London; March).
■ People continue to purposely maim themselves in various schemes. Daniel Kuch allegedly had a friend shoot him in the shoulder so he could get time off work (and was arrested for telling police that it was a drive-by) (Pasco, Wash., February). And Elizabeth Hingston, 24, let her boyfriend break her leg by jumping on it so that the pair could claim insurance proceeds worth the equivalent of \$200,000 (Plymouth, England, November). And Zachary Booso, 19, shot himself in the cheek, shoulder and thigh so that he could brag to his friends and ex-girlfriend that he is involved with gangs (Brownsburg, Ind., March).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1951 Gen. Douglas MacArthur, relieved of his Far East command by President Truman, bid farewell in an address to Congress in which he quoted a line from a ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."
1975 India launched its first satellite atop a Soviet rocket.
1982 Astronauts Sally K. Ride and Guion S. Bluford Jr. became the first woman and first African-American to be tapped for U.S. space missions.
1989 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa.
1993 The 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; dozens of people, including David Koresh, were killed.

WORD UP!

inveigle \in-VAY-guhl; -VEE-\\, transitive verb:
1. To persuade by ingenuity or flattery; to entice.
2. To obtain by ingenuity or flattery.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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clear criminal background and be drug
free. Please apply at 2107 Ocean Ave.
SM, 90405.

PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME Driver. Must
have own car, need to be familiar with
L.A. have Ca. driver's license, English
speaking. Can earn up to \$100/ a day.
Submit resume to bsberkowitz@aol.com

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A leading Market Research Company
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terested applicants must be computer
literate, responsible and flexible, well
spoken and have previous experience
with direct client interaction both in
person and on the telephone.
Job responsibilities include greeting
clients, meal serving/clearing, audio
& video recording as well as basic of-
fice and reception duties. Please
email with "CSR Position" in subject
line for consideration to
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plan/budget S/W projs.; comm. skills.
F/T. Must be authorized to work w/o
sponsorship.

Send resume with references/salary
reqs to: Zag.com, Attn: HR/SM, 525
Broadway, 3rd fl., Santa Monica CA
90401. Principals only.

WAIT STAFF

Full time positions available. AM
Shift 6-2:30p. No experience necessary.
Competitive wages and benefits. Must
have clear criminal background and be
drug free. Please apply at 2107 Ocean
Ave. SM, 90405.

Employment

WAIT STAFF

Gardens of Santa Monica, an upscale
assisted living community, are looking
for Part Time servers PM shift
3pm-7pm. No experience necessary.
Please apply at 851 Second Street, SM
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www.howardmanagement.com

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unit 9, \$700. upper, fridge, stove, car-
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(323)290-1699 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA \$1600 spacious two
bdrm/2bath lower. Patio. Parking.
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pet, blinds, no pets. Centinela, near
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Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: JANUARY 23, 2008

To Whom it may concern:

The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: TASTING
ROOM LLC THE.

The applicants listed above are applying to the
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell
alcoholic beverages at: 312 WILSHIRE BLVD,
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401-1312.

Type of License(s) Applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GEN-
ERAL EATING PLACE.

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLES-
WOOD.

SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 4/5, 4/12, 4/19,
2008

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 20080399542 FIRST FILING. The following
person(s) is (are) doing business as LIMOUSINE
2000, LIMO 2000, 2240 CRENSHAW BLVD, LA, CA
90016; LA COUNTY. The full name of registrant(s)
is/are : CHARLES BENNETTE, 2240 CRENSHAW
BLVD, LA, CA 90016 This Business is being con-
ducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has
not yet begun to transact business under the fic-
titious name or names listed herein.. /s/: CHAR-
LES BENNETTE

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 3/7/2008. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED
PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement
does not of itself authorize the use in this state of
a fictitious business name statement in violation
of the rights of another under federal, state, or
common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business
and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY
PRESS to publish 4/5/2008, 4/12/2008,
4/19/2008, 4/26/2008

