



Santa Monica Daily Press

BEAUTY IS BUSINESS
SEE PAGE 16

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ISSUE

Walker resigns amid controversy

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The embattled deputy superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District resigned from his post on Thursday, leaving behind an institution embroiled in controversy over questionable practices in its special education program.

The Board of Education accepted Tim Walker's resignation during its meeting on Thursday night, nearly unanimously approving a settlement agreement that will essentially buyout the remaining one year on the former special education director's contract, reportedly valued at roughly \$193,000.

SMMUSD deputy superintendent was a key figure in a criticized special education program

School Board member Kathy Wisnicki was the lone vote in abstention.

Walker was the key figure in a special education program criticized by parents of learning disabled children over an alleged culture of fear and intimidation, the source of controversy centering around settlement agreements and the confidentiality clauses that are included within.

Settlement agreements are entered into after an impasse is reached in the negotiations for the Individualized Education Plan

(IEP), which outline the services that students receive during the year. But in the past, several parents have claimed they felt coerced into the agreements and feared speaking out because of the confidentiality clause.

Walker declined to comment on the circumstances surrounding his resignation on Friday, but said working for the school district was a positive experience.

"I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the professionals that I did,"

Walker said during an interview on Friday. "I have been afforded a professional opportunity by the Board of Education and I am grateful for the support they've shown me in the past."

"The time has come for me to pursue other opportunities at this point in my professional career," he added.

Walker joined the central office's staff in winter 2005 when he was hired as the assistant superintendent for special education, leaving the Glendale Unified School District where he served in a similar capacity. After former Superintendent John Deasy left to head the Prince George's County Public

SEE WALKER PAGE 10

Low-income tenants allege mismanagement at apartment complex

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

COLORADO AVENUE One of the largest high-end housing complexes in the city is being accused of mismanagement and economic discrimination by a group of its low and moderate-income tenants.

The allegations come against The Plaza at the Arboretum — a mixed-use development in the 2200 block of Colorado Avenue — where residents are accusing the management company of neglecting maintenance requests and unequal treatment given to market-rate and low-income tenants who live in the building's deed-restricted affordable units.

Approximately 30 residents, many of whom receive Section 8 subsidies under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, have contacted the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles to explore their options, which could include filing complaints with the City Attorney's Office, according to Denise McGranahan, an attorney with the non-profit organization.

Calls seeking comment to Metric Properties, which is the property's management company, and the attorney for the Arboretum were not returned.

Several complaints have already been received by the Consumer Protection Unit with the City Attorney's Office, according to Paula



CLEANING UP

Environmental activists staged a rally and news conference outside Occidental Petroleum's annual shareholders' meeting on Friday to protest massive contamination in the Peruvian Amazon that activists say stems from Occidental's oil drilling practices. Amazonian community members were on hand to address the meeting regarding their plight. Actress and noted activist Daryl Hannah was in attendance to lend her support.

Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

SEE ARBORETUM PAGE 11

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Citywide Reads

2601 Main St., 11 a.m.

Trained volunteer facilitators lead free public book discussions featuring the Santa Monica Citywide Reads selection 'The Highest Tide,' by Jim Lynch. No registration is required.

Get your free compost

2500 Michigan Ave., 8 a.m. — Noon

The city is giving away free compost at the city yards. Come early because the event lasts only as long as supplies last. For information, call (310) 458-8546

Farewell, Ferris wheel

Santa Monica Pier, 11 a.m. — 9 p.m.

Santa Monica residents are invited to ride the Ferris wheel for free before it comes down. All of Los Angeles will have a turn on the wheel on Sunday, May 4 when all guests ride the wheel for free as Pacific Park donates \$1 per rider to spcaLA. Visit the ticket booth for details.

Come try it on

2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m.

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

Santa Monica on two feet

1436 Second St., 10 a.m.

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

Does the slipper fit?

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

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

Sunday, May 4, 2008

The other Jerry's kids

1348 14th St., 7 p.m.

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

Get it while its fresh

Downtown Mar Vista, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

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

Salsa dancing

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

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

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.



CORRECTION In "Crossroads headmaster right at home" (page 1, Thursday, May 1), it should've stated that Roger Weaver is leaving the school in fall 2009.

Businesses don't want Expo on their street

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN As public transit officials consider various alignments for the proposed Exposition Light Rail expansion into Santa Monica, business and property owners along Colorado Avenue are voicing their opposition to laying the train tracks down their commercial corridor.

The Exposition Construction Authority held a workshop on Friday for businesses that could be impacted by the two alignments being proposed for the light rail — one that runs along Colorado Avenue, taking out two lanes of traffic and half of available on-street parking, or one along the existing median on Olympic Boulevard, removing the existing coral trees.

The Colorado alignment drew jeers from residents and business and property owners along the avenue, decrying the option as making little sense when it would impact traffic and parking on the street.

“There would be so much impact on Colorado to the residents and the businesses,” Rodney Liber, who owns buildings housing creative arts offices on Colorado at 12th and 16th streets, said on Friday. “There would be virtually no impact on Olympic.”

The long-awaited Expo project is split into two phases, the first of which — traveling from Downtown Los Angeles to Culver City — is already undergoing construction and is slated to be in service by 2010. The proposed second phase, which is still in the environmental review, would take the light rail from Culver City to a terminal at Fourth Street and Colorado in Santa Monica, currently the Sears auto lot.

There are also two alignments being considered for the route the light rail would take from Culver City to the Santa Monica city limits — one that would travel along the existing right-of-way and the other along Venice to Sepulveda Boulevard.

The second phase, which is slated for

SEE EXPO PAGE 13



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

BARE MINIMUM: Detainees at the Santa Monica Police Department's jail receive a 'fish kit' when they are first brought in. It includes hygiene items.

Locked away

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

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY When the steel door slammed shut and I found myself locked in a cramped, windowless cell, my stress reflex kicked in and my heart started to pump a little faster than normal. My incarceration lasted only a minute or so, but it felt much longer than that as I paced back and forth and did some pushups.

Being locked up in Santa Monica Police Department's jail was not an enjoyable experience and something I never want to happen again.

I can't imagine what it must be like for

those who are sentenced for years at a time. It truly is better to let someone serve life in prison than give them the death penalty. There's something about being caged, freedom denied, that screws with the psyche. Perhaps it was claustrophobia, but as soon as they closed the door and threw away the key, I began to panic, albeit slightly since I knew I would be released. But what about those who have years to serve?

You can probably guess from the first few paragraphs that my latest session at the Citizen Police Academy focused on the department's jail. Suzie Kim took us on a

SEE ACADEMY PAGE 12



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

CELLULAR LEVEL: The Santa Monica Police Department's jail facility is relatively new, but still isn't a comfortable place to stay the night.

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SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reader is up to the challenge

Editor:

To Steve Breen, the self-proclaimed “best looking mailman at the Post Office,”

What ever tacit respect I may have once had for your political and social perspective, after reading “Let them eat cake” (page 5, April 30) I no longer consider you to be either an intellect or mature. Your extended screed on “Barry” Obama read more like a juvenile impersonation of Rush Limbaugh-esque, AM radio talk show, bombastic name-calling. You came off like a child, a petty political hack, and not at all a clever or good one, at that.

Here’s what I read into your unending list of insults: You are painfully aware of the inadequacy of your party’s leaders and failed doctrines. November will not be a good month for you. In your fear you descend to the depths of political mudslinging. It seems desperate. You are worried.

I accept your “haircut” challenge, with a slight modification. If I lose, a haircut it is. If you lose, you must agree to grow your hair and beard, untrimmed, for one year. Sign on the dotted line.

One more thing. The name is Barack not “Barry,” Stevey. Grow up.

Tim Dillenbeck
Santa Monica

Doing a disservice

Editor:

In Kenny Mack’s column (“Obama still has a lot to overcome,” page 4, April 30), he said the only way Barack Obama might win white voters “over 45” is by pandering to their insecurity about future social security payments. He said, and I quote, “This ‘demographic’ is the most out of touch with the way the world is today and if they want to forsake America’s future for one more day above ground, I say let ‘em vote for the Republican geezer.” That “attempt” at humor basically disses the majority of Americans who were part of the 418,000 dead and over 600,000 wounded in fighting Nazism and Fascism in World War II, 50,000 dead and 100,000 wounded in Korea, and 60,000 dead and 153,000 wounded in Vietnam.

He further said, “Let’s face facts. There are some white people, especially those who were born before the Civil Rights movement and never went to college, who will not vote for a black man for president.” This is as cogent as saying that 90 percent of African-Americans (which is what Barack Obama is getting in almost every primary) will not vote for a white woman for president.

Mack correctly targeted The Rev. Wright’s need for fame and publicity as one thing that has hurt Sen. Obama, but Sen. Obama’s own dismissive comments about the bitterness of these voters also hurt him. That showed a total lack of respect and understanding. How do you think the voters in that demographic are going to react?

The bottom line is, Sen. Obama outspent Sen. Clinton by 3 to 1 in Pennsylvania, and in the areas he targeted heavily, the city of Philadelphia and the affluent suburbs outside it, he did not do as well as he hoped. And that had been his demographic up to then.

If Kenny Mack wants voters to be color blind when considering Sen. Obama, then continuing to write about Sen. Obama’s race and branding people who vote against him as racially intolerant, is not going to help.

Carmen Finestra
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stud or dud?

