



HEADING HOME
SEE PAGE 18

Santa Monica Daily Press

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THE OTHER SHOE ISSUE

SOLD!



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

HISTORY: People walk through the entrance of the Pacific Wheel at the Santa Monica Pier. The wheel has been sold on eBay to a developer.

Going, going, gone

OKC-based real estate developer submits winning bid for Pacific Wheel

By Daily Press staff

PACIFIC PARK An Oklahoma City-based real estate developer who specializes in walkable communities submitted the winning bid for the Santa Monica Pier's Ferris wheel, agreeing to pay \$132,400 for the iconic landmark.

Pacific Park, which owns the Pacific Wheel, used eBay to solicit bids during a 10-day auction that ended at 12 p.m. Friday. Grant Humphreys, CEO of Humphreys Real Estate Investments, was the top bidder. Humphreys could not be reached for comment.

A check presentation will be made at a later date, said Jeff Klocke, director of marketing and sales at Pacific Park.

Fifty percent of the winning bid will be

donated to Special Olympics Southern California, turning the Ferris wheel into a wheel of fortune.

"This has been a great process in finding a new home for the Ferris wheel and we are especially excited to be able to present Special Olympics Southern California with such a large and well-deserved donation," Klocke said. "Now begins the process of celebrating the Ferris wheel with the community beginning April 28 through May 4."

During that time, Santa Monica residents can ride on the wheel for free. On May 1 one Santa Monica resident will be selected to be the last rider on the Pacific Wheel. All of Los Angeles will have a turn on the wheel on Sunday, May 4 when all guests ride the Ferris wheel for free as Pacific Park donates \$1 per rider to spcaLA from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The auction generated six bidders, 35 bids, 9,342 views and nearly 400,000 Web page visits.

Pacific Park paid \$800,000 when it purchased the wheel in 1996, the same year it was installed. It was upgraded two years later to become the world's first solar-powered Ferris wheel.

Over the last 12 years, more than 3 million people have taken a ride on the wheel. It will be replaced with a \$1.5 million contemporary Ferris wheel next month that will feature over 160,000 LED lights that use 75 percent less power than the current wheel's lights, Klocke said.

Humphreys must pay for the cost of shipping the wheel and purchase a new base for it.

news@smdp.com

Second cop files claim against SMPD

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL A former member of the Santa Monica Police Department's SWAT team has filed a \$5 million claim for damages against City Hall, the department and police Chief Timothy Jackman, claiming he was the target of a vindictive campaign to tarnish his reputation because of his friendship with a high-ranking officer on suspension.

Officer Dean Oshiro, a 14-year SMPD veteran, filed the claim earlier



Brandon Wise
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SEE SMPD PAGE 11

City looks to crack down on area massage parlors

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE A drastic increase in brothels fronting as legitimate massage operations in Santa Monica, engaging in everything from so-called happy endings to prostitution, could result in more stringent regulations as city officials consider beefing up laws to curb illicit activity.

The City Attorney is proposing several amendments to Santa Monica's massage

SEE PARLORS PAGE 10

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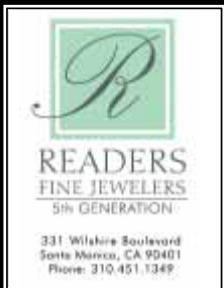
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Calendar

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WEEKEND EDITION, APRIL 26-27, 2008

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A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



A day in the garden

1027 Princeton St., 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

The Fourth Annual Green Gardens Tour takes plant lovers on a jaunt that features six beautiful and sustainable gardens in West Los Angeles and Santa Monica. For information, call (310) 264-4224.

For your health

Third Street Promenade, 10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Visitors to the Community Health Festival will benefit from free health screenings, exams, consultations, and product samples. For information, call (310) 393-9825 ext. 30.

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.

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.

Does the slipper fit?

1211 Fourth St., 12: 30 and 3 p.m.

“Cinderella” is an original Rudie-DeCarlo musical for kids 2 to 102, featuring a charming prince, zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters and a zealously well-meaning step-mother. For more information, call (310) 394-9779 ext. 651.

Sunday, April 27, 2008

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.

Salsa dancing

Casa Escobar Restaurant & Bar (dance floor), 7:15 p.m. — 12 a.m.

Come and join Isabelle's Dance Academy's salsa lessons every Sunday evening. Three instructors offer independent classes at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, so everyone is welcome to the dance floor. Also, there's free open dancing after 9 p.m.

Flavors of the sea

Santa Monica Public Library - Main Branch, 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Border Grill chefs Mary Sue and Susan are visiting the Main Library for a seafood cooking demonstration, inspired by this year's marine-themed book, The Highest Tide. Everyone is invited to this free program. It's located at the library's north entry courtyard.

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.



Santa Monica's pitching keeps team rolling

BY JON HABER
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN The Santa Monica High School baseball team relied on the arms of their pitching staff to complete a two-game series sweep Thursday against Ocean League rival Morningside of Inglewood.

Starting pitcher Tyler Skaggs followed pitcher Paul Salazar's solid five-inning, one-run winning effort Tuesday with a gem, tossing a complete game, three-hitter en route to Samohi's 2-1 victory, the team's eighth win in its last nine games.

The win improved the Viking's record to 12-10 on the season and 6-0 in league play. The Monarchs, continuing their season-long struggle, fell to 1-5 in league action and just 4-17 overall.

"We did enough to win, and that's what we've been doing," said Rob Duron, head baseball coach at Samohi. "We've been persevering. We're not murderers row. We're not Crespi or Palos Verdes and bombing people and putting together an 18-game win streak. I

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 10

Kids' creations take center stage

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

SM PIER When sitting around the dinner table, parents often ask their kids what they learned in school that day. They usually get the same response — "Nothing much."

This weekend, parents will be able to get a better idea of what their kids are up to roughly nine months out of the year, at least those who are involved in the arts.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving, supporting and enhancing a comprehensive range of programs within the school district, is hosting its fifth annual Celebration for the Arts at the Santa Monica

SEE ART PAGE 12



SPEAKING OUT

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

Holding an anti-war sign, Shanz Boilini (left) and Alicia Baldini stand in front of the Armed Forces Career Center with other members of Go Pink/Women For Peace on Thursday afternoon. The members of Go Pink have been fighting to keep military recruiters from setting up within 600 feet of establishments such as the Boys and Girls Club of America and will be presenting their cause to the Santa Monica City Council in the coming weeks. Go Pink is an organization that was started in Venice at the start of the war in Iraq and fights for peace.

Not going overboard

City's Harbor Patrol tries to keep academy class high and dry

Editor's note: For the next three 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

MARINA DEL REY It wasn't a three hour tour. It wasn't even close, but that was a good thing. Not only were the Lakers playing Wednesday night, but the wind was picking up and the water was choppy, meaning my classmates in the Santa Monica Police Department's Citizen Police Academy and I were bound to get sprayed.

So I was happy that after about 30 min-

utes on the water, we turned around at the end of the channel and headed back for land. I had a pretty expensive camera on me so I wasn't too keen on getting wet. Luckily others were in front of me to take the brunt of the spray once we headed out into the open ocean.

As we floated around, we could see multi-million dollar homes along the shore, hundreds of birds and their smelly poop, as well as a lone sea lion resting on the rocks. The tour with the SMPD's Harbor Patrol turned

out to be more about sight seeing than about paying attention to what the patrol actually does, at least for me. I hadn't been out in the marina since high school when my friends and I used to ditch school on certain Fridays and head over to our friend's father's boat and take the dingy out for a spin — definitely good times. It was nice to reminisce.

But that doesn't mean I have no respect for the Harbor Patrol. Quite the contrary. These guys are definitely vital to making sure public safety is maintained.

The Harbor Patrol has been located on the Santa Monica Pier since the 1960s. They provide 24-hour pier security, ocean swim-

SEE ACADEMY PAGE 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Making the cut

Editor:

The guys with the clipboards on the Third Street Promenade were handing out movie passes this week to a free screening of “What Happens in Vegas,” so I took one and went online to register.

I was rejected.

The Screening Exchange says this viewing is only for people age 15-34. Hell, even the star of the movie, Cameron Diaz wouldn’t qualify to see it then. She’s 35 and will be 36 this August.

When did Hollywood decide that only the youngest will go to the movies? I know they already believe the actors should all be young, but are you telling me that people in their 40s or 50s wouldn’t watch Cameron Diaz in a romantic comedy? Baby boomers are obviously not the target audience for this movie, but they do go to see more than just “Wild Hogs” or the latest Diane Keaton film.

The MPAA (Motion Picture Association of America) 2007 Movie Attendance Study does verify that it’s the 12-24 age group that is at the theater most often, with 41 percent of them seeing a film at least once per month, while just 17 percent of the 40-49 group goes that frequently. I appreciate that. But I saw a lot of movies last year, and will probably do so this year.

The Screening Exchange Web site also warned they would be checking IDs at the door for this movie preview.

Isn’t it strange, that years ago we tried to get fake IDs to show we were older, and now we might be sneaking down dark alleys looking for some shady character who would sell us an “under 40” ID?

