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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 145

ON THE RUN
SEE PAGE 18

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey
THE KEEP AN EYE OUT ISSUE

Photo courtesy City of Santa Monica

TIMBER! **A diseased carob tree on 29th Street fell on top of a Prius late last month, prompting City Hall to devise a plan to remove roughly 300 carobs believed to be unstable. Some residents want to create a tree commission so that the public can be consulted when tree removal plans are created.**

Treesavers call for a tree commission

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL With the current ficus fiasco in Downtown Santa Monica and now a dispute over the removal of 300 carob trees, environmental activists are calling on the City Council to create a commission that would advise on urban forestry matters.

The Santa Monica Treesavers last week requested the City Council initiate a process to establish a tree commission. Jerry Rubin, one of the leaders of the Treesavers, filed a written communications request to place a discussion item on a future council agenda.

Such commissions have been formed in municipalities across the state, including San Francisco's Urban Forest Council and the Tree Commission in the city of Davis.

"We think it's so important for the community to open up cooperative dialogue," Rubin said in an interview on Tuesday. "We feel a Santa Monica urban forestry commission or tree commission would be a very appropriate thing and a long overdue needed advisory commission."

City Hall has generated headlines in the past year because of a controversial plan to remove and relocate several dozen ficus trees from Downtown Santa Monica as part of a beautification project. The legality of the plan, which the Treesavers argued lacked a public input process, remains in the California Court of Appeals.

Santa Monica city officials counter that the project, which had been in the works for years, included a thorough public input process, with numerous workshops and City Council hearings, including most recently last summer when the beautification project was approved.

SEE **TREES** PAGE 16

Airport commissioner steps down amid FAA lawsuit

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Airport Commission Chairman Mark Young stepped down from the advisory body on Monday, citing conflict of interest with his position in the United States Attorney's Office, which is challenging City Hall in court over its ban on the fastest and heaviest jets at Santa Monica Airport.

The resignation came just days after the Federal Aviation Administration filed a cease-and-desist order and subsequently a temporary restraining order against City Hall to prevent it from enforcing the ban, which went into effect at 12:01 a.m. on April 24.

The temporary restraining order was granted by U.S. District Court Judge George Wu, enjoining City Hall at least until a preliminary injunction hearing scheduled for May 15.

SEE **YOUNG** PAGE 13

Officers hunt for attacker

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Police were on the hunt Tuesday for a man who broke into an apartment on 12th Street and attacked a woman with a knife.

Santa Monica Police Department's Lt. Alex Padilla said the suspect entered the apartment in the 1200 block of 12th Street through an open window around 11:45 p.m. on Monday. A woman was home alone sleeping when she awoke to find the man standing over her.

The victim fought with the suspect and received several lacerations during the struggle. The suspect fled the scene on foot. The victim was transported to a local hospital where she was treated and released, Padilla said.

Residents are reminded to be cognizant of leaving their windows and doors unsecured during upcoming warm summer nights. Police believe the suspect saw the open window and took advantage of the opportunity.

"We think this was a random act because we haven't seen anything like this going on in the area," Padilla said. "It appears to be an isolated incident."

The suspect is described only as a male. No further information was made available by press time.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with additional information is encouraged to call the SMPD at (310) 458-8451 or (310) 458-8427. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may call the WeTip hotline at (800) 78-CRIME (27463).

Detectives are still investigating the deaths of two Santa Monica residents who were killed just days apart in their homes last month.

The first victim, Juliana Redding, 21, who took several courses at Santa Monica College, was found dead in her apartment on Centinela Avenue. The aspiring actress was the apparent victim of an assault.

SEE **POLICE** PAGE 17

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Santa Monica Daily Press

Kiwanis Club Meeting

Santa Monica YMCA, Noon — 1:30 p.m.

Come and join the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club — an organization made up of volunteers that provides community support through grants, volunteer hours and much more — for their weekly club luncheon at the Santa Monica YMCA. Members use these meetings to increase fundraising efforts and spread the word on support committees and community events. Special guest speakers will be attending the luncheon. For more information, call (310) 613-1249.

12 Steps For Everybody

16370 Bollinger Dr., Pacific Palisades, 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

12 Steps for Everybody's one-hour 12-Step Writing Meeting hosts a more intensive practice to the traditional 12-Step program — reading literature, going to meetings, finding a sponsor and then working the 12 Steps. This program is for anyone who would like to join, or anyone with a habitual problem or illness.

For more information, call (310) 454-5138, or e-mail info@12stepsforeverybody.org.

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Laugh your chakras off

717 Broadway, 11 a.m.

Led by Kim Selbert, a certified laughter yoga leader, this class utilizes simple and fun laughter exercises to promote better health. Bet you didn't know that you could change your life through the simple act of laughing. This class takes place at Shakti's Elements in Downtown.

The Meathands have it

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

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

What's new this week

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

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

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.

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

IN FOR SOME BIG CHANGES: **A woman walks with a child along Longfellow Street in Ocean Park on Tuesday. Residents have complained that the street, which lacks sidewalks, is often mistaken for an alley. (Below) This rendering shows what the street would look like after the rehabilitation project.**

Residents want a real street

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK First it was prostitution and drug dealing, then the unendurable buzzing of idling tow trucks. Now residents living in a small alley-like street near the Venice border say they want to take their neighborhood back.

Residents of Longfellow Street have long complained about the quality of life issues that come with living on a small corridor often mistaken for an alley, its sidewalk-less design an attraction for speeding motorists, illicit activity, and an invitation for the automotive-related businesses on Lincoln Boulevard to use it as temporary storage.

These issues are often attributed to the design of the small street, which is located one block west of Lincoln between Marine and Ozone streets. Residents often point to the rough asphalt, lack of sidewalks — which leads to a disorganized appearance when cars park along the side — as troubling signs.

"It's legally and officially a street, but people treat it more like an alley," Steve Waskow, who lives a block west of Longfellow, said on Monday. "There are no sidewalks, parking is dismal and there are no trees to speak of."

Rendering courtesy City of Santa Monica

The Borderline Neighborhood Group, a nearly 20-year-old organization which represents a small nine-block patch within Ocean Park, is hoping City Hall will be able to allocate more than $4.5 million in its next budget to transform Longfellow into a "living street," a street design concept in which automotive needs are secondary to pedestrians and residents.

Residents reviewed the preliminary sketches on two design options for Longfellow during a community workshop

SEE **STREET** PAGE 17

Ex-UCLA hospital worker accused of selling stars' medical records

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A former UCLA Medical Center employee was indicted on charges that she accessed the records of dozens of high-profile patients and selling the information to a media outlet, prosecutors said Tuesday.

The indictment follows revelations of privacy breaches involving at least 61 patients at the University of California, Los Angeles' hospitals, including actress Farrah Fawcett, singer Britney Spears and California first lady Maria Shriver.

The indictment accuses Lawanda Jackson, 49, of one count of illegally obtaining individually identifiable health information for commercial advantage. Under seal since April 9, the indictment was made public Tuesday.

Jackson is accused of receiving at least $4,600 from the unidentified media outlet in exchange for providing the private medical information. The indictment also did not identify the celebrities whose records were allegedly accessed.

The indictment said the media outlet paid Jackson by writing checks to her husband.

Jackson worked as an administrative specialist at UCLA Medical Center from 2006 until she quit upon learning she was going to be fired, on May 21, 2007.

UCLA Hospital System CEO and Interim Vice Chancellor Dr. David T. Feinberg said in a statement that he welcomes the U.S. attorney's investigation.

"We are deeply troubled that a former employee may have illegally received payments from a news organization in exchange for providing personal medical information," Feinberg said. "Meanwhile, we continue to take steps to improve our staff training and information systems to further strengthen the confidentiality of patient records."

A telephone message seeking comment was left at the number of a Lawanda Jackson listed in the Los Angeles area. The call was not immediately returned.

Earlier this month, the Los Angeles Times reported that Jackson said she was just "being nosy." She acknowledged making a "mistake" but denied giving out the information or being paid for it.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Capital punishment should go

Editor:

I was surprised that no one who responded to last weekend's Q-Line about capital punishment alluded to the Fifth Commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." No person has the right to take the life of another person so who among us wants to be the one to administer the lethal injection? And to say the injection is humane is an oxymoron. The death penalty has not proven to be a deterrent, and putting an accused murderer to death is not going to bring back the victim.

Actually, I believe that languishing day after day in a prison cell for the rest of one's life without the possibility of parole would be a worse punishment. There is also the possibility an innocent person might be put to death. Recently a man was released from prison after serving 26 years for a crime he didn't commit. Many countries have done away with the death penalty; it is time for the United States to do the same.

Judy Linkey
Santa Monica

Bellflower blues

Editor:

According to last week's cover story, ("'Other' trees causing controversy," page 1, April 23) Community Forester Walt Warriner said many other cities, such as Glendale and Bellflower "do not even include the public in tree removal and replacement projects."

Mr. Warriner seems to be laboring under the illusion that Santa Monica is somehow different.

I hate to pop Mr. Warriner's bubble, but if the Second and Fourth streets streetscape project is any indication, the only real inclusion of the public in tree removal and replacement projects is confined to the reception of glossy mailers – printed and distributed by City Hall at a cost of tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars – containing deceptive and misleading information in defense of a project that will destroy much of the tree canopy downtown. Is there any wonder that many citizens are outraged at this latest project to destroy hundreds of carob trees throughout our city? Even if Mr. Warriner's assessment of the trees' condition is correct, it is clear from the public outcry that City Hall's credibility, where it comes to trees, has evaporated like dew in the morning sun.

Instead of telling Santa Monica's taxpayers to be happy they're not living in Bellflower, this highly-paid city employee should get cracking on preserving and enhancing our city's tree canopy. The time for teaching the public lessons is past.

Dan Jansenson
Santa Monica

Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Obama still has a lot to overcome

I WAS HOPING HILLARY CLINTON WOULD lose the Pennsylvania primary, be forced to recognize the reality of her situation, and drop out graciously. But she didn't. She got about 1.2 million people to vote for her and she won. Let's not forget that she was the inevitable candidate, so she was supposed to get a lot more votes than that. Her problem was that with a positive, thoughtful campaign, Barack Obama earned the votes of over 1 million Pennsylvanians who had never heard of him this time last year — and that's the real story.

