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MAY 5-6, 2007

Volume 6 Issue 149



CRAZY FOR CUPCAKES
SEE PAGE 16

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE NICE & SMOOTH ISSUE

TALK OF THE TOWNIES

A piece of the downtown action comes with isolation

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA, PAGE 14

Photo Illustration by Frances Casareno *production@smdp.com*

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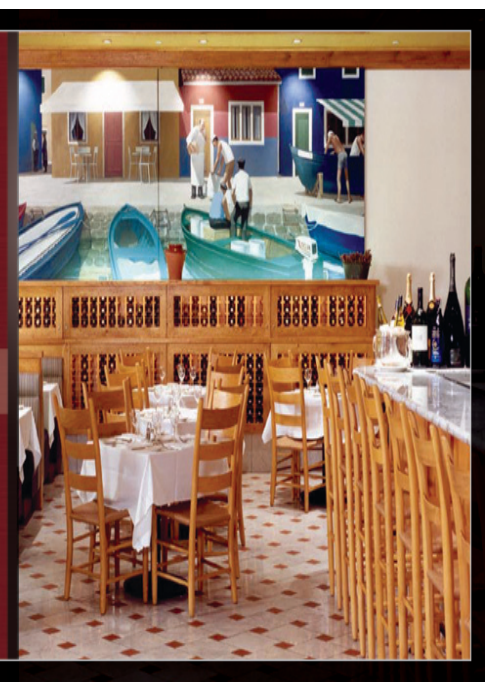
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Red Cross youth recycles electronics

1450 11th St., 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Youth volunteers from the American Red Cross of Santa Monica will be collecting old electronics — stereos, television sets, telephones, computers and more — at the Santa Monica Red Cross Chapter. The consumer electronic recyclables will be collected in association with California Recycles, a private electronic waste management company. A portion of the proceeds obtained from the electronic recycling drive will benefit Santa Monica Red Cross youth programs. There is no charge to the public for the service.

Neil Labute's 'The Distance From Here'

1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.

"The Distance from Here" is Neil Labute's rarely performed, darkly humorous expose of life in suburbia. Labute, the author of the "The Shape of Things" and films such as "In the Company of Men," dissects the lives of three youths living in a suburban wasteland as they collide in a suffocating web of anger, deception and violence. Show times are Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. through May 20. Tickets are $15 for all seats. To purchase call (818) 986-9817.

An afternoon with Audrey Niffenegger

1900 Pico Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Santa Monica Citywide Reads 2007 special event with Audrey Niffenegger, the author of this year's Citywide Reads featured novel, "The Time Traveler's Wife," comes to Santa Monica to discuss and sign her book. Free program will be held at the Santa Monica College, Pavillion (Gym). Free weekend parking available in all SMC parking structures.

CPR and first aid certification

1700 Ocean Ave., 1 p.m. — 4 p.m.

State of the Heart Fitness is sponsoring a CPR and first aid class at the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel Fitness Center and Spa. Get certified in infant, child and adult CPR and first aid.

Shots for Tots & Teens

1711 Ocean Park Blvd., 12:30 p.m. — 2 p.m.

In partnership with Saint John's Health Center, Westside Family Health Center's Shots for Tots & Teens will provide free immunizations and TB skin tests to all infants, adolescents and teenagers under the age of 18. California law requires that all children must have up-to-date shot records to attend school or child care centers. The immunizations will protect against diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, rubella, hemophilus influenza, mumps, polio, tetanus and whooping cough diseases known to infect small children, as well as teenagers. For more information, call (310) 450-2191.

Embrace Your Space: Feng Shui in Three Easy Steps

1247 Seventh St., 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Identify hidden energetic blocks, organize around sacred principles of alignment and beautify your space. Seminar fee is $99.
To RSVP, call (888) 828-5888 or info@merlifedesign.com.

Pilates Day in the park

Ocean Park Boulevard & Barnard Way, 7:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Celebrate "Pilates Day" with a fundraiser for St. Jude's Children Research Hospital. Free Pilates mat-classes will be held every hour starting at 8 a.m., with a 30-minute intensive stretch and warm-up at 7:30 a.m. No experience necessary and mats will be provided. All classes taught by Power Pilates certified instructors. Donations are suggested, and all proceeds go to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Call (310) 587-2409 for more information.

Sunday, May 6, 2007

Cinco de Mayo, Vintage Car Show & Artists At Work

2200 Virginia Ave., 1 p.m. — 6 p.m.

Virginia Avenue Park is hosting a free Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, Vintage Car Show & Artists at Work event. Sing and dance to live entertainment, enjoy delicious food and the Fiesta will include children's activities. The Pico Passport will add to the Fiesta with their production of a Vintage Car Show.

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:

A picture that ran on page 10 of the Friday, May 4 edition depicting pedestrians sidestepping lawn sprinklers ("We've got gushers") should have stated that the lawn was in front of a county building on the 1700 block of Main Street. The sprinklers do not belong to the city of Santa Monica.

Healing the bay in his own way

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Running is not only good for the body, it can also be beneficial to the marine life environment.

For the second straight year, Whole Foods Market and Nike Club Run L.A. will co-sponsor the Santa Monica Classic on Sunday, a 5K and 10K run through scenic Santa Monica to benefit Heal the Bay.

The event commences at 2600 Barnard Way and concludes at the Santa Monica Pier, where a bevy of vendors will be on hand to offer food and snacks to race participants and those in attendance.

Close to 3,000 people are expected to participate in this year's race, which is split into the 5K run that begins at 7:30 a.m. and a 10K run that follows half an hour later. Both the 5K and 10K runs start and end at the same locations, but their courses take different routes.

The purpose of the event is to raise money for Santa Monica-based Heal the Bay, a nonprofit organization dedicated to cleaning Southern California watersheds, including the Santa Monica Bay.

Brentwood resident and longtime Heal the Bay volunteer Peter Abraham conceived the idea to start a race through Santa Monica as a way to combine his three passions — marketing, running and the environment.

"I thought at the time there was nothing in Santa Monica, no sports events of any kind," Abraham said. "It's an important city on the coast and really the running capital of Los Angeles."

"All the huge groups that train for the marathons come to Santa Monica on the weekends," he added.

The goal was to create a one-of-a-kind benefit where runners could enjoy a beautiful course along the coastline and receive free merchandise that they could actually use.

While many races give away free T-shirts that might not be used after the event, the Santa Monica Classic hands out free Nike running shirts that running enthusiasts are likely to use over and over, he said.