EVERYONE KNOWS STORIES ABOUT couples who desperately tried to get pregnant and only succeeded after they stopped trying so desperately. Maybe that’s what the owners of 2002 Kentucky Derby Winner War Emblem should try with the reluctant stud. For the last few years, he’s shown no interest in horsing around. Since the Derby is this weekend, I wonder if the owner of this year’s winner will get luckier with a horse who enjoys getting lucky.

Shadai Stallion Station in Hokkaido Japan bought War Emblem for \$17 million. The “New York Times” estimates that his owners have lost out on about \$55 million dollars in stud fees because of the horse’s lack of interest in the opposite sex. Personally, I think they’re judging the big guy too harshly.

The horse is nine years old, and has mated with “only” 70 mares. I don’t know how many horse years equal one human year, but no matter what the formula is, 70 mates is nothing to sneeze at. Maybe he just doesn’t want any more children. As far as I’m concerned, it’s hard enough to worry about just two kids.

The baffling thing for the owners of the stalled stallion is that he hasn’t had a date in over two years. Nothing. Zippo. Nada. And they’ve tried their best. They’ve offered him all kinds of different mares — old ones, young ones, and horses of different colors. Maybe it’s time the owners joined the 21st century and tried to find War Emblem a mate online. Surely there must be a Web site called H-Date in which lonely horses seek company with other, uh, naysayers. If there isn’t such a Web site, there probably will be by the time you finish reading this column.

The latest thing the owners are trying is keeping him separated from the other stallions. The theory is that by having him spend time exclusively with the mares instead of the stallions, War Emblem will feel more secure in his sexuality. I’m not so sure that makes sense. If you don’t let a guy hang out with other guys do you really think he’ll feel more manly?

Guys need other guys to talk to about women. Maybe male horses need to be around other male horses to confide in, to boast, or to gossip in whatever way horses do those things. Let’s face it. A stallion can’t exactly nudge the mare next to him and say, “Did you see the fetlocks on that new filly?”

The horses that War Emblem sired before he stopped being in the mood have done quite well. They’ve won races and they’ve

earned lots of money for their owners. Isn’t that enough? Haven’t we evolved to the point that a male is no longer expected to “perform” whether he feels like it or not? How many more winners, how many more millions does this horse owe his owners? If he’s not in the mood, should he be expected to fake it to make them happy?

By isolating him from the other stallions, the owners may feel that they are taking the pressure off War Emblem. However, I’m sure he picks up on their anxiety and wish for him to make more little War Emblems. It’s like when a couple decides that they

MAYBE MALE HORSES
NEED TO BE AROUND
OTHER MALE HORSES TO
CONFIDE IN, TO BOAST,
OR TO GOSSIP IN
WHATEVER WAY HORSES
DO THOSE THINGS.

aren’t going to talk about how hard it is for them to get pregnant. They go out to dinner and say, “Let’s talk about any other subject.” They may say that, but they know that they’re still both thinking about getting pregnant.

So I think it’s time for War Emblem’s owners to relax. If he wants to be a dad again, he will be. If he doesn’t, he won’t. War Emblem is a living, breathing, unpredictable animal, not a machine. I understand that when they paid all those millions for him, they thought he’d churn out horse after horse after horse. But there’s something appropriate in the fact that they may have gambled and lost just like most people do at the racetrack.

It certainly brings up one thing for this year’s owners to keep in mind: The horse that runs the fastest just might also run the fastest when being chased by a horse who has romance on its mind.

In addition to writing television shows and columns, **LLOYD GARVER** has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com

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STRAY talk

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

“I feel like if you’re going to write a book that is funny and breezy, has a female protagonist on the younger side and has some kind of happy ending, someone somewhere will call your book ‘chick lit.’”

— Jennifer Weiner, author “Certain Girls”

“It means when someone moves out of the unit, it is no longer rent control and that will generate more tax revenue than taking a bunch of homes from little old ladies and giving them to developers.”

— Carl Lambert, the president of the Action Apartment Association and chairman of the California Apartment Association Los Angeles, argued that Prop. 98 is necessary to stop governments from taking homes and handing them over to developers to generate more tax revenue.

“Seven years ago, when I moved into this beautiful new building, I thought I died and gone to heaven. Instead, I ended up in a mold-contaminated hell where I developed asthma.”

— Billie Beach, a Section 8 tenant who lives at The Plaza at the Arboretum.

“It’s been over a month since I’ve written about politics. Curiously, the readers who disagree with my views the most seem to miss the chance to send me less than flattering e-mails, some of which start, ‘You’re an idiot.’”

— SMDP columnist Jack Neworth writing in “Laughing Matters.”

“What we have here is a result of the public input which has just been great. There’s been a lot of people I’ve never seen before [at the meetings], which is really healthy.”

— Santa Monica Mayor Herb Katz regarding the public’s input on the ongoing process to update the Land Use and Circulation Element.

“It’s time to take another lead from Lance and retire (the Livestrong wristband). Put it in that shoebox on the top shelf in the closet — the one with the concert ticket stubs, mood ring, eighth grade love letters and dried-out prom corsage. The Pet Rock and Cabbage Patch Doll will be happy for the company.”

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

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Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra’s Music Director
on teaming with Academy Award-nominated actor
John Malkovich on the production of “Seduction and
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The QLine

DAY AT THE PARK

This past week, Q-line asked:

Gov. Schwarzenegger has proposed closing a number of open spaces in the Santa Monica Mountains including Will Rogers and Topanga state parks due to a \$10 billion budget deficit. What impact do you think this could have on local public parks?

Here are your responses:

"THE STATE PARK SYSTEM AND SO MANY other quality of life issues are suffering mightily under the growing indigent which is siphoning off billions of dollars that used to take care of these systems. Overpopulation is ruining us."

"THE IMPACT WILL BE ON THOSE WHO intended to visit the park and will now have to find another destination, such as parks out of the state of California – if they can afford the gasoline. I do not suggest that the billionaires among us absorb the burden of the poor fiscal management of the state of California that did not put a few pennies away for a rainy day. Still, it would be nice if the rich would adopt a park, such as the Will Rogers' Ranch, and pay for the upkeep and management of the park. It is said for those who can afford to adopt these expenses to receive a tax deduction from the state of California and the federal Internal Revenue Service, including anyone else who would be willing to donate."

"SANTA MONICA'S PARKS ARE ALREADY taken over by all the bums and the drunks anyway so it probably won't matter. People will just have to find some place else to have a park."

"BEFORE WORLD WAR I, THE MILITARY, primarily our Calvary, were caring for the parks. If we get out of this dumb war, we can again give our soldiers a real job: Caring for squirrels and moose. We can also give nonviolent prisoners a choice to work in our parks to reduce time. We can begin a program like Vista for park service. We could employ able-bodied homeless for one-dollar-a-day park jobs for giving them food and shelter. We can make a one-year draft or public service jobs in parks and hospitals."

"I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IMPACT it would have on the city's public parks, except cause more overcrowding. But, the real issue is that Gov. Schwarzenegger is acting as a true Republican in closing some of our state parks to make up for \$10 billion budget deficit. He should start collecting from the big corporations and all his special interest people. It's just like the Bush administration. Cut education, social security, health care and line the pockets of their rich friends."

"WHO KNOWS WHAT IMPACT THE closure would have. However, to close down Topanga State Park would be a crime."

"THAT'S JUST ANOTHER FORM OF A homeless criminal evasion and gentrification."

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Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Nearly perfect

REPEAT AFTER ME EVERYONE ... KEEN-wah. That is the phonetic spelling for this word, quinoa. I know, it looks like Kwin-No-Ah and that is exactly how I pronounced it when I first discovered it. As if I actually discovered it. It is an ancient grain from Peru where it is a staple. Here in America it is grown in Colorado but is still referred to as the “supergrain” of the Incas.

Quinoa is one of those near perfect foods that we stumble upon every once in a blue moon. It is nearly perfect because it is very nearly a perfect protein and no other “whole grain” can really make such a claim to fame. Quinoa is a “complete” protein because it contains all nine essential amino acids which are essential because you must consume them each day.

Your body can not manufacture enough of these nine essential amino acids to sustain life.

Those nine essential amino acids are: phenylalanine, valine, threonine, tryptophan, isoleucine, methionine, histidine, leucine, and lysine. I had to look them up because even I can’t remember them. When I was in college we had to memorize them so we were taught a mnemonic device.

That “memory aid” is PVT TIM HaLL. The “a” stands for arginine which is also sometimes essential.

Most grains are not complete proteins because they are limited in lysine. Limited means that the amount of lysine is less than 70 percent of that found in the reference protein. That reference protein being the incredible, edible egg.

The cool thing about quinoa is that it contains 97 percent lysine compared to the egg but it also contains only 91 percent of leucine which is OK but leucine is higher in other grains. So, the bottom line here is that quinoa is not a “perfect” food, but it is pretty darn close. To make it “perfect” I suggest mixing it with another whole grain such as brown rice, which many people do because they prefer the taste and texture of these two whole grains together.