But she won, so it's not over. Even if she hadn't won, it still wouldn't be over. No matter how low she sinks in her desperate attempt to make him seem unelectable, she's not the opponent who matters; John McCain is. This thing will be over when John McCain concedes on Nov. 4 and not one day sooner. Hillary, her joke of a husband, and their gutter campaign are just bumps in Barack Obama's road to the White House.

The first Tuesday in November is also the day we can start to forget about the Clintons. I hate them, but I have to give them credit.

Bubba and Hil from Little Rock to president and Sen. Clinton of Chappaqua in one generation is impressive social climbing.

They are the epitome of new money and Bill is the quintessential "caddie turned pro," but when he dies, he will have legitimized his gambling alcoholic stepfather's family name and will be leaving his only daughter a quarter-billion-dollar fortune.

If she can ever get over what must be a mountain of daddy issues, Chelsea's wedding should be quite a spectacle; attended by the crème-de-la-crème of international politics, business, and philanthropy who will come to pay their respects after having paid off her parents.

Another bump in the road is Barack's former pastor, Jeremiah Wright. I have to respect his life's work because he has helped a lot of people in Chicago, but it pains me to even type his name because in national politics, he couldn't be more of a nobody.

If Barack Obama had joined a different church when he moved to Chicago, we wouldn't even know this man exists. I'm not going to call him crazy because that's dismissive, but I will say he's short on loyalty and long on stupid.

This past weekend, he was literally singing and dancing at the podium as he mocked his critics in speeches before the National Press Club and the NAACP, with every minute broadcast on cable news and even on C-SPAN.

A loyal man would have rewarded Barack's not pushing him under the bus by keeping a low profile until at least Nov. 5, but not this guy — he's got a book coming out. Now that most Americans see him as the Christian Louis Farrakhan, he's put himself in a position where President Obama won't be able to invite him to the White House. Trading access to the future president for book sales is just plain stupid. Congratulations, Rev. Wright, you just pulled a George W. Bush: You "surged" when you should have toned it down, and now you're screwed.

> **THERE ARE SOME WHITE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WERE BORN BEFORE THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND NEVER WENT TO COLLEGE, WHO WILL NOT VOTE FOR A BLACK MAN FOR PRESIDENT.**

The last potential hurdle for Barack is what is politely called the "demographics" of voters he hasn't managed to win over: Working class white people over the age of 45.

Let's just face facts. There are some white people, especially those who were born before the Civil Rights Movement and never went to college, who will not vote for a black man for president.

Not Barack Obama, not Colin Powell, not even Morgan Freeman — and he drove Miss Daisy. The talking heads on the cable news shows and the Sunday talk shows keep talking about these people as if they're the Holy Grail of presidential politics; like Barack must find a way to win these people over if he's going to win in November.

I won't say they're being suckered into believing another Clinton campaign talking point, but I will say that their assumption is dead wrong. The only way a candidate can get to these people is by pandering promises of a magic box where their Social Security money will stay locked away.

I forgive these people, for they know not how clueless they are. They come from a time when black people couldn't vote, a woman's place was in the kitchen, children were to be seen and not heard, and bachelor parties happened the night before the wedding. Need I say more?

This "demographic" is the most out of touch with the way the world is today and if they want to forsake America's future for one more day above ground, I say let 'em vote for the Republican geezer. Good riddance to bad voters.

Kenny Mack is a writer, comedian, and occasional pundit who was the first person to predict an Obama presidency (in April of 2007). He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

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Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Let them eat cake

BARRY OBAMA IS SO SMART. HE'S RIGHT again. I am so victimized by the travails of every day life that I'm heading over to Bazooka Pete's Armory to buy some guns to "cling to." While I'm at it I'm stopping at a church and pray to God or Cthulhu or George Clooney so I won't be so "bitter" about all these immigrants providing lawn care and nanny service on the cheap. Isn't there a 12 Step meeting for these "addictions?"

I must apologize to his Barry-ness that my obverse Cinderella existence as an uncivil servant for the U.S. government is such an object of his disdain ever since he singled me out (and a lot of other "fly-over" Americans) as a hopelessly inchoate dullard while he was brown nosing with the dainty fingered intelligentsia at Gordon Getty's Pacific Heights mansion. Nothing squeals "typical white working class" like a latte liberal cocktail party at the Getty's, ya know? Consuelo, please get Sen. Goody-Two-Shoes another frozen choco-mint-soy daiquiri.

So let me get this straight. Barry has since declared that "everybody knows it's true" in his postmortem clarification about the embittered static clinginess of the mob and that only he has the answers to our fetid social malaise. Personally, when I hear a politician speaking in absolutes-derivative taxonomy, I generally think he's full of crap.

In Barry's mind, however, only really rich, smart people vote for him; unfortunately for him, he needs the rest of us in order to win in November.

That the Candidate of Change had divined the "truth" about America's rubes and cubes from his personal chapbook, The Necrobamanomicon, merely demonstrates that Barry is little more than a preening nouveau riche poseur feigning rapport with the guy in valet parking. Or did the Audacious One augur his critique of the plebes while snacking down on the Whole Foods tofu cocktail weenies being served among the patricians at the Getty toga party? Care for a doggie bag, senator?

Currently, his Barackolytes are Obama-leptic that the media is now treating Barry like any other politically motivated Capitol Hill streetwalker. The millionaire Fresh Prince of Pretentious Populism is finally being scrutinized and queried about his inconvenient relationships with unrepentant bomb throwing hippies, Hamas apologists and Christian racist homophobes yet this is casually dismissed by the Obamessiah as just "political silly season" which is creepily echoed in cultish unison by his minions. This tacitly confirmed Michelle Obama's whine and cheese moment at the self-service buffet that AmeriKKKa is "just downright mean" Yet this is more sardonically indicative of the Wizard's baleful exhortation to middle class Dorothy Gale in the denouement of The Wizard of Oz, "Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain!"

OK, let's not pay attention to Barry's reverence for his grandmother, a "typical white person," that Barry threw under the pastoral wheels of the Wrighteous Blues Bus just for political style points. According to the Chicago Tribune, Barry's Uncle Jerry has retired to a cozy $1.6 million, 10,340 square ft mansion located on the grounds of the typically white Odyssey Country Club in typically white Tinley Park. While Barry's mentor typically detests typical white AmeriKKKa, he does prefer the "middle class" neighborhoods, however. There's no golf courses in the ghetto, you know.

Sure, let's not peek behind the curtain at another typical white person: Mayhill Fowler. She's the Obamaphilic Huffington Post reporter who broke the story about Barry's "bitter" lamentations in San Francisco who has reportedly received over two dozen death threats and fatwa issued from Obamamaniacs since press time. Is the Party of Tolerance cravenly cannibalizing its own over inconvenient truths?

Finally, let's ignore that, according to Citizens Against Government Waste, freshman Sen. Snobama has diverted $94.7 million in earmarks for pork projects in his home state. Not bad for his rookie season. Why should Barry take money from lobbyists when he can get it for free from middle class taxpayers? More lemon chiffon cake, senator?

So let's engage a friendly Faustian wager.

I challenge anybody with any Barackbone that, on the Tuesday following the outcome of the general election, the agreed parties (you and me) skip over to Rudy's Barber Shop on Main Street and, with a staff photographer from the SMDP recording the event for future publication, the losing party gets their head shaved. However, if you're already bald, you get the "Brazilian wax job" instead.

My call: McCain wins in November. Obama will be electoral street pizza. Smart-alecky liberal pundits are long on "talk" and short on "do." Is there a Cheerleader of Change in Democratopia willing to put their hairline where their jaw line meets?

I'm serious, in a very Mephistophelian sort of way. Just sign here.

Steve Breen is Dick Cheney's satanic evil twin and the "best looking mailman at the Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com

The Q Line

Day at the park

Gov. Schwarzenegger has proposed closing a number of open spaces in the Santa Monica Mountains including Will Rogers and Topanga state parks due to a $10 billion budget deficit.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

If Will Rogers and Topanga state parks were forced to close what impact do you think it would have on the city's public parks?

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

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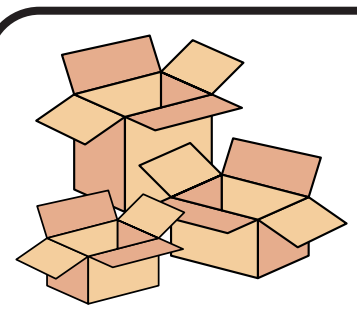

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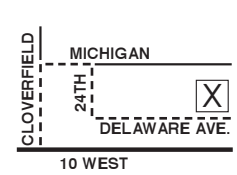

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PREVIEWS

WALL STREET

Stocks mixed as investors await Fed's rate decision

BY JOE BEL BRUNO
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Wall Street turned in a mixed performance Tuesday as investors traded cautiously ahead of the Federal Reserve's Wednesday decision on interest rates.

The Fed, facing a faltering economy but also rising inflation, is expected to cut interest rates by another quarter point after its two-day meeting concludes Wednesday. Many investor believe policy makers will then signal that they are planning to hold rates steady for a while.

Consumers have been worried about inflation because it means energy and grocery bills are harder to pay.

Wall Street is also concerned, because inflation tends to curtail consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the U.S. economy.

The Conference Board said Tuesday its April index of consumer confidence fell for the fourth straight month because of heightened disappointment about soaring prices and the weakening job market.

"There's no panic out there (in the market) because of the consumer confidence numbers, but there is more concern about inflation then we had just a few weeks ago," said Jim Herrick, director of equity trading at Baird & Co. "Everyone is interested in what the Fed will do about it."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 39.81, or 0.31 percent, to 12,831.94.

The biggest drag on the Dow was the component Merck & Co., which sank $4.30, or 10.4 percent, to $37.14 after saying the Food and Drug Administration refused to approve a new cholesterol drug called Cordaptive.