Last year's event attracted 1,700 people and raised $7,500 for Heal the Bay. The goal for this year's event is to raise $15,000.

SEE CLASSIC PAGE 19



PROBLEMS WITH PETROL

Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

Members of Amazon Watch, a non-profit that works with indigenous and environmental organizations in the Amazon basin, staged a protest Friday outside of the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, where shareholders of Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum Corp. were gathered.

Caught sweating the law

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

NORTH OF MONTANA In a city that is woefully lacking in open space, some residents have resorted to breaking the law to stay fit.

Nearly every morning, those looking to exercise their right to a hardbody roll out yoga mats and dumbbells on the grass-covered medians along Fourth Street near Adelaide Drive, proceeding to sweat it out in violation of a city ordinance that prevents any activity in the medians other than jogging or walking.

The little-known law has become a hot topic at the popular workout spot after Santa Monica police officers issued a former "Seinfeld" actress a citation for burning calories with her personal trainer.

Kathleen McClellan Sain, who played Jerry Seinfeld's naked girlfriend during an episode of the hit sitcom, said she was about 10 minutes into her morning workout — some stretching, sit-ups and a light jog — when she was told by a police officer that what she was doing was illegal. McClellan Sain told ABC7 News that the officer was "taking full advantage of his badge and using it as an opportunity to harass and bully."

McClellan ended up in handcuffs and in the back of a police car before being issued a citation and released.

"It's really scary to think that you're waking up in the morning and you're going to work out, and the next thing you know, for no apparent reason, a bully police officer is handcuffing you and putting you in the back of his car, simply because he's having a bad day," McClellan Sain told the television station.

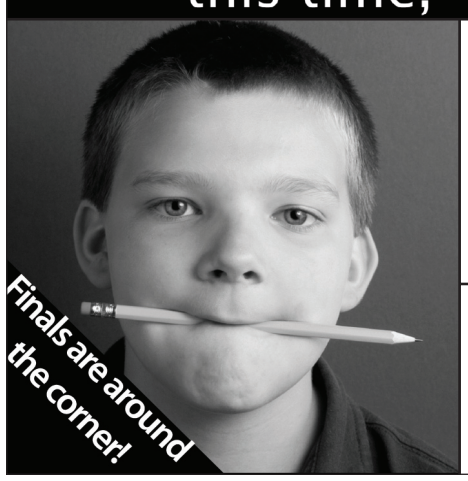
Police said McClellan Sain became antagonistic and walked away from the officer as he was explaining to her and others on the median why they were in the wrong. Police said she continued to argue with the officer, who then decided to issue her a citation. McClellan Sain did not have any identification and refused to provide the telephone number of someone who could confirm here identity, so she was detained, according to police.

Faced with the possibility of spending some time in lockup, police said McClellan finally cooperated.

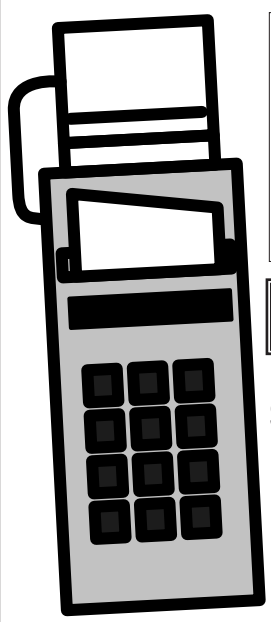
Mark Stevens, a former personal trainer, said he was working out at the median with friends when the officer approached and pointed to signs posted along the median citing the municipal code. He said McCLellan Sain became "heated," while the officer was "very polite and professional"

"The first words out her mouth where, 'Don't you have something better to do?'"

SEE LAW PAGE 19

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City can't solve all of region's ills

Editor:

Instead of celebrating last week's opening of a brand new 8.3-acre park open to all at the Santa Monica Airport, we are enmeshed in a controversy about the park's small off-leash dog area of less than an acre. This is not about Santa Monica's off-leash policy, which has been in place for over a decade; instead, the pent-up demand for more off-leash areas on the Westside is, regrettably, pitting neighbor against neighbor.

Los Angeles Councilmember (Bill) Rosendahl's recent public position that Santa Monica is resisting its LA neighbors' requests for access to a new off-leash dog area at Airport Park is disappointing and requires a response. We had been in discussions with the councilmember and his staff for over a year on how we might accommodate Mar Vista residents through a pilot program – one that would have been incremental in order to give our staff time to determine what the demand will be from our own residents, who advocated fiercely for this off-leash area during the design of the new park.

This new off-leash dog area represents less than 10 percent of the new park's acreage and can serve only 45 dogs at any given time. As with all of our parks, our residents, neighbors and visitors are welcome to enjoy Airport Park's expanses of grass, the picnic and barbecue areas, the walking loop and children's play area. As with all of our parks, dogs on leashes are welcome as well!

Santa Monica is a city of eight square miles. We have worked hard with our residents over the last decade to build three small dog parks. Currently, the City of Los Angeles has just nine dog parks for the entire city. While we are continuing to work with Mar Vista neighbors to come up with a recommendation to our City Council regarding their desire for access to our new dog park, we also encourage Mar Vista residents to work with their councilman to develop additional opportunities within their own city.

Santa Monica's new Airport Park is an indication of the degree to which Santa Monica gets embroiled in regional issues that it has limited ability to impact. Whether the issue is environmental quality, traffic, affordable housing, homeless services or parks and recreation, the city of Santa Monica is a small city with an established track record of responsiveness that outstrips its size! Our City Council provides leadership on regional boards that struggle with complicated regional issues, the city provides locations and funding for regional human service facilities, and we welcome visitors from virtually every state and country to our wonderful parks and beaches.

Santa Monica cannot alone solve the region's air pollution, its traffic jams or its homeless problem – and as much as we love dogs, asking Santa Monica to solve the immense demand for open space for Los Angeles dogs is asking too much.

Lamont Ewell
City Manager, Santa Monica

Our president is man on a mission

Editor:

What with the anniversary of "Mission Accomplished" passing and major combat operations over, there simply just can't be a war still going on in Iraq ... unless the Bush Administration forgot that 1984 was 23 years ago.

Mike Kirwan
Venice



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is 60 the new 40 or is 40 the new 60?