Please, Hollywood. Don’t make us do it.

Vickie Jenkins

Santa Monica

Greed on pubic display

Editor:

I listened with incredulity to comment at Tuesday night’s City Council meeting describing 2617 Third St. as “uninhabitable.” I inhabited that address for 14 years – as one member of a family of four. Yes, this meant innovative sleeping arrangements for two adults and two children living in a one bedroom/one bathroom house, but we were very happy living there. Every time I walk by, I am so saddened that the house is unoccupied (and has been, for seven years). It is a beautiful old house which enriches the neighborhood; the owners should be ashamed to see their greed on public display.

Pamela Henstell

Santa Monica



ODDS OF A CHILD BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE: 1 in 16,000

ODDS OF A CHILD BEING DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM: 1 in 166

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Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

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Make up your mind

“THEY HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO control the fate of the world. They look just like everybody else, and they live among us. Nobody knows what they are thinking or what they will do. They are the ... Undecideds.”

No, that’s not an ad for Hollywood’s latest blockbuster. It’s a description of the most inexplicable demographic in American elections. Others may talk about rich voters, poor voters, white collar, blue collar, African-American, Caucasian, older or younger voters. But for me the most interesting group are those who still haven’t made up their minds. And of course, my big question for them is, “What are you waiting for?”

I understand and respect people who want to get to know as much as possible about a candidate before deciding how to vote. They don’t just want to vote for a Democrat or a Republican because of party affiliation, or for a liberal or a conservative because of political philosophy. They want to get to know the candidates before they make their decision. But how well do they have to get to know these people?

This campaign has been going on for two years. What is left to learn about the candidates? We know about their marriages, where they went to school, how they dress, and their views on every subject. We know more about them than the people we’re going to walk to the polls with.

How many of you waited to fall in love until you checked out everything that special person had said or done since they were born? How many of you forced your spouse to debate that rival you liked 20 times before you made your choice? When you were a kid deciding who was going to be your best friend on the playground, did you insist on seeing all the kids’ tax returns?

I’m not saying that voting for the possible president is an unimportant decision. But I am saying that it seems that by this point, people should know everything they could possibly want to know about the three candidates. At the beginning of this month, nearly four out of 10 Democratic voters in North Carolina said they were undecided. What’s left to learn about Obama and Clinton? Their favorite pizza topping?

Jenna Bush just revealed on “Larry King Live” that she’s not sure who she’s voting for. What do you think she’s waiting for?

All right, maybe it’s possible that some people have gone back and forth between Obama and Clinton because their positions on most issues are so similar. But how do you explain all the people who are deciding between McCain and one of the Democratic

candidates? This time around, it is such a clear choice, the Republicans and Democrats have such different positions, that I don’t know how someone could feel that it’s a coin toss for them. They’re almost the opposite of each other on so many issues. When the Undecideds go to dinner do they say to themselves, “I’m either going to have something really bland or the spiciest thing on the menu?” Are they torn about their vacation plans? “I’m either going to backpack in the Sahara or get a suite at the Four Seasons.” Are they saying to themselves, “I don’t know

MAYBE THE UNDECIDEDS
LIKE BEING WOODED.
MAYBE THEY LIKE BEING
TALKED ABOUT ON THE
ENDLESS POLITICAL TALK
SHOWS OR MAYBE THEY
JUST CAN’T MAKE UP
THEIR MINDS.

what to do tonight. I’m either going to watch ‘American Idol’ or read Proust?”

Again, those who defend the Undecideds might compliment them on their deliberation. However, when interviewed, many of the Undecideds say things like, “I don’t know who I’m going to vote for. I guess I’ll decide once I get into the voting booth,” or “I’ll see what my heart tells me on that Tuesday.” In other words, many of them aren’t actually going to make a particularly informed decision after all this time. They’re just going with their gut, which they could’ve done months ago.

Maybe the Undecideds like being wooed. Maybe they like being talked about on the endless political talk shows. Or maybe they just can’t make up their minds. That is their right. And they certainly make a political race interesting. I just hope I’m never behind one of them in a buffet line while they’re deciding what to take for their dinner. I might starve to death.

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.

GOT NEWS?

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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

“A big part of the process is really understanding what the community wants so that will be a big part of it.”

— Bob Aptaker, the vice president of development for Macerich, speaking about a potential redevelopment project on Wilshire Boulevard.

“One thing we can all do for our skin is stress less. Stress can cause sebaceous glands to work overtime, making skin oily. Have a chocolate chip cookie and smile. It takes fewer muscles than frowning.”

— SMDP columnist Mariel Howsepan wrote in “West Dressed.”

“I don’t feel like I can completely say that we have complied at all levels.”

— SMMUSD Superintendent Dianne Talarico speaking about conditions the City Council has placed on the school district to receive funding.

“We found that residents, in overwhelming numbers, agree with us that development and traffic in our city is ‘out of control.’”

— Diana Gordon, co-chair of the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City.

“Finally, Minnie Driver, Gwen Stefani, Jessica Alba and Tori Spelling are said to be pooling their bulging bellies, and bank accounts, to make themselves more attractive to the tabloids, offering money and a group shot in return for good placement, or any placement, in a magazine. Still unknown is if they will accept a bid from Ashlee Simpson to join their collective.”

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

“The hardest part has been getting people to make the transition and, frankly, finding housing units to rent. We have the funding to pay pretty much market rate for everybody, but it is difficult in this housing market to find available units for folks. That is our biggest challenge, aside from the fact that we are dealing with a population that is complex, with a lot of issues to work out.”

— Stacy Rowe, human services administrator at City Hall, regarding the city’s 10 most vulnerable people living on the streets.

“This country was founded from the barrel of a gun at Lexington Green over British taxes on tea hence the plethora of Starbucks emporiums in our country today. The raison d’etre of the Second Amendment is to reinforce the first. If one desires to ‘speak truth to power’ one had better possess the incendiary wherewithal to give those in power a modicum of pause to take note of ones issues of redress.”

— SMDP columnist Steve Breen wrote in “Going Postal.”

“MY FEELING IS FROM BEING INVOLVED WITH THE CITY GOVERNMENT AND ITS REACTION TO THE FICUS TREES AND THE ANSWERS WE HAVE GOTTEN HAS MADE ME LOSE TRUST.”

Bob Wolff
NOMA resident and Treesaver, regarding a plan to remove 300 carob trees throughout the city.



John McGrail, C.Ht.

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The QLine

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

This past week, Q-line asked:
Where do you stand on capital punishment and why?

Here are your responses:

"I AM FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. Crimes and criminals have gotten worse and worse and worse over time. Without this deterrent, things would be even worse than they are currently."

"THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT decision was not unanimous. I do not support capital death punishment due to the horrible imbalance of the judicial system – a system that allows poop-head prosecutors and judges to make decisions based on the findings of a poop-head jury, often due to the failings of a poop-head defense attorney. A recent example of a judicial system failing was the incarceration of a young woman who allegedly poisoned her Marine Corps husband. She has now been set free due to a re-evaluation of the evidence against her. It took two-and-a-half years for the judicial system to come to its senses regarding her wrongful incarceration. Keep in mind folks, she is only one of many prison inmates who are innocent of a crime and are cooling their heels in the big house due to the prosecutor being a better talker than the defense attorney. I can go on and on regarding the multiple improprieties of the judicial system, but I will not. I have ran out of poop."

"THE SOONER WE BEGIN EXECUTING murderers, the better. They're not fit to live. Murderers do not deserve to be rehabilitated. They do not deserve to be released. They should be dragged crying and screaming to their execution. Show them the same mercy they showed their victims. Better to execute them, you know they'll never kill again. They don't deserve to be paroled either."

"I THINK IT'S WRONG. BUT, ON THE other hand, because recently this black man was put on death row, and it turned out the DNA was wrong, it was a total miscarriage of justice. I don't think I'm really for it."

"THE NEW TESTAMENT GOSPELS ARE really a sad story of a poor Jew who was legally tried, convicted and executed for sedition by the Romans. What always amazes me is that so-called Christians could be so hypocritical to go to church on Sunday and claim to be good Christians and yet espouse capital punishment. They don't get it. Jesus was all about peace, love and forgiveness, and yet he was legal-

ly executed. And today, many so-called Christians, like President Bush when he was governor, execute people all the time."

"IF THEY DID IN FACT COMMIT THE crime, I am for the death penalty. I think of the victims, even though the perpetrators are suffering the death penalty. I think about what their victims went through on the way to their death."

"WE ARE ALL BORN INTO A WORLD OF corruption. Most are not able to see past the illusion of this life. A few fall from the narrow path because they lack discrimination and so commit the most horrible of crimes. These people can never be redeemed in this lifetime. Better to rid this world of their dark influence, thereby allowing our world to become a clearer reflection of the ultimate ideal. This will allow those who are lost to redirect their journey toward a clearer brightness."

"I DON'T THINK CAPITAL PUNISHMENT is necessary for the murder of our trees here by Community Forester Walt Warriner and the majority of the City Council. But, removing them from office to prevent further damage would be a good idea."