Broader markets were mixed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dipped 5.43, or 0.39 percent, to 1,390.94, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 1.70, or 0.07 percent, to 2,426.10.

A pullback in oil prices Tuesday eased inflationary concerns a bit, and helped keep the stock market from tumbling sharply.

But some analysts say the market has been deceptively calm in recent weeks given the weakness of the economy and how consumers are struggling not only with a slumping housing and job market but also high prices.

"So far, investors have bought into the notion that the Federal Reserve has staved off a wider calamity, when in fact what they've done is allow financial system to stay afloat as they work down, write down, a tremendous amount of bad debt," said Joseph V. Battipaglia, chief investment officer at Ryan Beck & Co.

Slashing the key rate by more than half since last summer has not trickled down to consumers' borrowing rates, he noted, and instead has "punted the dollar. It's sparked commodity runs. It has translated to spikes in food and energy costs for the public at exactly the wrong time."

Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, was at 3.82 percent, down from 3.83 late Monday.

Oil prices fell amid expectations that a supply disruption in Britain would soon be resolved and as the U.S. dollar strengthened further against the euro. Light, sweet crude for June delivery fell $3.12 to $115.63 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Falling energy prices helped lift airline stocks. Continental Airlines Inc. rose 60 cents, or 3.5 percent, to $17.56, Southwest Airlines Co. rose 42 cents, or 3.3 percent, to $13.33, and AMR Corp., the parent of American Airlines, rose 79 cents, or 10.2 percent, to $8.53, after Citigroup analyst Andrew Light said AMR stands to gain from industry consolidation even though the company itself is unlikely to merge.

But Wall Street was pressured by a report from research firm RealtyTrac that showed the number of U.S. homes heading toward foreclosure more than doubled in the first quarter from a year earlier.

And earnings reports came in mixed.

On the positive side, Lear Corp. reported a first-quarter profit rise, lifted its 2008 sales outlook, and backed its earnings prediction for the year. The auto supplier rose $5.08, or 19.2 percent, to $31.50.

MasterCard Inc. spiked $31.48, or 13 percent, to $273.98 after reporting that profit more than doubled in the first quarter, and rival Visa Inc. rebounded from an early decline to rise $5.25, or 6.9 percent, to $80.88 after reporting late Monday its first-quarter profit increased 28 percent.

Both card processors said cardholder use rose moderately in the United States, and particularly quickly abroad.

But profit woes are not over for financial institutions with big exposure to consumer debt.

Countrywide Financial Corp., the nation's largest mortgage lender and servicer, said it lost $893 million during the first quarter due to a sharp increase in its provisions for unpaid home mortgage loans.

The latest results marked the third consecutive quarterly loss for Countrywide, which agreed in January to sell itself to Bank of America Corp. for about $4 billion in stock.

Shares of the lender rose 2 cents to $5.85, while Bank of America fell 32 cents to $37.86.

Deutsche Bank AG said it wrote down $4.2 billion in leveraged loans, commercial real estate and mortgage-backed securities during the first quarter, pushing Germany's biggest bank to its first quarterly loss since 2003.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 6.44, or 1.89 percent, to 718.93.

Declining issues surpassed advancers by about 10 to 7 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume rose to 3.66 billion shares compared with 3.47 billion shares Monday.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 0.22 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.02 percent, Germany's DAX index fell 0.58 percent, and France's CAC-40 shed 0.71 percent.

Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't fear a good investment

OF ALL THE EMOTIONS, I BELIEVE FEAR most often keeps people from investing in real estate. First, let me say that you should not go out and buy a piece of real estate unless you have thought long and hard and know what you are getting into. However, if the deal makes sense, do not let fear stop you from doing it.

In uncertain times, as we presently have, it is easy to listen to negative news and buy into it, especially when it comes to real estate. What you should think about is all the people who are in your situation listening to the same news and letting fear determine if they should purchase real estate. Remember, newspapers are in the business of selling papers, and bad news sells better than good news. This is not to say that negative real estate news should be ignored, but rather investigated. Just because a paper says the real estate market is going to crash in the next six months in Los Angeles does not mean it is going to happen. With that said, investing in real estate is no small matter that should be taken lightly.

Smart real estate investors know that you make money in real estate when you buy. Put another way, the purchase price is one of the important factors that determines whether a real estate deal is a great, good, OK or bad deal. Like I have said in the past, a bad real estate deal can bankrupt you quickly, so do your due diligence before you pony up the earnest money and sign off on all the purchase contract contingencies. One successful investor once told me that you can always change the financing, but you can never change the purchase price. The purchase price is one of the most important variables when buying real estate, that is why so many buyers work on lowering the asking price.

In today's Los Angeles real estate market the "you better buy it now before the next person walking through the door does" mentality has tempered. Buyers are finding more deals on the market for lower prices, but a great deal is still just that — a great deal. Statistically, condominiums are selling slower than single-family homes in today's market, compared to a year ago. The reason comes down to the basic economic principle of supply and demand — at the end of the day, single-family homes are more desirable than condos and thus sell for more at a faster rate.

As I have stated in the past, if you are looking for a home because you need one, now is as good a time as any to buy one, just be prepared to come up with a 10 percent down payment. However, if you are speculating, meaning gambling on the real estate market to appreciate or go up in value, this is not the time to do so. If you are a true real estate investor, this may or may not be a good time to buy a piece of real estate because at the end of the day the deal needs to make sense.

IN UNCERTAIN TIMES, AS WE PRESENTLY HAVE, IT IS EASY TO LISTEN TO NEGATIVE NEWS AND BUY INTO IT, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO REAL ESTATE.

If you come across a real estate deal, do your due diligence and come to the realization that the deal is worth doing, do not let fear get in your way. One of our greatest fears as a society is losing our basic biological needs. This is one reason why buying or losing a home are such a big deal. Remember 20 years from now the deal you do today can mean the difference between a comfortable life and a successful one.

Mike Heayn is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

REAL ESTATE

Countrywide loses $893M in first quarter

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Countrywide Financial Corp. said Tuesday it lost $893 million in the first quarter, as rising loan defaults amid a deepening housing downturn forced the nation's largest mortgage lender and servicer to sharply increase its provision for loan losses and book other credit-related charges.

The latest results marked the third consecutive quarterly loss for Countrywide, which reaped a windfall during the housing boom but has been struggling since last summer, despite predictions last fall by CEO Angelo Mozilo that his company would turn a profit in 2008.

The Calabasas, Calif.-based company, which agreed in January to sell itself to Bank of America Corp. for about $4 billion in stock, did not conduct an earnings conference call with analysts, citing the proposed sale.

The company said its loss amounted to $1.60 per share for the quarter ended March 31. A year earlier, it earned $434 million, or 72 cents per share.

Revenue plunged 72 percent to $679 million from $2.4 billion in the year-ago quarter. Analysts polled by Thomson Financial, on average, forecast earnings of 2 cents per share on sales of $1.5 billion.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

VICTORVILLE
Eight arrested after gang killings of two

The gang killing of a man and teenager in a Victorville parking lot led to the arrest of eight people, all with gang affiliations.

Twenty-year-old Jaime Jimenez and 16-year-old Jesus Constantino were shot to death early Sunday after a fight broke out in a Wal-Mart parking lot.

San Bernardino County sheriff's investigators say it's unclear whether the victims were gang members.

Booked for investigation of murder are Alidad Ahadpour, Daniel Rosales, Andrew Prado, Michael Serrano, Laura Cardona, Alfonso Jackson and two juveniles, a male and a female. ASSOCIATED PRESS

RANCHO CUCAMONGA
Homeless man finds newborn in trash bin

A homeless man hunting for aluminum cans found a newborn girl alive in a Rancho Cucamonga trash bin.

Amber Jimenez, who allegedly gave birth 12 hours earlier, has been arrested and booked for investigation of murder and assault. Bail for the 20-year-old woman, who lives near the trash bin, is set at $500,000.

San Bernardino County sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller says the infant had extremely low body temperature when she was found on Sunday, but the girl is now doing well at Upland's San Antonio Community Hospital.

California's safe-surrender law allows a parent to give up an unwanted baby within 72 hours of birth to a hospital or fire station without any criminal liability. AP

LOS ANGELES
Assistant principal charged with molesting more kids

An assistant principal already charged with committing forcible lewd acts on a student has been charged with molesting two more teenage girls.

The new charges were filed Monday against Stephen Rooney, whose case had already outraged the South Los Angeles community where he worked and forced district Superintendent David Brewer to apologize for a system that failed.

Rooney was transferred to Markham Middle School in South Los Angeles last year, even though he was accused of engaging in a sexual relationship with a student at the Foshay Learning Center.

Rooney was charged last month with five counts of forcible lewd acts with a 13-year-old student at Markham. He's now charged with molesting a Markham 14-year-old girl as well as the 15-year-old at Foshay.

The 39-year-old Rooney, who is in jail, is scheduled for a preliminary hearing Wednesday. AP

LOS ANGELES
Student arrested for alleged threats on school's wiki

A 15-year-old student who allegedly posted violent Web messages on his San Gabriel Valley high school Wikipedia page has pleaded not guilty to seven counts of making criminal threats.

The Glen A. Wilson High School student is being held at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall for a psychological evaluation. His next hearing is May 9.

Offensive messages began popping up more than a year ago on the Hacienda Heights school's page on Wikipedia, a user-edited online encyclopedia. Hacienda Heights is an unincorporated Los Angeles County community northeast of Whittier.

The anonymous writings included racial slurs aimed at Asians and possible shootings.

Sheriff's detectives and Hacienda La Puente Unified School District officials started investigating the messages two weeks ago when Wikipedia staff alerted them to a violent threat posted April 16.

Another threat the following day led officials to cancel classes on April 18, the day the student was arrested. AP

LOS ANGELES
Sewage spill fouls mile-long stretch of Playa del Rey

Swimmers and surfers are being warned to stay out of the water at least through Wednesday along a mile-long stretch of Playa del Rey.

Los Angeles County public health officials say 8,700 gallons of sewage from a South Centinela Avenue condominium complex spilled into Ballona Creek and flowed to the sea.

