



SPINNING A WEB
SEE PAGE 12

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE THAT'S MORE LIKE IT ISSUE

Time to open wallets again?

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS With an annual tax revenue stream of \$6.4 million scheduled to stop flowing in two years, school officials are preparing to ask residents to open their wallets once again.

The Board of Education is expected to move forward tonight with the creation of an advisory ad hoc committee that would assist in determining whether or not the district should ask residents to approve a proposed parcel tax in spring 2008.

Approximately 68 percent of residents in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District approved Measure S in June 2003, handing the school district a check for \$6.4 million a year in funding through 2009.

The success of a new parcel tax next year could be affected by a series of events this year that called into question school official's management of funds and the district's transparency in financial matters. Reports late last year that the district would be in the red if the board approved a 5 percent teacher salary increase raised a few eyebrows. Those reports were followed by the resignation of former CFO Winston Braham in November, amid rumors that he disagreed with the increase in salary and how it could hinder district finances.

A report by the Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team in February indicated that

SEE TAXES PAGE 8

ENTERTAINMENT

THE MUSIC LIVES ON

Coachella Music & Arts Festival has lasting impact on the brave souls who attended

STORY BY MICHAEL TITTINGER PAGE 10

ELECTRIC SHOCK: A tesla coil situated at the center of the Empire Polo Field during the last weekend's Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival created a light show every few minutes.

Michael J. Tittinger miket@smdp.com

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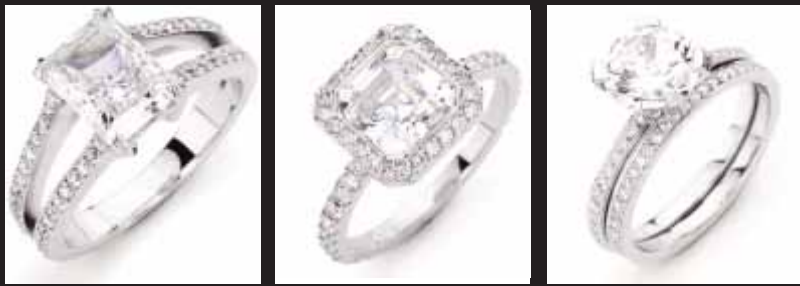
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Eddie Guerboian

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



St. Monica High School's Spring Concert

1030 Lincoln Blvd., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

St. Monica's Performing Arts students will perform at Cantwell Auditorium.
Suggested donations are \$5 for adults and \$2 for seniors or students.

Her Story Breast Cancer Program

530 W. Pico Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Attend this educational program and learn from women who are living their lives and partnering with their health care team to make proactive choices in the care and management of their breast cancer. This event is free. Light refreshments provided. People who plan to attend are asked to register by calling (866) 631-6280.

'89.9 KCRW Presents ...'

23825 Stuart Ranch Rd., Malibu, 6:30 p.m. — midnight

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for Califone with Special Guest Eric Johnson of the Fruit Bats and The One AM Radio. This is an all-ages show. Tickets are \$20. To purchase tickets, call (310) 456-6722 or visit www.malibuperformingartscenter.com.

'America, Unite in Prayer'

1685 Main St., 6:30 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.

The 17th annual public observance of the National Day of Prayer in Santa Monica will be held on the front lawn of Santa Monica City Hall. Prayers will be offered for community and national leaders, the armed forces, the family, personal renewal, and churches and ministry organizations. An optional light breakfast will begin at 6:30 a.m. on the City Hall lawn. Suggested donation is \$5. Free parking is available at nearby Santa Monica Place mall. For further information, telephone (310) 656-5221.

Yappy Hour @ Tails of Santa Monica

2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

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

Register for the XTERRA Malibu Creek Trail Run

The sixth-annual XTERRA Malibu Creek Trail Run is scheduled for May 12.

Competitors can choose between two distances set in the Santa Monica Mountains: 4-miles or 14-miles. Proceeds from the XTERRA Malibu Creek Trail Run go to the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. More information, including registration fee info, is available at www.trailrace.com.

Friday, May 4, 2007

Citywide Reads Book Discussion: Cafe Bolivar

1741 Ocean Park Blvd., 4 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Join others in reading and discussing the Santa Monica Citywide Reads 2007 featured book, 'The Time Traveler's Wife' by Audrey Niffenegger at Cafe Bolivar.

Shabbat Across America

206 Main St., Venice, 6:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Congregation Mishkon Tephilo is hosting the 11th annual coast-to-coast Shabbat celebration. Following services, Mishkon member Honorable Stephen Wilson will share reflections on his two decades as a United States District Court judge for the Central District of California. Dinner costs are \$18 for adults and \$5 for children under 13. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (310) 392-3029.

Malibu Pier Sportfishing

23000 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, 6 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Half-day Sportfishing boat excursions will depart from the Malibu Pier seven days a week through May 31. Boats will depart at 6 a.m. and noon from Wednesday through Monday; weather permitting. On Tuesdays one trip will depart at 6 a.m. Ticket prices are \$37.50 for all ages. The excursions last approximately 5 1/2 hours. A galley onboard will provide food and beverages for purchase. Fishing equipment is available for rent. For more information and reservations, call (310) 456-8031.

Santa Monica Critical Mass bike ride

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

Ride through the neighborhoods of Santa Monica and Venice once a month. For more information, visit www.SantaMonicaCriticalMass.org.

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.



A grande score at local shop

Armed robbers target coffeehouse during Wednesday stick up

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Police are on the lookout for two men wanted in connection with an armed robbery at a local coffeehouse.

The incident occurred at approximately 10:45 p.m. Tuesday at the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, at the corner of Second Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, said SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla.

Two black males wearing dark clothing and ski masks walked into the coffeehouse and forced employees into a back room. The suspects then removed \$2,500 in cash from the office and fled in a dark-colored 1980s sedan with tinted windows. The vehicle was described as having a large rear window, Padilla said.

The first suspect is believed to be a black male in his 30s to mid 40s, around 5 feet, 10 inches tall, weighing 200 pounds. The second suspect was described as a black male in his 30s to mid 40s, around 5 feet, 5 inches tall, 150 pounds.

One suspect was carrying a shotgun during the robbery, Padilla said.

No injuries were reported.

A manager at the downtown coffeehouse declined to comment on the robbery and calls to the corporate office were not returned.

Police are urging anyone who may have information on the robbery to contact SMPD detectives or the watch commander.

kevinh@smdp.com

WE TIP

Callers who wish to provide anonymous information may also call the We-Tip national hotline at (800) 76-CRIME (27463). Callers with information that leads to an arrest and conviction become eligible for a reward up to \$1000.



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

GOTCHA: A new camera has been placed on the corner of Bundy Drive and Pico Boulevard to catch red light runners in the act.

Say 'cheese,' motorists

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO BOULEVARD Drivers here will get a pass over the next 30 days. After that, anyone caught running a red light at Bundy Drive and Pico Boulevard will receive a traffic ticket, courtesy a new series of red light cameras.

Westside Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl, along with representatives from the LAPD, unveiled their latest addition to the red light camera arsenal during Wednesday morning's commute, urging drivers to slow down when they see a yellow light — not speed up.

Those who fail to stop at a red light face a \$381 fine. The fine for an illegal right turn on red is \$159.

"This intersection has become a significant traffic safety issue," Rosendahl said as he stood with traffic officers near the corner of Bundy and Pico. "There were 64 collisions here in the last two years that were caused by drivers running red lights."

The location is the 14th to be targeted by city officials. The goal is to place cameras at 32 intersections, said Rosendahl, who represents the 11th District, which includes the communities of Brentwood, Mar Vista, Pacific Palisades and Venice.

The cameras at Bundy and Pico are the first to be installed in the 11th District.

LAPD Capt. Carol Aborn-Khoury, commanding officer of the West Los Angeles area, said there are more traffic fatalities than there are homicides within her jurisdiction.

"Red light cameras have proven to be a valuable resource for us and can have a tremendous impact on problem intersections, and this has been one," Aborn-Khoury said. "Hopefully, this will help improve traffic flow as well as safety."

Since taking office two years ago, the councilman has moved forward with a traffic management plan that includes installing left turn signals at congested intersections, such as the one placed at Pico and Bundy roughly five months ago.

Since the left turn signal was put in, Rosendahl said the flow of traffic has improved for hundreds of employees who commute to Santa Monica. Rosendahl has also used \$11 million in traffic mitigation funds to synchronize more than 160 intersections.

His next goals include widening Lincoln Boulevard and extending the Green Line to LAX.

"We are moving very aggressively to help bring some relief," Rosendahl said.

MORE PICTURES TO SHARE

Representatives with Nestor Traffic Systems, the company the supplied the cameras at a cost of roughly \$8,000, said new technology allows the cameras to record multiple images of a red-light violator, whereas in the past, cameras typically took only two pictures of the car, one from the front and one from the back.

SEE CAMERA PAGE 8

Grand Opening



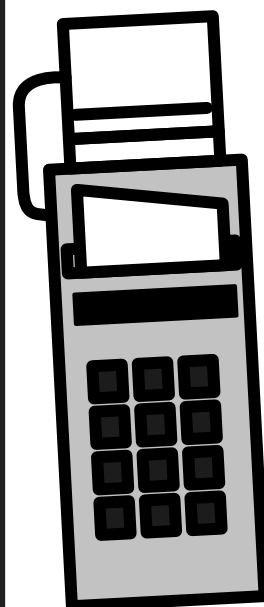
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not every dog has its day

Editor:
The city of Santa Monica posted notices at all the dog parks on the west side of Los Angeles proclaiming the new dog park opening up at the Santa Monica Airport site ("Airport Park a mixed bag," April 30). It invited everyone to come and enjoy the new park at the opening on Sunday, but failed to tell those that live in Los Angeles that they and their dogs would not be welcome to use the facility. Come Sunday, we went to the airport only to find out that they would not open the new dog park until after 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. My daughter, who lives in Santa Monica, will continue to take her dog to a friendly facility in West Los Angeles and I, who live less than a mile away in Venice, find that I can't take my gentle older dog to the airport facility.

Carla Barrett
Santa Monica

Airport doesn't help most locals

Editor:
I think we need to ask the Santa Monica City Council what their individual positions are concerning the airport noise, safety and pollution problems – and why they are not listening to the majority of residents living near the airport who want restrictions!

The City Council doesn't seem to give a "hoot" about the residents affected by the airport. They seem to want to tell us where we can smoke, but who cares if jet emissions are killing us?