"I AM AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT for the simple reason only too often the wrong person is put to death, and it is discovered too late."

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Tips for getting your food across the border

BY MICHELE KAYAL
Associated Press Writer

If you know you'd like to bring food items back from your foreign holiday, some advance research may improve your chances of getting it into the U.S. The following Web sites and offices may provide some guidance.

■ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, <http://help.cbp.gov>

This list of FAQs begins with "What food can I bring into the U.S. (fruit, cheese, meat, etc)?" Be sure to check out the links at the bottom of each entry, which provide more specific information.

■ U.S. Department of Agriculture's Q56 Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Reference Database, <https://manuals.cphst.org/q56/Q56Main.cfm>

This site breaks down permissible food items according to country, product and other criteria. The site is difficult to navigate, but agency hopes to launch a more user-friendly site sometime this year.

■ U.S. Department of Agriculture's Complete Animal Product Manual, http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/apm.shtml

This is the guide the government uses to determine whether your animal product is permitted.

GETTING SPECIAL PERMISSION

Animal products: Some items will require an import permit. The document costs \$91 and can take up to three weeks

to receive. And unless you have the foreign government's certification information the permit is not likely to be granted. Contact National Center for Import and Export: 301-734-3277. <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/>

Fruit, vegetable and plant products: May require something called a "phytosanitary certificate." Also a difficult process. <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

TIPS

■ Duty-free is no guarantee. Items purchase in duty-free shops may still be confiscated.

■ Remember that items purchased in Hawaii, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands may also be subject to restrictions.

■ Keep items in their original containers. If you break the seal to nibble, you might lose it at the border, even if it's something that is otherwise allowed.

■ Vacuum-sealed packages are less likely to get in than canned or shelf-stable, hermetically sealed items.

■ Have your receipts handy. Duty on some items is levied according to their value.

■ Current security regulations limit liquids in carryon luggage. With very few exceptions, all liquids must be in 3-ounce bottles or smaller and fit inside one 1-quart plastic bag.

So if you've just got to lug home some of the local wine or olive oil, carefully pack the bottles (wrapped in plastic wrap or clothing) at the center of your checked bags.



Restaurant Snapshot

By Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Peking pecking order

ONE OF THE GREAT DISHES IN THE world today is Peking duck. It's a combination of steamed buns, leaks, roasted duck with crispy skin and hoisin sauce. It's usually very difficult to find in West Los Angeles except by special order. Now I've found a place where not only can I eat it every day of the week, but I can actually afford it.

The Peking duck at Hop Woo is very traditional. The waiter brings part of the duck to the table, and cuts off the crispy skin. Then he cuts up pieces of the duck. A plate of leaks, a saucer of hoisin sauce, and a big plate of very hot steamed, soft buns follows.

The waiter assumes that you know to put a piece of the skin, a piece of duck meat, a smear of sauce, and a leak into a bun, and eat it like a sandwich. At least that's what I do. It's so good.

WHERE: 11110 W. Olympic Blvd., L.A., 90064. It's at the end of a corner mall composed mostly of restaurants. Parking is tight but usually available.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

BEST DISHES: The lobster is good, and a

terrific bargain at \$10-14, but the real star is the Peking duck. I paid \$14 for one serving and it served both me and my wife. Or you can have a half roast duck for \$7. I can hardly find duck in the supermarket for that price.

BEST FEATURE: Incredibly low prices with a wide choice of different dishes and flavors. Long hours of service and free delivery within three miles (most of Santa Monica).

WORST FEATURE: It's not too serious, but none of the waiters I've met speak very good English. The name is hard to remember, and the restaurant is not easy to find.

WHAT TO DRINK: I usually drink tea or beer with Chinese food.

BOTTOM LINE: What a find. Top quality Chinese food, fast service, and such low prices.

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

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Massage technicians could be required to submit fingerprints

FROM PARLORS PAGE 1

ordinance, changes that would tighten up regulations to require fingerprints for all massage technicians — a way to keep tabs on criminal backgrounds — and hold landlords accountable for leasing space to businesses that conduct illegal operations, such as prostitution and related sexual acts.

Such operations have become an increasingly growing nuisance in Santa Monica where since 2005, the Santa Monica Police Department has shut down 10 operations due to illicit activity. Three of those parlors are up and running again under new management and ownership, according to the department.

Santa Monica has seen 33 new parlors open up in just the past two years, ballooning the population in a city just 8.3 square miles in size, to 64 licensed parlors and accessory massage businesses — chiropractic offices or salons that offer massages as a secondary service.

“We’re a destination city similar to Anaheim and Newport Beach,” Cody Green, a detective with the SMPD, said on Friday. “Because we’re a destination city ... we have more of the service establishments.”

While a majority of area massage businesses operate legally, approximately 25 percent are believed to operate as brothels.

The department has made arrests or issued citations on 20 to 25 occasions this past year due to ordinance violations, infractions ranging from illegal sexual acts to operating without a permit. Investigators believe there are six locations where they have a high degree of certainty that there is illicit activity occurring.

It is the increasing number of illegal operations, coupled with the growing number of complaints from residents reporting suspicious activity in neighboring parlors, that is causing city officials to take another look at Santa Monica’s ordinance and how these businesses are regulated.

“The existing ordinance is antiquated and that is in comparison to cities like Culver City and Los Angeles,” Deputy City Attorney Ivan Campbell said on Wednesday. “We want to make sure there are only legitimate massage businesses operating in the

city and not those that front for any other use.”

The biggest change in the ordinance would be a requirement that all massage technicians seeking a permit submit their fingerprints, bringing Santa Monica in line with other cities in Southern California which already have a fingerprinting mandate. The lack of this requirement is a prime reason why there could be such a high concentration of massage businesses in the city, according to the City Attorney’s Office.

The ordinance currently requires that massage technicians with less than 300 hours of training be fingerprinted. Only 12 percent of licensed massage technicians have their fingerprints on record, according to Revenue Manager Pamela McGarvey, whose division deals with business licensing.

New state law requires that municipalities have a way of determining whether permitted massage technicians are registered sex offenders. The only way to determine criminal background is through fingerprinting.

“It’s bringing us to conformity with the rest of the state and more importantly complying with the state’s new laws to require cities to determine whether a permit and massage therapist is registered sex offender,” McGarvey said. “We can’t do that without a criminal background check.”

The proposed ordinance also includes new terms like “responsible employee” and “responsible managing officer,” holding those individuals accountable and minimizing the possibility of the businesses continuing to operate if workers are arrested.

Heightened massage regulations are sure to receive mixed reactions from parlors that run legitimate operations, some welcoming regulations for an industry that has received a bad reputation, others questioning why the

legal businesses will also have to jump through more hurdles.

Maryse Gessner, the associate director of the Massage School of Santa Monica, which operated for 40 years in the city before moving to Valley Glen last April, pointed out that Santa Monica’s required written test is considerably more difficult than in other cities. The test is required for technicians with less than 300 hours of training, Gessner said.

“It definitely will legitimize the practice,” Gessner said on Thursday. “The Santa Monica test is one of the harder tests and Santa Monica has always been good that way.”

Gessner said prostitution has long been a bane for the massage industry, but believes the perception has gotten better in the past decade as more people have expressed an interest in becoming technicians.

The massage school includes a course on ethics and integrity, Gessner said.

“A lot of people do love massage and want to pursue it and that is a part of the character trait of a good massage therapist who likes to work with people,” Gessner said. “It’s the integral part of that kind of work.”

The ordinance, which was scheduled to go before the City Council for a first reading last week and is now rescheduled for a future meeting, was endorsed by the Ocean Park Association, whose members live near Lincoln Boulevard where many of the parlors are concentrated.

OPA sent a letter to councilmembers last week urging it to move forward with the first reading of the ordinance. The neighborhood organization received complaints from residents living near Lincoln Boulevard about suspicious activity from parlors they believe are operating as brothels.

“WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WHAT THE ACTIVITY GOING IS WHAT THEY ARE LICENSED FOR DOING,”

Cody Green,
SMPD detective

Zina Josephs, the president of the Friends of Sunset Park, said the neighborhood group east of Lincoln Boulevard has received complaints from residents about illicit activity along both Pico and Lincoln boulevards for years.

“One resident who lives near Lincoln would observe customers coming and going from the back of the building,” Josephs said on Friday. “Another went to get a massage at a business on Pico and realized when she got inside that some other business was involved.”

The Friends of Sunset Park board of directors has yet to take a position on the ordinance.

“It’s been an ongoing issue on membership forms where we’ve gotten comments of complaints of ongoing prostitution and drug dealing on Lincoln, especially at the massage parlors,” Josephs said.

The overall increase in massage businesses acting as a guise for prostitution and other illegal activities is often attributed to the smuggling of young women from Asia into California, many of whom come from Korea.

The fee for smuggling women from Korean into Southern California is estimated to be \$15,000 and the women are often required to work off the fee once they arrive, according to the City Attorney’s Office.

Of the 10 businesses that have been closed in Santa Monica, five shut down voluntarily and five were forced to cease operations. Four of the businesses were brothels that were licensed for massage.