THE OTHER DAY, I READ ANOTHER ONE of those articles called "Is 60 the new 40?" We hear about this supposed phenomenon all the time — 60 is the new 40, 70 is the new 50, 110 is the new 108, etc. It means that people are living longer today, they're healthier and they're enjoying life more.

All that is great. However, at the same time that people are feeling much younger than people their age felt in previous generations, an all-powerful culture of youth is dominating our society. People in their 20s are getting cosmetic surgery to look younger. Men and women in their forties are considered too old to work in some fields. More and more people are forced to take early retirement at an earlier and earlier age. So while older people are feeling younger these days, our society may be seeing them as older, not younger. Maybe in terms of perceptions, 40 is the new 60.

First, the good news: Today, the average age for someone moving into a nursing home is 81. In the 1950s, it was 65. In a 2005 Merrill Lynch survey of people between the ages of 40 and 58, 76 percent said they planned to retire when they were about 64 — and then start an entirely new career. Men and women in their 70s and 80s race in almost every marathon. Seniors teach and take classes, travel and just seem to live fuller lives than ever before.

But that's not how society sees them. Judging by TV commercials, right when we get out of baby diapers, we have to prepare ourselves to get into adult diapers. And look how young the people are in the ads for Viagra-like products, hair dyes and arthritis medications. It's like Madison Avenue is saying that it's over for you once you're past the grand old age of 25.

There is one area in our society in which being older is not held against you. And it's the one area that maybe it should be — presidential politics. Being young can actually hurt a candidate. We hear things like, "Is he too inexperienced?" or "Is he mature enough?" The majority of today's candidates are too old to be considered for most jobs in the "real world." But apparently, Americans like their leaders to look like parents, or grandparents. It's ironic that just when people might be getting a bit more forgetful, when they may have a few more health problems, when they have less and less of a connection to America's youth, that's when they are considered the right age to lead our country. Americans don't seem to want any hand without liver spots to be on that dangerous, red button.

But for the rest of the population, ageism is a problem. People employed in television and other fields no longer worry about being blacklisted. But they fear being "graylisted." If you're lucky enough to still work at your job after 20 or 30 years, those young people who roll their eyes when you start talking about how things were done "back in the old days" are the same people who want your job — and will probably get it.

JUDGING BY TV COMMERCIALS, RIGHT WHEN WE GET OUT OF BABY DIAPERS, WE HAVE TO PREPARE OURSELVES TO GET INTO ADULT DIAPERS. AND LOOK HOW YOUNG THE PEOPLE ARE IN THE ADS FOR VIAGRA-LIKE PRODUCTS, HAIR DYES AND ARTHRITIS MEDICATIONS.

So, does our culture truly appreciate and admire those who have all that comes with tell-tale gray hairs? You may read dozens of magazine articles celebrating the vitality of the aged, but you won't see one ad like this in any of those publications: "Lacking experience and wisdom? Want to look a little older so more people will respect you? Try our new aging cream for instant wrinkles and gray hair."

But I'm not worried about my future. If I get to the point that nobody in my chosen field wants to hire me, if it takes me even longer to remember people's names, if all my hair turns white, and if I have no idea what young people are thinking about, I'll still have one option open to me — I can always run for president.

LLOYD GARVER writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

STRAY talk

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

"One director told me, 'I'm not looking for the sexiest woman; I'm looking for the girl next door.'"

—— Actress Jessica Biel on how being voted 'Esquire's Sexiest Woman Alive' has hurt her career.

"Santa Monica is a fascist state."

— Jeannette Scheibe, a West L.A. resident who is upset at being banned from the new Airport dog park because she is not a Santa Monica resident and her dog is not licensed in Santa Monica.

"He could hardly walk. He was absolutely certain he was going to get shot."

— Retired FBI agent Reesie L. Timmons testifying in court that FBI informant Earnest Gilbert was unable to come forward with information on the murder of two black teens in 1964 Mississippi because he feared for his life from fellow Klansmen.

"The system is wearing her out."

— Roger Jon Diamond, defense attorney for Santa Monica resident and accused murderer Helen Golay, in a request to have his client excused from attending all court hearings of procedural matters

"Apparently, this is a very threatening cat."

— Kathi Neal, a Canada Post spokeswoman on why Canada's postal system has stopped delivering mail to a home in Winnipeg

"IF I WANTED PEOPLE TO KNOW WHAT I DO WITH MY VAGINA I WOULD HAVE RELEASED A SEX VIDEO A LONG TIME AGO.'

— Actress Michelle Rodriguez responding to rumors about her sexual orientation after a lesbian magazine, "Curve," placed her on its cover

"We skated literally not knowing if anyone on the planet skateboarded."

— Stacy Peralta, one of the original members of Dogtown, on what the skateboarding scene was like in its infancy.

Quotations captured and compiled with care by **CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.**

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The Q Line

EATING THEIR HEARTS OUT FOR LESS

This past week, Q-line asked:
Is there anyplace in town other than chain restaurants that offer a hearty meal for a crisp Hamilton or less?

Here are your responses:

"ASSUMING ONE IS NOT A BUM, because bums get free food anyway, there is a couple of places to get a deal. For normal people, Norms is a pretty good place. They usually have pretty good deals. If that doesn't fit someone's taste there's always Mom's place. Go home to Mom and she'll feed you, but of course, you'd have to listen to a lecture."

"DEFINITELY AT VONS, ONE COULD GET a large breast of chicken, some pasta, some potatoes, some carrots and you could cook up an amazing meal for under $10. There's even a little change left over for a little bit of dessert. I wouldn't suggest fast food restaurants. They do not have healthy food and they couldn't offer it without raising prices."

"WE ORDER FOOD IN SIX TIMES A week. Restaurants that fit what you're looking for includes Classic Pizza, which offers just amazing quality of sandwiches and salads. Bangkok West has great specials. Also, the Stop'n Cafe on the promenade is just great. There are others, but not quite as inexpensive."