In fact, they have ruled against the safety, pollution and noise problems time after time – siding with the dysfunctional FAA. They seem to support the "jetsetters" and big businesses, not the people.

If the FAA and city won't listen to the homeowners directly affected by the airport violations, then maybe the solution is to close the whole thing.

The average Joe and Jane living here gets nothing from the airport but cancer-filled lungs and noise that hinders one's conversations! Oh, and the runways which are unsafe for the big jets that have tripled in five years.

I ask everyone living on the Westside to write letters to the FAA and city of Santa Monica to let them know we don't need any more pollution.

Doesn't Santa Monica pride themselves on being a "green" city? Hogwash!

Kali D. Davis
Santa Monica

It's all about spreading the joy

Editor:
In regards to Natali Herrador's May 2 (letter) entitled "Seeing red over Pinky," I felt it important that I respond on behalf of k9 connection to clarify any misperception over Pinky, our organization's relationship with the Santa Monica shelter and the manner in which the article in last weekend's Santa Monica Daily Press came about.

k9 connection is a non-profit organization that rescues homeless shelter animals and brings them into schools to counsel, educate and inspire some of our community's most at-risk teens. Specifically, our students train k9 rescues in basic obedience to help them become more adoptable, and learn a little something about their own potential in the process. In recognition and support of our efforts, the Santa Monica Police Department has graciously opened the Santa Monica Shelter to our organization and its volunteers. Since the inception of our relationship with the Santa Monica Shelter more than 100 k9 connection Adoption Outreach volunteers have been recruited and work seven days a week to help Santa Monica Shelter dogs find permanent, loving, safe and responsible homes.

Pinky happens to be a perfect example of the symbiotic relationship between k9 connection and the Santa Monica Shelter. Today, Pinky's student trainer is a better, happier person and Pinky is a better, happier dog.

Finally, it should be noted that this weekend's article was merely an attempt to bring greater attention to Pinky's need for a forever home. Nowhere in this article did k9 connection attempt to assume undue credit for Pinky's road to recovery, nor can I reasonably understand why it would be interpreted this way. The point, as always, was to help a deserving animal find the happy ending she deserves.

Glen Zipper
Project director, k9 connection



Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Who's in control of this crazy thing?

"MAJOR COMBAT OPERATIONS IN Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed. And now our coalition is engaged in securing and reconstructing that country."

President George W. Bush spoke those words under a banner reading "Mission Accomplished" on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln on May 1, 2003. The key words in that statement are "securing" and "reconstructing" — because those two objectives fall into two very different departments. The "securing" was to be done by Donald Rumsfeld's Defense Department and the "reconstructing" was the job of Colin Powell's State Department. The assumption was the two departments, and the two men, would find a way to work together. But because Rumsfeld wanted total control of Iraq (at one point he said to the President that he would be 100 percent accountable if he had 100 percent responsibility), that's not how it played out.

In Powell's defense, there was nothing more he could have done. He's a soldier and he's spent most of his adult life developing a respect for the chain of command. As such, he took his orders from the Commander in Chief. So even though he is the author of the "Powell Doctrine of Overwhelming Force," he went along with a paltry invasion force of only about 120,000 soldiers — with no increase in troop levels for the reconstruction phase. As a diplomat, he waited until after the general election in December of 2005 so he could claim that the Iraqis had elected a government. But Iraq was still the exclusive domain of Rumsfeld's Pentagon.

Enter National Security Advisor Condoleeza Rice who, when offered Powell's old job told the President, "I think maybe you need new people." She was correct. But, as with most "loyal Bushies," she did what the President wanted her to do, not what she thought was right. She took the job, knowing that the State Department had been marginalized to the point where the President told Saudi Prince Bandar about plans to invade Iraq before he told Colin Powell. Her most valuable quality was that she already knew her place in the administration's pecking order when it came to Iraq policy: First the President, then the Vice President (very much a hawk), then the Secretary of Defense (very much a war monger), then her. In the past, she had tried to talk to Secretary Rumsfeld about war planning or troop deployments and was told that the chain of command did not include the National Security Advisor. Needless to say, she was inconsequential in Rumsfeld's universe and she knew once Cheney and Rumsfeld were in agreement on something, the President always goes along.

So when I read that current National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley was looking to create and fill the position of "war czar" (an administrator to oversee military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan), I was blown away. The official plan is to create a position with "tasking authority" (the abil-

ity to give orders) and "clearly assigned responsibility, deadlines, performance metrics (as appropriate), and a system of accountability to ensure progress." Is the President finally fed up with the pace of progress in Iraq and looking to create a Cabinet-level position to get it jump-started? No. Did the President decide that the stagnation of the Iraqi government was unacceptable and that a new face on the ground in Iraq is needed to motivate them? No. So what happened? Apparently, deputy National Security Advisor Meghan O'Sullivan (who reports to Hadley), the highest-ranking White House official whose full-time job revolves around operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, is resigning. So a low-level White House staffer is quitting and because of that, I'm supposed to believe the administration has come up with a plan to finally get the departments of Defense and State on the same page after four years? I was born at night, but it wasn't last night.

DID THE PRESIDENT DECIDE THAT THE STAGNATION OF THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT A NEW FACE ON THE GROUND IN IRAQ IS NEEDED TO MOTIVATE THEM? NO. SO WHAT HAPPENED?

Someone should tell Hadley that the job of overseeing and managing the deployment of the United States military already exists: He's called the Commander in Chief. And the job of refereeing disputes between cabinet secretaries and their departments already exists: He's called the President. And that job is already filled. I completely understand his desire to distance himself from his own failed Iraq policy, but as our first "CEO President," it's time for George W. Bush to take responsibility for America's falling "stock price". As one person who had been offered the job, retired four-star General John Sheehan said, "The very fundamental issue is, they don't know where the hell they're going." Not only do they now know where they're going, this idea of creating a "war czar" shows that they don't even know who's driving.

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

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I'm finally grown up

IT OCCURRED TO ME RECENTLY THAT, without trying, I have become an adult. No single event sparked the revelation; rather, my transition to maturity is marked by the fulfillment of a laundry list of things I vowed as a kid never to do or say when I was a grown-up.

All I ever wanted for breakfast during childhood was chocolate; however, my selections were limited to oatmeal, Farina Hot Wheat or Cream of Wheat and scrambled eggs. I remember my Dad once crumbled under my tearful pleas in the cereal aisle of the supermarket and I managed to triumphantly exit the store with a box of Count Chocula. The spoon — teeming with already brown milk and corn and marshmallow bits chockfull of additives and preservatives — was approaching my lips when my mom entered the kitchen and yelled, "Freeze!" After that, I was prohibited from accompanying my dad on his food shopping expeditions (although a compromise was reached allowing me to add raisins to the oatmeal).

When I got to college, I found that skipping breakfast altogether saved much needed time on those frequent mornings when I overslept. And when I started my first entry-level job, a plain cup of coffee was the morning meal most economically pleasing to my anorexic wallet.

These days, though, given the choice between a frosted, jelly-filled donut or an egg-white omelet with whole wheat toast, I opt for the latter not just for its nutritional superiority, but also because my seasoned taste buds no longer crave sugar before noon.

I voluntarily attend lectures. I'm more apt to read than watch TV before bed. I run several times a week, and never because I'm being chased. I order fish in restaurants. I make salads at home. No pliers are needed to part my lips when eating Brussels sprouts. I hardly ever drink milk directly from the carton. I recognize that a chocolate muffin is merely a cupcake in disguise.

I generally think that music at weddings is too loud. I wonder how techno music is actually considered music. I call my great aunt without being asked (or told). I look forward to my birthday slightly less each year (even though it is still obviously the most important day on the calendar). I don't leave the house with wet hair. I make my bed every morning even though I know I'll just mess it up again at night. I wear my seat belt whether I'm in the front or back of a car. I look both ways before crossing the street. I take my vitamins instead of hiding them in the trash. The phrases "You'll understand

when you're older" and "When I was your age..." have crossed my lips more than once. I read things before I sign them (apparently with the exception of my 2003 taxes, for which the IRS penalized me severely). I have a mortgage. I sometimes consider the feelings of others before my own.

I used to resent having a bedtime, and in my teen years, a curfew. Late night was so obviously the time when all the good stuff was just getting started. I prided myself on being fully functional with less than two hours of sleep. Nowadays, I brag to anyone who will listen when I get eight or more hours of quality REM and curse myself if I get anything less than seven.

I REMEMBER MY DAD ONCE CRUMBLING UNDER MY TEARFUL PLEAS IN THE CEREAL AISLE OF THE SUPERMARKET AND I MANAGED TO TRIUMPHANTLY EXIT THE STORE WITH A BOX OF COUNT CHOCULA

But, although all signs point to my being a grown-up, there are times that I feel as though I remain on the young side of old. I still occasionally call my Mom in tears. I happily accept the cash that my Dad slips me when he drops me off at the airport. I think I'll always relish Barbie shopping for my niece and watching old Disney movies with my nephew. I take pride in being extra sensitive and stubbornly defensive during arguments (especially with my sister, although the physical parts of those altercations ceased at least five or 10 years ago). Only in moments of absolute weakness will I admit to being wrong about anything. And to be totally honest, a Hershey bar is still my meal of choice, regardless of the time of day.

I suppose no matter how old you get, some things never change.

E-mail question or comments to meredithcarroll@hotmail.com.

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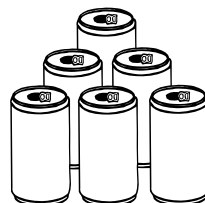


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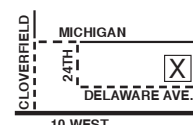
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The Q-Line

Grub on the cheap

The Daily Press recently scoured the area looking for inexpensive eats. We were surprised to find quite a few gems that offered a well-rounded meal for under \$10. While we know we did our best to uncover the best bargains in town, we know that you, our readers, have some favorites that are worth recommending.

This week's Q-Line question asks:

Is there anyplace in town other than chain restaurants that offer a hearty meal for a crisp Hamilton or less?

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

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UPWARD BOUND: Abraham Luis, 22, an avid hiker, climbs down the Santa Monica Mountains on Wednesday. The area being purchased may be converted into a nature preserve complete with hiking trails.

County to acquire 30 acre property

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU There may not be gold in them there hills, but the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors sure think there is value in the Santa Monica Mountains, committing another significant chunk of change to purchase roughly 30 acres in the La Sierra Canyon.