When you prepare your quinoa be sure to rinse it in a fine sieve to help remove some of the saponins; a slightly bitter, soapy substance that coats each grain. Saponins are actually an anti-oxidant. They are called “the plant’s immune system,” developed by the plant to help protect it

Quinoa & Brown Rice Cakes

- 1 1/2 cups cooked quinoa (1/2 c dry + 1 1/2 cups water: Note 1:3 ratio)
- 1 1/2 cups cooked brown rice (1/2 c dry + 2 c water: Note 1:4 ratio)
- I suggest making extra grains to have on hand. Mix with veggies & sauces plus protein foods for quick meals or with fresh fruit, nuts, cinnamon & almond milk for breakfast or a snack.
- 3 Tbsp ground flax seed mixed with 8 Tbsp water (set aside to gel: used as a substitute for two beaten eggs or 1/2 cup egg substitute) By using flax seed this is a vegan recipe (no animal products).
- 2 grated carrots
- 1 red pepper, finely chopped
- 1/2 onion, finely diced
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 c quinoa flour or other flour (see recipe below to make flour)
- 1/2 tsp cumin
- 1/2 tsp Sea Salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper

- 2 tbsp canola or olive oil (to grease a cookie sheet)

- 1) Cook quinoa & rice separately as cooking times vary.
- 2) To make “flour” from quinoa or oats, grind in a coffee grinder (If you use quinoa flour this will be a gluten free recipe)
- 3) Chop all the veggies. Place in a big bowl with the cooked quinoa, brown rice, flour and flax mixture or eggs. Add the seasoning and mix with a fork.
- 4) Using a 1/4 cup measuring cup, scoop out the mixture. Place on a greased cookie sheet and flatten
- 5) Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Flip & bake another 15 minutes. Each side should be a little brown.
- 6) These cakes freeze well for up to one month.
- 7) Serve with harissa (In a blender add: 2 chopped red peppers, 20 mint leaves, 2 sprigs fresh rosemary, 1 tsp ground coriander, 1/4 tsp each cayenne & sea salt. Puree and store in a jar, top with olive oil to cover & preserve for up to one month)

against microbes and fungus. In humans, these saponins may have similar antimicrobial benefits.

On the downside, saponins can inhibit the absorption of some essential minerals contained in the grain. So rinse quinoa a bit before cooking, but not too much, so you get some protection but still facilitate optimal nutrient absorption. I know, some-

times eating for health’s sake can be a pain in the you know what, but just take it one day and one recipe at a time.

ELIZABETH BROWN is a registered dietitian, certified holistic chef and weight management specialist in Santa Monica. She can be reached at eat2liv@earthlink.net. Watch her in action making quinoa at YouTube.com/KitchenScienceVixen.

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Walker resigns from district

FROM WALKER PAGE 1

Schools in 2006, Walker served as the interim superintendent before being promoted to deputy superintendent later that year.

Though his resignation will not become effective until June 30, Walker is immediately taking a leave of absence until then, according to Oscar de la Torre, the school board president.

Superintendent Dianne Talarico said in a statement that the settlement agreement was mutually agreed upon by both the district and Walker. Talarico added that she is working on a new organizational structure that will be announced in the near future.

"I thank Tim Walker for his leadership, his compassion, and his commitment to helping the teachers and children of our district," Talarico said in the statement.

In the resignation letter, Walker stated that he felt it was time to pursue other opportunities and part ways with a district that had become an important part of his life.

"I value the incredible employees of the district that I have had the pleasure to work with," Walker said in the letter. "They are committed to making a difference in the lives of children every day."

School officials say the resignation was in the best interest of both parties and see it as a step toward moving past the special education controversy that has cast a dark shadow on the district.

"The school board wants to see change and we recognize that a lot of good work has been done and we want to build off of that good work," de la Torre said. "But we feel that we need to make some progressive

changes to ensure that the good work that we're doing in special education continues and that we build from that foundation."

Talarico recently outlined several changes in her preliminary draft response to an independent review of the special education program, including empowering site staff and creating a culture of inclusion.

Those changes were presented to the board last month.

"We understand there are issues with how things have been administered in the district and we're coming up with a plan to address the issues that were raised in the report," School board member Ralph Mechur said on Friday.

The assessment was among several conditions placed on the SMMUSD by the City Council last summer in order for the district to receive a \$530,000 bump in local aid, the strings attached after parents of special education children contacted councilmembers about the settlement agreements. Included in those conditions was a moratorium on confidentiality clauses in settlement agreements unless requested by parents, which the board instituted last year.

During a meeting last week during which the council was to determine whether the district met the conditions and should receive the funding increase, Talarico said that 37 settlement agreements had been entered into since the moratorium was enacted. A total of 28 agreements had confidentiality clauses and nine were written without.

Talarico added she was assured by her staff that the parents were informed of the moratorium before those confidentiality

SEE WALKER PAGE 14

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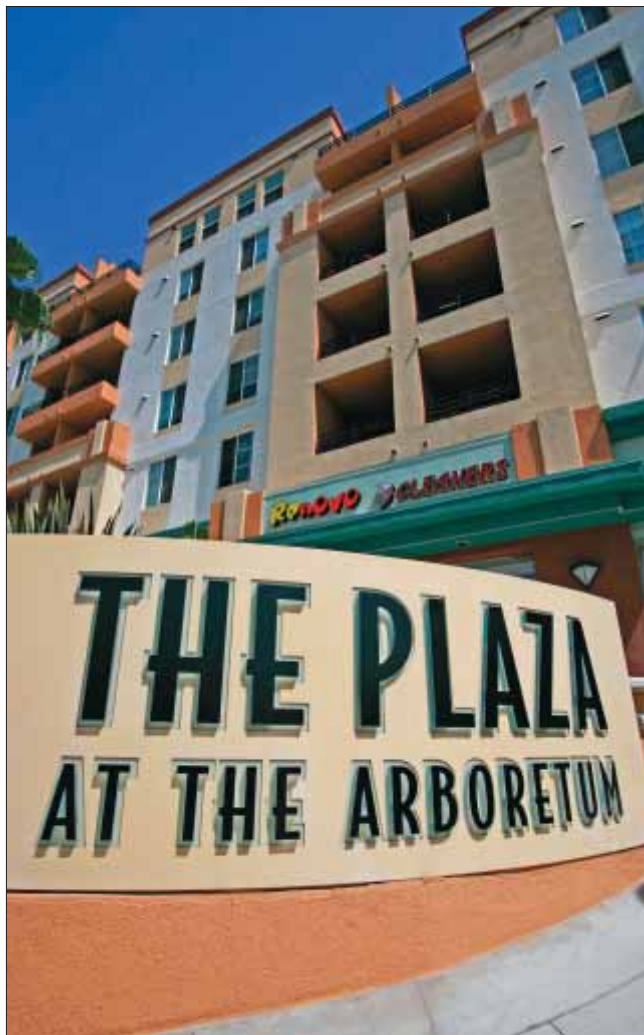
Residents file complaints against apartment's management

FROM ARBORETUM PAGE 1

Rockenstein, the consumer affairs specialist. The division works on issues related to tenant rights and housing discrimination.

"We look for violations of either state or local law, and usually contact the business if there is some sort of violation," Rockenstein said. "We need to have all of the documentation and evidence by the complainant in order to research the issues."

The complaints, according to residents, range from poor television reception to unattended broken utilities to a refusal by the front desk to check deliveries.



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

THE SCENE: A number of Section 8 tenants of the Plaza At The Arboretum have filed complaints against the managers of the mixed-use development located on Colorado Avenue.



THERE ARE SO MANY PROBLEMS IF FAIRLY UNBELIEVABLE WE COULD FIND SO MANY PROBLEMS IN ONE PLACE."

Denise McGranahan,
Attorney, Legal Aid Foundation

Many of these complaints were mentioned at the City Council meeting on Tuesday during a discussion about the update to the Santa Monica Housing Element. Tenants spoke about issues with mold and alleged retaliation by the management company when concerns are raised.

"Seven years ago, when I moved into this beautiful new building, I thought I died and gone to heaven," Billie Beach, a Section 8 tenant, said at the meeting. "Instead, I ended up in a mold-contaminated hell where I developed asthma."

Beach said because of the lack of laws enforcing mold remediation, the management company is not taking steps to remove the mold, which she believes is growing in the building and causing an unpleasant odor.

"It's permeating all the common areas and I am having lung problems and I need a mask when I leave the front door," she said.

A class-action lawsuit was filed against the former management company Legacy Partners over the mold issue in 2004. Arnold Wang, an attorney with Arias Ozzello & Gignac representing the plaintiffs, declined comment for this article. The case is still ongoing.

The plaintiffs allege that the owners and managers of the 350-unit apartment complex failed to provide a habitable residence because of inaction related to the alleged mold problem.

McGranahan, who also spoke at the council meeting, said many of the low to moderate income tenants are afraid to speak out against the property management company for fear of retaliation, pointing out that their leases do not have a just-cause tenant protection.

"They have very little in terms of options of where to go because there isn't a lot of affordable housing out there for these people to choose from," McGranahan said on Thursday.

The mixed-use complex was built in 2001. Rent ranges from approximately \$2,300 to \$4,400, according to the building's Web site.

There are approximately 97 units that are set aside as affordable, 45 of which are for low-income and 52 for moderate income, McGranahan said. Section 8 tenants spend approximately 30 percent of their income toward rent.

A one-person household can qualify for Section 8 if its annual income is less than \$25,900 a year, going up to \$48,850 for a household of eight.

Santa Monica Housing Authority staff, which administers

the Section 8 program, met with the upper management at Metric Properties about four months ago to discuss the procedures and rules of its affordable housing units. Since then, the company has been in contact regularly with the city's housing department with questions about Section 8, according to Julie Lansing, the senior administrative analyst and supervisor for the Housing Authority.

"We have a good working relationship with them now," Lansing said.