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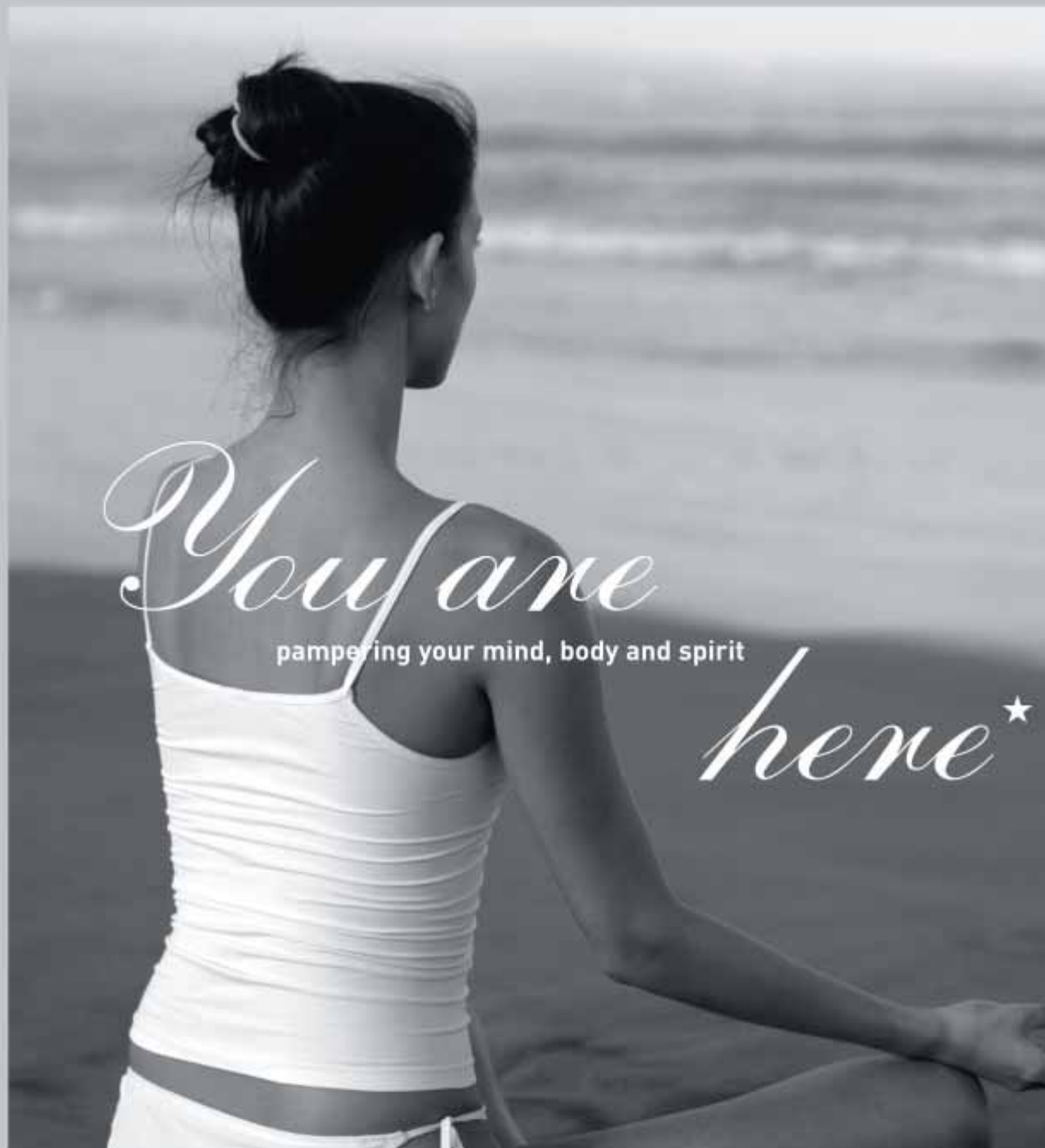


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Average Price of Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Mid - April 2008

		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,059,056	\$ 1,200,000
North of Montana	=	\$ 4,110,750	\$ 1,835,895
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 1,841,333	\$ 919,343
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 866,632	\$ 735,631
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,351,025	\$ 778,563
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,715,786	\$ 1,370,405

Statistics updated every Friday

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