The board approved of the purchase on Tuesday.

Once the sale is completed in the coming months, the county will have bought roughly 100 acres of virtually untouched land that is home to various species of birds, bobcats, weasels and a man-made lake that is free of urban runoff.

"La Sierra Canyon is really a forgotten jewel," said Paul Edelman, deputy director of natural resources and planning for the Santa Monica Conservancy, which has worked with state and county officials to increase open space and protect natural habitat and wildlife. "The county really came through."

Staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation still must execute a subgrant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation board, something which is expected later this month. The grant will be in the amount of \$427,680. The county must come up with the rest — about \$282,000.

A large portion of the latest land purchase is owned by The Polk Bros. Foundation, based in Chicago. The foundation, which was created by the Polk Bros. chain of retail furniture and appliance stores, provides educational assistance,

health care and basic human services for the residents of Chicago.

"We have been working on this property since '94," said Steve Harris of the Mountains Restoration Trust, which facilitates the sale of land for the county and manages open space in the Santa Monica Mountains. "The county has been very supportive, including (Supervisor) Zev (Yaroslavsky). Without some of his funding, we wouldn't have been able to buy this last important piece that connects all other parcels together."

Harris said the land is very high in "resource value" and will be a great place for possible hiking trails and for educational field trips for students.

"My favorite aspect is the oak woodland ... and the riparian canopy is just gorgeous," Harris said. "It's upstream of the lake that is (fed) by natural springs."

The land is located just off Mulholland Highway in the La Sierra Canyon.

Ginny Kruger, assistant chief deputy for Yaroslavsky, said it is the supervisors' goal to purchase as much open space as possible to preserve the natural habitat and protect wildlife.

"We're trying to add as much green carpet out there as we can," Kruger said. "If you look at the Thomas Guide — which is one of Zev's favorite things to do — if you look at it 10 years ago and compare it to today, you will see all the acquisition of land by park agencies and it's rather remarkable."

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Golay murder trial could face delays

Defense attorneys to meet during hearing on Friday morning

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA Inside one criminal justice center courtroom on Wednesday, a hearing was underway for the murder trial of music producer Phil Spector — a trial that began exactly one week ago for a four-year-old murder case.

A few doors down in the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, two defense attorneys, a prosecutor and one tired judge reconvened once again in an attempt to get the murder trial of Santa Monica resident Helen Golay, 76, and Olga Rutterschmidt, 74, moving.

It was the first pretrial meeting for the two women, accused of murdering two homeless men — Kenneth McDavid and Paul Vados — in an alleged insurance scam to cash in on their life insurance policies.

Pointing down the hallway in the direction of the courtroom where the Spector trial was taking place, Rutterschmidt's defense attorney, public defender Michael Sklar, indicated just how long it might be before his client's case even goes to court.

The Spector case concerns the murder of one person — actress Lana Clarkson — in February 2003 in Spector's Alhambra mansion, as opposed to the two victims in the Golay-Rutterschmidt case. The Spector case is not tied up by any special circumstances charges that could bring forth the death penalty, according to Sklar. Prosecutors are mulling whether to pursue the death penalty against the two elderly women.

Close to a year since their arrest on May 18, 2006 for federal mail fraud charges, Golay and Rutterschmidt likely have a long ways to go before their case goes to trial.

Investigators believe Golay, who owned three apartment buildings in Santa Monica at the time of her arrest, and Rutterschmidt, of Hollywood, concocted a scheme in which they befriended the two men when they were still homeless, setting them up in apartments and gaining their trust. The elderly duo then allegedly convinced Vados and McDavid to sign them onto their life insurance policies before they were killed in separate, yet similar, hit-and-run incidents in 1995 and 2005, respectively.

The women were ushered into the courtroom once again on Wednesday morning, donning the typical LA County orange jumpsuits.

Golay's defense attorney, Roger Jon Diamond, informed Judge David Wesley that the tentative trial date of May 23 was unrealistic considering that he and Sklar had both filed different motions to dismiss in recent weeks.

Diamond's motion to dismiss is based on an allegation that his client was deprived sufficient rest during the preliminary hearing because she was awoken at 3 a.m. every morning for the trip from Lynwood to Downtown LA. In his motion for Rutterschmidt, Sklar requests dismissal based on insufficient evidence against his client.

Regardless of how Judge Curtis Rappe rules on the motions during a hearing on Friday, the trial date would have to be postponed because of impending appeals by either the defense or the prosecution, Diamond said.

AT SOME POINT, I'M SAYING TO YOU, 'LET'S GO.'"

David Wesley
Judge

If the judge grants the motions, Deputy District Attorney Shellie Samuels would have the option of appealing the ruling or refiling the case. If the motions are denied, Diamond said he would fight the ruling to the Court of Appeals.

Wesley changed the original May 23 date from a trial to another pre-trial, saying he would like the case to go to trial by the end of August or beginning of September.

"At some point, I'm saying to you, 'let's go,'" Wesley said.

Diamond also requested that his client be excused from attending all court hearings of procedural matters, such as the pre-trial. Wesley did grant a waiver of personal presence during an arraignment in March, but denied a request that Golay be excused from appearing in the pre-trial on Wednesday. He granted the waiver for the May 23 pre-trial.

"The system is wearing her out," Diamond pleaded.

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South of Wilshire	= \$ 944,889	\$ 642,889
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New tax a possibility

FROM TAXES PAGE 1

the district would be financially safe if the board approved the raise, pending a few adjustments.

For the past few months, several members of the community have spoken out during school board meetings, warning that the public might not be so open to another parcel tax given what had happened since November.

But neither the salary raise nor the alleged mismanagement of finances are creating the estimated \$3 million gap in next year's budget, said Harry Keiley, president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association. Rather, it's the declining enrollment from a freeze on non-district students. State funding from student enroll-

ment, which has continued to drop over the past few years, is one of the major sources of revenue for the district.

"I think it goes without saying the local support for our public schools is critical for our continued success in providing quality public schools for all children," Keiley said on Wednesday. "I think we should do everything possible to be transparent about the district's budget and make it as understandable to the general public as we can."

The voters in the district have always shown love for public education in the past and that support should continue if another parcel tax is presented, said Shari Davis, co-chair of Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS).

The voters approved a \$268 million

bond measure in November to upgrade and repair school facilities. CEPS, a community advocacy group for the school district, was involved in the original Measure S campaign in 2003 as well as Measure BB.

"I have great confidence that they'll continue to be supportive as we renew school funding," Davis said on Wednesday. "This local funding makes a huge difference and really greatly contributes to the quality of schools here."

If the committee feels that a new parcel tax is critical, it will be responsible for determining what the new parcel tax rate should be. Measure S assesses a rate of \$225 per parcel.

The diverse 10 to 15 member committee is expected to include a member from

the business community, a resident, representatives from the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu, and a member from each of the various parent groups and employee organizations.

A recommendation to the board is expected to be submitted no later than the last board meeting in September.

"The thinking of the board and the Financial Oversight Committee is that discussion regarding the renewal of a parcel tax should begin during the early part of 2007," said Dr. Stephen Hodgson, the district's interim chief financial officer.

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✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

SM City Council to consider red-light cameras

FROM CAMERA PAGE 3

The Santa Monica City Council recently instructed city staff to evaluate the latest technology used on red-light cameras and to return with a recommendation that could include creating a pilot program targeting a small number of intersections.

The request to study the issue was placed on the March 20th council agenda by

Councilman Bob Holbrook, who said he noticed several violations while driving about town and was concerned about public safety.

The Santa Monica Police Department is studying the issue and will be preparing a report for the council, said SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla.

Studies have shown that red-light cameras are effective in reducing red light viola-

tions and right-angle crashes. Throughout the U.S., communities using automated enforcement typically experience a 40 percent to 60 percent reduction in violations and a 25 percent to 35 percent reduction in right-angle crashes, according to figures provided by the LAPD.

Critics of the cameras claim they violate one's privacy, are strictly placed to make money, not protect public safety, and that they

can cause accidents by forcing people to slam on their brakes when they see a yellow light.

Red light cameras have been in operation worldwide for more than 30 years and were first introduced to the U.S. over a decade ago. There are presently more than 120 red-light programs in operation in 19 states and Washington, D.C.

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Sleepers could rival blockbusters

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES Sequels to “Shrek,” “Spider-Man” and “Pirates of the Caribbean” aren’t the only movies coming out this summer. It only seems that way. Beneath the Hollywood’s behemoth franchise flicks, a few less-heralded gems sneak in to become niche hits and sometimes \$100 million smashes.

The question is whether this season’s exceptionally strong lineup of blockbuster sequels will leave breathing room for many — or any — summer sleepers.

“There’s not a single movie I don’t know about this summer, and I’m terrified of them all,” said director Matthew Vaughn, who worries his intriguing fantasy “Stardust” could get lost amid the rush that begins in May with “Spider-Man 3,” “Shrek the Third” and “Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End.” “I call them juggernauts. They are coming, and nothing’s going to stop them.”

A fairy tale for adults, “Stardust” (from Viacom Inc.’s Paramount Pictures) features Claire Danes as the human incarnation of a fallen star, who lands on Earth, falls for a young adventurer (Charlie Cox), is befriended by an effeminate ship captain (Robert De Niro) and pursued by an evil witch (Michelle Pfeiffer).

“Stardust” opens in August on the same day as the buddy-cop sequel “Rush Hour 3” and just weeks after such big flicks as “

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix,” “The Simpsons Movie” and “The Bourne Ultimatum.”

Along with those big hitters, summer’s lineup features such heavily marketed studio flicks as the animated tales “Ratatouille” and “Surf’s Up,” the sci-fi saga “Transformers,” and sequels including the heist caper “Ocean’s Thirteen,” the superhero adventure “Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer” and the comedy “Evan Almighty.”

How are worthy smaller movies supposed to stand out in a crowd like that?



MY JOB IS TO MAKE A FILM, NOT TO LOOK AT GROSSES AND MARKETING. I’VE BEEN TOLD WHAT FILMS ARE UP AGAINST MINE, AND I’VE FORGOTTEN THEM ALL.”

Frank Oz, director

“That’s none of my business. I’m a filmmaker, not a marketer,” said Frank Oz, who has made such studio films as “The Stepford Wives” remake and “The Score” but this time directs the small ensemble comedy “Death at a Funeral,” which opens right before the busy Fourth of July weekend, when “Ratatouille” and “Transformers” are expected to dominate at theaters.