"I OFFER THE FOLLOWING AS A comparison to the responses of other readers of the magnificent Santa Monica Daily Press Q-Line question of the week. Fifty years ago as a young salesman, I paid a sales call to a customer in Downtown Los Angeles next to Clifton's Cafeteria. After my sales visit, I stopped into Clifton's for a piece of pie and a cup of coffee. The pie was 15 cents and the coffee a nickel. The refills for the coffee were free. The next day, I paid a sales visit in the Inglewood area. Across the street from my customer's office was a McDonald's hamburger stand that was selling hamburgers five for a dollar. They had already sold millions of hamburgers at that price. I could have purchased a Wienerschnitzel sauerkraut hot dog for 15 cents at that time. A few days later, I paid a sales visit to a confectioner on the old Santa Monica Ocean Park Pier home of the Aragon Ballroom. After the visit, I walked over to a pizza stand that was selling the most delicious melt-in-your-mouth pizza with the thin crust and only cheese and soft toppings for 15 cents a slice. A bit pricey at the time, but well worth it. Across from the pizza stand was a mile-high hammer shaved beef sandwich served on a kaiser roll for 35 cents. Well out of my budget, but I knew that I would have to have one of those sandwiches soon. Sure enough, on payday I headed straight to that sandwich stand for the mile- high sandwich for 35 cents. A kosher pickle was free. As I sat there enjoying my sandwich, I looked up to see the famous orchestra leader Lawrence Welk walking up toward me. He had walked down from the Shangri-La Apartments he owned on Ocean Avenue. Even though, it was summer, Mr. Welk was wearing a top coat over his tuxedo on his way to lead his orchestra at the Aragon Ballroom, which he also owned. As he approached, I said, "Good evening Mr. Welk." With a broad smile he returned my greeting. Only in America could I be standing eating high on the hog and meet a musical superstar and all for 35 cents. Trust me, folks, those were the days."

"ONE OF MY TWO FAVORITES IS Wolfgang Puck's Express. This restaurant is such great quality. You can get half a chicken with sides. It's just gorgeous. Another place, is the hot food buffet at Whole Foods Market — very fresh and lots of variety. You can get really full for $10 at both those places."

"I'VE LIVED IN SANTA MONICA SINCE 1948. One of my favorite places to eat for under $10 is the Sunset Grill on Ocean Park Boulevard at 17th Street out in the Sunset Park area. Grilled salmon and a salad or fries for just $5.95."

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Schwarzenegger signs crowding bill

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday signed a sweeping prison-reform plan that adds more than 50,000 new beds to an overcrowded system, even as key lawmakers and prison experts warned that it fails to solve the most pressing long-term problems.

Lawmakers reached the $7.8 billion deal last week in the hopes of satisfying federal judges who have threatened to release inmates early if California failed to address its severe overcrowding.

Schwarzenegger said the bipartisan plan should go a long way to addressing the judges' concerns. He said the addition of 53,000 prison and county jail beds represents the biggest building commitment to California's corrections system in a generation.

The governor also said the plan contains provisions that will help prisoners break a cycle that sees 70 percent of ex-convicts return to prison after committing further crimes or parole violations. California's recidivism rate, one of the highest in the nation, is one reason the prison system is chronically overcrowded.

The plan signals "a monumental shift in how we manage prisons in California," Schwarzenegger said during Thursday's bill-signing ceremony.

"In the critical few months before an inmate is released, our re-entry facilities will focus on job training and placement, on education, on anger management, substance abuse and family counseling and housing placement," he said.

Critics said the plan, as ambitious as it seems, doesn't go nearly far enough.

The $50 million it adds for rehabilitation programs is merely "a drop in the bucket," said Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, one of the Legislature's experts on corrections issues.

"The bill that was passed was a prop that the governor asked for so he can walk into court and look like he's tough on crime," Romero said Thursday in a telephone interview. "The bill that the Legislature sent him was a fig leaf so he doesn't walk into court naked."

Romero and other advocates of prison reform say the bill also should have addressed sentencing reform and required a review of California's convoluted criminal code.

Schwarzenegger said he remains open to creating a sentencing commission, parole changes and shifting 4,500 female inmates to community programs. Prison reform advocates have sought changes in each of those areas for years.

The state's inmate population has ballooned to more than 172,000, crowded into 33 prisons designed to hold about 100,000 inmates. Many of them sleep in converted gyms or hallways.

Lawyers who are suing the state and lawmakers pushing to change the sentencing laws said the plan Schwarzenegger signed into law Thursday makes no fundamental changes to California's corrections system. Instead, it authorizes one of the largest prison and jail construction booms in state history.

Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders were driven to a compromise last week by threats from three federal judges to address prison overcrowding if California doesn't act on its own. Lawmakers said they wanted to avoid the potential for the early release of thousands of inmates or the prospect that convicts would be held at county jails instead of being sent to prison.

To relieve crowding in the short term, the administration will ship 8,000 inmates to private prisons in other states, although that plan faces its own legal challenge. Corrections Secretary James Tilton said screening of inmates will begin immediately under the new law.

> **"OUR RE-ENTRY FACILITIES WILL FOCUS ON JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT, ON EDUCATION, ON ANGER MANAGEMENT, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND FAMILY COUNSELING AND HOUSING PLACEMENT."**
>
> Arnold Schwarzenegger
> Governor

Under the legislative compromise, the state will create a new class of smaller prisons in which inmates nearing release will learn skills and get drug and mental health treatment. Parole violators also will go to those regional prisons instead of being sent back to the state's traditional prisons.

The state will build 16,000 beds at the re-entry centers and another 16,000 in new cellblocks at existing prisons. In turn, those beds will free up space for rehabilitation programs that have been crowded out by the overflow of inmates, Tilton said.

Schwarzenegger promised to use his emergency powers to start construction within 18 months.

Additional money will add beds at county jails and at state prisons for the specific use of inmates in need of health care. Placer County Sheriff Ed Bonner, vice president of the California State Sheriffs Association, said jail expansion will help stem the early release of more than 200,000 detainees each year.

The bill Schwarzenegger signed Thursday is a key step toward California addressing myriad problems in its highly troubled prison system, the nation's largest. Lawsuits have left many of it operations — including medical care, inmate mental health treatment and employee discipline — under the authority of federal courts.

Hearings before the three judges are scheduled for June. It was those approaching deadlines that prompted the governor and Legislature to act.

Their compromise comes in advance of a report due June 30, in which 17 national corrections experts are expected to recommend a massive restructuring of California's criminal justice system.

Several panel members relayed a few details of the report's contents to The Associated Press. Among them: California should find alternatives to incarceration for many parole violators and less-serious or nonviolent criminals; it needs more halfway houses and community programs.

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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,365,429	$ 945,542
South of Wilshire	=	$ 944,889	$ 642,889
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,351,100	$ 604,377
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,556,500	$ 1,019,793

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Republicans debate abortion, Iraq

Presidential hopefuls go head-to-head for first of many debates

BY LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press Writer

SIMI VALLEY Alone among 10 Republican presidential contenders, Rudy Giuliani said in campaign debate Thursday night "it would be OK" if the Supreme Court upholds a 1973 landmark abortion rights ruling.