The Housing Authority also inspects every Section 8 unit every year to make sure they fall within housing quality standards. When issues are reported by tenants, an inspector is dispatched to investigate, Lansing said. Life-threatening repairs are required within 24 hours of the inspection and landlords have up to 30 days for minor repairs.

Among the concerns mentioned by tenants is the television service, which is provided by Clearbay Communications through a contract with the building. Residents say they receive poor television reception and would like to see the contract removed so they can sign up for Time Warner Cable. Opting for satellite television still means keeping the service with Clearbay Communication, resulting in two bills, residents say.

Some residents claim they are receiving notices from the management company to sign new leases when their current ones are not set to expire for months. Some tenants allege that they received the lease renewal notices just hours before they were due.

One tenant, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, claimed that the on-site manager has also refused to accept packages for the residents, causing problems for the Section 8 tenants who are elderly or disabled.

"They would rather us not be seen," the tenant said.

McGranahan said the foundation has been receiving complaints from the Arboretum over the past four years, starting with the mold contamination, but began seeing an influx last summer. The attorney stressed that she is still sorting through the various issues raised by the tenants and determining whether they apply to all residents or just the ones on the lower end of the income spectrum.

"There are so many problems it's fairly unbelievable we could find so many problems in one place," she said.

melodyh@smdp.com



City of Santa Monica Ordinance Number 2260 and 2261 (CCS) (City Council Series)

The following are summaries, prepared by the City Attorney, of Ordinance Numbers 2260 and 2261, which were adopted by the City Council on April 22, 2008:

Ordinance Number 2260(CCS) amends Municipal Code Sections 4.65.020 and 4.65.030 to exempt corporations providing banking services from the Living Wage Ordinance and to eliminate the escalator in the contract threshold so that the law will apply, on an ongoing basis, to contracts in the amount of \$54,200 or more.

Ordinance Number 2261(CCS) amends various provisions of the Municipal Code to update and strengthen "Green Building" requirements. The ordinance includes changes mandated by state law, relating to the insulation of hot water pipes and solar heating for pools and spas. The ordinance also: expands the list of approved green construction materials and requires the use of five such materials in a project; requires single-family and duplex construction, which was previously exempt to comply with the provisions of the Green Building Ordinance; increases performance security requirements; and imposes new requirements relating to irrigation and landscaping plans.

These ordinances will become effective thirty days after their adoption.

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



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Jail isn't a fun place

FROM ACADEMY PAGE 3

tour of the relatively new facility, showing us the "fish kits" handed out to new arrivals that included a small tube of generic toothpaste, a toothbrush, a plastic comb and some soap. She also gave us a tour of the tiny kitchen where meals are prepared (yes, detainees are fed, and not just bread and water, but real food at a cost of \$2.40 per meal, all nutritionally balanced and all provided at the expense of taxpayers).

We were also shown rooms where those locked up can talk with loved ones through a thick piece of glass by using a phone attached to the wall, one of the few things seen in moves that is actually true. As far as the "one phone call" bit, not true. You get to make three completed phone calls when you are being booked, and none have to include talking to a lawyer.

Looking at the booking process, Kim told the class that when someone is brought in following an arrest, they are searched once more, fingerprinted, photographed and their shoelaces are removed along with their belts and any other objects that could be used to do harm to one's self.

But sometimes that's not enough. We were shown photos of one man who broke out a lens in his eyeglasses, sharpened it, dug out a vein in his forearm and then sprayed blood all over the wall. It was disgusting.

Those who are suicidal are placed in a padded cell and are checked every 15 minutes, Kim said.

If you happen to be arrested, it might be good to be picked up by the SMPD given the state of their jail. It's clean and rarely crowded, meaning you don't have to share a cell (insert a joke about Bubba here).



Kevin Hererra kevinh@smdp.com

SAFE SPOT: At PAL, kids attending Santa Monica schools can hang out after school and do their homework or play while upperclassmen from local high schools and colleges provide assistance.

Jailers are not permitted to place people with different levels of offenses in the same cell. Females and males are also separated. The jails are periodically inspected by various agencies to make sure that no one's civil rights are being violated.

To pass the time, suspects are allowed to read, and that's pretty much it. Books are brought in by jail staff or are donated.

CALLING FOR HELP

From the jail, we returned to the classroom where we met with Officers Josh Hall and Steve Wong of the Homeless Liaison Program, or HeLP Team, who are assigned to watch over the homeless population, arrest those who are breaking the law while encouraging others to seek help and get off the streets.

The program was created in 1991, showing that Santa Monica was once again ahead of other cities in terms of addressing homelessness. To hear Wong and Hall tell it, the program is needed now more than ever given the fact that the state's jails are overcrowded and those arrested for offenses such as illegal camping or public intoxication are often released within hours of being sentenced. It can be frustrating for all involved.

So instead of a revolving door, it makes sense to try and get these folks into programs, the officers said. But that isn't easy. Many are resistant.

"Sometimes it takes several arrests to get them in gear," Hall said. "A lot of times it turns them around."

The job is tough. These HeLP Team members have to deal with people who are

abusive, sometimes violent and sometimes covered in feces. It's not glamorous by any means, but they enjoy it nonetheless.

"When you are able to help someone off the streets, it's rewarding," Hall said. "That makes you feel good about what you do."

MAKING PALS

Form homelessness to homework, we were treated to a tour of the Police Activities League on Olympic Boulevard and 14th Street, across from Tacos Por Favor, which is one of my favorite eateries (you must try the breakfast burrito with chorizo and cheese).

At PAL, kids attending Santa Monica schools can hang out after school and do their homework while upperclassmen from local high schools and colleges provide assistance. There is a kitchen that provides healthy snacks and a game room with pool tables, foosball, video games and a large TV with a VCR and DVD player.

Officer Natalie Dewberry and new PAL Director Eula Fritz and their dedicated volunteers seemed to provide the love and care these kids deserve. The children wore large smiles on their faces, obviously excited to see so many visitors. They ran around us, eager to show off their club house. Kids can play safely inside those walls and parents can rest assured that their children have a place they can go where they won't be tempted by the negative forces that have unfortunately taken the lives of too many of our youngsters.

It's a great program, one of many in the city for our youth.

I wish I could write more, but I'm up against deadline and I have to run to the police department so I can go on my ride along. Watch out criminals, Officer Herrera is on patrol.

kevinh@smdp.com



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Crossroads officials want rail on Olympic

FROM EXPO PAGE 3

completion in 2015, is estimated to cost \$1.6 billion. The Expo extension from Culver City would have approximately seven stations, including three to four in Santa Monica alone.

Stephen Polechronis, a consultant to the Exposition Construction Authority, said that in removing two lanes and roughly 50 percent of the parking spaces on Colorado, the once heavily traveled commercial corridor will become less of a busy thoroughfare.

"Colorado will be transformed from an arterial that it is now to a local street," he said.

But the alignment appeared to receive little support from residents and businesses along and around Colorado, believing it will impact traffic because of the loss of two lanes and hurt employees who rely on street parking.

"It will severely impact traffic," Gary Khamneipur, who owns a building housing creative arts offices on the corner of Colorado and 16th Street, said.

Khamneipur added that though the coral trees would need to be removed if the Olympic alignment is chosen, the life span of those trees are already low and would need to be replaced anyway. He used the coral trees on San Vicente Boulevard — which he said also need replacing — as an example.

"These trees don't become old," he said.

Joseph Gabbai, a real estate broker with

Grubb & Ellis, said he believes the Expo alignment would enhance property values on Olympic but have an adverse effect on Colorado.

"It would take out parking that is in dire need on Colorado," Gabbai said after the meeting.

Among stakeholders represented was Crossroads School, which believes the alignment should be located on Olympic Boulevard. Both the elementary and upper school campuses are located on Olympic.

Barbara Whitney, the director of finance and operations for the school, said they are very supportive of the Expo project and believe the Olympic median makes more sense because of traffic.

But the school would like to see a stop at 14th Street instead of at 17th, which is near the elementary school.

"It's a matter of safety," Whitney said.

Janine Parker, who lives on 10th Street between Colorado and Broadway, said she feared her quality of life will be impacted if the light rail is located along Colorado, listening to the train going by every couple of minutes.

Parker, who complained she did not receive any notice about the project until learning about it from her manager, said there is already enough congestion in the city, not just with cars but foot traffic.

"For me, it would be a loss of peace and quiet," Parker said.

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School officials hope to move past special ed controversy

FROM WALKER PAGE 10

clauses were signed into the agreements, but had heard recently that some parents were stating otherwise. She requested that the council hold on to the half million dollars until she further investigated the claims, feeling as though not all of the conditions had been met.

The independent assessment by Lou Barber and Associates found that while settlement agreements and confidentiality clauses were legal and used by other school districts, there was some concerns in the over-utilization in Santa Monica where more than 140 such contracts were signed in the past three years.

A number of special education parents were interviewed for the report, but some Malibu parents have claimed in recent weeks that they were excluded from the process. Several of these parents came out to the school board meeting on Thursday, speaking in support of Walker and the work that he has done for the district.

Wisnicki said she has asked staff to clarify several inaccuracies in the report and statements that left an impression that the district wasted money in certain areas. The school board member added that she was concerned about the fact that there were no comments from Malibu parents included in the report.

"Malibu parents had a two-hour meeting with him where they provided feedback ... and none of that was in the report and he had asked them several times to tell him the bad stuff," Wisnicki said on Friday.

Wisnicki added that she abstained from voting on Walker's contract because the position of the board majority was already clear.