“My job is to make a film, not to look at grosses and marketing. I’ve been told what films are up against mine, and I’ve forgotten them all,” said Oz, whose film features a relatively unknown cast in the tale of a British funeral beset by outrageous revelations, schemes and mishaps.

The strategy for such smaller films is to screen them for critics and preview audiences well in advance, so word-of-mouth can help make up for their generally minimal marketing budgets.

The film-festival circuit is a major pipeline to build buzz for sleeper films, including such past summer hits as “Little Miss Sunshine,” “Garden State” and “Napoleon Dynamite.”

among the franchise flicks benefit from big-name performers, such as last year’s breakout hits “The Devil Wears Prada” with Meryl Streep and “The Break-Up” with Jennifer Aniston.

Those two films also filled the chick-flick void typical of summer, which tends toward action spectacles, teen comedies and family movies.

Among this season’s films with female star power are the comedy “Knocked Up,” featuring Katherine Heigl of “Grey’s Anatomy” as a career-minded woman who gets pregnant from a drunken one-night stand with a slacker (Seth Rogen), and the romantic drama “No Reservations,” starring Catherine Zeta-Jones as a work-obsessed chef whose poor interpersonal skills are tested by her young niece (Abigail Breslin) and an easygoing sous chef (Aaron Eckhart).

“It’s certainly not a ‘Spider-Man’ or a ‘Batman,’” Zeta-Jones said of “No Reservations,” a remake of the 2002 German charmer “Mostly Martha.” “I really love the movie, but it’s out of my control, the way it’s programmed and marketed. ... I just thought that it’s a story that could be brought to a broader audience.”

“No Reservations” director Scott Hicks said he was happy distributor Warner Bros. had enough confidence in the film to put it out in the busy summer rather than waiting for fall, when most films aimed at older adults hit theaters.

“We hope to sort of weave our way through the behemoths as they come thundering down the tracks,” Hicks said. “It will provide some counterprogramming.”

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PACKING 'EM IN: A massive crowd watches The Roots perform on the main stage of the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival last weekend. This was one of many stages set up on the grounds.

It's not the heat, it's the humanity

Dealing with the headaches a part of Coachella Festival

BY MICHAEL J. TITTINGER | Daily Press Staff Writer

crowd pass you backwards atop their hands or just roll with it.

RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Welcome to the Coachella Valley Music & Arts festival, where making memories is all about making choices.

The annual indie rock festival, which marked its eighth year this past weekend, showcases bands on five separate stages at the Empire Polo Grounds, regularly pitting novel acts against one another and forcing the sweaty throngs to make some hard decisions. Schedules in hand, none of the approximately 60,000 daily attendees wants to miss that seminal breakout performance of the festival. Then again, everyone likely had their own — The Black Keys; Amy Winehouse; the Kings of Leon; the Good, the Bad and the Queen; Rodrigo y Gabriela ...

The list is endless, which may be part of the problem as Coachella experiences some growing pains. What began as a quirky desert music fest intended to showcase unheralded alternative rockers has simply outgrown its roots. All three of this year's

INDIO Sometimes you just have to go with the flow.

Reflect on Arcade Fire's rousing performance amid the setting desert sun? Forget it. That's precisely when the surge begins. No sooner did Win Butler and Régine Chassagne lay down their guitar and hurdy-gurdy than the push of thousands toward the main stage to see the Red Hot Chili Peppers begins. You can't stand pat. You can go against the grain in an attempt to reach the beer garden, go up and let the

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SCHEDULES IN HAND, NONE OF THE APPROXIMATELY 60,000 DAILY ATTENDEES WANTS TO MISS THAT SEMINAL BREAKOUT PERFORMANCE OF THE FESTIVAL. THEN AGAIN, EVERYONE LIKELY HAD THEIR OWN.



SHADOW PUPPETS: A unique installation entertained fans in one of the many tents strewn across the Empire Polo Field during the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival last weekend.

headliners — Bjork, the Chili Peppers and the reunited Rage Against the Machine — have done the desert in years past. At the same time, organizers are bringing in acts such as Madonna last year and Willie Nelson on Sunday who appeal to a much more mainstream, and lucrative demographic.

The evolution of the festival was inevitable as more patrons with more cash began taking the three-hour ride into the sweltering Coachella Valley to rock out. The popularity of the festival — staged over three days rather than the traditional two — has presented organizers with some tough choices of their own. Do they stay true to their roots as a showcase for the alternative and below-the-radar acts, or do they embrace the festival's sudden star power that includes a celebrity laden VIP tent, complete with Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan?

That said, Coachella 2007 included all the elements that made it such a success in years past — expansive grounds, innovative art installations, a chill crowd and kick-ass music.

It's a tried-and-true formula that entertained 180,000 fans over the course of the weekend and resulted in just under 100 arrests, mostly drug- and alcohol-related. About the biggest brouhaha amid the partying came Saturday night in the adjacent campground, where fans couldn't stop the beat and refused to disband their impromptu drum circle until a police helicopter flew onto the scene.

There are basically two ways to do Coachella. You can pitch a tent and get your Woodstock on, waiting in line for showers and port-o-potties, but partying on the cheap.

Or you can rent out a hotel room or house in the Palm Springs area. Kicking it poolside in between sweating on the polo fields is a sweet respite, but may leave fans feeling somewhat removed from the rock 'n' roll revelry.

Decisions, decisions.

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

COACHELLA MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL EDITION
ON THE SHELVES
REVIEWS BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
★ Ratings are based on a five star scale



Photo courtesy of Dangerbird
ROCK ON: The Silversun Pickups got their start in the Silver Lake neighborhood of L.A.

Silversun Pickups, 'Carnavas'

★★★ The Pickups are a definite throwback to a simpler time in rock history. Well, simple may not be the best word to describe their layered, guitar-driven sound, but it does elude to this Silver Lake-based quartet's back to basics vibe.

Their musical palette jets back to a day before studio effects and synth-heavy production began to come into fashion. A day when Jimmy Page ruled the Earth and Robert Plant shouted out across the cosmos. Even down to the cover art, these guys are latter day classic rockers who consciously evoke these images.

Like the grunge-era bands who blazed this trail before, the Pickups have taken a while to gain widespread attention. They've bounced around the festival circuit in recent months, including an appearance at last weekend's Coachella Music Festival. Although "Carnavas" was released last year and looked like it would fade before being recognized, it is starting to move units. (Dangerbird)

EI-P, 'I'll Sleep When You're Dead'

★★★★ Imagine hip-hop following a cataclysmic event and what form it would take.

Currently, there seems to be room for just a narrow spectrum of acts that mostly pump themselves up with images that scream out materialism gone wild. It would seem that a major disaster would have to take place before rap, in particular, takes its place alongside rock as a social statement of the sincerest type.

Apparently, EI-P isn't waiting for that to occur. Instead of sticking to the old script that says all rap has to be pop or just plain simplistic, this innovative New Yorker has crafted his latest collection of progressive independent rap to include futuristic images of a looming police state as well as what shape love and devotion would take in such a world.

On "Habeas Corpses (Draconian Love)" EI-P narrates a story of a prison ship guard who finds a mate among the prisoners he's assigned to watch. The haunting hook and eerie soundscape truly offers a vision of the future; a future where rappers don't have to dumb it down or stick to some preordained format. (Definitive Jux)

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Photos courtesy of Columbia Pictures

QUIET TIME: (Above) Maguire in full costume stares down the reflection of his former self. Kirsten Dunst and Tobey Maguire (right) share a tender moment during "Spider-Man 3."



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Prepare to re-enter the Spidey spin zone

BY MICHAEL J. TITTINGER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Like any other movie based on a comic book hero, there are moments during "Spider-Man 3" when you start waiting for the story to unfold already and get back to the good stuff.

Only in Director Sam Raimi's third take on the Big Apple web-slinger, it's the back story — not the action sequences — that leave you wanting more.

While the fights and obligatory show-downs are breathtaking, if a bit frenetic and predictable, the true genius in "Spider-Man 3" lies in the interwoven themes of love, temptation and revenge.

In what has proven itself far and away to be the best of the comic movie franchises, "Spider-Man 3" again raises the stakes for protagonist Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire), who after struggling between personal wants and personal destiny in the last installment now finds himself trying to strike a balance between his would-be fiancée Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst) and dealing with his own considerable fame and ego. Rather adult themes for a teen-age hero.

Not complacent to simply evolve his tried-and-true storylines and characters, Raimi (who also wrote the screenplay along with his brother Ivan Raimi) introduces new villains in the misjudged fugitive Sandman (Thomas Hayden Church) and competing Daily Bugle photographer Eddie Brock (Topher Grace), as well as a competing temptress for Peter Parker in fellow student Gwen Stacy (Bryce Dallas Howard).

But the real genius in "Spider-Man" is that it stays true as a comic book story not by relying on obvious gimmickry, but never taking itself too seriously. Pulling heart-strings throughout, a dose of humor is never more than a couple frames away courtesy of some genius supporting characters such as the fawning landlord's daughter Ursula (Mageina Tovah) or the French restaurant Maitre d' (Bruce Campbell).

THESE FILMS ARE NOT JUST ABOUT PARKER OR HIS ALTER EGO, BUT RATHER THE EFFECTS A TRUE HERO IN TODAY'S WORLD MIGHT HAVE ON THE REST OF US.

Before "Spider-Man 3" even opens this weekend, the talk of the town is centering around whether or not there will be a fourth installment, the success of this film assured. The franchise is one with considerable legs because Raimi realizes that moviegoers will never tire of a superhero who doesn't hog the spotlight. These films are not just about Parker or his alter ego, but rather the effects a true hero in today's world might have on the rest of us.

The overriding message of the film is that every one of us can choose to be a hero, that we all face opportunities to be bad or good. The creators of "Spider-Man 3" have resoundingly chosen to be good ... very, very good.

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BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy of Dreamworks

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An eight-disc 31 episode saga following the dreams and struggles of the everyday lives of young adults living in an apartment building in a trendy neighborhood. Heather Locklear stars. Bonus material includes commentary by creator Darren Star and a "Meet the Neighbors" feature. (Paramount)

'Michael Palin's Around the World in 80 Days'

Inspired by Jules Verne's acclaimed novel, award-winning explorer and former Monty Python star, Michael Palin, attempts to retrace the footsteps of Phileas Fogg's legendary journey traveling by land and sea but never air. Surprises and challenges abound in this three disc, five hour set. Will he beat the clock? (BBC Warner)

Film and television author **RANDY WILLIAMS** reviews the latest movies, television shows, documentaries and music programs now available for purchase online or at your local retail store.

THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS IS CURRENTLY **LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND INTERNS** TO HELP US AUGMENT OUR **ENTERTAINMENT COVERAGE**. EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD IS GREAT, BUT WE'LL TALK TO ANYONE WITH A **FRESH VOICE AND A WILLINGNESS TO WRITE ORIGINAL AND, AH, ENTERTAINING COPY**. GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

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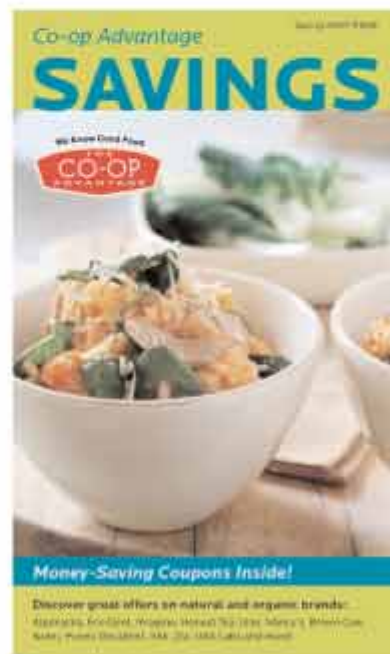
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ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Tribute to Florenz Ziegfeld

Kentwood Players begins its production of Stephen Sondheim's "Follies" at Westchester Playhouse on May 4. Director Ed Cotter is especially thrilled to be presenting Follies this year as 2007 marks the centennial of the first Ziegfeld Follies in 1907, and among theatre folk, Florenz Ziegfeld remains a legend.

"Follies" tells the tale of a similar great showman, Dimitri Weissman whose theatre is about to be demolished. The musical takes place in the early 1970s, but before the wrecking ball transforms it into a parking lot, Mr. Weissman has invited all of his "Follies" performers back to his beloved theatre for one last reunion.

Featured in the cast of more than 40 performers are Don Schlossman, Ben Lupejkis, Susie McCarthy, Susan Weisbarth, Rocky Miller, Sheridan Cole Crawford, Greg Abbott, Drew Fitzsimmons, Cory Pearce, Meredith M. Sweeney, Melissa Strauss, Patricia Butler, Russell Ham, Robyn Rothstein, Max Holding Stormes, and 52-year Kentwood Players member Calia Mintzer.

The show runs from May 4 through June 16 at Westchester Playhouse. Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings and for 2 p.m. on Sundays.

Tickets are \$18. There is a \$2 discount for seniors and students. Please call (310) 645-5156 for reservations Tuesday through Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. For group ticket sales of 15 or more, contact Calia Mintzer at (310) 837-3609.

Westchester Playhouse is located two blocks west of the San Diego Freeway and two blocks north of Manchester at 8301 Hindry Avenue, in Westchester.

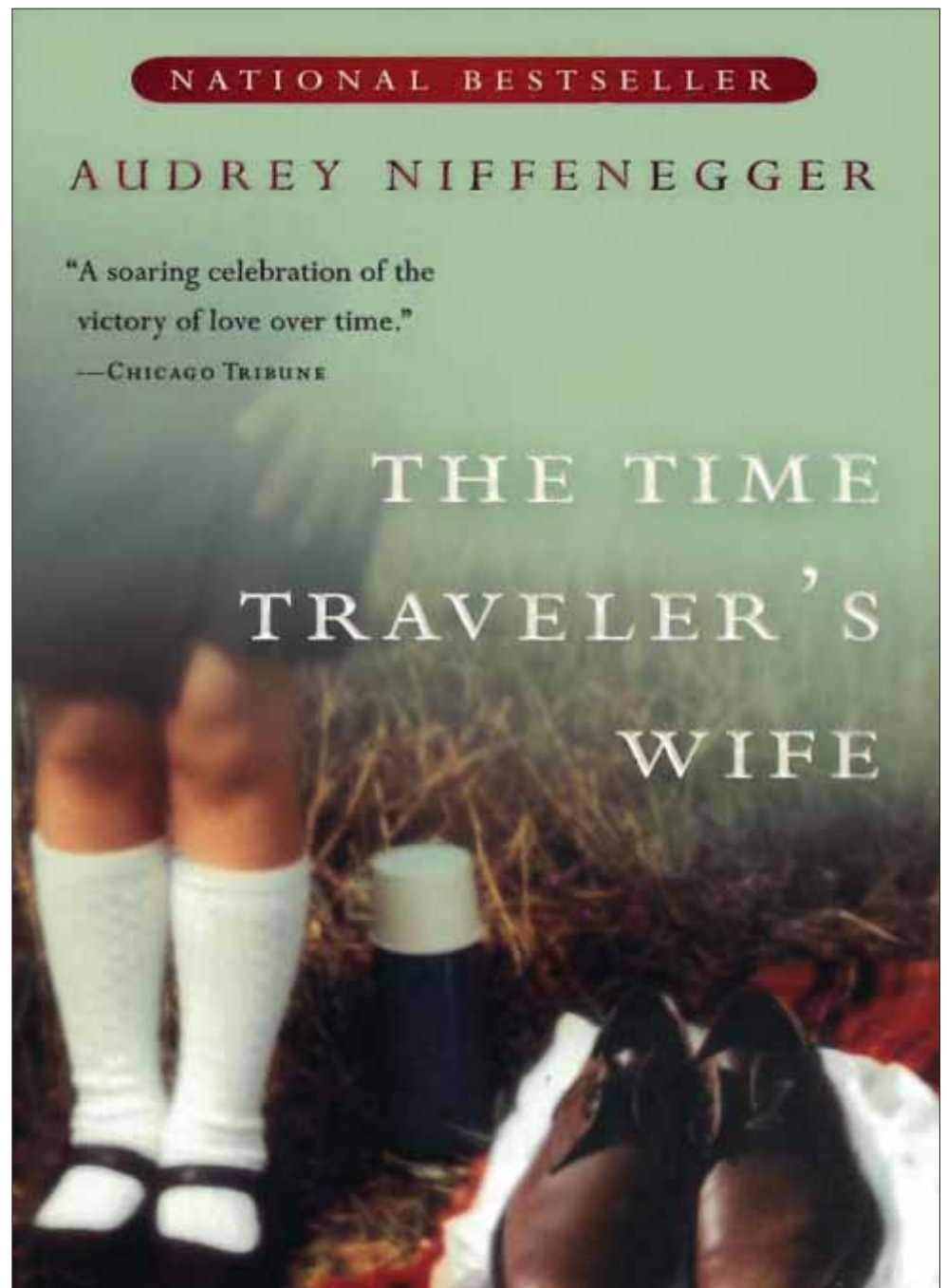
For further information visit the Kentwood Players Web site at www.kentwoodplayers.org.



DAILY PRESS

BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'The Time Traveler's Wife'

By Audrey Niffenegger • Harcourt Books

Do you enjoy puzzles? Do you love it when all the pieces fit and you can view the complete picture? In a way, that is what you have with this novel. It is like a jigsaw puzzle.

This book is a love story with a twist. It is a strange tale. One must truly suspend disbelief to accept the time travel motif presented here. Watch as our main characters move in and out of time and interface with the other people in their lives. Watch as the minor characters move the plot along.

It is told in multiple viewpoints, both of them first person. We go back and forth from the voice of Claire and the voice of Henry, as well as back and forth in time. The writing style is easy to follow. The characters are well drawn.

It starts with a prologue where Claire, the wife, is waiting for Henry, the time traveler, to return. She can not follow him. She must stay and wait. This sets up the theme of loneliness, displacement and loss.

Maybe that is the feeling the author wants us to have when she structures the book into segments. This theme carries throughout the book. The time periods overlap. She foreshadows events; birth, loss, death. The foreshadowing is well done.

The story begins when Henry meets Claire. He is 28 and she is 20. He is a librarian and she is an artist. But she met

him years before when she was six and he was 36. He doesn't remember her. As time goes on he falls in love with her and they get married and have a child. And all the time he is time traveling.

Henry can't help it. He is different from other men. He has something called Chrono-Displacement Disorder which is a condition that causes one to involuntarily travel through time. It is triggered in him by stress. It causes him to travel back to times of significance in his life.

In one instance he travels back to the moment his mother was killed. Another time to the moment of his death, which is the ultimate displacement, or is it?

The premise of this book is true love survives separation.

This book is one to be read slowly allowing the concepts to stimulate the mind.

Audrey Niffenegger is a professor in the MFA program at the Columbia College Center for Book and Paper Arts. She lives in Chicago. The "Time Traveler's Wife" is her first novel.

This book is currently the Santa Monica Citywide Read for 2007. Free public discussions have been going on throughout the city, at the libraries as well as some coffee shops, and will conclude on May 19. For further information check the website www.smpl.org/cwr or call (310) 458-8600.

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NBA

Study suggests bias in calls by referees

By the Associated Press

NEW YORK An academic study of NBA officiating found that white referees called fouls at a greater rate against black players than against white players, The New York Times reported in Wednesday's editions.

The study by a University of Pennsylvania assistant professor and Cornell graduate student also found that black officials called fouls more frequently against white players than black, but noted that that tendency was not as pronounced.

Justin Wolfers, an assistant professor of business and public policy at Penn's Wharton School, and Joseph Price, a Cornell graduate student in economics, said the difference in calls "is large enough that the probability of a team winning is noticeably affected by the racial composition of the refereeing crew."

The study, conducted over a 13-season span through 2004, found that the racial makeup of a three-man officiating crew affected calls by up to 4 1/2 percent.

The NBA strongly criticized the study, which was based on information from publicly available box scores, which show only the referees' names and contain no information about which official made a call.

"The study that is cited in the New York Times article is wrong," president of league and basketball operations Joel Litvin told The Associated Press on Tuesday night. "The fact is there is no evidence of racial bias in foul calls made by NBA officials and that is based on a study conducted by our experts who looked at data that was far more robust and current than the data relied upon by Professor Wolfers."

"The short of it is Wolfers and Price only looked at calls made by three-man crews. Our experts were able to analyze calls made by individual referees."

Litvin said the NBA's study, using data from November 2004 to January 2007, included some 148,000 calls and included which official made each call. The Times said the NBA denied a request by Wolfers and Price to obtain that information, citing its confidentiality agreement with the officials.