"It would be OK to repeal it. It would be OK also if a strict constructionist viewed it as precedent," said the former New York city mayor, who has a record of supporting abortion rights.

In a party that draws strength from anti-abortion voters, Giuliani's nine GOP rivals agreed that it would be a great day if the court overturns the landmark ruling.

"Glorious day of human liberty and freedom," enthused Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney acknowledged he had changed his mind on the subject when he began to delve into the issue of cloning. He said his position had once effectively been "pro-choice."

But Giuliani, who said he personally hates abortion, hedged when asked about his current position.

"I think the Court has to make that decision and then the country can deal with it," he said. "... The states could then make their own decisions."

Alone among the top three contenders, Arizona Sen. John McCain has a career-long record of opposition to abortion.

The 10 rivals showed their conservative credentials across 90 minutes of debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, each claiming to be a worthy heir to the political legacy of the late 40th president.

They stressed the importance of persisting in Iraq, called for lower taxes and a muscular defense and supported spending restraint.

> **"THE FIRST PORK BARREL, EARMARK BILL THAT CROSSES MY DESK I'M GOING TO VETO IT AND I'M GOING TO MAKE THE AUTHOR FAMOUS."**
>
> **John McCain,** Arizona senator

"The first pork barrel, earmark bill that crosses my desk I'm going to veto it and I'm going to make the author famous," said McCain.

Romney jumped in at that, saying that as governor he had cast a veto "hundreds of times." Former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson put his total at some 1,900 vetoes.

The field split on another issue, with Brownback, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Colorado Rep. Tom Tancredo raising their hands when moderator Chris Matthews asked who did not believe in evolution.

Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean boldly said the debate "confirms that a Democrat will be elected in 2008. The Republican presidential contenders are only offering more of the same failed leadership and misplaced priorities that President Bush brought to the White House."

Giuliani, McCain and Romney were the first among 10 equals on the debate stage — the men with the most money and the best approval ratings in the polls more than eight months before the first 2008 national convention delegates are selected.

Other participants included former Gov. Jim Gilmore of Virginia; and Reps. Duncan Hunter of California and Ron Paul of Texas.

They debated in the shadow of Reagan's Air Force One, the aircraft hanging suspended in the library's pavilion. The 40th president's widow, Nancy Reagan, sat in the front row next to California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

One by one, the candidates invoked Ronald Reagan — he was mentioned 19 times.

The issue of abortion looms large in the 2008 presidential campaign in a party where a wide swath of political activists support the overturning of the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling.

Both Romney and Giuliani must persuade conservative voters they are ready to embrace that view — or else persuade them to overlook the issue in picking a candidate for the White House.

In a debate that ranged broadly, most of the contenders said they opposed legislation making federal funds available for a wider range of embryonic stem cell research.

The technique necessarily involves the destruction of a human embryo, and is opposed by many anti-abortion conservatives as a result.

There are exceptions, though, including Reagan's widow, Nancy. Also, public opinion polls show overwhelming support for the research, which doctors say holds promise for treatment or even cures of numerous diseases.

Most of the contenders said they opposed expanded federal research.

McCain was the exception, saying unambiguously he supports expanded federal research into embryonic stem cells.

Thompson said there was "so much research" in the area that he couldn't give a yes or no answer.

Giuliani's response was open to interpretation. He said he supports it "as long as we're not creating life in order to destroy it," then added he would back funding for research along the lines of legislation pending in Congress.

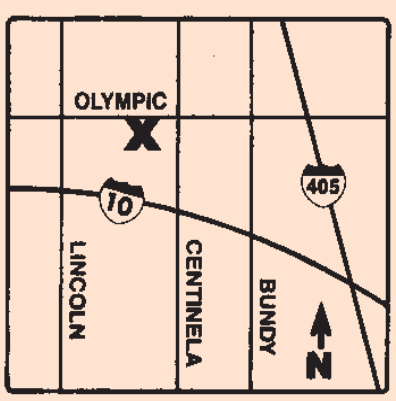
The bill he cited does not expand research on embryonic stem cells, however, but deals with adult stem cells.

There was no dissent about the importance of the U.S. military mission in Iraq.

"We should never retreat in the face of terrorism," said Giuliani, adding, "terrible mistake."

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The Santa Monica City Council is now accepting applications for appointment of members to the following City Boards and Commissions:

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Airport Commission	2
Architectural Review Board	1
Arts Commission	3
Bayside District Corporation	3
Commission for the Senior Community	3
Commission on the Status Women	2
Disabilities Commission	2
Housing Commission (Must be a participant in a Housing Authority Section 8 program and one participant must also be 62 years of age or older.)	2
Library Board	1
Personnel Board	1
Planning Commission	3
Recreation & Parks Commission	1
Social Services Commission	3

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income that may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at http://www.smgov.net/cityclerk/boards/appt_boards.htm. All current applications on file will be considered.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, June 19, 2007.
Appointment to be made by City Council, June 26, 2007.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

Chief Bratton first came to LAPD as possible reformer

BY ANDREW GLAZER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES William Bratton, the nation's most famous man in blue, was tapped to lead a Los Angeles Police Department shamed by scandal and to win public trust while stamping out crime in the gang-ridden neighborhoods most distrustful of police.

Five years later, he is up for another contract and on an offensive to show his progress to a public shocked by images of police violently clashing with protesters Tuesday at an immigration rally.

Bratton's bid for a new contract has earned endorsements from key groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and most City Council members. And as a sign the police chief has made important reforms — and earned valuable political capital — they are standing behind him and his promise to investigate whether police used excessive force this week.

Police clearing out MacArthur Park were videotaped using batons and firing foam rubber rounds at protesters and the same media Bratton has worked hard to seduce with his blunt Boston brogue, vowed openness and digestible soundbites.

"The treatment you received yesterday from some Los Angeles police officers ... we can't tolerate and won't tolerate," he told reporters Wednesday. He promised a thorough investigation.

Bratton, who opines on a blog and holds a press conference after each arrest of a gang member on the city's top 10 most wanted list, hasn't always been helped by his ease in the spotlight. When he took credit for a precipitous decline in murders as commissioner of the New York Police Department in the 1990s, then-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani felt overshadowed and sent him packing.