Ken Haker, the chairman of the Special Education District Advisory Committee, whose members have been critics of Walker in the past, said he sees the resignation as an indicator that Talarico is taking steps in the right direction.

"I think she is working on that action plan and this is a good test of her mettle that she can carry about an action plan that the district will actually support," Haker said on Friday. "I think that parents of children with learning

disabilities would like to see a good relationship between them and the superintendent."

Harry Keiley, the president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association, said that he is concerned that the issue with special education has overshadowed the positive work done by the program's teachers and specialists.

MALIBU PARENTS HAD A TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH HIM WHERE THEY PROVIDED FEEDBACK ... AND NONE OF THAT WAS IN THE REPORT AND HE HAD ASKED THEM SEVERAL TIMES TO TELL HIM THE BAD STUFF."

Ralph Mechur,
School Board member

"They have one of the most difficult and challenging jobs in all of education and throughout all of this upheaval regarding special education, people have failed to recognize, stop and acknowledge the hard work and many success stories taking place in special ed," Keiley said.

Keiley said he hopes the district can now start to move forward.

"Certainly Mr. Walker had his critics but he also had many supporters, but clearly this entire chapter has become a major distraction for our organization," Keiley said. "It's time for us to turn the page and to look ahead and work together to ensure our children have the highest quality public education possible."

melodyh@smdp.com

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK
Party time at the park

This Sunday will be no time to take a siesta. Virginia Avenue Park is hosting a free Cinco de Mayo Fiesta and Classic Car Show from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

Come sing and dance to a fabulous entertainment line-up including Mariachi Estrella de Jalisco, a group that will make you shout “Ahua.”

The emcee will be award-winning performance artist Maria Elena Gaitan, adding the history of Cinco de Mayo to the stage. Also featured, are children’s Mexican arts and crafts, carnival games and food including tacos, tostadas, quesadillas and fresh fruit juices by Frida Taqueria in Santa Monica.

Back by popular demand is the Classic Car Show organized by Andrew Gomez with support from Biar’s Keystone Bodyshop, High Rollerz Limousines, and Hallo Construction.

The car show will feature classic, vintage, muscle cars, low riders, trucks and specialty vehicles. Car show exhibitors will compete for The Mayor’s Choice Trophy judged by Santa Monica Mayor Herb Katz, and the Chiefs’ Trophy judged by Santa Monica Police Chief Timothy Jackman and Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone. Trophies will also be awarded for “Best In Class” in various categories.

DAILY PRESS

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE
Doing the math

For the second year in a row, Santa Monica College has finished third in the nation among 179 community colleges adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying in the 2007-08 national Student Math League competition.

SMC’s top individual performer was Ke Qu, who finished tied for fourth nationally among 2,658 competitors. Qu scored a 36, while the winner tallied a 37.5.

The Student Math League competition – in which students are given multiple choice and written exams – is sponsored by the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges.

Altogether, 125 students from SMC participated in the math league.

“I am very proud of our students,” said SMC math professor William Konya. “We’ve matched our best finish ever for the second year in a row, and our students have proven they are top-notch.”

DP

DOWNTOWN
Representing Mother Earth

Local environmental group Heal the Bay on Wednesday concluded its most aggressive 30 days of community outreach to date, having educated nearly 30,000 citizens at more than 150 Earth Month events held throughout Los Angeles County.

Responding to community groups’ requests from Watts to Pacific Palisades, 75 staff members and volunteers supported 29 tablings, 72 beach cleanups and 54 Speakers Bureau presentations, Heal the Bay representatives said.

Heal the Bay also educated thousands of kids at weekend events held at its Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. Attendees received instruction from Heal the Bay about steps they can take in their daily lives to beautify their neighborhoods and reduce pollution from reaching local watersheds and oceans.

During the month, Heal the Bay served as an official sponsor of the Splash Festival at UCLA’s Fowler Museum, as well as providing real-world tips to thousands of music fans gathered at the Green Apple Earth Day Festival at the pier. It partnered with students at Compton High School to lead more than 100 community members on a cleanup of Compton Creek, a unique soft-bottomed habitat in a highly urbanized setting.

“Earth Month gets a lot of attention, but it’s important to remember that the fight to protect our local environment is an ongoing effort throughout the year,” said Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay. “Our staff and volunteers should be proud of all the hard work they put into raise awareness across the Southland.”

DP

NORTH OF MONTANA
A walk through Santa Monica’s history

Santa Monica residents will have the opportunity to take a trip through their city’s architectural past this weekend when the Santa Monica Conservancy will host a walking tour of some of the most historical homes on Adelaide Drive.

“Adelaide Drive: Architecture and History” will feature the most picturesque homes on the city’s border with the Pacific Palisades, many of which were once owned by Hollywood celebrities and some of Santa Monica’s most well-known early residents.

Among the homes that will highlight the trip is the Roy Jones House at 130 Adelaide Drive, the first residence constructed on the street. Jones was the son of city founder, Sen. John P. Jones.

The Santa Monica Conservancy has hosted several successful tours in the past, including the Downtown Walking Tour.

The tour will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Ticket prices are \$35 for conservancy members, \$40 for non-members. Parking is limited on Adelaide Drive and the conservancy has arranged for a shuttle bus departing from Roosevelt School. For more information, contact (310) 496-3146.

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**City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2259 (CCS)
(City Council Series)**

The following is a summary, prepared by the City Attorney, of Ordinance Number 2259 (CCS) which was adopted by the City Council on April 22, 2008:

Ordinance Number 2259(CCS) amends Chapter 4.44 of the Municipal Code regulating smoking. The amendments impose liability upon a business owner, operator or manager who knowingly or intentionally allows smoking in an outdoor dining and requires the posting of no smoking signs. The amendments also prohibit smoking on library property and reduce the fines for smoking violations to \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for a second violation in a year, and \$500 for subsequent violations within a year.

This ordinance will become effective ninety days after its adoption.

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



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Researchers key in battle for business of beauty

BY DAN SEWELL

AP Business Writer

CINCINNATI Jim Schwartz remembers feeling a little bewildered when he started his job developing beauty care products at Procter & Gamble Co.

Schwartz, fresh off earning his doctorate in chemistry, wondered about the scores of researchers working on Ivory soap:

"I thought, what in the world are all these people doing here? It's a bar of soap, for crying out loud!"

Two decades later, he explains: Researchers must decide the right mix of materials that go into a new beauty product; make sure it feels, smells, looks right and has added personal benefits without ill effects; and determine whether it can be made affordably on a huge scale.

"That deceptively simple product sitting on store shelves has years and years and thousands of person-hours that went into making it work well," Schwartz said.

In an increasingly competitive business, a growing army of scientists focuses on years-long projects to study the hows and whys of human hair, faces and skin, and what nutrients, moisturizers and even genetics affect them. Their results can mean the next big thing to meet growing demand for products that can help people look better and younger.

P&G has nearly doubled its beauty research staff, to 2,000, in the last seven years. Beauty sales, which include such brands as Pantene and Head & Shoulders shampoos and Olay skin care, more than doubled this decade, to \$23 billion last year.

Researchers spend days peering through microscopes at human cells, analyzing genetic breakdowns, looking at facial pores blown up to look like moon craters and strands of hair that resemble tree bark, and lathering and rinsing rows of hair swatches. P&G buys more than 300 pounds of human hair (paying distributors up to \$1,300 a pound) a year for testing shampoos, coloring and other hair care products.

Some workers wear safety glasses, and emergency showers are right outside lab doorways.

"Don't touch anything," Tom Dawson, a generally genial scientist with shoulder-length hair, warns visitors entering a lab that contains potentially hazardous materials.

P&G has made building its beauty business a top strategic goal, one that comes from some basic trends: the U.S. baby boom population seeks ways to defy aging and will spend for it. Young people, too, are spending more on looking better. And increasingly, people in developing economies around the world have money available to spend on their appearance.

P&G, which Wednesday reported its third-quarter profit rose 8 percent, said international growth for brands such as Pantene was strong, but slowed in U.S. markets. Officials said they remain optimistic about their beauty business, although the tightening U.S. economy has been affecting sales in areas such as higher-end, "prestige" cosmetics and fragrances.

P&G estimates the combined global market for beauty and personal health care at \$360 billion.

The company, known for such household brands as Tide detergent and Pampers diapers, faces veteran cosmetics makers such as L'Oreal SA, Avon Products Inc. and Estee Lauder; consumer products competitors led by Unilever NA who also are expanding

beauty product lines such as Dove; and a growing number of niche players with specialty products that catch people's attention.

"I think overall, it's a positive outlook, but it's going to be more challenging," said Karen Grant, beauty industry analyst for the NPD Group. "There are more people playing; competition is stiffer."

"A lot of the things that make it an attractive growth business to us, others see, too," said Bruce Brown, a P&G vice president for research and development.

Paris-based L'Oreal has steadily increased spending on research, and has some 3,000 people in that part of the operations, said Patricia Pineau, the company's director of research communications.

"If you want to be a leader and compete, you need to anticipate the consumer expectations ... and what is going to be possible in 10 (and) 12 years," Pineau said.

For many of P&G's new beauty products, a journey of what can take from five to 10 years to reach store shelves begins at the Miami Valley Innovation Center near the Great Miami River, miles outside P&G's Cincinnati headquarters.

"There is nothing farther upstream at P&G than us," said James Thompson, associate director of P&G's global biotechnology division.

Dawson just spent nearly seven years there studying the genetic code of fungus that causes human dandruff.