The study also found differences in everything from a decrease in scoring to a rise in turnovers depending on the officials' race.

"Player-performance appears to deteriorate at every margin when officiated by a larger fraction of opposite-race referees," Wolfers and Price wrote.

But the key finding was in regard to foul calls, saying "black players receive around 0.12-0.20 more fouls per 48 minutes played (an increase of 2 1/2 -4 1/2 percent) when the number of white referees officiating a game increases from zero to three."

The NBA has an observer at each game and closely monitors its officials, who are required to file reports after each game they work and are expected to be able to explain each potentially controversial call they have made.

Litvin said in an original version of the paper, dated March 2006, Wolfers and Price came to the conclusion that there was no bias. He added that the NBA's research "all prove beyond any doubt in our minds that these guys are just flat wrong."

"They reached conclusions in their own papers that are unsupported by their own calculations," Litvin said.

Wolfers and Price are set to present the paper at meetings of the Society of Labor Economists on Friday and the American Law and Economics Association on Sunday. The Times said they will then submit it to the National Bureau of Economic Research and for formal peer review before consideration by an economic journal.

MLB

Game hits Ice Age in April

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

Ryan Howard had just three homers, Carlos Delgado only one and Alfonso Soriano none at all: Hitters were stuck in an April ice age, with home runs and scoring in the major leagues dropping to their lowest levels since 1993.

Home runs fell 20 percent, from an average of 2.31 to 1.84 per game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The average had not been that low at the end of April since 1993's 1.58.

A huge cold front left hitters feeling frozen.

"Being cold, it's tough to get warmed up. Sometimes, it's the windy days, the wind blowing in your eyes, and different kind of stuff," Howard said. "I've never been a quick starter."

Scoring dropped 8 percent, from 9.86 to 9.08 runs per game. The batting average fell from .265 to .256 and the ERA fell from 4.62 to 4.12.

Looking for a cause? The average temperature was below normal for long stretches in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Washington, according to the National

Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

Cleveland had six straight days of snow, with temperatures 10-to-20 degrees below normal. The Indians had an entire four-game series against Seattle wiped out, among 22 postponements in the majors — up from eight in April last year.

"The first two weeks of the season were miserable," New York Mets catcher Paul Lo Duca said. "You're playing in 12-degree weather and the ball feels like it's a rock when it hits your bat."

When they did play, attendance was up 4.8 percent, from 28,955 to 30,356. And much of baseball was turned upside down.

Mark Buehrle of the Chicago White Sox threw a no-hitter on the 18th day of the season. Last year, the only no-hitter was pitched by Florida's Anibal Sanchez, and it didn't take place until Sept. 6 — the first in the major leagues since Randy Johnson's perfect game in May 2004.

"Maybe all the pitching's caught up to the hitting," Oakland designated hitter Mike Piazza said with a chuckle.

Still, some sluggers have defied the trend. The Yankees' Alex Rodriguez hit 14 homers, tying the April record Albert Pujols set last year.



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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS



WATER TEMP: 58°

SWELL FORECAST (4-7 FT)
Today is not looking like a pretty surf day. Winds from Wednesday night will at least leave some lump and/or texture for morning sessions, and the dawn patrols will be seeing an excessively low tide. The NW coming in for Friday will be building throughout the day on Thursday.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SW AND NW DURING SECOND HALF OF WEEK...
WIND ISSUES IN THE FORECAST...

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 24, 2007**

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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 1

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

Number of wet days -- 4

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 21

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 9

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
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+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	B	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	B	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	A+
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+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+

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

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

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.

Head on home, Virgo

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You hit frustration when trying to home in on the common good. Tension builds no matter how generous or gentle you might be. You would be well advised not to worry so much. Reach out for others. Tonight: Let your mind romp.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others could make heavy demands. Certainly an element of confusion about which way to turn and what to do punctuates your day. Let go of judgments and just hear others out. You don't always need to agree. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might want to take the high road rather than get caught up in a nebulous and difficult situation. Know when to call a timeout. Think positively despite confusion. Tonight: Sit back and observe. Allow others to call the shots.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your imagination might be an inordinate source of ideas, but making them work on a practical level could take talent. Explore ways to ground some of these nuggets of ingenuity. Tonight: Exercise, which might look like housework or mowing the lawn!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Take your time. There are so many diverse winds, you might want to sit out until you know what works for you. Consider your options before you jump right in. Changes occur the longer you observe. Tonight: Let your imagination out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Speak your mind. You also might have the best-laid plans but see them go up in smoke. This process could be a bit uncomfortable, but your best bet is to lie back and take action only when it is a must. Tonight: Head on home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Expenses could be high or difficult to handle. Knowing when to say "enough" could be important. Laughter and understanding help diffuse a difficult or confusing situation. Know that not only you but also others are not getting all the facts. Tonight: Hook up with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ With the whirl of energy that surrounds you, it might be upsetting to see plans fall apart. You also might need to rethink certain choices if you notice this pattern developing. Have faith in your abilities. Tonight: Buy a plant or treat yourself to a favorite dessert.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Know when to back down and make a decision more carefully. You might not have all the right answers just yet. Listen and sort through mixed messages. Late in the day or tomorrow, move on key issues. Tonight: Do your thing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Where your friends are is where you might want to be. A commitment could cause a problem. You might find out that a situation is confusing. Let your imagination run with the ball, especially on a work-related matter. Tonight: Take some downtime.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Responsibilities pop up left and right. Take a step forward and handle a personal matter. Your creativity moves in a new direction. Look at goals and what could be very important. Aim for more of what you want. Tonight: Where the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Take the high road and detach. Some of the confusion that surrounds you could be coming from you not grasping all the facts. Step back and make what you want happen. You come from a creative, dynamic mind-set. Tonight: Accept the responsibilities dropped on you

Born Today

Singer James Brown (1933)

Comedian, actor Ben Elton (1959)

Singer Bing Crosby (1903)

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

Your sense of direction and enthusiasm often hit a home run this year. Partners and authority figures often think on a different track, creating an interesting, dynamic triangle of opinions. Being stubborn just won't work! You also could overindulge and cause your finances to have a major headache. Assume more control. If you are single, you seem to have a revolving door of possibilities. What will work could be another story. Move slowly. If you are attached, you might want to allow your sweetie to have greater say. He or she might see how to resolve certain convoluted life situations.

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Self worth

Ashlee Simpson: 'I've always been confident with who I am'

ASHLEE SIMPSON, who made headlines last year when she turned up with a new image and profile, says she's still the same on the inside.

"I feel very confident with the way I look," the 22-year-old singer says in Cosmopolitan magazine's June issue, on newsstands

MATHIS HAS HIGH HOPES

SAMANTHA MATHIS hopes her latest role will inspire viewers to become organ donors.

The 36-year-old actress plays a critically ill woman awaiting a heart transplant in "A Stranger's Heart," airing Saturday on the Hallmark Channel.

"I believe after people see this film, they won't think twice about checking that box on their driver's license and considering the importance of making their wishes known to their families," Mathis said. "Most people don't realize that one donor can save up to eight lives. That's an amazing legacy to leave."

Mathis said the script appealed to her because of its sweetness.

"It's easy for all of us to forget what a gift it is to be healthy every day," she said. "After her operation, my character begins to notice the little things for the very first time. She gets lost in the beauty of life."

AP

Tuesday. "But I felt just as confident the way I looked before. I've always been confident with who I am."

Simpson – the sister of 26-year-old Jessica Simpson, another tabloid fixture – raised eyebrows when she debuted a more feminine look and softer profile, fueling speculation

that she'd removed the bump that made her nose distinctive. When asked last spring if she'd had surgery, she told The Associated Press: "Maybe – who knows!"

Though she's been seen recently with Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz, Simpson has a soft spot

for surfer dudes.

"It's really hard for me to like Hollywood-type guys," she says. "I like guys who are relaxed and chill and who think I'm sexy no matter what I do. And I like guys who are into surfing. They're cute and seem more laid-back, and I'm a pretty

laid-back person."

Simpson, who is working on her third album, says she has matured both as a person and an artist.

"I'm in a stronger place now," she says. "I'm coming into my womanhood, and it's changing my music."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington to appear in PSA

ISAIAH WASHINGTON, who came under fire after using an anti-gay slur, will appear in a public service announcement on behalf of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network.

"We're gonna have – I want to say at least two versions of it at this point. We may broaden our message a little," the actor's publicist, Howard Bragman, told The

Associated Press in a phone interview Wednesday.

Washington ran into trouble at the Golden Globe Awards in January after he used an anti-gay slur during a backstage press conference while denying he'd used it previously against "Grey's Anatomy" castmate T.R. Knight.

People magazine reported last October that Washington had allegedly used the slur during an on-

set dustup with co-star Patrick Dempsey.

Knight said soon after the incident that he was gay.

After being criticized by GLAAD, a gay and lesbian advocacy group, and the ABC network, Washington issued an apology and sought counseling.

Bragman said ABC, which is owned by The Walt Disney Co., was planning to shoot the ad in the next few weeks.

A call to ABC seeking

comment wasn't immediately returned.

Bragman said Washington, 43, plans to return to "Grey's Anatomy" next year.

"We've heard nothing to the contrary, and we have no plans to the contrary," Bragman said.

The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network seeks to ensure that schools safely accommodate students of all sexual orientations.

AP

Producer Peters gets star on Walk of Fame

As a child actor, **JON PETERS** rode a donkey in the 1956 film "The Ten Commandments." This week, he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame with a donkey at his side.

"This is kind of embarrassing but I am proud to be here," Peters said Tuesday during a ceremony in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre. "I started my career when I

was 8 and recently kicked out of elementary school. ... It's been an amazing journey. Thank you."

As a Beverly Hills hairstylist with a celebrity clientele during the 1970s, Peters inspired the character portrayed by Warren Beatty in 1975's "Shampoo."

He became Barbra Streisand's hairdresser and

went on to manage her early movie and music career. He produced her 1976 film, "A Star Is Born," and several of her albums.

He was involved in producing several acclaimed films in the 1980s, including "Flashdance," "The Color Purple," "The Witches of Eastwick," "Rain Man" and "Batman."

Most recently, he pro-

duced "Batman Returns" and "Superman Returns."

"Jon has done some pretty amazing things with his life," said "Superman Returns" star Brandon Routh.

"He has given me many films I enjoyed during my childhood and has contributed quite a bit to film history."