The Santa Monica Police Department receives complaints from residents and follow-up at the location. The department also checks out Web sites like Craigslist for leads.

The businesses that were shut down were spread throughout the city, some on Lincoln, others on Santa Monica Boulevard and one on Wilshire. The department and code compliance were able to prevent at least one business at 739 Hill St. from opening.

“We want to make sure the activity going is what they are licensed for doing,” Green said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Tough opponents ahead

FROM BASEBALL PAGE 3

don’t think anybody fears us, and that’s fine.”

After allowing a run to score on a passed ball in the first inning, Skaggs settled down and struck out 10 batters in his seven-inning performance. His ERA dropped to 1.40 on the season.

“(Skaggs) was throwing a good fast ball,” Duron said. “He was spotting his change up, doing things like that. It’s like I told the kids, we need to do it with pitching and defense.”

The Viking’s only offense in the game came in the fourth inning, when Vincent Lawrence lead off the frame with one of his two doubles on the day. With two outs, Alex Kovacs stepped up and delivered an RBI double. Charlie Parish, who pinch-ran for Kovacs, scored later in the inning on an infield error.

Duron, who has preached leadership all season to his players, believes Kovacs has stepped up as a player teammates can look up to.

“(Kovacs) does a great job in preparation. He does a great job in making an adjustment, and it’s something we talk about all the time,” Duron said. “He does bring a good, quiet leadership to the club. He’s got a

great work ethic. A leader doesn’t need to be loud and screaming, he’s just got to go out and do it.

The two runs scored in the fourth inning were all Skaggs would need to give Samohi the victory, as he shut down the Monarch offense in the remaining three innings of play.

Despite his team’s recent success, however, Duron said his players aren’t doing anything differently than they were during the team’s early-season struggles. Rather, the right pieces are finally falling into place.

“It’s just been a gradual building and trying to find the right guys in the right spots and the right formula,” he said. “The lineup changes constantly. We’re a long way from where we want to be, but we’re starting to get a little better idea.

“[As a coach,] you look at what you think is the best. If that doesn’t work, you tinker with it some more. This year’s been nothing but adjustment.”

The team’s recent success, however, has brought some internal conflict among the players and coaches.

Duron said some upper-classmen are disgruntled about playing time, but the coach said he plays his best players on the field. He doesn’t believe in putting players in the lineup solely because of their class standing.

“IT’S JUST BEEN A GRADUAL BUILDING AND TRYING TO FIND THE RIGHT GUYS IN THE RIGHT SPOTS AND THE RIGHT FORMULA. THE LINEUP CHANGES CONSTANTLY. WE’RE A LONG WAY FROM WHERE WE WANT TO BE, BUT WE’RE STARTING TO GET A LITTLE BETTER IDEA.”

Rob Duron
Samohi head baseball coach

“We’re about competition, we’re about the best players playing,” Duron said. “Bring your bat, bring your glove every single game. If you’re not in the game, when you do get in, you’ve got to go in, and give it your best shot. And perform.

“They’ve got to earn it, bring that attitude where you earn it, and you earn it through practice and on the field,” the coach added.

The Vikings will look to continue their late-season surge when they hit the field Saturday against Redondo in the last game of the Redondo Tournament. Game time is set for 4 p.m.

Following Saturday’s contest, the Vikings

will have four games remaining in league play, during which Samohi will face their toughest league rivals of the season — Beverly Hills (9-9, 4-2) and Culver City (11-9, 5-1).

“I’ve heard an awful lot about how good they are, so we’re going to take it one game at a time,” Duron said. “We hope to be competitive and see how we work out.”

Ocean League action kicks off Tuesday at Beverly Hills. The Vikings will send out Salazar to pitch against Beverly Hills’ ace Matt Ross. First pitch is set to be thrown at 3:15 p.m.

news@smdp.com

Officer seeking \$5M in damages

FROM SMPD PAGE 1

this week with the City Clerk's office.

It is the second such complaint to be filed this month alleging misconduct by Jackman and the department. Capt. Mark Smiley, a 25-year SMPD veteran and commanding officer of the Office of Special Enforcement, filed a \$10 million claim for damages claiming Jackman, SMPD Deputy Chief Phil Sanchez and City Hall "orchestrated and fabricated ... a retaliatory, egregious and vindictive pursuit" against him, preventing Smiley from performing his duties as captain.

Smiley and Oshiro are represented by the same attorneys, Clifford Pearson, Thomas Girardi and Robert Baker.

Girardi is considered one of the nation's top trial lawyers who has won numerous multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements, handling cases involving wrongful death, commercial litigation, product liability and toxic torts. He represented 650 residents of Hinkley, Calif. in a toxic tort case against Pacific Gas & Electric that resulted in a settlement of \$300 million. The case was made famous by the film "Erin Brokovich."

Baker represented O.J. Simpson during his much-publicized wrongful death civil trial in Santa Monica.

City officials could not comment on the claims because they are personnel matters. City Manager Lamont Ewell said he has full confidence in Jackman and the department.

In the claim, Oshiro said he was removed from SWAT following a bogus charge of insubordination. He also said he was verbally abused in public and reprimanded in the presence of fellow officers, city and non-city employees, threatened with termination or excessive suspension for consuming water during an investigation and for failing to performing volunteer work associated with the Ricardo Crocker Golf Tournament.

Oshiro goes on to say that he was passed over for promotion and denied special assignments because of his friendship with Smiley.

This alleged misconduct by Jackman has caused damage to Oshiro's reputation, which has interfered with his ability to seek employment elsewhere. He also claims discrimination has caused him emotional distress and believes Jackman targeted him because of personal and professional animosity he holds toward Oshiro.



GONE GREEN

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com
Jake Brown (right), eco-agent for Earthfriendly Moving, shows off recopack bins to Rick Dallago (center) and Jeff Cragar (left) at the Fifth Annual AltBuild on Friday at the Santa Monica Civic Center. Earthfriendly Moving is a Santa Monica based-company.

By law those with a grievance against a government entity must first file a claim for damages. If the claim is rejected, those who file have the option of suing City Hall. The attorneys for Smiley and Oshiro said they will most likely file a lawsuit against City Hall.

Smiley has been on paid leave since November 2007 pending the results of an internal investigation. Police will not disclose why Smiley is being investigated. In his claim, Smiley said he does not know why he was suspended but

believes it has something to do with an allegation of misusing city funds and violating city policies and procedures.

Another officer, Steve Salandez, filed a \$25,000 claim for damages in February alleging unfair punishment after being demoted for refusing to be placed in charge of buying coffee supplies for detectives. Salandez' claim was denied by City Hall.

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LESSON TIME

In, around and about Santa Monica is the title that Rebecca Urias (left center) gave to the social studies project for her students when visiting City Hall Wednesday morning. Urias, a teacher at the Will Rodgers Learning Community has been taking her students around town on the Big Blue Bus to see the many landmarks and rich history the city has to offer.

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Festival features graffiti art and urban culture

FROM ART PAGE 3

Pier this Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is free and parents are encouraged to attend so that they can better understand arts education in Santa Monica and Malibu, as well as spend money to help fund programs. Last year the foundation raised \$15,000 thanks to proceeds from vendors and donations by sponsors. This year sponsors include Morley Builders, First Regional Bank, Bob's Market, Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel and Lexington.

"We want everyone to come down and see all the hard work of the choirs, bands, performers and artists. This event is about community involvement," said Sarah Gross, a junior at Santa Monica High School who has been working for the last few months lining up child stars from Nickelodeon, Disney and the CW to come out and sign autographs and talk with kids about the entertainment industry.

There will be music, drama and dance performances, plus original art by students in the district. Kids will also have the chance to make their own T-shirts and decorate their sneakers.

Vendors will be on hand to sell their artwork and various foods. There will also be a coffee lounge in the carousel building for parents to relax and check out student art.

New at this year's festival will be performances by a coalition of artists from various mediums called Bagavagabonds, who will be performing on a third stage along with local musicians and DJs from the Scratch Academy, who will teach kids the art of turntablism. Graffiti artists from London's Heavy Artillery will also be on hand to teach kids about graffiti art, how it is different from tagging and how they can one day use their skills to get jobs.

"We've always been able to attract elementary and middle school kids, but we knew we didn't have much to offer the older crowd, so we brought [Bagavagabonds] in, and for the first time we are having DJs from the Scratch Academy, breakdancing boot camps, silk-screening and an interactive art booth," said Linda Gross, director of the Education Foundation.

This won't be the first time that the foundation has hooked up with the Bagavagabonds. The two have joined forces for at least six other events, helping to raise \$2,500. The Bagavagabonds helped infuse the festival with hip-hop culture.

"It has been a really good marriage," Izzy Holden, a member of the Bagavagabonds, said about the partnership with the foundation. "We all came from schools in places where we were highly involved in our arts programs and we see what it means to us because we are all still doing it and without that opportunity for people out there, what would that mean for the next generation?"

For more information about the festival, go to www.smmef.org/pier.html.