> **"THE TREATMENT YOU RECEIVED YESTERDAY FROM SOME LOS ANGELES POLICE OFFICERS ... WE CAN'T TOLERATE AND WON'T TOLERATE."**
>
> William Bratton, LAPD chief

But like many who come to Hollywood, Bratton has reinvented himself as a humbler team player. Joining the LAPD after a scandal in which dozens of criminal convictions were tossed because members of an anti-gang unit were accused of beating and framing people, he has been quick to respond to civilian complaints.

In New York, he shrugged off critics of aggressive police following his "broken window" approach of rigidly enforcing quality-of-life violations with a terse: "That's too damn bad."

In Los Angeles, he moved to ban police from using large metal flashlights in 2004 after TV news cameras showed a Hispanic officer using one to hit a black auto-theft suspect 11 times as the man appeared to surrender after a car chase. The images flared up police distrust that had been simmering since the 1991 Rodney King beating and subsequent riot.

In 2005, Bratton implemented a $35 million computer system that tracks civilian complaints against officers and alerts brass about problem officers. That year, after police shot to death a 13-year-old driver who rammed a squad car, he banned police from shooting at vehicles in almost all cases.

Ramona Ripston, director of Southern California branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, said that even the most reform-minded leader will find it difficult to penetrate what she described as decades-long culture of brutality in the LAPD.

"I think every boss has to be held accountable and I think that's why the image we have had of him as a reformer has been tarnished by this," she said. "But I believe you can only change people so much."

FBI opening inquiry into L.A. police conduct at May Day immigration rally

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The FBI will open a civil rights inquiry into the Los Angeles Police Department's actions at an immigration rights rally where officers cleared a city park by wielding batons and firing rubber bullets, officials said Thursday.

The preliminary inquiry will seek to determine "whether the civil rights of protesters taking part in the May 1st immigration rally were violated," the bureau said in a statement.

Police Chief William J. Bratton said earlier Thursday that he planned to meet early next week with the head of the FBI's Los Angeles office, Assistant Director in Charge J. Stephen Tidwell, to see if Tuesday's clashes at MacArthur Park were "something the bureau would become involved with."

"We'll share information and make a decision at that time," Bratton said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I have no issues with the FBI coming in ... and taking a look at it."

The chief said before the announcement he hoped a federal review would show the department has nothing to hide while dispelling any claims that police had targeted immigrants or immigrant rights' activists.

"That allegation is so laughable on its face," he said. Through the years, the chief has backed certain protections for immigrant witnesses in criminal probes and drivers licenses for illegal immigrants.

"It's laughable that because we had one instance in countless marches ... that this is some type of ongoing conspiracy," he said.

The FBI probe will be the fourth official inquiry of the violence. The U.S. Department of Justice will review the bureau's results and decide whether to initiate a full-fledge investigation.

Meanwhile, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a presidential hopeful, called for an independent federal investigation.

"I'm troubled by the disturbing images of officers going after people who posed absolutely no threat to them," Richardson said in a statement.

Bratton has said the use of force occurred while officers were trying to deal with a group of 50 to 100 "agitators" who were trying to provoke police

Police investigators already plan to review extensive video of the rally where police broke up a crowd using batons and firing 240 rubber bullets.

News and amateur videos showed police hitting TV journalists, throwing a news camera, shoving and firing on people who were attempting to leave as the officers, clad in riot gear, swept methodically across the park.

Bratton has expressed "grave concern" about the incident and outlined investigations ranging from individual officers' actions up to command decision-making.

Rally organizers have derided the officers' conduct as brutal and news organizations condemned the department for its use of force against members of the media. Police union leaders have urged against a "rush to judgment."

The clashes started around 6 p.m. Tuesday, when police tried to disperse demonstrators who moved into a street, according to rally organizers and reporters. Authorities said several people threw rocks and bottles at officers, who used batons to push the crowd back to the sidewalk and then cleared the park.

A police order to disperse was announced in English from a police helicopter, a likely ineffective tactic.

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Inventor of 'Pong' puts games on the menu

BY DAWN C. CHMIELEWSKI
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES With Chuck E. Cheese's, Nolan Bushnell created a place where a kid can be a kid. At his new restaurant in the suburban San Fernando Valley, an adult can be a kid.

UWink Media Bistro is a mash-up of Bushnell's greatest hits.

As founder of Atari Inc., he created the electronic table-tennis game "Pong" and the Atari 2600 game console, which together jump-started the video game industry in the 1970s.

His next commercial venture, Chuck E. Cheese's Pizza Time Theater, proved that the unlikely combination of animatronic mice and pepperoni could indeed mix.

His new restaurant, uWink, distills the two ideas, seeking to re-create the infectious fun of early arcade games while serving food for a more mature palate such as slow-roasted pork and crispy calamari.

At uWink, food and frolic are delivered through interactive touch-screen displays, which stand back-to-back like pup tents in the center of every table.

Guests can use those screens to place orders, challenge one another to a quick trivia game or giggle about a palm reading. It's designed to appeal to women, who flock to such computer games as solitaire and "Bejeweled" but have been largely ignored by console game developers.

The spare, sleek lines of the interior, the angular seats and the light walls that serve as video projection screens lend it a futuristic feel that complements the electronica.

> **"IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE VIDEO GAME BUSINESS, EVERYBODY PLAYED."**
>
> **Nolan Bushnell,** founder of Atari Inc.

Whether it's a recipe for success remains to be seen. The company is so strapped for cash, Bushnell had to personally sign the lease for its first location.

Playing games is his life's work. Now 64 and living in upscale Brentwood, this gray-bearded giant of a man hasn't let the kid in him die. Respected technologists consider him a one-man incubator, whose agile mind dreams up personal robots, talking teddy bears and other fanciful concepts sometimes long before they're commercially viable.

"In the early days of the video game business, everybody played," Bushnell said.

"The question is, what happened? My theory and I think it's pretty well borne out is that in the '80s, games got gory, and that lost the women. And then they got complex, and that lost the casual gamer."

That nostalgia for simplicity has worked for Nintendo Co., the Japanese entertainment company that courts people who don't want to devote hours to mastering the complex button-mashing combinations required to play most console games.

Its Wii console, which features a motion-sensing controller that, for example, users can swing to launch a virtual tennis serve outsold Sony's hotly anticipated PlayStation 3 more than 2 to 1 last holiday season.

UWink has taken both design and marketing cues from Nintendo. All of uWink's short-form games can be played with the most elemental of controllers the index finger.