AP

Aretha helps select cast for upcoming production

BREANNA NORMAN quietly walked up to the microphone, took a deep breath, closed her eyes and began singing "Amazing Grace."

About a minute later, the 10-year-old fourth-grader from Detroit thanked "Queen of Soul" **ARETHA FRANKLIN** for listening to her.

Norman was one of about 70 people who audi-

tioned Tuesday for a panel of judges, including Franklin, for a stage production of the Grammy-winning singer's life and career.

"Aretha: From These Roots" is expected to open in Detroit next spring. Franklin said the major roles will be cast out of Hollywood. The three days of auditions that began Tuesday were to fill out the

roles of musicians and others in Franklin's inner circle.

"I'm not hard on anybody. I'm just here to listen," Franklin, 65, said during a break Tuesday. "I try to make them comfortable coming in the door."

Franklin said she was impressed by some of the would-be cast members.

"I just heard someone who has come closest to

Sam Cooke than I have ever heard," she said. "I was one of Sam Cooke's biggest fans, and this (singer) was very good."

Those auditioning were judged on voice, singing ability, appearance and presentation, said Ron Moten, one of seven judges.

However, only a few hopefuls received top scores.

"If it's Aretha Franklin's

life, you are talking about the best of the best," said judge Greg Dunmore.

Ciara Roberts, 25, of Pasadena, Calif., received a top ranking from at least one judge.

"I came here on a mission and I'm not leaving until I get what I came for, which is playing Aretha Franklin," said Roberts.

AP

MOVIEGUIDE

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300 (R)
1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
In the Land of Women (PG-13)
2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:10
Kickin' It Old School (PG-13)
2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
Sing Now or Forever Hold Your Peace (NR)
1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
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(310) 289-4262

Blades of Glory (Pg-13)
1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
The Condemned (R)
1:30, 4:10, 7:10 10:00
Disturbia (PG-13)
1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
The Hoax (R)
2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05
Next (PG-13)
2:45, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45
Vacancy (R)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:40, 9:55

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Black Book (Zwartboek) (R)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
Hot Fuzz (R)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00

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

Jindabyne (R)
12:45, 3:45, 7:10, 9:55
The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen) (R)
1:10, 4:20, 8:00
The Namesake (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
Year of the Dog (PG-13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10

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

Are We Done Yet? (PG)
11:50a.m., 2:20, 5:00, 7:20
Fracture (R)
11:20a.m., 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20
Meet the Robinsons in Disney Digital (G)
11:30a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
Perfect Stranger (R)
9:50
The Reaping (R)
4:10, 10:10
Shooter (R)
11:00a.m., 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30
Windchill (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:00

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Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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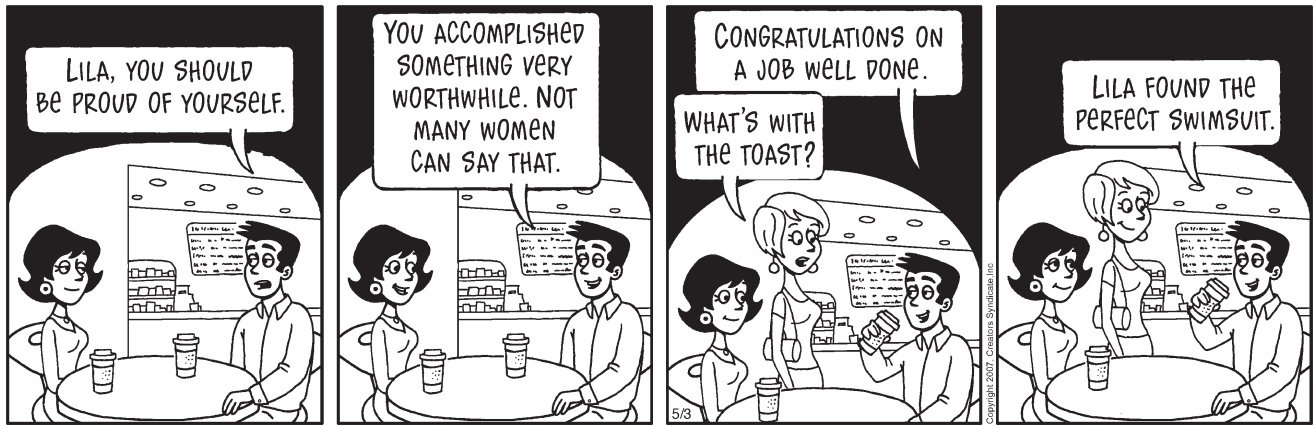
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



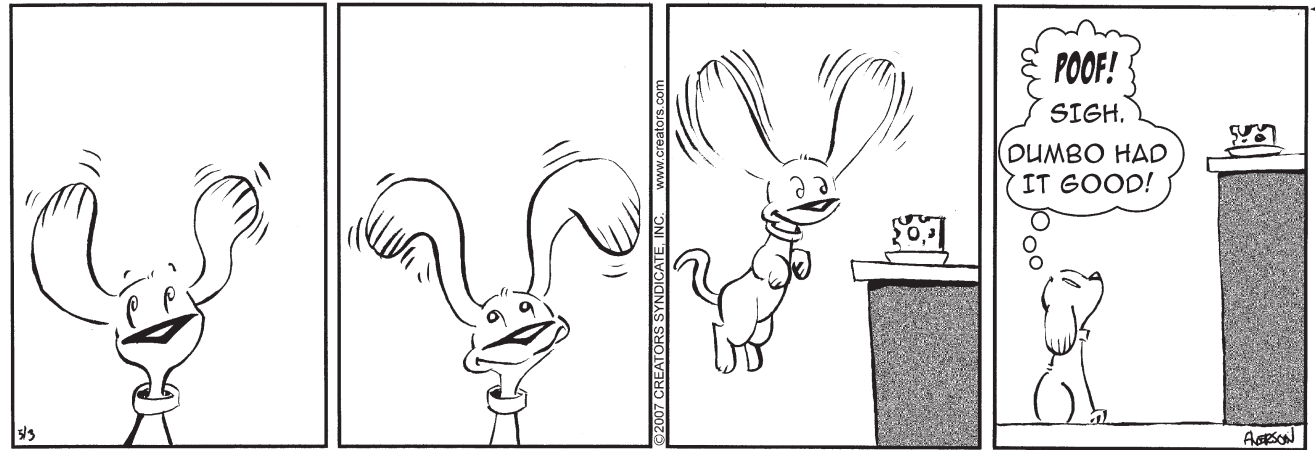
Garfield

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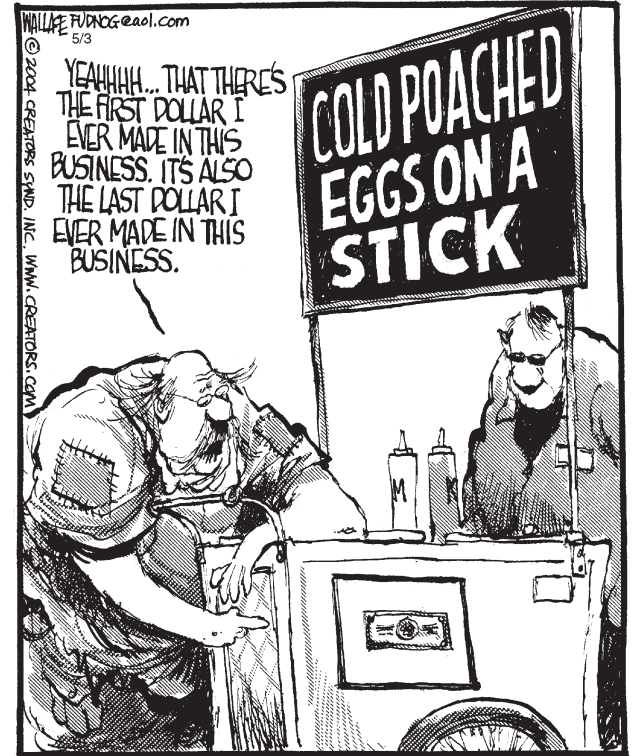
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Fabian Lewkowicz fabian@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 Honey bunch?

- 1 Green shade
5 Army bigwigs
10 Last letter
12 Pound part
13 Actor William-son
14 Court star Agassi
15 Hitherto
16 Raids
18 Blue state
20 No longer working: Abbr.
21 District
23 Lennon's love
24 "— job!"
26 Pen pals?
28 Web address piece

- 29 Pleasant
31 Put away
32 Vile
36 Frozen desserts
39 Running bird
40 Test for purity
41 Sneaker feature
43 Sierra —
44 Sudden swell
45 Hourglass fill

DOWN

- 1 Salk of vaccine fame
2 Chum
3 Home design
4 Big head
5 Sow's mate
6 Litter's littlest
7 Fireplace sight
8 Theater fixtures
9 Tends
11 Race loser

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

Yesterday's answer

- 17 Have debts
19 Scoundrel
22 Ap-proaches hostilely
24 Set sail
25 "Nature" essayist
27 Poet's contraction
28 Cellist Pablo
30 Sup-porter
33 Plow inventor
34 Vision
35 Dan-dies
37 Rock group
38 Ogles
42 Massage

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10			11		12				
13					14				
15				16	17				
18			19				20		
			21			22	23		
	24	25			26	27			
28				29	30				
31					32		33	34	35
36				37	38			39	
40						41	42		
43						44			
45							46		

5-3

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 11 16 31 52 53
Meganumber: 42
Jackpot: \$81M

Super LOTTO 3 5 12 20 24
Meganumber: 6
Jackpot: \$38M

Fantasy 5 8 9 23 32 39

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 4 9 0
EVENING: 3 5 9

DAILY DERRY 1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:49.21

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

■ Creme de la Weird: In March, police in Trenton, N.J., arrested four men in separate incidents and learned that they fancy themselves as "diplomats" from the Abannaki Indigenous Nation and claim immunity from the laws of the "so-called planet Earth" (and, by the way, of Mars and Venus, as well). One allegedly possessed an unidentified "controlled substance," and the others were driving cars with made-up "diplomat" tags. The four showed no ostensible ties to the Abenaki Indigenous Nation, a tribe that first appeared in North America in the 17th century and which is still present in the northeastern U.S.