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Harbor Patrol cruises the bay

FROM ACADEMY PAGE 3

mer rescues and vessel assists. Harbor guards render first aid, maintain the harbor warning buoys and pier pilings, perform routine beach patrols, provide daily beach, weather, boating and fishing information and rescue ailing marine mammals.

All of the harbor guards hold SCUBA, first aid and CPR certificates. They are all highly skilled rescue boat operators which includes the ability to fight marine and pier fires from their boat, the Monica I.

As we were heading back to the dock, the two patrol officers hosting us received a call about a boat that had capsized about two miles from shore. The officers kicked into high gear, dropped us off and immediately went to assist in the rescue.

It was nice to be back on land again, even nicer to be out of class a few hours early so that I could watch Kobe Bryant dominate the Nuggets. But I didn't rush home. Instead I joined some of my fellow classmates for some burgers and beer at Islands. It was nice to get to know them a little better and share some cheesy fries.



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

SEVEN SEES: Students in the SMPD's Citizen Police Academy check out the sites in Marina del Rey while being instructed on the finer points of Santa Monica's Harbor Patrol.

I realized that my classmates are really a good bunch of people who I think I am going to miss a little when this is all over.

Thank you, Harbor Patrol for the ride, and I look forward to doing it again sometime soon. But this time I'll leave the camera in the car and prepare to get soaked.

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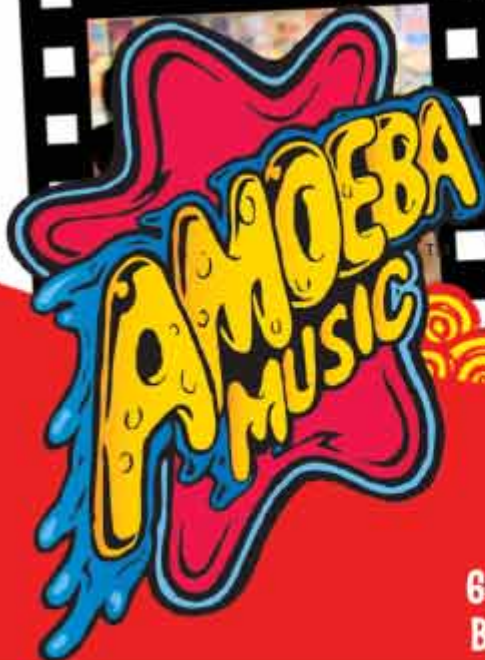
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State opens inquiry into fatal grizzly bear attack

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

BIG BEAR LAKE — State work safety officials opened an investigation Thursday into the death of an exotic-animal trainer who was killed by a 700-pound grizzly bear while filming a promotional video, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Industrial Relations said.

The department will investigate a Los Angeles company called eSeekers Inc. that employed the victim, Stephan Miller, 39, for any health and safety violations, said Kate McGuire, the agency spokeswoman.

McGuire described the business as a Web browser company that was shooting video at Randy Miller's Predators in Action, a center in the remote San Bernardino Mountains that provides trained animals for movies, TV shows and documentaries.

Stephan Miller died Tuesday after the 7 1/2-foot-tall bear named Rocky bit him on the neck. The victim was a cousin of Predators in Action owner Randy Miller.

An autopsy Thursday found that Stephan Miller died within minutes from multiple neck injuries consistent with a single bite, said Sandy Fatland, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County coroner.

"If the coroner's report says there's only one bite, then it follows what the initial report was, which is that the person was bitten, not attacked," said Harry Morse, spokesman for the state Department of Fish and Game.

Joel Almquist, who co-owns an exotic animal sanctuary called Forever Wild and has himself wrestled Rocky, said the autopsy findings show the bear wasn't attacking.

"Knowing the bear, taking little nip-type bites with the front teeth, every bear does that. It's not necessarily an aggressive thing," he said.

McGuire said the state probe could take up to six months. The agency could issue citations if any violations are found, she said.

A colleague of Stephan Miller said he worked for ShareNow.com, an online social-networking and file-sharing startup meant to compete with sites like Facebook and YouTube. ShareNow's chairman, Nigel Robertson, said eSeekers is the holding company for Beverly Hills-based ShareNow.com.

Robertson said he hired Stephan Miller, an expert in Internet startups, 10 months ago to establish online communities and was impressed by his dedication. Miller, the No. 3 man at the fledgling company, would sleep in the office in a sleeping bag and last week tattooed ShareNow's logo on his arm, Robertson said. He talked often about his passion for exotic animals.

Robertson said he didn't know if Stephan Miller was filming footage for ShareNow.com when he died. He said he hadn't been contacted by state officials.

"It's highly likely that if there was filming going on, and I understand there was, that it would have ended up on the site," Robertson said, adding that Miller had posted other animal clips before.

"He just loved animals and he spent as much time as he could with them. He said it's amazing, just like being with your family cat or dog," Robertson said.

In an emotional telephone interview with The Associated Press late Wednesday, Randy Miller described Rocky as a "loving, affectionate, friendly, safe bear," and said he was at a loss to explain how a "simple routine" turned tragic.

Randy Miller said he was overwhelmed

with grief at the death of his cousin, an experienced animal handler who left behind a wife and two young children.

"It's ... killing me. We were brothers," he said, close to tears.

Miller, who witnessed the attack, would not talk in detail about what happened, but said the bear was trained to wrestle with experienced handlers.

"It's a playful behavior brought out on cue," he said.

STATE BRIEFS

SANTA ANA OC jail's lockdown lifted

Orange County's lockdown at the Men's Central Jail has been lifted a week after a brawl between black and Hispanic inmates.

More than 1,300 inmates got back their privileges Friday, including visiting hours, day-room activities, outdoor recreation and eating with other inmates instead of taking meals in their cells.

Sheriff's Lt. Mike Colver says inmates ate breakfast together Friday and there were no incidents.

The jail was locked down April 18 because of fights in two dorms, each housing about 68 inmates, between black and Hispanic inmates. Eleven inmates suffered minor injuries.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAKE ELSINORE Carp removal continues

More than a 1.4 million carp have been removed from Lake Elsinore in a five-year effort to revitalize the struggling striped bass population prized by anglers.

A University of California, Riverside, scientist with high-tech equipment conducted a fish survey of the Riverside County lake on Thursday to determine if the carp population is on the decline.

Carp stir up lake bottom sediment and eat the eggs of striped bass. The fish are also responsible for algae blooms, which choked the lake's oxygen supply and resulted in undesirable fish kills. Carp feed on the zooplanktons that keep the algae growth in check.

There were an estimated two million carp in the lake in 2003 when the city and the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority created a fisheries management plan. Some 1.4 million pounds have been removed.

AP

SAN BERNARDINO Councilman gets 180 days

Former Colton Councilman Ramon Hernandez has been sentenced to six months in jail for misusing a city credit card to make \$5,500 worth of sex phone calls and pay for motel rooms.

Superior Court Judge Ronald Christianson also placed the 48-year-old Hernandez on five years' probation. Hernandez had pleaded guilty to 24 felony counts for unauthorized credit card charges from December 2004 to May 2006.

Thursday's hearing included release of a lurid probation report describing Hernandez's battle with alcohol, addiction to methamphetamines and a complicated homosexual affair.

AP

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NYPD officers cleared in shooting

BY TOM HAYS

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Civil rights leaders demanded a federal investigation and vowed to march through the streets in protest after three police officers were cleared of all charges Friday in the killing of an unarmed man cut down in a hail of 50 bullets on his wedding day.

The verdict by Justice Arthur Cooperman elicited gasps as well as tears of joy and sorrow. Detective Michael Oliver, who fired 31 of the shots, wept at the defense table, while the mother of victim Sean Bell cried in the packed courtroom. Shouts of "Murderers! Murderers!" and "KKK!" rang out on the courthouse steps.

Bell, a 23-year-old black man, was killed outside a seedy strip club in Queens in 2006 as he was leaving his bachelor party with two friends. The officers — undercover detectives who were investigating reports of prostitution at the club — said they thought one of the men had a gun.

The slaying heightened tensions in the city and stoked long-standing allegations of racism and excessive use of force on the part of New York City's police, even though two of the officers charged are black.

In announcing his verdict in the non-jury trial, the judge said that the inconsistent testimony, courtroom demeanor and rap sheets

of the prosecution witnesses — mainly Bell's friends — "had the effect of eviscerating" their credibility.

"At times, the testimony just didn't make sense," the judge said.

Police had assigned extra officers to the courthouse and had helicopters in the air to help deal with any unrest. But within an hour, the angry, weeping crowd of about 200 people outside the courthouse had scattered, and despite a few scuffles, no arrests were made.

Oliver and Giscard Isnora were acquitted of charges that included manslaughter, assault and reckless endangerment. The third officer, Marc Cooper, faced lesser charges.

The verdict does not entirely resolve issues surrounding the case.

After the verdict, the U.S. attorney's office said it will look into the case and "take appropriate action if the evidence indicates a prosecutable violation of federal criminal civil rights statutes."

In addition, relatives of the victims have sued the city, and those cases could either go to trial or be settled out of court with the potential for multimillion-dollar payouts.