While the study could lead to a best-selling new version of Head & Shoulders, Dawson said there was no way when they began to project the outcome in business terms.

"It was a real start from scratch," he jokes.

With no way to predict the return on the investment, Dawson said, "they've got to make that commitment to the research."

In a conference room, Mike Robinson, a biotechnologist, talks clinically about the difference between "young butt" and "old butt" as he explains recent studies of skin aging. Biopsies were taken from arms and buttocks of 18- to 20-year-old women and from women ages 60-76 to compare sun-exposed and unexposed skin.

Other scientists work on human skin and corneal equivalents developed in labs, which P&G says have helped nearly eliminate the use of animals for testing.

Products in development go on to the suburban Sharon Woods Technology Center, where Schwartz, the chemist, works, for the mixing of ingredients, testing and preparation for marketing.

In one room, paid subjects try out the latest makeup formulations in closely monitored, precisely measured conditions.

Employees try them, too.

Brown recently returned from a New York business meeting with his sandy brown hair looking brighter, shinier. He had been personally demonstrating a new Clairol hair coloring product.

For Lauren Thaman, P&G's global director for beauty science, getting to use the latest products long before they reach store shelves is a nice perk. Usually.

"One day I'm in a meeting and this person looks across the table at me and says, 'What is that in your head?'" she recalled.

The co-worker jumped up, grabbed scissors, and cut out a chunk of Thaman's hair for lab analysis. Turned out that a new shampoo-conditioner was leaving a noticeable residue. Although study indicated few users would have that reaction, the plug was pulled.

Arizona reporting busy year so far for rabies cases

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. Chris Sabo was hiking in northern Arizona in mid-April when he felt the teeth gripping his ankle. He thought a rattler was biting him.

But latched onto his foot was a rabid gray fox, probably the same one that had bitten a Massachusetts man three times scarcely an hour before.

Sabo captured his persistent attacker by stepping on its neck and holding it down. "It was obvious it wasn't in its right mind, and it's unfortunate," he said.

Across Arizona, there have been a higher-than-normal 54 cases of rabies reported since January, some of them, like Sabo's encounter with the fox, involving attacks on humans; and state and national experts say the state's record of 169 cases in 2005 is likely to be broken.

Arizona's surging population and increase in the number of pets providing prey for carnivores have been factors in the

state's soaring rabies cases, said Dr. Charles Rupprecht, chief of the rabies program with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Not only are there more people outdoors and in recreational areas who can report seeing wild animals acting unusually, but the environmental landscape has been altered dramatically as development pushes into wilderness areas, leading to more encounters between humans and animals, said Rupprecht and David Bergman, another federal official. Bergman is the Arizona director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services.

In the Arizona cases reported as of late April, 19 people and 64 domestic animals were exposed to animals with confirmed cases of rabies. That included attacks by six animals on nine people.

Among the attacks were a nationally publicized case in which a rabid mountain lion scratched a 10-year-old boy on a Tonto National Forest trailhead north of Phoenix in March

before an adult who was with him fatally shot the cat. Nine people who were with the boy had to be vaccinated against rabies because they touched the animal without gloves after it was dead.

The mountain lion attack was a rare incident, said Dr. Elisabeth Lawaczek, Arizona's public health veterinarian. "You're more likely to be struck by lightning."

In April, two University of Arizona scientists hiking in the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson were bitten by a rabid bobcat before one of them bludgeoned the animal to death with a hammer. Both received treatment after the attack.

Sabo, who works at the Deschutes National Forest in central Oregon's Cascade Mountain range, had his run-in with the rabid fox about three days before the bobcat incident.

He said he used a stick to unhook the fox's teeth from his sock and expected the animal to run off. But it came at him again, and he "stomped on its neck" and held it with his foot while he tied a rope to the fox and then hung it over a tree branch.

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SURF CONDITIONS

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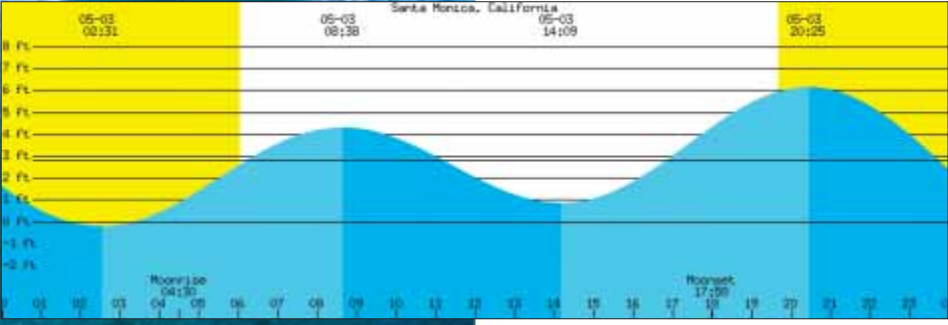
SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)

The southern hemi swell should come to its peak. NW is looking fairly weak. South facing breaks should enjoy at least chest high waves with the better sets coming through head high. West facing breaks are looking at wind swell in the waist to chest high range (at best). The high pressure ridge bringing fair weather and offshore winds Friday will go as quickly as it came, leaving Saturday with an onshore flow. This should drop beach temps dramatically.

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BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0

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

Number of wet days -- 0

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



Heal the Bay

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

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NCAA BASKETBALL

UCLA’s Stanback will transfer

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES UCLA swingman Chace Stanback, a freshman reserve who played in 25 games this season, will leave the program and transfer to another school.

“After speaking with my family and thinking about it for a long time, I feel that it is in my best interest to explore other opportunities,” Stanback said in a statement Wednesday. “I want to thank my coaches and teammates because they have helped me improve as a player and grow as a man and I am thankful to them for that.”

The 6-foot-8 Stanback, a former California high school player of the year, averaged 1.0 point, 0.7 rebounds and 5.8 minutes for the Bruins, who advanced to the Final Four for the third straight season. He hasn’t decided where he’s going to transfer, but plans to leave UCLA following the spring quarter.

“Chace is an outstanding young man and we appreciate what he did for this program this past year,” coach Ben Howland said. “He helped us win a Pac-10 championship and get to the Final Four and we will always be appreciative of his efforts. We are supportive of him and his future in whatever direction he decides to go.”

Four UCLA starters — freshman All-America Kevin Love, sophomore Russell Westbrook and juniors Luc Richard Mbah a Moute and Josh Shipp — have announced they will enter the NBA draft. None have hired agents, so playing for the Bruins next season remains an option although it’s virtually certain that Love won’t be back.



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(323) 466-FILM		1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40
Born to Be Bad (NR)	11:00 a.m., 1:00, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:30, 7:40, 9:10, 10:20	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
7:30	Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R)	1313 Third St.
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA		(310) 395-1599
1310 Third St.		88 Minutes (R) 1hr 48min
(310) 289-4262		11:00 a.m., 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:05, 5:00, 6:00, 7:10, 8:00, 9:00, 10:10, 11:00, 12:00 a.m.
21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX	Iron Man (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
11:05 a.m., 1:50, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40	1332 Second St.	11:00 a.m., 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:05, 5:00, 6:00, 7:10, 8:00, 9:00, 10:10, 11:00, 12:00am
Deception (R) 1hr 48min		Made of Honor (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11 a.m., 1:30, 4:10, 7, 9:45	Then She Found Me (R) 1hr 40min	11:10 a.m., 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 7:50, 9:30, 10:30
Baby Mama (PG-13) 1hr 36min	1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55	
11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40	The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min	
Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) 1hr 42min	1:30, 4:20, 7:25, 10	
	Smart People (R) 1hr 33min	

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

...

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Keeping your head above water might be the only way to dodge interference. You might not feel comfortable with what is being tossed on your plate. Veer in another direction and bypass hassles, if possible. Tonight: Go for a romp!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Backstep if you want to. Listen to news that heads in your direction. If you become uncomfortable, don't act, just stop. Time is your ally in this situation. New information comes in from out of left field. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Friends root you on, especially when dealing with a personal issue. Detachment and the advice of others lead you to a whole different perspective, whether you like it or not. Surround yourself with inspirational music and people. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Stay on top of a situation, whether you like the results or not. A partner's perspective gives you a whole new sense of direction. You might be more of a leader than you realize. Others often look to you for answers. Tonight: Belle or beau of the ball.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ If you can look beyond the obvious, you might be happy. Do what you normally don't; decide to follow a different beat. Excitement surrounds a mini trip, concert or some other spectator sport. Tonight: Be imaginative.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Make plans with a favorite person, and delight both of you. Investigate possibilities together. Do you want the bond to become closer? Start by making more joint decisions. Intensity could earmark your dreams. Tonight:

Add that nurturing tone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Others clearly step in and play interference. Experience someone's ideas as well as his or her presence. By going along with what this person deems a great day, you will learn a lot more about him or her. Be open and see how you feel. Tonight: Say yes to an invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Easy does it. You might have pushed way too hard. Understand that not everyone has your get-up-and-go. Listen to what someone is sharing. The unusual earmarks your day if you stay open in a talk. Tonight: Do what you consider nourishing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Your spontaneity delights many, but let's be honest, especially you. You could spend a bit too much. You know your liabilities better than many. Tonight: Add that extra zip to your step.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You might not be in the mood to move far from home, for whatever reason. Relax and make the most of the moment. Tonight: Be receptive to a family member.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Be willing to put yourself on the line. As a result, you might hear some surprising responses, certainly not what you expected. Start feeling more secure than you have in the past. Tonight: Hang out with a favorite person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might need to push hard to get someone to understand what you are saying or offering. Your instincts help you zero in on a question of money or the right gift. Do whatever you feel is necessary to help someone feel more comfortable. Tonight: Your treat.