Health department spokeswoman Rachel Tyree says people should stay out of the water from Dockweiler to Venice beaches until bacteria levels reach acceptable levels, probably Wednesday. AP

SANTA CRUZ
Molester facing life after conviction for attacking girl

A serial child molester has been convicted of breaking into a Santa Cruz home and sexually attacking a 3-year-old girl two decades ago.

Jason "Seth" OConnell, who had waived his right to a jury trial, was found guilty Monday of four felonies by Superior Court Judge Jeff Almquist. The 37-year-old defendant faces possible life in prison when he's sentenced June 4.

Prosecutor Andrew Isaac says O'Connell broke into a family's apartment in November 1998 and molested the girl, whose cries woke her parents. The father fired a round from a .45-caliber handgun but the fleeing O'Connell wasn't hit.

O'Connell also molested three girls in Oregon and served 10 years in prison. AP

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Union and states try recruiting workers from south of border

BY GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

HURON Weary of waiting for Congress to overhaul the nation's immigration laws, the United Farm Workers hopes to recruit Mexican laborers to pick crops on U.S. farms.

The union's efforts to import temporary workers under an existing government program follows similar moves by lawmakers in Arizona and Colorado, who are also trying to create new pathways to bring in foreign field hands without approval from Washington.

This month, UFW President Arturo Rodriguez signed an agreement with the governor of the Mexican state of Michoacan to help recruit local residents to apply for temporary jobs on U.S. farms, all of which would be covered under union contracts.

Under the new pact, government field staff in Michoacan will distribute information on U.S. labor protections, especially in rural towns known for sending a large number of their residents north.

In exchange, the union will negotiate contracts with U.S. growers willing to guarantee that legal workers' rights will be respected on both sides of the border, UFW International Director Erik Nicholson said.

The UFW got involved after hearing that Mexican recruiters were charging people as much as $5,000 for short-term contracts under the existing, but rarely used federal guest worker program, Nicholson said.

"Agriculture is a global industry, so we're building an international infrastructure to advocate for these global workers," Nicholson said. "Workers need to know about their rights on both sides of the border."

Immigration raids and employer penalties have led to a shortage of workers in the nation's largest farm states, leading many in the agriculture industry to conclude that growers can't get their products to market without a stable supply of workers from abroad.

But with Congress deadlocked over immigration reform, the question is under what conditions the workers will be hired — legally or illegally.

The farm labor force in the U.S. currently numbers about 1.6 million people, 70 percent of whom are thought to be undocumented, according to people in the industry. Only about 70,000 farm workers were brought in from abroad last year for the short stints permitted under H2-A visas issued by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The UFW wants to increase those numbers by matching willing workers in Mexico with U.S. farmers ready to use the H2-A program. That would in turn help grow the union's membership, which has been in decline.

Legislators in Arizona are considering a proposal that would let employers recruit workers through Mexican consulates, if they could document a labor shortage. A similar Colorado bill aims to help chili and watermelon farmers hire foreign staff by eliminating the bottlenecks in the federal program.

Both put the Labor Department in an awkward position, and could be challenged in court, said Leon Sequeira, its assistant secretary for policy.

"I don't think anybody would object to organizations trying to prevent recruiters from charging workers exorbitant fees," Sequeira said. "But it's new territory when you are talking about states setting up their own guest worker programs and letting aliens into the country."

The federal government is trying to stave off the state-by-state approach by tinkering with its existing guest worker program, and released a set of proposed changes in February.

Judge says SLA member Sarah Jane Olson must remain in prison

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO A judge has refused to free a former 1970s radical and longtime fugitive who was sent back to prison days after state corrections officials released her by mistake.

Attorneys for former Symbionese Liberation Army member Sarah Jane Olson failed to show that corrections officials acted illegally, and that Olson herself should have realized she was being freed too soon, Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Thomas Cecil said in a ruling released Tuesday.

Olson's lawyers had argued that corrections officials had no authority to re-arrest her after she was mistakenly paroled March 17 after six years in prison.

Olson, 61, pleaded guilty to the attempted bombing of Los Angeles police cars and to the killing of a customer during a 1975 bank robbery in suburban Sacramento. She had lived as a fugitive in Minnesota for 25 years until her capture in 1999.

Parole officials said they neglected to include the two years she was supposed to serve for the Sacramento County murder on top of her 12-year sentence for the Los Angeles County crimes. Inmates typically serve about half their sentences.

In his ruling, which was signed on April 21, Cecil said Olson should have known that she had been released too early.

"She has not shown that she was ignorant of the facts," he wrote. "She was surely aware that she had been sentenced to a consecutive two-year term for her conviction in Sacramento County."

Olson's attorney, David Nickerson, said he just learned of the decision and must talk with Olson before deciding whether to file a similar motion with an appeals court.

Corrections Department spokesman Gordon Hinkle said the ruling "fully supports the actions we took in this case."

The judge ruled that Olson failed to prove that her release was anything other than an error. He also dismissed her objection that parole officials had failed to detail how they recalculated her proper release date, which is March 2009.

The Santa Monica Municipal Employees Association would like to salute Kathy and Vee of Public Works for their great assistance with filming in the city of Santa Monica.

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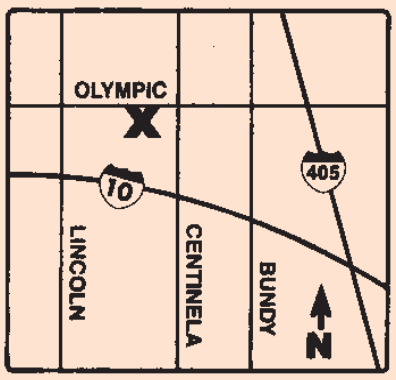

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Parents turn the Miley moment into a teachable lesson

BY MEGAN K. SCOTT
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Miley Cyrus' struggle with her controversial photo in "Vanity Fair" presents a great opportunity for parents to discuss how seemingly innocous photos posted to a blog or social networking site can be misinterpreted, experts say.

The 15-year-old pop star appears in the upcoming issue wrapped in what appears to be a satin bedsheet, looking over her shoulder with her back and shoulder exposed. Miley has said she is "so embarrassed" by the photos and has apologized to her fans.

But it may not be that much different from what regular girls are already putting up on the Internet, says M. Gigi Durham, author of "The Lolita Effect."

"It is pretty routine these days for girls to post provocative pictures of themselves online," she says. "The sexual objectification of young girls is so normal in today's media environment."

Parry Aftab, executive director of WiredSafety.org, agreed, saying girls as young as 11 are posing in their bras, with pursed lips on the top of sports cars and posting the photos to their MySpace pages — without their parents' knowledge.

While many teens are savvier than their parents when it comes to social networking, they are unaware of the consequences of posting inappropriate photos, videos and revealing personal information on the Internet, says Don Tapscott, who is working on a sequel to his "Growing Up Digital" book.

A 15-year-old may have no idea that something on her Facebook page could come back to haunt her, says Tapscott, whether it's a college recruiter, future employer, a cyberbully, or someone using the information to demean her.

And trying to stop something once it's been posted, is "like trying to catch a river in your hand," says Aftab.

> "IT IS PRETTY ROUTINE THESE DAYS FOR GIRLS TO POST PROVOCATIVE PICTURES OF THEMSELVES ONLINE."
>
> M. Gigi Durham,
> Author of 'The Lolita Effect'

Parents should use this as an opportunity to open up a discussion about what is appropriate for a social networking page, says Tapscott. Volunteer to review their photographs and other material before it's posted. Help them with the privacy settings, he says.

"The starting point is not to be handing down decrees or demanding to see this and that," he says, adding that for some teens a social networking page is like a diary. "The starting point is to have a conversation."

Durham suggests parents talk about the possible consequences and encourage their children to think before posting certain things.

"'What is the benefit of this?"' she says. "'Is this going to be good for me? Are there any potential harms to this?' They should be helped to think through those complexities."

Gary Rudman, president of GTR Consulting, a teen market research firm, says parents have to keep in mind that their children — while technologically savvy — are not emotionally mature.

"Just like anything else, tobacco or alcohol, they really have to load their kids up with ammunition to understand that when they communicate on MySpace for example, they are communicating to the world," he says.

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Alleged Jimi Hendrix sex tape to be released

BY DERRIK J. LANG
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES Vivid Entertainment is releasing a sex tape allegedly starring Jimi Hendrix.

The Los Angeles-based adult entertainment company said they obtained the sex tape from a memorabilia collector.

The 11 minutes of footage, reportedly shot in a hotel room about 40 years ago, features Hendrix — or someone who looks like him — engaged in various sexual acts with two women.

The company said they consulted with experts to authenticate the footage. But Charles R. Cross, author of the Hendrix biography "Room Full of Mirrors," has seen the film and doubts the man is Hendrix.

Cross said the face and nostrils of the man depicted in the video don't match Hendrix.

He also said the man in the tape is wearing more rings that Hendrix was known to wear.

"This is somebody that looks like Jimi or is pretending to look like him, but it certainly didn't look like a dead-on match to me," Cross told The Associated Press during a telephone interview Tuesday.

Hendrix, who headlined the legendary Woodstock Festival in 1969, died of a drug overdose in 1970.

Seattle-based representatives for Hendrix's estate declined to comment about the tape.

Saving water on landscape is science, not art

BY SUE MAJOR HOLMES
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. Your city tells you to save water on your landscape, so you put in plants that drink less water, add a sprinkler system and obey restrictions that say you can water only on odd or even days.

In short, you've done everything you can, right?

Maybe not.

Landscape architects and irrigation consultants say restrictions on watering are too simplistic and do little to save water. Instead, they say, the beginning of conservation is good landscape design — and that takes educating the public in complicated ways.

From the desert Southwest and water-conscious California to newly parched areas of the normally verdant South, governments and residents alike are paying more attention to watering landscapes at homes and businesses as growing populations tap into the same water sources.

Last year, many communities in the South faced serious water shortages for the first time. Atlanta, for example, is entering its third year of drought.

"When you're living in a region that's used to getting 55 inches of rain a year, you don't hold onto it very well," acknowledges Melinda Langston, director of Atlanta's water conservation unit. "We've certainly learned a lot."