Also, the officers, who had been on paid leave, still face possible departmental charges that could result in their firing. While the judge found that the officers' behavior was not criminal, he added, "Questions of carelessness and incompe-

tence must be left to other forums."

The officers appeared somber later at a news conference. Each called the verdict fair. One apologized.

"I'd like to say sorry to the Bell family for the tragedy," Cooper said.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who represents Bell's family, demanded a federal investigation.

"This verdict is one round down, but the fight is far from over," the civil rights leader said on his radio show. He said he is organizing "economic withdrawal" and "civil disobedience" that could involve going to jail and marching on Wall Street, at the judge's house and at police headquarters.

"We are going to close the city down in a nonviolent, effective way," Sharpton said. "We're going to hit the pocketbooks. We're going to let you know that we are not going to be in any way diverted from exercising our civil rights."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said: "We don't expect any violence, nor is there any place for it."

The officers had complained that pretrial publicity had unfairly painted them as cold-blooded killers. They opted to have the judge instead of a jury decide the case, a strategy that appeared to pay off.

District Attorney Richard Brown said that despite losing the case, prosecutors had "revealed significant deficiencies" in police tactics that need "prompt and serious attention."

The case brought back painful memories of other New York police shootings, such as the 1999 killing of Amadou Diallo, an African immigrant who was gunned down in a barrage of 41 bullets by police officers who mistook his wallet for a gun. The acquittal of the officers in that case led to days of protests, with hundreds arrested.

"An ugly pattern is emerging in New York," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said in Chicago after Friday's verdict. "This was a massacre. This was not a shootout. And the U.S. attor-

ney general must give America the assurance that we all have equal protection under the law."

The nearly two-month trial was marked by deeply divergent accounts of the night.

The defense painted the victims as drunken thugs who the officers believed were armed and dangerous. Prosecutors sought to convince the judge that the victims had been minding their own business, and that the officers were inept, trigger-happy cowboys.

Bell's companions — Trent Benefield and Joseph Guzman — were both wounded; Guzman still has four bullets lodged in his body. Both testified. Guzman, a burly ex-convict, grew combative during cross-examination, and said of Isnora: "This dude is shooting like he's crazy, like he's out of his mind."

None of the officers took the stand. Instead, the judge heard transcripts of the officers telling a grand jury that they believed they had good reason to use deadly force.

The officers said that as the club closed around 4 a.m., they heard Guzman say, "Yo, go get my gun" — something Bell's friends denied.

Isnora claimed that after he warned the men to halt, Bell pulled away in his car, bumped him and rammed an unmarked police van that converged on the scene. The detective also said Guzman made a sudden move as if he were reaching for a gun.

Benefield and Guzman testified that there were no orders from the police.

With tires screeching, glass breaking and bullets flying, the officers said they believed they were the ones under fire. Oliver responded by emptying his semiautomatic pistol, reloading, and emptying it again. Isnora fired 11 rounds, and Cooper four. Two other officers who fired weren't charged.

When the smoke had cleared, there was no weapon inside Bell's blood-splattered car.

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Mexican man sentenced in sea-turtle smuggling case

BY CATHERINE TSAI

Associated Press Writer

DENVER A co-defendant of a Mexican bootmaker to world leaders accused of smuggling the skins of protected sea turtles into the U.S. for exotic footwear was sentenced to 16 months in prison Friday.

Carlos Leal Barragan of Guzman, Mexico, also was ordered to serve three years of supervised release. He pleaded guilty in January to federal charges of smuggling and money laundering.

Altogether, seven people have pleaded guilty in the case, Justice Department officials said. Among them is Martin Villegas Terrones, who made boots for former Mexican President Vicente Fox.

Villegas Terrones also produced footwear for Fox's bodyguards, Cabinet members, relatives and friends — including President Bush, who accepted a pair of ostrich-skin cowboy boots as a gift during a visit to Fox's ranch in 2001.

Villegas Terrones pleaded guilty to the same charges as Leal Barragan and is to be sentenced July 25.

One other Mexican national, two Chinese nationals and two Texas residents have

pleaded guilty for their roles in the case. Three suspects remain at large, the Justice Department said.

Prosecutors said that for years, Leal Barragan's family would tan sea turtle hides purchased from fishermen who sometimes snagged turtles in their nets. The skins were sold to bootmakers in Mexico and sometimes smuggled to bootmakers in the United States.

Leal Barragan was accused of illegally sending about 360 pieces of sea turtle skins, plus sea turtle boots, belts and shoes, to undercover U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents in Colorado last year. The items were worth about \$30,000.

U.S. law forbids commercial trade in endangered species, including sea turtles. Commercial trade of the animal also is banned under a treaty recognized by about 170 countries, including the U.S. and Mexico.

Mexico has banned killing sea turtles, taking their eggs or selling sea turtle products since 1990.

A pair of turtle-skin cowboy boots sells on the black market in Mexico for about \$70. In the U.S., they can sell for as much as \$500, the U.S. Justice Department says.

Oil prices rise sharply on news of aggression

BY JOHN WILEN
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Oil prices rose sharply Friday on news that a ship under contract to the U.S. Defense Department fired warning shots at two boats in the Persian Gulf. Retail gas prices as expected rose further into record territory, nearing \$3.60 a gallon.

Crude prices rose on initial reports that a U.S. ship had fired on two Iranian boats; the news raised concerns that a conflict between U.S. and Iranian forces could cut oil supplies from the region. A Navy spokeswoman said the origin of the boats was unclear.

The news was enough to send light, sweet crude for June delivery up to \$119.55 before the contract retreated to settle up \$2.46 at \$118.52 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The incident worried investors because at first it appeared to be the latest in a series of encounters between U.S. forces and Iranian boats in the Gulf. Early this month, the USS Typhoon fired a flare at an Iranian boat that came within about 200 yards of the ship. In January, several Iranian boats made what the Navy described as provocative moves near a U.S. ship in the Strait of Hormuz. And in December the USS Whidbey Island fired warning shots at a small Iranian boat officials said was rapidly approaching the ship.

On Friday, oil prices were already up before the report on news of a pipeline attack in Nigeria and a looming refinery strike in Scotland.

In Nigeria, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, or MEND, said its fighters hit an oil pipeline late Thursday, the fourth conduit the group has attacked in the past week. MEND said the pipeline belongs to a Royal Dutch Shell PLC joint venture. A Shell spokesman confirmed one of its pipelines had been hit, but provided no additional details.

Earlier this week, Shell said an earlier attack cut its Nigerian oil production by about 170,000 barrels a day.

Separately, workers at an ExxonMobil Corp. joint venture in Nigeria cut production by an unspecified amount to demand more pay.

Adding to the supply concerns, BP PLC said it will shut down a 700,000 barrel-a-day

pipeline system that carries oil from the North Sea to refineries in the U.K. on Saturday in anticipation of a strike at Scotland's Grangemouth refinery expected to begin Sunday. The refinery supplies power and steam to the pipeline; if it shuts down, the pipeline can't operate.

Oil's rise came as the dollar strengthened. A stronger dollar typically encourages selling by making commodities such as oil less effective hedges against inflation, and by making oil more expensive to overseas investors. Analysts say the dollar's steady decline over the past year is the chief culprit behind this year's rapid rise in oil prices.

But, noted Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Ill., "that connection between oil and the dollar can be broken easily by supply issues," which drove trading on Friday.

At the pump, meanwhile, gas prices rose another 2.1 cents Friday to a record national average of \$3.577 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Gas prices have been following oil futures higher, but are also rising due to concerns about whether gasoline supplies are adequate to meet peak summer driving demand.

Analysts expect gas prices to continue rising for at least another month to \$3.70 to \$4 a gallon. To a large extent, how high gas prices peak depends on what oil does.

Lately, analysts have recently raised their oil price predictions to \$125 to \$130 a barrel. Earlier this week, the expiring May crude contract rose as high as \$119.90 as investors scrambled to square positions.

However, the Federal Reserve is expected to cut interest rates less sharply next week than originally thought. Because rate cuts tend to weaken the dollar, a smaller than expected cut could push the dollar higher, and send oil prices down.

In other Nymex trading Friday, May gasoline futures rose 3.51 cents to settle at \$3.0537 a gallon after earlier rising to a new trading record of \$3.0815, and May heating oil futures rose 4.45 cents to settle at \$3.3028 a gallon. May natural gas futures rose 17.3 cents to settle at \$10.963 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude futures rose \$2 to settle at \$116.34 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.