Happy birthday

Much goes on behind the scenes this year. You also might often choose not to make a full disclosure in different situations. Stay open to the mysterious. Many of you will decide to do volunteer work or start a new spiritual study. You will benefit enormously from this experience. Foreigners and travel will benefit you as well. If you are single, someone quite unique strolls into your life. You will open up enormously if you decide to explore this relationship. If you are attached, share more of your secret self with your sweetie. ARIES is your natural healer or your natural enemy. It will be one or the other.

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

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Difficulty
GOLD

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

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

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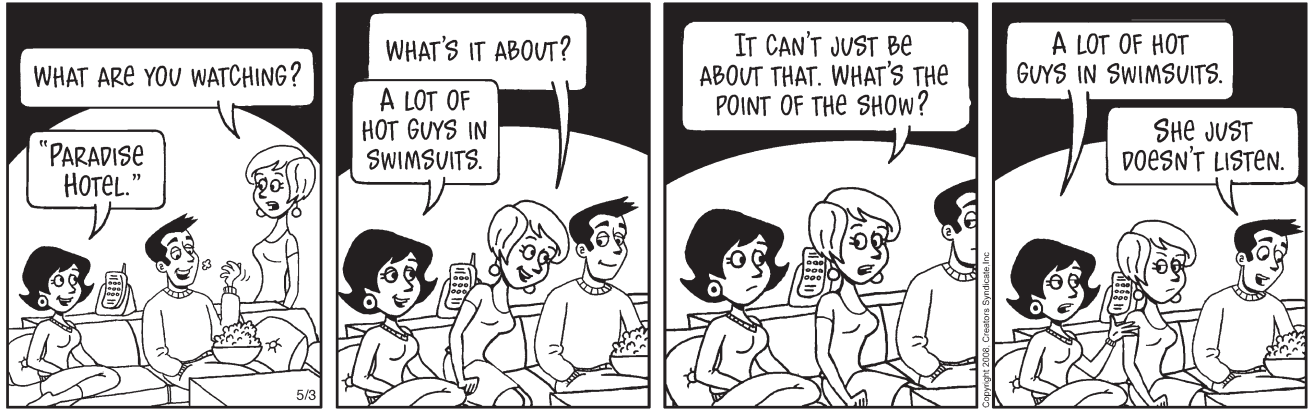
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



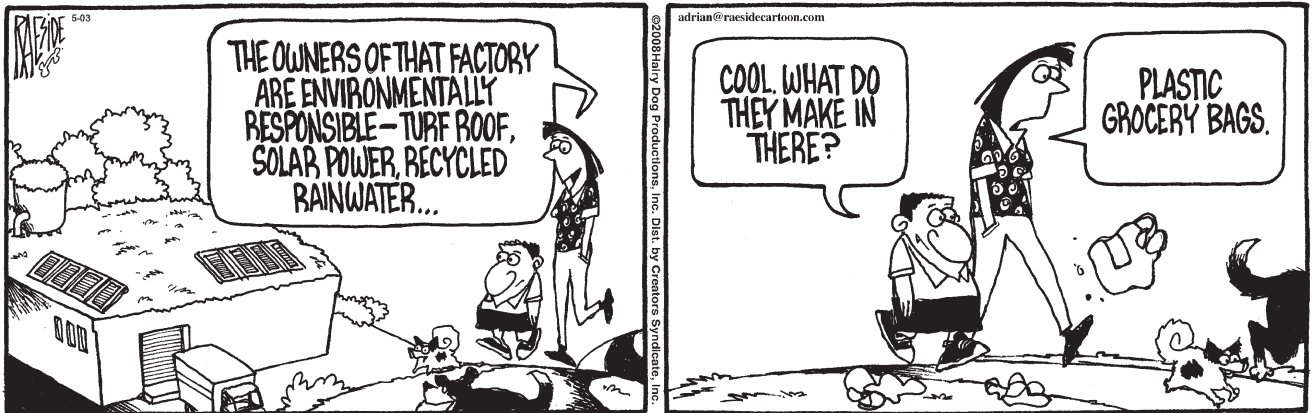
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



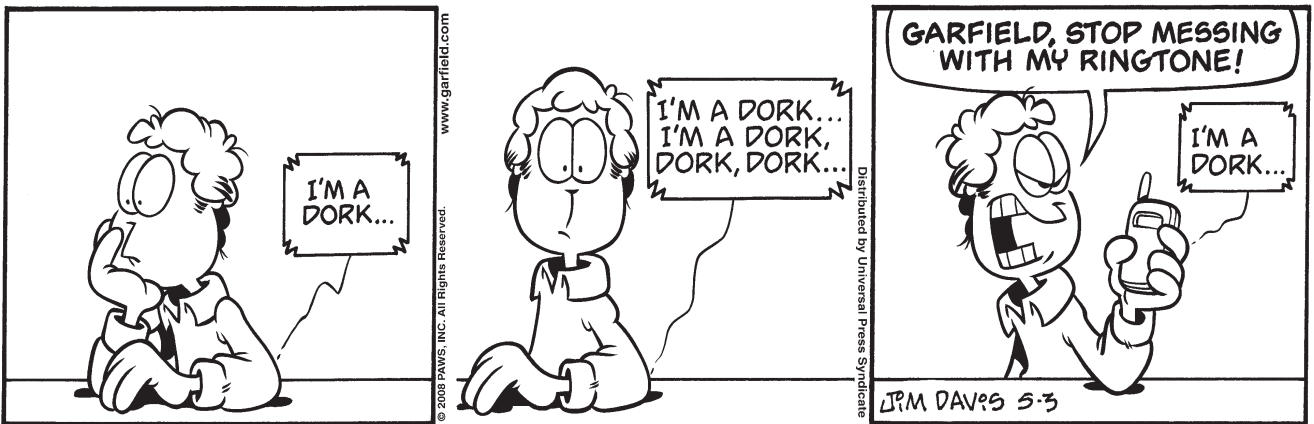
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