Today, Atlanta offers water conservation programs, and its outdoor restrictions ban nearly all landscape watering except when residents plant for the first time. They get 30 days to establish plants — but can't use the water for a lawn.

Homeowners who want the 30-day exemption have to complete an online course that includes information about drought-tolerant plants and watering at the right time of day, Langston says.

Her division also gives "Water Smart" workshops — landscaping to use less water.

"Grouping plants with like water needs together, mulching a certain way, if you are going to install an irrigation system use primarily drip irrigation, reducing turf areas," she says. "It's identical to xeriscape, but the word just hasn't caught on here in the South. People picture cactus and rocks and they just turn off — they don't hear anything after you say 'xeriscape.'"

Albuquerque for years has promoted xeriscaping — using low-water plants native to the area.

Irrigation consultant Dennis Wilkinson of Albuquerque says urban landscapes — even with grass — don't have to be water-intensive.

"A couple of years ago I took out my bluegrass and replaced it with a buffalo-blue grama lawn. ... I still have to mow it, but I don't mow as often and I don't water as much but I still have a nice lawn," he says.

Nationwide, watering lawns and gardens accounts for about a third of all residential water use, totaling more than 7 billion gallons a day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates.

"Outdoor watering is the most visible use of water," says Daniel Benner of Marietta, Ga., past president of the American Society of Irrigation Consultants. "When there's a shortage, that's the first place that the finger gets pointed at. It's the perception that outdoor watering is a luxury."

Landscape professionals argue, however, that green space is important in cities.

"When everything's steel and concrete you have to soften that with something," Benner says. Plants aren't a luxury — they offset urban gases such as carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, he says.

The ASIC focuses on educating the landscape industry, rather than homeowners, and its members work largely on commercial and municipal projects. It's cities, counties and water districts that have tips for homeowners.

Many places also have stringent rules for watering. Some states, particularly in the desert Southwest and West, offer rebates to promote efficient water use. Some water districts in Florida and California require new subdivisions to be plumbed to use recycled water for irrigation.

"We should all be conserving water," says Dave Pagano, an irrigation consultant in Irvine, Calif., where rain is infrequent. California, rather than restricting when people can water, allocates a certain amount — and charges a substantial penalty for going over.

"That's the best incentive. ... If there's no real penalty, why work at it?" Pagano says.

Wilkinson says restricting which days people can water reduces consumption, "but has it really solved the problem and gone toward the issue of proper education?"

And limiting watering to two or three days a week doesn't limit the amount a homeowner can use.

"I could put Albuquerque under water in three days," Pagano says. "What if you only need to water two days because of the plants you have?"

Landscape architect Greg Miller of Albuquerque says homeowners often don't know how much water grass or shrubs need or how to get water to plants efficiently.

"They water to the dry spots and overwater to the majority of landscape to keep the dry spots wet and growing," Miller says.

Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez agrees the average homeowner can't match a professional's knowledge.

"It's helpful to have odd-even days, things of that nature, where you can get savings," he says. "But if you can get the system more specific to how hot it is, how much rain we're having, measure the plant's moisture content, you can absolutely get the same bang, landscapewise, with less water."

Those variables can bewilder do-it-yourselfers.

Pagano rattles off a list: how much water is used by the plant or evaporates; ("Turf grass uses more water more rapidly than say, a cactus."); how dense are the plantings; is the area shady, sunny or in the wind; how much water can the soil hold and how much is available for the plant; how fast does a sprinkler system or drip irrigation apply water.

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Young expresses hope to serve once again

FROM **YOUNG** PAGE 1

Young, an executive assistant United States attorney for the past 10 years, joined the Airport Commission in 2003, the Santa Monican looking for ways to become more involved in the community.

The United States Attorney's Office is part of the United States Department of Justice and Young's cases do not directly involve the airport.

"I've dedicated my life more or less to public service and wanted to be part of Santa Monica and part of what was going on in Santa Monica," Young, an Ocean Park resident, said on Tuesday. "It was a good opportunity to address the issues that were relevant to the community I lived in."

The news came as a shock to the Airport Commission, many of its members learning of the resignation during a meeting on Monday night, which Young did not attend.

"It feels like a death in the family," Susan Hartley, the vice chairman of the commission, said on Tuesday.

Hartley will preside as the chair in the interim before the commission elects a new chairman and vice chairman, according to Bob Trimborn, the airport manager and staff liaison to the commission. The City Council is responsible for appointing all commissioners. Young's second term on the commission was set to expire in 2011.

"Mark brought class and reasonableness to the commission," Trimborn said. "He was very thoughtful in his deliberations."

Commissioners say that Young brought a unique set of expertise, his skills as an attorney showing through in many of the commission's discussions, which has included noise and air pollution issues and most recently, residents' concerns of an aircraft overshooting a runway and landing on houses on the west end of the airport.

"He was soft spoken but could be a great interrogator when it came to questioning any presenters before the commission and seeing loopholes and contradictions in arguments," Hartley, who has served on the commission for almost four years, said.

Commissioner Jean Rene Gebman also remarked at Young's ability to run the meetings efficiently, asking clarifying questions and keeping the flow of discourse focused.

"To have somebody with a legal background and who is good at digging into technical matters and asking good probing questions is something the city needs," Gebman, who has served on the commission for nine noncontinuous years, said.

Young called the commission one of the more interesting advisory bodies in the city, encountering a number of unique issues related to the airport, which will include determining the future of the aviation facility once its 24-year-old settlement agreement with the FAA expires in 2015.

"It's a very fascinating commission to be a part of with interesting legal and nonlegal issues to deal with," Young said.

Among the most notable issues relates to the ongoing dispute between the FAA and City Hall about runway safety. Sunset Park residents have for years complained that there is a lack of runway safety measures, fueling fears that an aircraft will one day overshoot the runway and land on homes. The airport is unique in that there are homes located within 300 feet of both the west and east ends of the runway.

The FAA has presented several proposals in the past, most recently an option to install a 70-knot Emergency Material Arresting System that would be designed to stop roughly 97 percent of operations at the airport and 90 percent of the Category C and D classified jets, which were banned under an ordinance adopted by the council in March. The enhanced safety measures would consume more runway than the 40-knot EMAS, which the FAA previously proposed. City officials turned down both options as being insufficient.

Young, who does not serve on any other city commissions, expressed hope in serving once again.

"I'll miss serving the city of Santa Monica and hopefully at some point, I'll find some other way to become reinvolved in the city and the community," Young said.

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Handout of new U.S. Gov't Presidential Dollar coins surge as public snaps them up for free

Valuable Presidential Golden Dollar coins being given away free with orders for Framed Money Gallery, but frame shop workers under strain of Public rush, impose household limit of 2

SNEAK PEAK: This is the incredible Framed Presidential Money Gallery displaying the Presidential Golden Dollar coins that are being given away free for everyone who beats the order deadline for the Framed Money Gallery. Zachary Brown, age 6, was so excited just to touch them then jumped for joy when his grandmother ordered him the Framed Money Gallery and he was handed the entire first year of coins free. The unveiling of the Framed Presidential Money Gallery stole the show from presidential performers Tim Watters and Brent Mendenhall who were helping to hand out the free coins. Readers of today's newspaper can still call the direct claim line at 1-800-924-7912 for the next 72 hours to be among the first to also get them free.

Free money: national handout clogging phone lines as people everywhere scramble to beat 72 hour deadline

By Adam K. Oyler
UNIVERSAL MEDIA SYNDICATE

Have you heard about the free money giveaway that's sweeping the nation?

Well, listen up because here it is.

Everyone who gets in on this will be among the first to get the U.S. Government's dazzling new Presidential Golden Dollar coins.

But the government is not the one to thank. The World Reserve has just announced it is handing out the entire year of the valuable coins free.

These extraordinary coins are being given away free to everyone who beats the deadline to cover shipping and the discounted $28 framing fee for the newly unveiled Presidential Framed Money Gallery.

So, what's the catch?

There is none. Just be absolutely sure to call in your claim before the 72 hour deadline if you want to get the entire four coin year set of Presidential coins free.

This is all happening because the World Reserve is issuing the Presidential Framed Money Gallery to the general public to display all forty of the U.S. Government's first ever Presidential Dollar coins. Rations of these never-circulated coins are uncertain because each dollar coin is only minted for just 93 days according to the release schedule of the U. S. Government.

"These new Presidential coins are so stunning because they're actually engraved with edge lettering bearing the date, Mint mark, IN GOD WE TRUST and E PLURIBUS UNUM, which results in the coin's rare tactile feel," said Director Aaron L. Stryker from the World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

"Once they're gone, they're gone and by law once the U.S. Government shuts off, they will never be minted again. That's why the World's premier private monetary exchange is widely advertising its plans to issue the Presidential Framed Money Gallery along with the free coins. We want to make absolutely sure readers of this newspaper know that there are only 72 hours left on this announcement to get the entire year of Presidential Dollar coins free," Stryker said.

Those who get in on this free giveaway by claiming the Framed Money Gallery will have a magnificent display to show off the entire collection of all 40 of the valuable U.S. Presidential coins. That's why it's so important to beat the 72 hour deadline right now.

"At the rate we are giving these away we will be forced to hand out millions of dollars of the valuable new Presidential Dollars free to the general public," Stryker said.

Collectors are trying to get all they can because these are no ordinary

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coins. These are real U.S. Government first issues in never-circulated condition. Smart collectors know how valuable first issue coins can become.

And, since everyone is trying to get them, one thing is for sure, those lucky enough to get in on this now are certain to get an entire year of Presidential Dollar coins free.

What does all this mean for you?

Well, coin values always fluctuate. But, just think if you would have saved just one uncirculated Eisenhower Dollar from as recently as 1973. Believe it or not, it's now worth 1200% more today. So, getting four Presidential Dollar coins free with the Presidential Framed Money Gallery for the twenty-eight dollar discounted framing fee is a real steal.

"To be among the first to get these never-circulated Presidential Golden Dollar coins you must make sure you get through to the Direct Claim Hotlines. If lines are busy please be patient," Stryker said.