■ Least Competent Criminals: Anthony Perone, 20, pleaded guilty in March in Connecticut in connection with two stalking letters he admitted mailing to a woman he had fallen for in the third grade but who apparently had spurned him. The rambling, incoherent letters explicitly threatened death, and Perone had intended to send them anonymously, in that he wrote no return address on the envelopes. However, he lived with his mother and had given each envelope to her to mail, and, unknown to him, she had thoughtfully added his name and address before posting them.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1494** Christopher Columbus first sights land that will be called Jamaica.
- 1837** The University of Athens is founded. It is the oldest university in the eastern Mediterranean.
- 1867** The Hudson's Bay Company gives up all claims to Vancouver Island.
- 1948** U.S. Supreme Court rules that covenants prohibiting the sale of real estate to blacks and other minorities are legally unenforceable.
- 1951** London's Royal Festival Hall opens.
- 1957** Walter O'Malley, the owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers, agrees to move the team from Brooklyn, New York, to Los Angeles, California.
- 1959** The first Grammy Awards are announced.
- 1973** The Sears Tower in Chicago is topped out as the world's tallest building.
- 2002** A military MiG-21 aircraft crashed into the Bank of Rajasthan in India, killing eight.
- 2006** Zacarias Moussaoui is sentenced to life in prison in Alexandria, Virginia.

WORD UP!

termagant \TUR-muh-guhnt\, noun: 1. A scolding, nagging, bad-tempered woman; a shrew. adjective: 1. Overbearing; shrewish; scolding.

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Classifieds

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APR 8%

*Rates subject to change

* As of February 21, 2007

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unit! Private patio! Private balcony! 2
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valid:SD,CT)

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ing people with credit problems since
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ergy healing. Strictly non-sexual. Intro-
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relaxing body work by mature European.
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LOMI LOMI,
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as taught by Auntie Margaret
Machado of the Big Island.
(310)392-1425

Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: March 27, 2007

To Whom it may concern:

The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are:

Thai Fusion Concepts LLC

The applicants listed above are applying to the

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell

alcoholic beverages at: 119-121 Broadway, Santa

Monica, Ca 90401

Type of License(s) Applied for: 41 -- ON-SALE Beer

and Wine EATING PLACE.

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLE-

WOOD.

SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

4/25/07, 5/2/07, 5/9/07

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF
INTENTION TO TRANSFER
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)
(UCC Sec. 6101 et seq. and B & P Sec. 24073 et
seq.)

Escrow No. L-024702-GK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of as-
sets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage
license(s) is about to be made. The name(s), So-
cial Security or Federal Tax Numbers and busi-
ness address of the seller(s)/licensee(s) are: ADIL
AHMED, 2116 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA
90405

Doing business as: A & E LIQUOR
All other business names(s) and address(es)
used by the seller(s)/licensee(s) within the past
three years, as stated by the seller(s)/licensee(s),
is/are: NONE

The name(s), Social Security or Federal Tax num-
bers and address of the buyer(s)/applicant(s)
is/are: MARCELLE ABDELMASSIH, 2116 PICO
BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405

Notices

The assets being sold are generally described as:
FURNITURE, FIXTURE, EQUIPMENT, COVENANT
NOT TO COMPETE, GOODWILL, TRADENAME,
LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, AND ABC LI-
CENSE and are located at: 2116 PICO BLVD,
SANTA MONICA, CA 90405

The type and number of license to be transferred
is/are: Type: OFF-SALE GENERAL, License Num-
ber: 21-353367 now issued for the premises lo-
cated at: 2116 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA
90405

The bulk sale and transfer of alcoholic beverage
license(s) is/are intended to be consummated at
the office of: TOWER ESCROW INC, 3600 WIL-
SHIRE BLVD, #426, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010 and
the anticipated sale date is MAY 29, 2007

The purchase price or consideration in connection
with the sale of the business and transfer of the
license, is the sum of \$250,000.00, including in-
ventory estimated at \$40,000.00, which consists
of the following: DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT: CASH
\$5,000.00; DEMAND NOTE \$245,000.00; TOTAL
CONSIDERATION \$250,000.00

It has been agreed between the
seller(s)/licensee(s) and the intended
buyer(s)/transferee(s), as required by Sec. 24073
of the Business and Professions code, that the
consideration for transfer of the business and li-
cense is to be paid only after the transfer has
been approved by the Department of Alcoholic
Beverage Control.

Dated: APRIL 25, 2007

ADIL AHMED, Seller(s)/Licensee(s)

MARCELLE ABDELMASSIH, Buyer(s)/Applicant(s)

PCTS LA129316 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

5/2/2007

NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF HER-
MAN G LOAIZA, JR

Case No. BP103739

To all heirs, beneficiar-
ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
and persons who may otherwise be
interested in the will or estate, or
both, of HERMAN G LOAIZA, JR

A PETITION FOR PRO-
BATE has been filed by Sharon Ga-
vin in the Superior Court of Califor-
nia, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR
PRO-BATE requests that Sharon Ga-
vin be appointed as personal
representative to administer the es-
tate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests
authority to administer the estate
under the Independent
Administra-tion of Estates Act. (This
authority will allow the personal rep-
resentative to take many actions
without obtaining court approval.

Before taking certain very important
ac-tions, however, the personal rep-
resentative will be required to give
notice to interested persons unless
they have waived notice or con-
sented to the proposed action.) The
independent administration authority
will be granted unless an interested
person files an objection to the peti-
tion and shows good cause why the
court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the peti-
tion will be held on June 6, 2007 at
8:30 AM in Dept. No. 11 located at
111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA
90012.

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

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

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

Attorney for petitioner:
STEPHEN M LOWE ESQ SBN 45534
JARED A BARRY ESQ SBN 221988
FREEMAN FREEMAN AND SMILEY LLP

3415 S SEPULVEDA BLVD
STE 1200
LOS ANGELES CA 90034

Santa Monica Daily Press
CN773005 LOAIZA May 1,2,8, 2007

Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF ELLI-
OTT KEITH ANDREWS

Case No. BP104180

To all heirs, beneficiar-
ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
and persons who may otherwise be
interested in the will or estate, or
both, of ELLIOTT KEITH AN-DREWS

A PETITION FOR PRO-
BATE has been filed by Karen Green
in the Superior Court of California,
County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR
PRO-BATE requests that Karen
Green be appointed as personal re-
pre-sentative to administer the es-
tate of the decedent.

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

A HEARING on the peti-
tion will be held on May 29, 2007
at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 9 located
at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA
90012.

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

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

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

Attorney for petitioner:

GRETA S CURTIS ESQ

SBN 175248

LAW OFFICES OF

GRETA S CURTIS

3701 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 1025

LOS ANGELES CA 90010

Santa Monica Daily Press

CN773149 ANDREWS May 1,2,8, 2007

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 20070724806 FIRST FILING. The following
person(s) is (are) doing business as BICO, THIRD
STREET PROMENADE, 1400 THIRD STREET
PROMENADE, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401-3432.
The full name of registrant(s) is/are : SHLOMY
LEVY, 6355 GREEN VALLEY CIRCLE #315, CULVER
CITY, CA. 90230 This Business is being con-
ducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant
commenced to transact business under the ficti-
tious business name or names listed on
(Date)3/28/2007. Is/ SHLOMY LEVY

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 3/28/2007. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED
PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement
does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a
fictitious business name statement in violation of
the rights of another under federal, state, or
common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business
and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY
PRESS to publish 4/25/2007, 5/2/2007,
5/9/2007, 5/16/2007

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'03 Murano \$18,995
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Vehicles for sale



'04 Infiniti I35 Sedan
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\$19,993
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(866) 507-7253

Vehicles for sale



'04 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Pewter, V6 3.5L, Auto, Cruise, Nav. System, LOADED!!
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Vehicles for sale



'07 ml350 Mercedes Benz
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(P31509) \$43,731
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2002 Chrysler 300M 4dr
All extras! Loaded, sun roof, leather, One Owner!
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'03 Echo \$9,995
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'06 Chrysler 300C Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V8 5.7L HEMI, Leather, Traction, Moon roof, Premium Wheels
(P1549) \$25,994
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(866) 507-7253

Vehicles for sale



'04 Nissan Maxima SL
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Dark Blue, V6 3.5L, Auto, Bose Prem. Sound, Leather
(I6793A) \$22,991
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Vehicles for sale



04 S500V 4-Door Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Certified, Black/Charcoal, ABS, Heated Front Seats
(P31500) \$58,421
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1997 Jaguar XK8 Convertible
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'02 BMW 3 Series 325i Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
D. Blue, 6-Cyl. 2.5L, Auto, RWD, Telescope wheel, Traction, ABS
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Vehicles for sale



'03 BMW X5 3.0i SUV
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, 6-Cyl. 3.0L, Auto, Air Bags, Alloy, Privacy Glass (P1574)
\$26,991
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Vehicles for sale



04 C230K 2-Door Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Certified, Alabaster White Exterior, 6-sp manual, Cruise, Air Bags
(P31491) \$19,861
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(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Gold, V6 3.0L, Leather, Sun Roof, Alloy Wheels (I6923A)
\$13,991
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Vehicles for sale



'01 Land Rover Range Rover
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(P31526)
\$19,991
W.I. Simonson
(800) 784-6196

Vehicles for sale



'05 Porsche Cayenne
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(P31524)
\$49,521
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1 ton, white, A/C
Vin #: 167697
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(3E212783)
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Vehicles for sale



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Low miles, Factory Chromes, Show-room Condition
(V0105785)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

Vehicles for sale



'04 Lexus RX300
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(W72703a)
\$25,843
W.I. Simonson
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Vehicles for sale



'05 VW Jetta
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(P31525)
\$24,521
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Vehicles for sale



'03 PT Cruiser GT \$11,995
LD'd, 2.4 Turbo, Only 7K Miles!
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(TS40684)
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Vehicles for sale



'02 Oldsmobile Alero GL
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.4L, Auto, Pwr pkg, Multi CD, Air Bags, Leather (I6942A)
\$8,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

Vehicles for sale



'03 G500 Mercedes Benz
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Certified, Silver/Grey, Cruise 9-speaker stereo w/6 CD changer
(P31519) \$52,921
W.I. Simonson
(800) 784-6196

Vehicles for sale



'06 Jeep Wrangler
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(P31532)
\$25,411
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Vehicles for sale



'02 Explorer Spt .. \$7,788
Automatic, CD, A/C, Alloys & Full Power (2U037397)
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Vehicles for sale



'02 Nissan Frontier XE King
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
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(866) 507-7253

Vehicles for sale



'03 Infiniti QX4 SUV
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
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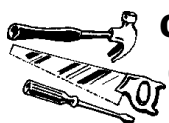
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