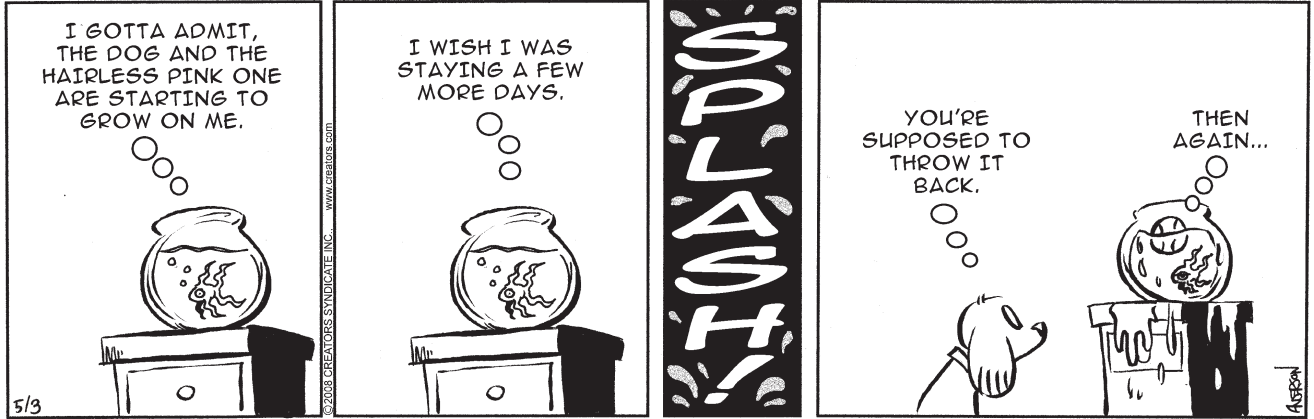
Garfield

By Jim Davis

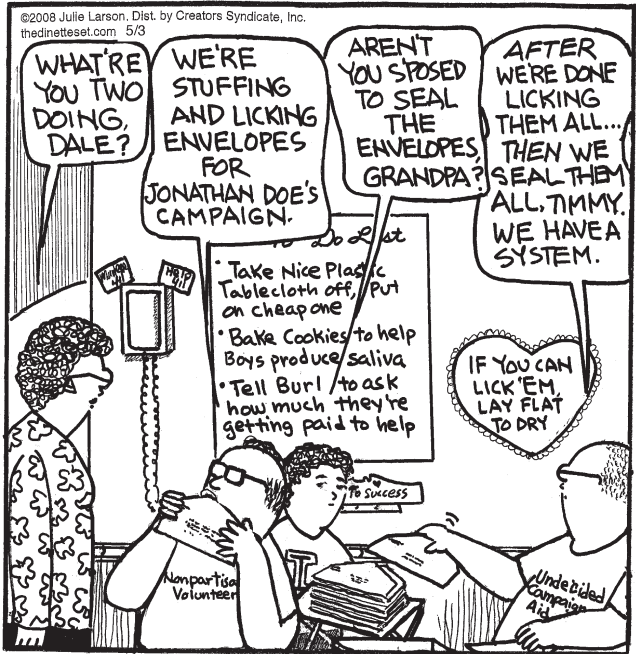


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



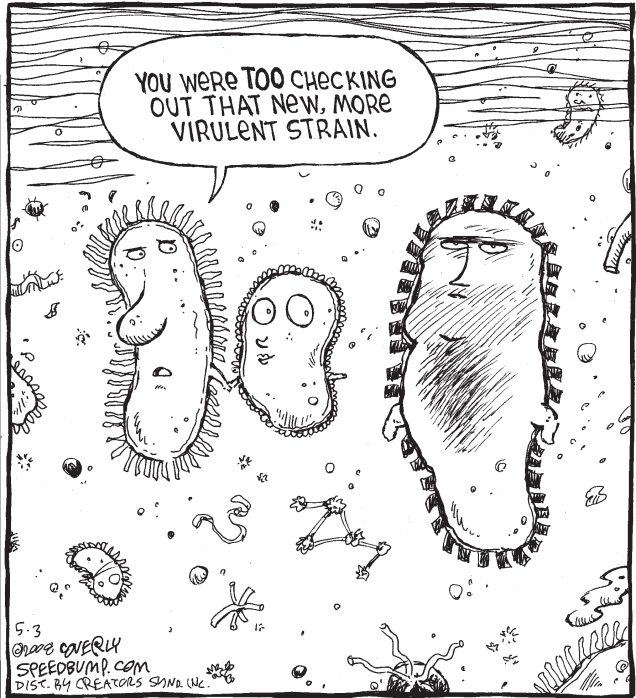
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By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ellipsis, stopper
- 41 Battle
- 42 Plain
- 43 Workout
- 5 Radiator makeup
- 9 Mystical wines
- 10 Objects of adulation
- 12 Pol's concern
- 13 Insertion mark
- 14 Plunder
- 16 Driving site
- 17 Easter quest
- 18 Gigantic
- 20 More profound
- 22 Castle part
- 23 Occur
- 25 Celeb
- 28 Word of warning
- 32 Goes elsewhere
- 34 Cereal buy
- 35 Wonder
- 36 Survive
- 38 Kidney-related
- 40 Sound mixer's control

DOWN

- 1 Impair
- 2 Marigold color
- 3 Attire
- 4 Trunk type
- 5 Yokels
- 6 Musical princess
- 7 Raid moned
- 8 Coat part
- 9 Worn out
- 11 Exorbitant
- 15 Moose's kin
- 19 Oblique
- 21 Whittle down
- 24 Sum-
- 25 Bright
- 26 Castle parts
- 27 Broad street
- 29 Put up with
- 30 Nomads
- 31 Put forth
- 33 Shoe parts
- 37 Wash
- 39 Be decisive

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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				

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Fantasy 5 3 14 23 31 39

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EVENING: 3 5 7

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2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:46.78

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Earnest residents continue to accidentally destroy their homes: (1) A house in Galveston, Texas, had the roof blown off on Jan. 21 when the resident set out six bug foggers but neglected to turn off the gas stove's pilot light; (2) A Jacksonville, Fla., woman who smelled something unusual in her home on Nov. 15 decided to light the fireplace to clear the air, and a gas leak created a fire that destroyed the home; (3) An apartment building in Sioux Falls, S.D., was wiped out on Feb. 21 when a resident tried to thaw frozen pipes with a blow torch.

■ Bernard Fincher Jr., 25, was arrested in Buffalo, N.Y., in March for possession of cocaine when police found a stash of the drug that Fincher had allegedly tried to hide in a doughnut box. (2) Cody Young, 13, complained in January that when he parked his expensive BMX bicycle inside the front door of a Goodwill Industries store in Salem, Ore., so he could browse, an employee mistakenly sold the bike to a customer for \$6.99.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1654 a bridge in Rowley, Mass., was permitted to charge a toll for animals, while people crossed for free.

1802 Washington, D.C., was incorporated as a city.

1916 Irish nationalist Padraic Pearse and two others were executed by the British for their roles in the Easter Rising.

1944 U.S. wartime rationing of most grades of meats ended.

1945 during World War II, Allied forces captured Rangoon, Burma, from the Japanese.

1947 Japan's postwar constitution took effect.

1948 Pulitzer Prizes were awarded to playwright Tennessee Williams for "A Streetcar Named Desire" and to novelist James Michener for "Tales of the South Pacific."

1978 "Sun Day" fell on a Wednesday as thousands of people extolling the virtues of solar energy held events across the country.

1986 in NASA's first post-Challenger launch, an unmanned Delta rocket lost power in its main engine shortly after liftoff, forcing safety officers to destroy it by remote control.

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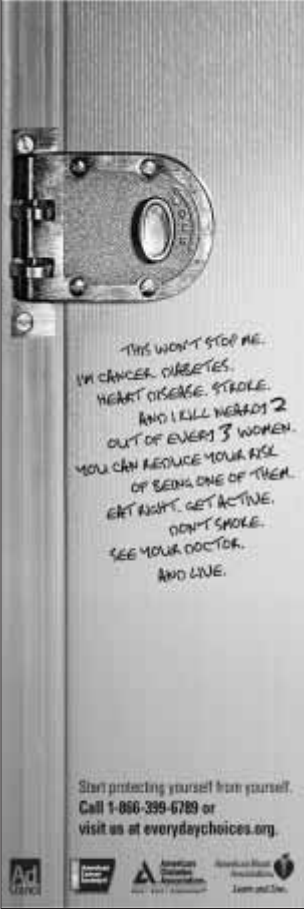
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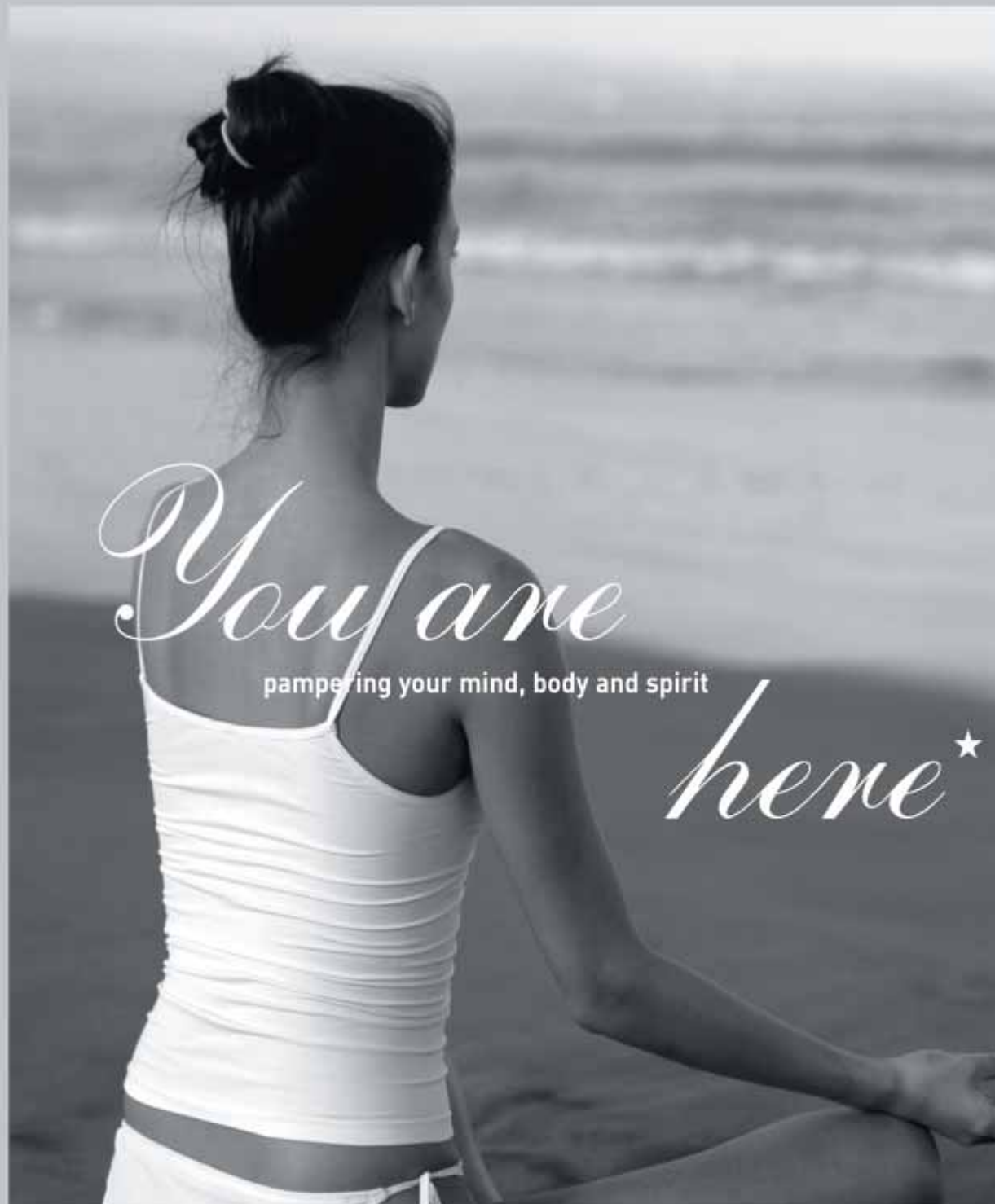
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Average Price of Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Early May 2008

Single Family Homes Condos & Townhomes

Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,275,278	\$ 1,200,000
North of Montana	=	\$ 4,271,640	\$ 1,736,952
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,266,100	\$ 896,469
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 893,724	\$ 730,194
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,461,675	\$ 845,611
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,732,643	\$ 1,327,177

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