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11:30 a.m., 4:25, 7:15, 9:55
Pathology (R) 1hr 33min
2:10, 4:25, 6:45, 9:10
Deal (PG-13) 1hr 26min
11:05 a.m., 1:15, 3:35, 5:50, 8:15, 10:30
Nim's Island (PG) 1hr 35min
11:35 a.m., 2:00, 4:35, 7, 9:30
Prom Night (PG-13) 1hr 28min
11 a.m., 1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:55, 10:15

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21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min
11:05 a.m., 1:50, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11 a.m., 1, 1:35, 3:45, 4:20, 6:30, 7:10, 9:10, 10
Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min
11:45 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 8, 10
Deception (R) 1hr 48min
11 a.m., 1:30, 4:10, 7, 9:45
Baby Mama (PG-13) 1hr 36min
11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40
Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) 1hr 42min
11:30 a.m., 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15

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Smart People (R) 1hr 33min

12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
Then She Found Me (R) 1hr 40min
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min
1:30, 4:20, 7:25, 10
Young @ Heart (PG) 2hrs 15min
1:20, 4, 7, 9:40

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88 Minutes (R) 1hr 48min
11:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30
Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed (PG) 1hr 30min
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Leatherheads (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:50 a.m., 2:20, 5, 7:40, 10:20
Shine a Light (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
1:50, 7:20
Where in the World Is Osama Bin Laden? (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 10
A Plumm Summer (PG) 1hr 39min
12, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

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Just say yes tonight, Virgo

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★★★★ You hear a lot that you might prefer not to. Financial security could be an issue. Think in terms of creating far more stability in your life. Tonight: A force to be dealt with, wherever you are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Listen to feedback carefully before you take off or make plans. Travel or investigating a new area develops as the most enticing plan, especially with the company you are choosing. Tonight: Try a new spot.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Use your instincts when dealing with a very important member of your family. You could feel overwhelmed at times with this person, but you understand the importance of this bond. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Someone knocks on your door. You might have more than your share of invitations right now. What would make you happy? Don't forget a friend or child who loves to share with you. Tonight: Where the gang is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Devote time to simple matters and worry less about being on center stage. Invite a friend or family member over for dinner and catch up on news. Tonight: Refuse to make anything difficult. Work on easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Let your imagination fine-tune plans, and you'll discover that extra zap or element of fun. A romance could be budding if you are single. Travel, music and a different type of thinking could earmark the next few days. Tonight: Say yes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Worry less about making an impression, and get down to basics. A key partnership knocks your socks off. Be open to more depth and important talks. Tonight: Stay close to home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Others seek you out. Make time for those you really care about. Finally, someone who might be mysterious and holds back opens up to talks. Socialize and make room for a spontaneous get-together that could happen anywhere. Tonight: Share, listen and enjoy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might want to spruce up your wardrobe or spend some money on making a get-together even more fun. As you express your devil-may-care attitude, you feel much better than you thought possible. Tonight: Accept the limelight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your smile melts others, especially a certain person you care about. Seize the moment and take off for a special afternoon or day together. Tonight: Just ask with that big smile.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Take a day off. Where you go or what you do isn't important. Understand that sometimes we all need a timeout. Tonight: Maintain a low profile.

PISCES (Feb.-March 20)

★★★★★ Friends play a role in what is going on. You might want to try another approach or do something very differently. Ask questions rather than wonder. You need answers. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

Happy birthday

Others find you inspiring, as you seem to always present a different point of view, and in a manner that they can hear. Your ability to learn, empathize and take on a spiritual perspective is highlighted this year. Travel and education also might be a likely possibility. For others, a foreigner or someone who is quite different guides you down new paths. If you are single, the person you meet and decide to relate to could be the person you explore the world with, at least as armchair travelers! If you are attached, as long as you detach, you could get along famously. Plan on taking that long-dreamed-of trip. Develop a new hobby together. CAPRICORN often inspires you.

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

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

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**SAVE!**

**SAVE!**

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

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

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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

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

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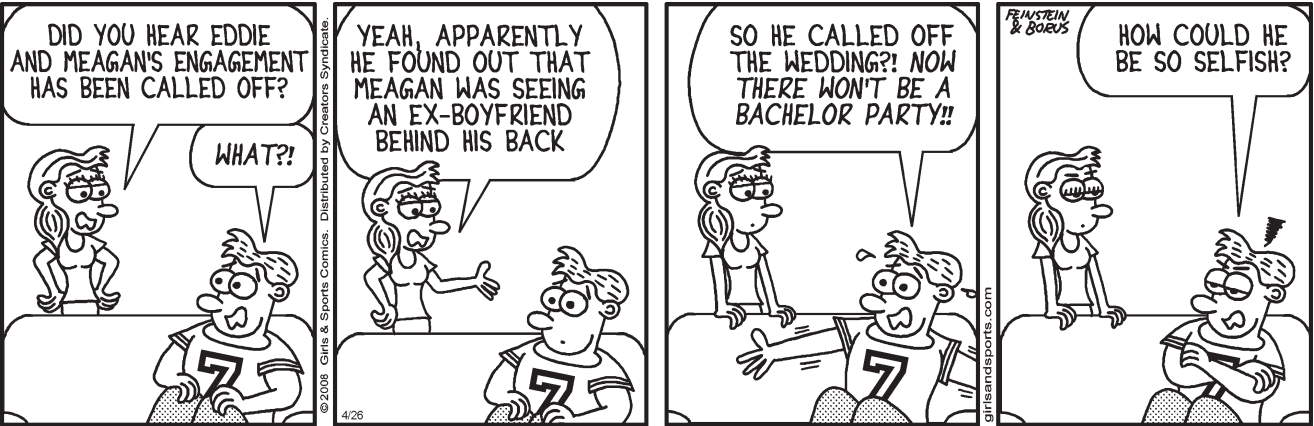
Residential

Interiors

Commercial

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



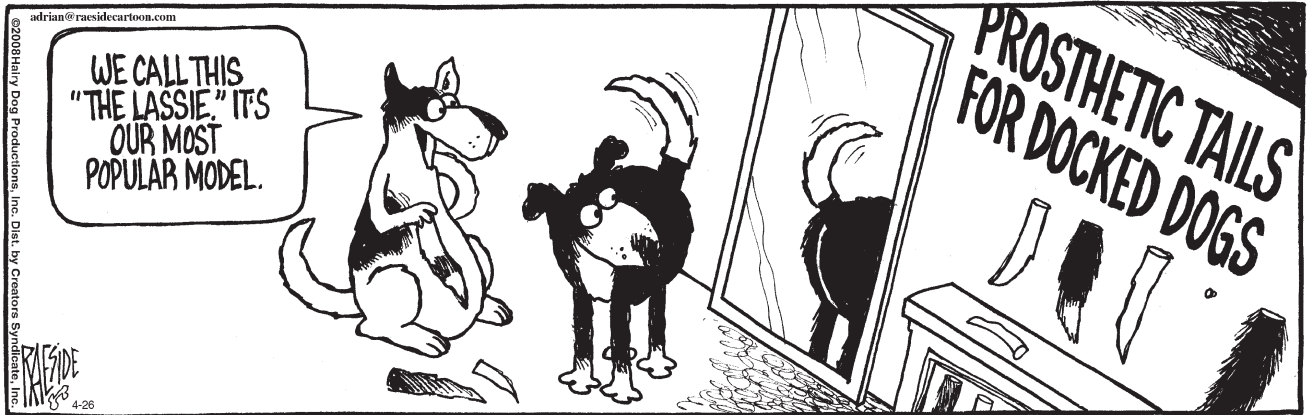
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



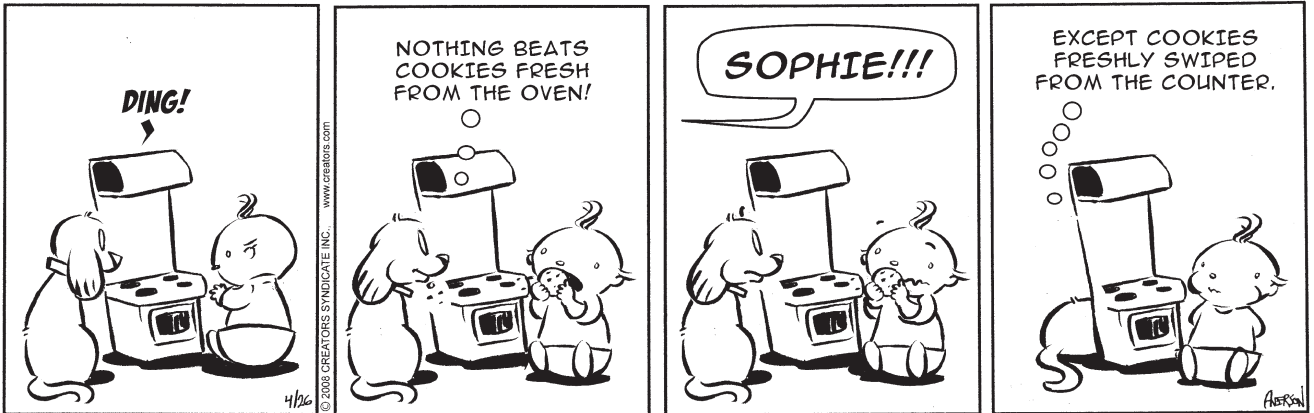
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