But whatever you do keep trying, because all claims will be honored before the 72 hour deadline expires. ■

On the worldwide web:
www.framedmoneygallery.com

HOW TO GET ALL THE COINS FREE

The Toll Free Direct Hotlines are now open. All those who beat the 72 hour order deadline will get the entire four coin year set of the Presidential Golden Dollar coins free just by covering shipping and the discounted framing fee for the Presidential Framed Money Gallery. To ensure the framers can keep up with the rush of orders, they have imposed a strict limit of 2 per household.

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The entire year of free coins will be delivered in never-circulated condition and protected with professional display capsules that are also being issued free for viewing the special edge engraving. The entire first year of Presidential Golden Dollar coins will be delivered with the Framed Money Gallery in never-circulated condition. Those who miss the deadline will be turned away and required to wait for future announcements authorized by the World Reserve in this and other publications. THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY. THE INCREASE IN COLLECTIBLE VALUE OF CERTAIN PRIOR ISSUES OF THE U.S. COINS AND CURRENCY DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT CURRENT ISSUES WILL ALSO INCREASE IN VALUE. ALL TRANSACTIONS LESS SHIPPING ARE BACKED BY THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE WITH A 90 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE UP TO $10,000.00.

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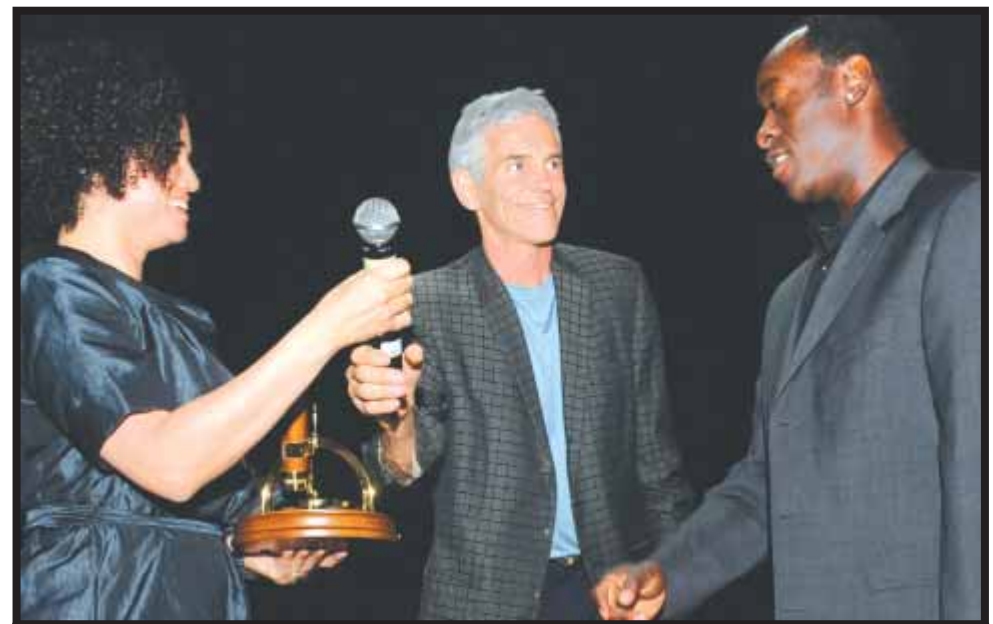
■ **MILLIONS IN FREE MONEY:** The giveaway of these Presidential Golden Dollar coins has collectors scrambling to get them because of the never-before-seen special edge engraving. Now that everyone else is catching on, the direct claim lines to get them free are being flooded with calls

■ **VALUABLE COLLECTION:** Everyone who gets the free Presidential Dollar coins along with the Presidential Framed Money Gallery will have a very valuable collection of U.S. Government coins that you would expect to only see hanging under guard in our nation's capital.

■ **EVERYONE LOVES THE GIFT OF MONEY:** The valuable coins are only being released from the U.S. Government for 93 days each, then only four times a year, for the next nine years. So imagine the look on everyone's face when they receive the Framed Money Gallery with the entire first year of Presidential Dollars coins free.

■ **TURNS ANY ROOM INTO A SHOWPLACE:** The Framed Money Gallery is so impressive, local frame shops can charge $231 but a special discounted framing fee is being given so the Framed Money Gallery is a real steal at just $28 for those who beat the deadline and get the free coins.



BIG GIVER

Photo courtesy New Roads School

Golden Globe Award-winning actor and philanthropist, Don Cheadle (right) and his wife Bridgid Coulter (left), were honored on Saturday, April 26 by New Roads School for their unwavering support of education at this year's Kaleidoscope gala titled 'Rebel With A Cause.' The gala raised money so that a culturally and racially diverse population of children can have access to the school. Over 50 percent of New Roads students receive need-based financial aid, well above the national average of 18 percent for independent schools.

Tree commission would give community extra layer of public input

SEE **TREES** PAGE 1

Among the arguments by city officials is that the Treesavers were too late in challenging the tree removal portion of the project whose statute of limitations expired 180 days after it was ruled exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act in 2005.

Those concerns with public process arose once again last week when residents in the north of Montana Avenue neighborhood learned of a plan to remove 300 carob trees citywide. The project was scheduled to go before the City Council last Tuesday for funding but was postponed to give the public more time to review a study by HortScience which found many of the carob trees had a high probability of failing.

City officials pointed to the risk in keeping such carob trees in place, which appear healthy on the outside but lack structurally on the inside. A limb from a carob tree fell on a car on 12th Street a few weeks ago and a whole tree uprooted and recently fell over. There were no reported injuries in either tree incidents.

Kate Vernez, the assistant to the city manager on governmental relations, said that there will be community outreach efforts for the carob tree project, starting with a meeting on the evening of May 7 at the Civic Center.

The meeting will include an overview of the carob tree report and a panel discussion on urban forest management in Santa Monica. Confirmed panelists include Jim Clark of HortScience, George Gonzalez, the chief forester in the city of Los Angeles and Gordon Mann with the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

Rubin said the proposed commission would add an extra layer to the public process, giving the community another means to express their opinions about tree removal proposals.

"It would help the urban forester and the staff working on the issues, it would help the neighbors to feel they have a voice," Rubin said.

City officials say they are open to exploring a possible tree commission, stressing that it wouldn't be formed overnight.

"Before we form another commission, which costs money and staff, I think we should look at it," Mayor Herb Katz said on Tuesday. "We might be able to fold it into one of our existing commissions."

Elaine Polachek, the director of the community maintenance department, said she is researching other city tree commissions, how they were formed and the roles they serve in urban forest management.

"If an advisory body were formed to deal with the tree issues ... it will create a process where we review things together and bring the community in," Polachek said. "It would be a good avenue in our perspective."

In Davis, the Tree Commission, which became a formal body in the 1970s when the city joined the Tree City USA, reviews street tree removal requests and refers recommendations to the City Council.

"They make sure that the trees in Davis are taken care of," Robert Cain, the urban forest manager for the city of Davis, said on Tuesday. "Davis is very protective of their trees and proud of the tree canopy they have."

The seven-member commission is appointed by the City Council and consists of an arborist, a parks expert and residents, who are not necessarily required to have tree expertise.

The Urban Forest Council in San Francisco serves as a coordinating body for the various city and county agencies that deal with trees. The 15-member council also oversees the city's tree landmarking ordinance, according to Kelly Quirke, the committee's vice chairman and executive director of the Friends of the Urban Forest, a non-profit organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"It gives a voice to the public," Quirke said. "It gives a way for people to come and talk about whatever their concerns are."

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Neighborhood seeks a true 'living street'

FROM **STREET** PAGE 3

on Monday. The plans, presented by city consultants Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates and landscaping firm Van Atta Associates, illustrated two different configurations for Longfellow, but both designed with trees and traffic calming measures.

The workshop was held nearly a year after residents first met with the consultants — hired by City Hall for the project — to voice their vision for Longfellow, which included retaining the current parking space inventory, mitigating commercial traffic and having a "living street" with sustainable designs.

The consultants played around with different options since the meeting last summer, including adding diagonal parking, an idea nixed because it would've eaten up too much roadway and created accessibility problems for emergency vehicles, according to Jessica ter Schure, a senior associate with Nelson/Nygaard.

What the consultants returned with was two different options for Longfellow, the key differences between them being a dedicated pedestrian zone in the first proposal and a shared walkway in the second proposal.

The shared walkway would be used by both pedestrians and drivers, who would be encouraged to travel slowly on the street because of traffic calming measures, such as a narrower thoroughfare caused by tree plantings. The consultant is also proposing to elevate all of Longfellow a few inches above adjacent streets, giving it more of a distinctive identity.

"You would really have a sense of entry into your neighborhood," Susan Van Atta, president of Van Atta Associates, said during the meeting. "This isn't the kind of street where you will pick up full speed."

The project is estimated to cost around $4.5 million, which includes relocating the utility lines underground. City staff is asking for funding in the upcoming fiscal year.

The City Council could hear on the project at a meeting in June.

Most members in the Borderline Neighborhood Group leaned in favor of the option with the shared walkway, a feature residents said they had been seeking since the project was first conceptually launched. The proposal would allow the most effective changes while keeping certain favorable elements of the street intact, most notably being the ability to walk straight down the middle of the street.

"We want to reclaim it," Dennis Woods, who has lived on Navy Street and Longfellow for 10 years, said following the workshop on Monday. "The new concept is an incredible solution to a myriad of problems."

Those problems include prostitution and drug transactions before street lights were installed a few years ago, Woods said. Other residents point to other nuisances including automotive businesses on Lincoln using the street to store cars.

Woods, a 10-year-member of the Borderline Neighborhood Group, is the chairman of its improvement committee, which is tasked with overseeing projects including the "living street" on Longfellow.

The little-known organization represents residents living between Marine and Ozone to the north and south, with Lincoln to the east and Highland Avenue to the west.