Highway plan defying gravity with steel, concrete and science

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

OAKLAND Engineers are analyzing bent steel and broken concrete from this week's fiery highway collapse in hopes of learning someday how to build a better highway, capable of withstanding flames that can twist girders like taffy.

Realistically, innovations gleaned from the debris might not be reflected in the anatomy of the replacement overpass, which is being rebuilt as soon as possible.

But ultimately, scientists hope to apply what they learn.

"This is the most valuable thing that can come out of this tragic collapse," said Abolhassan Astaneh-Asl, a professor of civil engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. "It's so valuable to future bridges."

The freeway collapsed last weekend after a gasoline tanker crashed and caught fire, creating temperatures so intense it softened steel supports.

With a $25,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study the collapse, Astaneh-Asl is leading a team of scientists acting as crime-scene investigators at the site of the collapse.

He sees an opportunity to rethink the web of steel, concrete and science that knits our cities together. Others say it's pointless to redesign for what they view as a highly unusual occurrence.

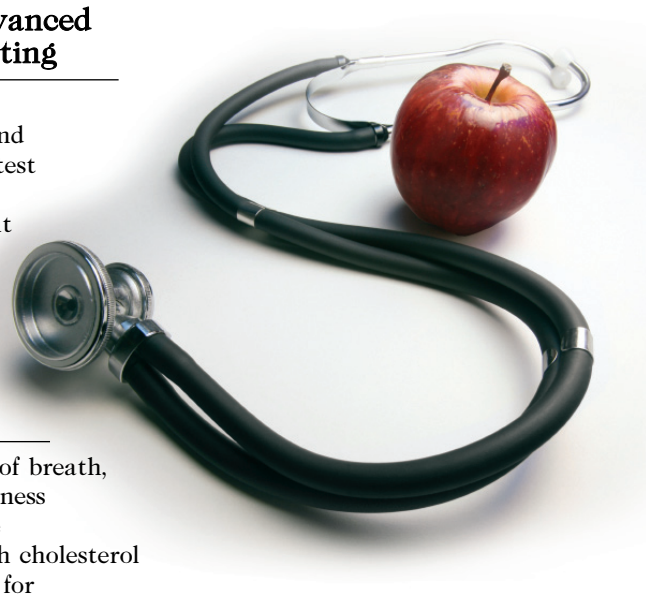
"This was an extra-ordinary, rare event," said Mark DeSio, deputy director of external affairs for the California Department of Transportation. "Such an occurrence is enormously more unlikely than the earthquakes and floods that California's bridges are currently being designed to resist."

Astaneh-Asl thinks the fire might not have done so much damage if the distance between the two decks had been greater. Therefore, a smart course would be to identify critical double-deck arteries, such as the Bay Bridge between Oakland and San Francisco.

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Historic steam

Train sets off on trip from Wyoming to Washington state

BY CARRIE MAY
Associated Press Writer

LARAMIE, Wyo. The women wore flats and jeans, and the men brought backpacks and coolers.

But if you squinted just a little, you could almost make out the 100-year-old ghosts of Laramie's railroading past: The woman in stiff petticoats carrying her hatbox, a man in a military uniform waving goodbye to his family and a small boy in slacks and a newsboy cap running the strip of sidewalk alongside the depot.

As travelers filled the historic Laramie Railroad Depot platforms early Thursday morning, a sharp whistle sounded the train's arrival. Passengers boarded and leaned from open windows, waving to the people lining First Street.

"It is just a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ride on a steam train again," said Susan Simpson, Albany County Public Library director. "I can remember being a little girl and going down near the (train tracks) with my father. There was a steam train coming, ... 'This is the last of the steam engines,' my dad said."

More than 100 Laramie community members, including 50 Laramie High School students, were able to make historic trek from Laramie to Rawlins by rail Thursday on the No. 844 Union Pacific steam locomotive, sponsored by the Albany County Commission.

Known as the Union Pacific's "living legend," the No. 844 was the last steam locomotive built for the Union Pacific Railroad. It was delivered in 1944. A high-speed passenger engine, it pulled the Overland Limited, Los Angeles Limited, Portland Rose and the Challenger trains.

Beginning in Cheyenne, steam engine No. 844 will travel to Tacoma, Wash., over the next month, picking up local enthusiasts along the way, dropping them off a few hours later at the next stop.

The Union Pacific asked the Wyoming County Commissioners Association to invite community members to ride the train through Wyoming's Laramie, Albany, Carbon, Sweetwater, Uinta and Lincoln counties. The Albany County Commissioners, Albany County Clerk Jackie Gonzales said, extended their invitation to local community members. Once in Rawlins, the passengers were bussed back to Laramie.

> **"IT IS JUST A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO RIDE ON A STEAM TRAIN AGAIN."**
>
> Susan Simpson
> Albany County Public Library director

The day was as steeped with memories and as the train itself was with history.

"I lived in a boxcar the whole first 17 years of my life," Laramie resident and Railroad Depot board member Dale St. John said. "Well, it was revamped, redone, but there was never any indoor plumbing."

St. John explained that, years ago, his father had worked on the Moffett Railroad line in Colorado. His father, he said, even worked in the longest rail tunnel in the country at 6.2 miles long.

"The trains were our life," St. John said.

Preserving our railroading history, he added, is what motivated him to become active at the Laramie Railroad Depot.

"We came within months of tearing this place down," St. John said.

Attorneys want cameras banned

BY JENNIFER DOBNER
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY Attorneys for a polygamist sect leader charged with rape by accomplice for his role in arranging a marriage between an underage girl and her cousin want news cameras banned from court proceedings.

Lawyers for Warren Jeffs made the request in response to an April 5 story in the Deseret Morning News of Salt Lake City, which digitally enhanced a photograph to glean some contents of a note written by Jeffs at his lawyers' desk during a hearing.

"I think it's an outrageous intrusion of the defense camp," Jeffs' attorney Wally Bugden said Friday. "How anyone could believe that there would not be an expectation of privacy in the private papers of the attorneys and of their clients is absurd."

Jeffs, 51, the leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, is charged with two first-degree felony counts of rape as an accomplice for his role in a 2001 arranged marriage between a 14-year-old church girl and her 19-year-old cousin. Prosecutors contend the girl was coerced into the marriage by Jeffs.

The photograph of the note was taken by a Deseret Morning News photographer who was serving as the media pool photographer during the March 23 hearing. The newspaper digitally enhanced and mirrored the photograph to discern its contents.