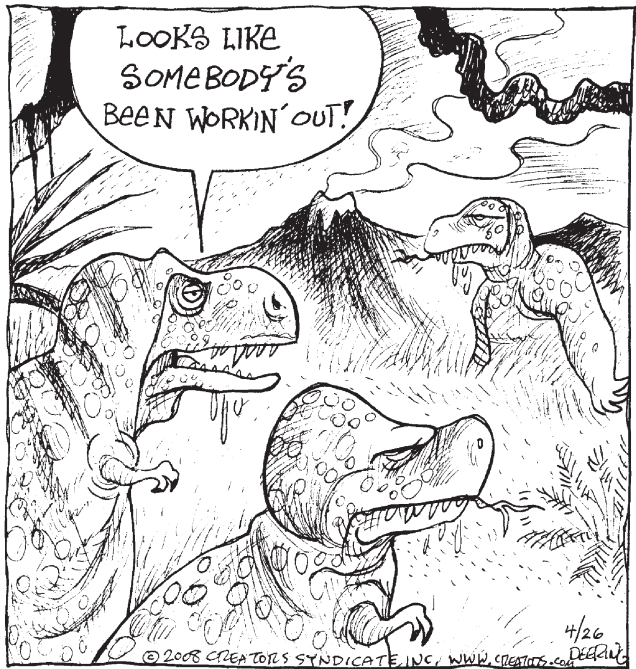
By Brian Anderson



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Strange Brew By John Deering



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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Paisley person
 - 5 Playwright Karel
 - 10 Blue Grotto setting
 - 12 Like lambs
 - 13 Ski resort
 - 14 Singer Travis
 - 15 Summer sign
 - 16 German article
 - 18 "Exodus" hero
 - 19 Win over
 - 21 Leave speechless
 - 22 Omaha native
 - 24 Evil spirit
 - 25 Orlando native
 - 29 Junk, e.g.
 - 30 Return address name
 - 32 Not at home
 - 33 List abbr.
 - 34 West of Hollywood
 - 35 Homer classic
 - 37 Heartburn
 - 39 Fencing move
- DOWN**
- 40 Less cooked
 - 41 Setting part
 - 42 Stock holders
 - 1 Bring close to simmering
 - 2 — point
 - 3 Stand against
 - 4 Due follower
 - 5 Hokey stuff
 - 6 One of Frank's wives
 - 7 Prize-filled target

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

Yesterday's answer

- 8 Evasive maneuver
- 9 Enter, as data
- 11 Wrong
- 17 Ezra Pound, for one
- 20 Monastery figure
- 21 Yarn buy
- 23 Brandy cocktail
- 25 Bungle
- 26 Barrio resident
- 27 Look up to
- 28 Tidy
- 29 Simmers
- 31 Brings up
- 33 The first place
- 36 Previously
- 38 Opening

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

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		

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS	19 32 37 45 52 Meganumber: 41 Jackpot: \$...M
Super LOTTO	6 21 22 34 38 Meganumber: 14 Jackpot: \$...M
Fantasy 5	2 6 13 17 19
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 7 6 6 EVENING: 3 6 0
DAILY DERRY	1st: 09 Winning Spirit 2nd: 02 Lucky Star 3rd: 12 Lucky Charms RACE TIME: 1:40.85

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Court documents revealed in March that federal judge Eduardo Robreno had fined New York mortgage banker Aaron Wider and his lawyer \$29,000 for using variations of the "F word" 73 times (thus, about \$367 per usage) during a contentious deposition he gave in a lawsuit brought by GMAC Bank.

■ Several psychotherapists told The New York Times in February that treatments are being developed for people who are excessively worried about their own carbon emissions being responsible for "global warming." More than 120 therapists are now listed as specialists in the field on Ecopsychology.org, and schools such as Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore., have created courses on counseling such patients.

■ Sheila and Paul Garcia of Northfleet, England, acknowledged to London's Daily Mail in February that they invited their 16-year-old daughter's boyfriend to come live with her in her bedroom, despite the fact that he is 36 and divorced, with one child. The parents said they weren't thrilled with the situation, but that it was preferable to the daughter's running away with the man.

■ Cutting-Edge Parenting: (1) Sheriff's deputies in the Orlando area were on the lookout in March for two women who, according to surveillance video from the Magical Car Wash, had pulled into a stall and deposited coins but then proceeded only to scold and then pressure-wash a small child. (2) Aron Pritchard, 27, was convicted of child endangerment in March in Hutchinson, Kan., after a jury declined to accept his explanation for his girlfriend's kids, age 2 and 3, being burned in a hot clothes dryer. Pritchard said he was just trying to show them they could have fun without necessarily spending money.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1970 The Stephen Sondheim musical "Company" opened at the Alvin Theatre in New York.

1986 The world's worst nuclear accident occurred at the Chernobyl plant in the Soviet Union.

1993 Conan O'Brien was named to succeed David Letterman as host of NBC's "Late Night" program.

2000 Vermont Gov. Howard Dean signed the nation's first bill allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions.

WORD UP!

epigone \EP-uh-gohn/, noun: An inferior imitator, especially of some distinguished writer, artist, musician, or philosopher.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment	Jewelry	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Yard Sales	Psychic
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WESTWOOD/WEST LA (2939 Westwood Blvd.\$2500, 3bd, 1ba, house, carpet, stove, d/w, no pets, w/d hook up, 1car garage.Contact: Sullivan-Dituri Co. (310)453-3341

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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 conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/ CHARLES 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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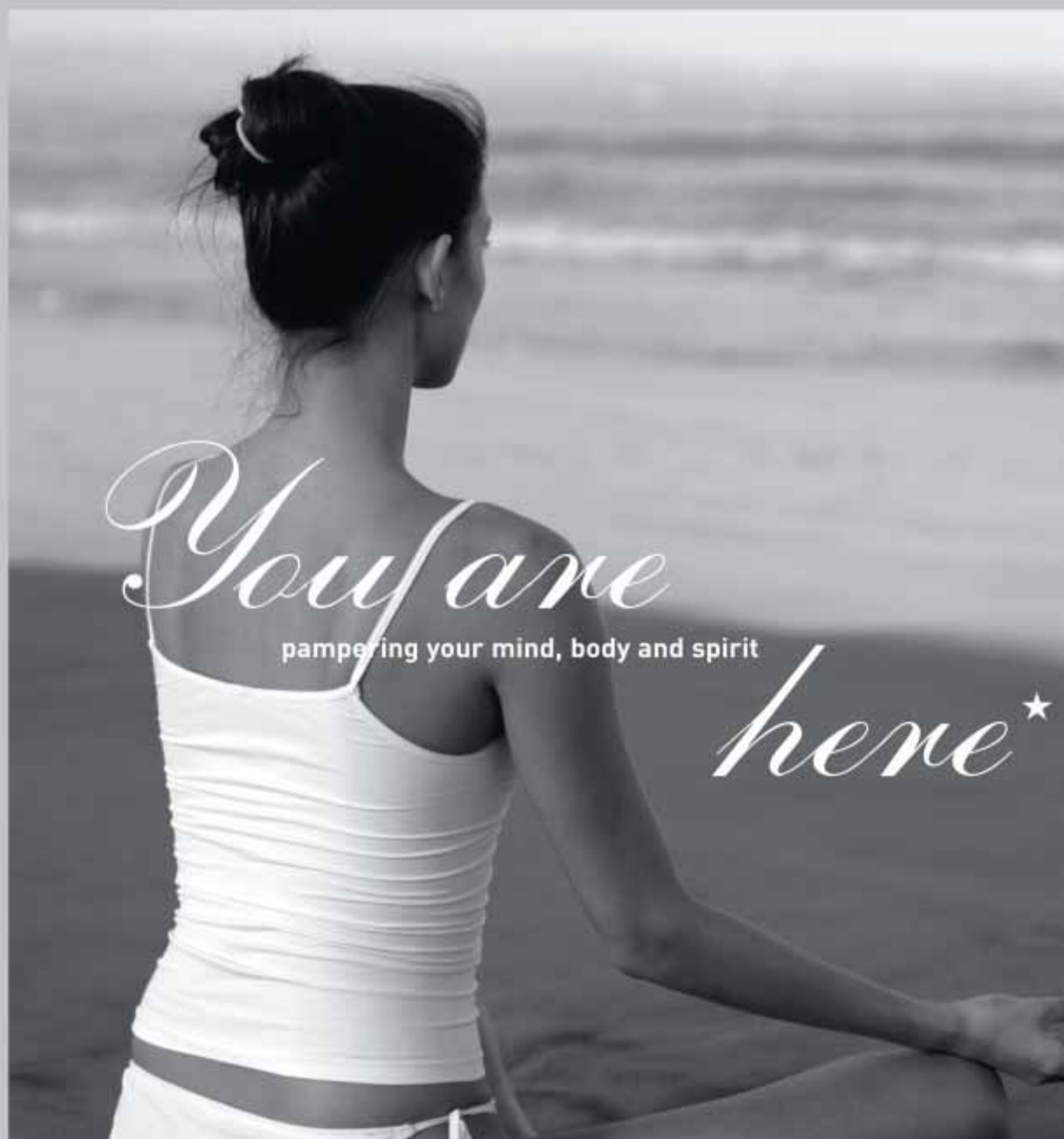
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North of Montana	=	\$ 4,225,645	\$ 1,756,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 1,850,100	\$ 900,431
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 861,632	\$ 729,088
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,323,841	\$ 764,417
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,736,929	\$ 1,367,519

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