The Borderline Neighborhood Group is a separate entity from the Ocean Park Association, though their memberships do overlap, the former with more than 150 residents. Unlike organizations such as OPA, the Borderline group is not formally recognized by City Hall, mainly because it is not an established non-profit organization, one of the qualifications necessary to receive city grant funding.

"It gives us a sense of community," Woods said. "We have great neighbors and we've created a livable place."

The group is currently chaired by Sharon Carothers, a Highland Avenue resident who moved into the neighborhood a few years ago and hosts many of the meetings and functions.

"It is truly a neighborhood," Carothers said.

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MAJOR PROGRESS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The remodel of Santa Monica Place is moving along quickly. The entire front has been removed, making way for a new open-air mall, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009.

Police warn residents to keep windows closed at nighttime

FROM **POLICE** PAGE 1

Alexander Merman, 35, was found dead inside his apartment on Montana Avenue, believed to have been killed by blunt force trauma.

Both Merman and Redding lived alone and were discovered after their respective mothers had asked for someone to check in on them, concerned after having difficulty reaching their children.

Padilla said there is no connection between the two homicides or the attack Monday night.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp: 60°**

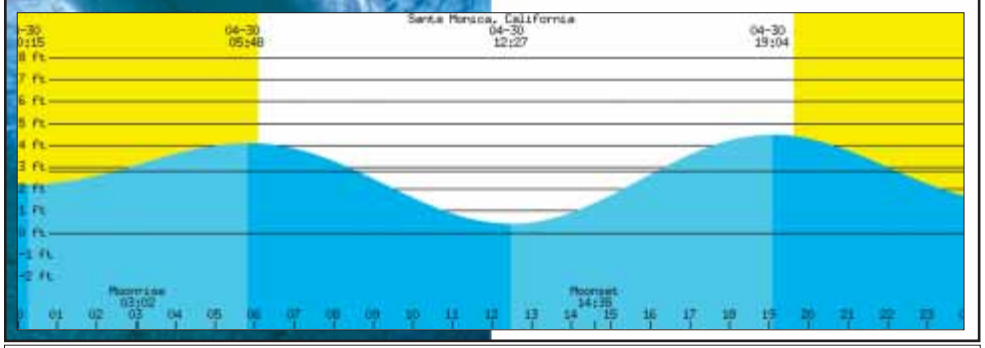
Swell Forecast (6-10 FT)

Wednesday should see an increase in NW wind swell. West facing breaks are looking at sets running head high to 2 feet overhead at breaks able to work a steep NW angle of 310, which is tough for many spots. South facing breaks should have cleaner lines, working the wrap for chest head high waves. As for conditions Wednesday, winds are expected to pick up early onshore, reaching 15-20 mph in the afternoon.

Long Range Synopsis

SW builds Friday, Saturday as NW drops off...

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**

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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 Ford

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	C	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	B	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	F	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	F	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	C	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

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SOCCER

Ronaldo goes into hiding in Brazil

BY PETER MUELLO
Associated Press Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil Ronaldo went into hiding Tuesday after a run-in with cross-dressing prostitutes that prompted police to investigate whether to charge one with trying to extort money from the soccer star.

The AC Milan player, in Brazil recovering from a knee surgery, canceled two TV appearances, and local media said he will continue physiotherapy at his home.

Police said Ronaldo committed no crime, but he was accused by one prostitute of using drugs and not wanting to pay.

Prostitution is legal in Brazil.

"It is necessary to clarify that no formal accusations were made against Ronaldo," read a statement on the player's Web site. "An advocate of social causes, Ronaldo has never used drugs and has always been admired by children in Brazil and around the world. There are indications of an extortion attempt in which the Milan striker is the only victim."

Ronaldo, a three-time FIFA player of the year, acknowledged to police he knew they were prostitutes but did not realize they were cross-dressers until getting to a motel early Monday morning, according to police.

Police released more details Tuesday, and the AP reviewed witnesses' accounts to authorities.

The motel manager — identified only as Luisa — said Ronaldo, who was dressed and appeared to be sober, tried to get rid of the prostitutes after realizing they were men.

She told police Ronaldo offered the prostitutes $600 to end the incident but they would not accept dollars.

The manager then converted the money into reals for Ronaldo, but before he made the payment one prostitute asked for 50,000 reals ($30,000) to keep the story from the media, according to the police document.

A motel waiter, who was not identified in the police documents, told police the prostitute went to the street and yelled "the Phenomenon didn't want to pay."

Witnesses also told police the prostitute who asked for 50,000 reals ripped out the phone wires to keep Ronaldo from calling for help, and broke into his car to steal his belongings, according to police documents. That prostitute later showed local media a car document belonging to Ronaldo.

Police inspector Carlos Augusto Nogueira said there was no evidence drugs were involved in the incident.

But he said Ronaldo and the prostitutes must return to the police station for further questioning next week. Nogueira added the one prostitute might be charged with extortion. Ronaldo will not be charged, Nogueira said, unless he threatened to physically assault the prostitutes, as one hinted.

The case made front-page headlines in several Brazilian newspapers Tuesday. And a brief video clip of Ronaldo at the motel, apparently taped by one of the prostitutes, became a big hit in Brazil after being uploaded on YouTube.

> **AN ADVOCATE OF SOCIAL CAUSES, RONALDO HAS NEVER USED DRUGS AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN ADMIRED BY CHILDREN IN BRAZIL AND AROUND THE WORLD."**
>
> Statement on the player's Web site

"It's really a soap opera," said 48-year-old Luiz Mendes, a private chauffeur. "Ronaldo has money to fill mattresses. He can afford the best and most beautiful women in the world. Why would he want to go out with these (prostitutes)."

Some Brazilians defended the star.

"It's no surprise they are on the front page of all newspapers," said 27-year-old Catia Lopes, a bakery-shop worker. "But I don't think Ronaldo's image was hurt. For me he is still the same person."

Ronaldo's spokesman did not immediately return an e-mail from The Associated Press.

Ronaldo went out Sunday night reportedly to celebrate Flamengo's 1-0 victory over rival Botafogo in the first leg of the Rio de Janeiro state final. Ronaldo is a fan of Flamengo and has said he wants to play for the Brazilian club before retiring. He was at Maracana stadium to watch Sunday's match.

The player told reporters during the match that he could be back in action in six months if his recovery continues to go as planned.

MLB

All-Star tickets reach stratosphere

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK Fans will pay starry prices for this year's All-Star game at Yankee Stadium.

Tickets will be priced at $150-$725 for the July 15 game, Major League Baseball announced Tuesday.

That's up from $75-$285 for last year's game at San Francisco and $10-15 for box and reserved seats the last time the All-Stars were at Yankee Stadium, in 1977.

Tickets for the Home Run Derby and workout day on July 14 are $100-$650, an increase from $50-$225 last year. Tickets for the Futures game on July 13 are $50-225, up from $22.50-$125 last year.

Registration to buy tickets for the All-Star game and Derby began Tuesday on mlb.com, and a drawing will be held June 16.

MOVIETIMES

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(323) 466-FILM

The Dark Backward (NR)
7:30
Detroit Rock City (R) 1hr 35min

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third St.
(310) 458-1506

The Bank Job (R) 1hr 50min
1:50, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
Street Kings (R) 1hr 47min
1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
Pathology (R) 1hr 33min
2:10, 4:25, 6:45, 9:10
Stop-Loss (R) 1hr 53min
4:10
The Ruins (R) 1hr 37min
1:55, 6:55, 9:20

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min
1:00, 1:50, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45
Nim's Island (PG) 1hr 35min
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
1:45, 4:10, 7:05, 9:20
The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 53min
1:40, 2:25, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 10:00
Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min
2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10

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
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
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
12:00, 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
Where in the World Is Osama Bin Laden? (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40, 11:50

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Chat it up, Capricorn

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Zero in on priorities involving your budget. You cannot avoid looking at the details. If you feel that it's time to clean house, most likely it is. Tonight: Take some much-needed private time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on what is going on. What is happening behind the scenes might be of greater importance. Follow through on what you feel, know and want with a boss. Your inner voice does a great job of directing. Tonight: Help a child or friend lighten up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Whether you want to or not, you go to the head of the class. You could be difficult to stop. Investigate rather than put someone down. You could be negative because of recent events or fatigue. Let go and relax. Tonight: Go to the top. Take charge.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Read between the lines and get to the bottom of a problem by detaching. Find an expert. Hop on the Internet. Tonight: Follow the music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Work with one other person directly. You could become distracted and need to deal with several different people. You might want to emphasize effectiveness. You are finally able to breach a barrier. Curb spending if you feel pushed. Tonight: Let someone else treat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might be more tired than you have been in a while. This state of mind could be coloring your thoughts and actions, and defining the results. Step back and think. If someone wants to pitch in and help, by all means let him or her. Tonight: Entertain a suggestion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Easy does it. You might have an enormous amount to do. You might feel overwhelmed by all of your must-do's. Knowing when to pull back could be more important than taking action. Tonight: Pace yourself. Know and act like you are human. No one is perfect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You are full of fun and creativity. Your ideas, actions and words reflect this attitude. Most people will find you extremely enticing, though inadvertently you could push others away. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Ever creative, you come up with answers. Stay on top of a situation and allow your imagination to invigorate your projects. A boss could sit on you very hard. Tonight: Happily mosey home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Return messages. Schedule meetings. While you catch up on personal and/or professional news, you might discover that someone put a roadblock in your plans. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Deal with individuals rather than groups. Lean on a proven associate you trust. Together you make quite a team. Indulge a loved one. Stop and buy him or her a token of affection. Use your instincts. Tonight: Your treat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You are full of fun and games, and make headway with ease. Home in on a major goal involving others. You could feel like someone is pushing you beyond your limits. Tonight: Do your thing.

Happy birthday

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

No one can question that you act in inspired ways this year. It appears that because of your subconscious you are able to sort through more than your share of confusion. Others often ask you to pitch in when they cannot solve an issue. Because of creativity you might become an even more valued problem-solver. If you are single, you certainly will have the opportunity to change your status if you so choose. Many would like to be your sweetie. If you are attached, you could be delighted by the warmth and sensitivity that evolve if you maintain an openness. AQUARIUS shoves you into the limelight!

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Difficulty
GOLD

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

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

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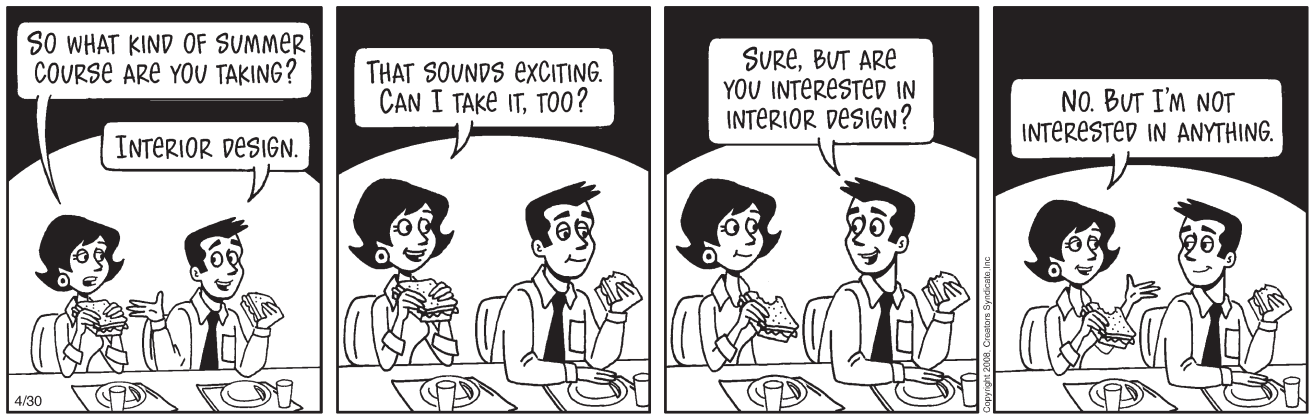
FIO2802 11/04

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

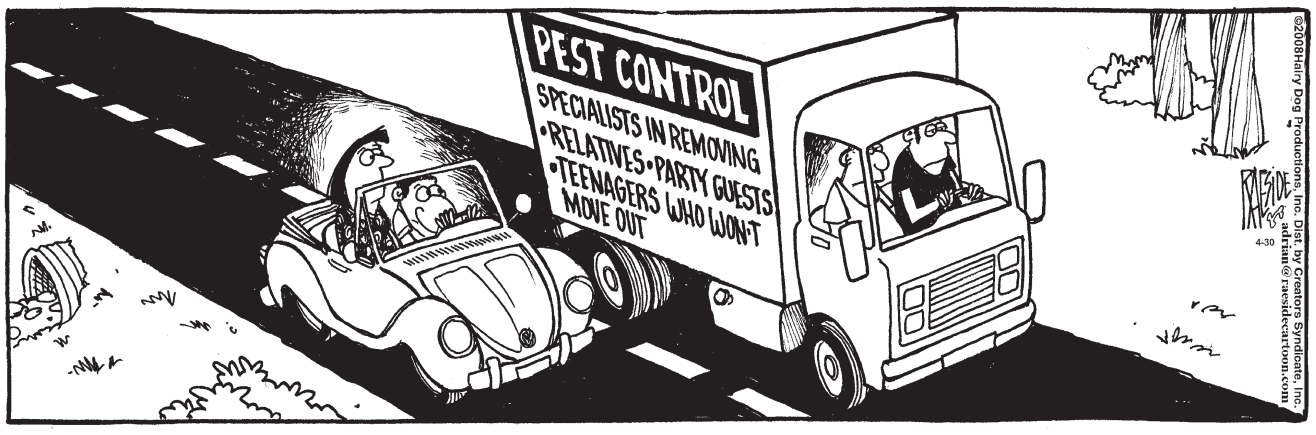
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis

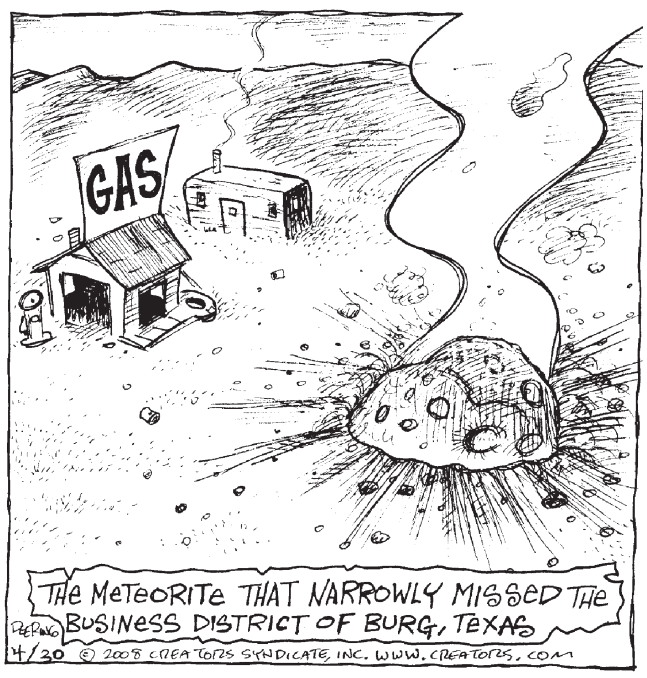
Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly

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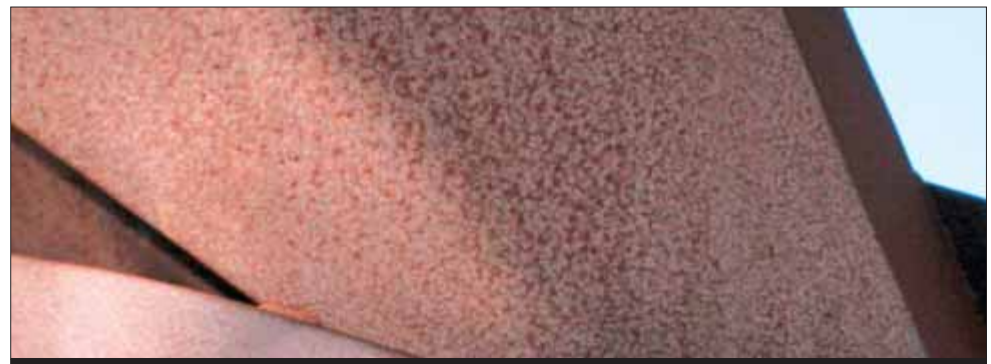

MYSTERY PHOTO

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 Washington city
7 Whirlpool
11 Penitent person
12 Have supper
13 Poet Levertov
14 Infamous czar
15 Pure
17 Cockatoo's home
20 Suggest
23 "Exodus" hero
24 "West Side Story" song
26 Gun
27 Big truck
28 Tiny taste
29 Words on a penny
31 Course area
32 Surgery tool
33 Appliance part
34 Entirely (Lat.)
37 Gasp for air
39 Thief
43 Solemn act
44 Incense
45 Smell
46 Neptune, for one

DOWN

1 Smidgen
2 Had supper
3 Debate side
4 In reserve
5 Screen
6 Scope
7 Copy fixer
8 Begins with enthusiasm
9 Genetic stuff
10 Hankering
16 Depleted
17 Seasonal song
18 Site of action
19 Admits defeat by
21 Less friendly
22 Pre-recorded
24 Turn aside
25 Game piece
30 Heart
33 Hooded snake
35 Mine rocks
36 Phone sound
37 Debate side
38 Lend a hand
40 Do a checkout job
41 Conceit
42 Sunburned

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, 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
43				■	44					
45				■	46					

4-30

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 19 24 35 44 51 Meganumber: 26 Jackpot: $85M

SuperLOTTO PLUS: 4 12 17 20 31 Meganumber: 20 Jackpot: $17M

Fantasy 5: 5 11 22 24 28

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 6 0 EVENING: 6 6 8

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 10 Solid Gold 3rd: 12 Lucky Charmes RACE TIME: 1.46.43

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

■ The Associated Press reported in March that "dozens" of locked-up sexual predators are receiving federal aid to take mail-order college courses through Pell grants, even though prison inmates normally are ineligible. Sex offenders who have completed their sentences, but are held for "treatment," are not technically "prisoners," and many have spent their stipends on "living expenses" such as DVD players, in that they have no "room and board" expenses.

■ Latest Police Chases: (1) In Ocala, Fla., in March, Bret Wass, 28, scrambling from police investigating a sexual battery, commandeered a tow truck and drove away, even though the truck had a car hooked onto it; during the chase, he hit the patrol car and was captured on foot nearby. (2) Police in Osaka, Japan, mobilized in January to apprehend fugitive Hirofumi Fukuda, 27, who was wanted for assaulting an officer (which tends to get the attention of fellow officers). By the end of the two-hour episode, a helicopter and 460 patrol cars, involving 2,240 law-enforcement officers, were on the case.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1789 George Washington took office in New York as the first president of the United States.

1803 the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about $15 million.

1812 Louisiana became the 18th state of the Union.

1948 the charter of the Organization of American States was signed in Bogota, Colombia.

1958 the American Association of Retired Persons (later simply AARP) was founded in Washington, D.C., by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus.

1958 Britain's Life Peerages Act 1958 allowed women to become members of the House of Lords.

1968 New York City police forcibly removed student demonstrators occupying five buildings at Columbia University.

1970 President Nixon announced the U.S. was sending troops into Cambodia, an action that sparked widespread protest.

WORD UP!

gimcrack \JIM-krak\, *noun*:
1. A showy but useless or worthless object; a gewgaw.
adjective:
1. Tastelessly showy; cheap; gaudy.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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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 90403 or you can call (310) 393-2260.

WE NEED an elderly part-time office assistant with wisdom, good taste, and broad experience in general office procedures to staff a one person office on Benedict Canyon in Beverly Hills. Please submit your resume to subject "Part Time Help" at ExecutiveOffice@aol.com or fax to 509 356-3100.
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Hours, No Experience Necessary. 1-800-585-
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CONTACT ASSOCIATE EDITOR **DANIEL ARCHULETA AT DANIELA@SMDP.COM.**

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		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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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
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