Court papers filed Wednesday in 5th District Court contend the information in the note was privileged and that the newspaper was told by Jeffs' attorneys that it could not be used.

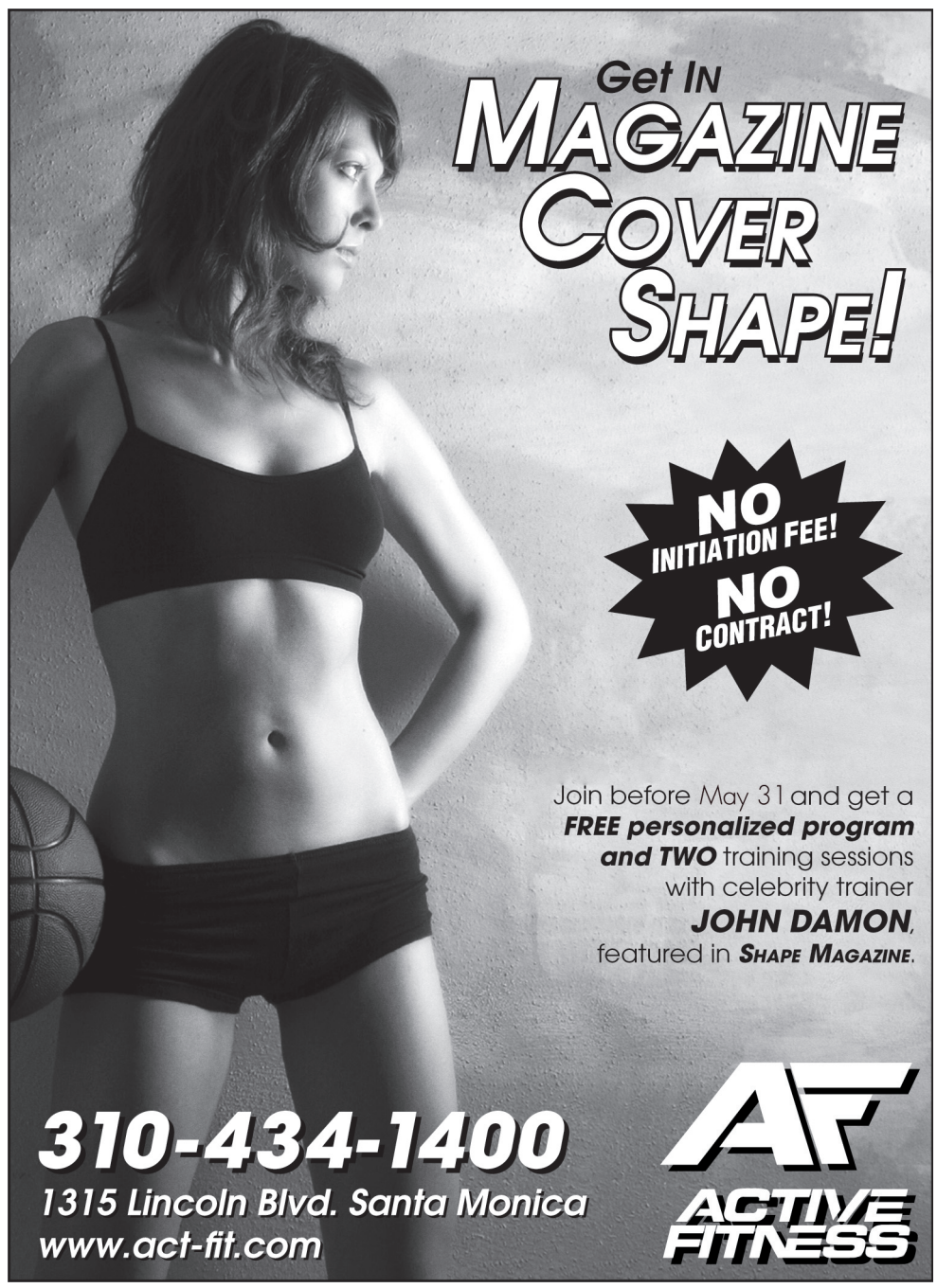
"By publishing the private communication of the defendant the Deseret News has contributed to the difficulty in finding a fair and impartial jury in the case," the documents say. "It strains credulity to suggest that the media could have possibly believed that they were entitled to use the "pooled" photographer to invade the private communications and writings of a defendant and his counsel."

Bugden said Judge James L. Shumate clearly kicked the letter into the privacy arena. At the hearing, Jeffs said he wanted to give the letter to the judge, but Shumate told him to discuss the matter with attorneys.

"Mr. Jeffs may have had an intention to address the public, but the judge — knowing things that I can't discuss — said you need to take that up with your lawyers," Bugden said.

An April date for Jeffs' trial was postponed and no new date has been set.





Chief Justice notes lack of major legislation passed by Congress

BY JEANNETTE LEE
Associated Press Writer

FAIRBANKS, Alaska The number of cases heard by the U.S. Supreme Court is declining in part because of the lack of significant legislation coming out of Congress, Chief Justice John Roberts said Thursday night at the Alaska Bar Association's annual convention.

"No one actually knows why the number of cases we are taking is declining," said Roberts, who was the keynote speaker at the association's banquet. "I think there really are three significant reasons. The first is the lack of any major legislation coming out of Congress in the last couple of decades."

Roberts also suggested the lower courts are interpreting statutes in a more uniform manner, meaning the Supreme Court has fewer disputes to sort out.

The third reason for the decline, he said, is that circuit courts can locate previous legal decisions online in cases where they might have once turned to the Supreme Court for guidance.

"Looking back at the term as a whole, I think it's fair to say there is a higher percentage of significant cases than usual, even though the actual number of cases that we take is declining," he said.

About 400 lawyers attended the banquet, held at the Friends Community Church in Fairbanks. The crowd included judges and lawyers from all over the state, some of whom practice in remote communities, such as Bethel and Nome, that are hundreds of miles off the road system. The vast majority came from Anchorage, the state's largest city, an hour's flight south of Fairbanks.

The chief justice's visit attracted a group of about 15 protesters. They gathered at a busy intersection near the University of Alaska Fairbanks to rally against last month's Supreme Court decision that banned partial-birth abortion nationwide. Roberts voted with the majority in a 5-4 decision.

Indian law case against the Alaska Native village of Venetie.

Roberts helped win a unanimous decision from the Supreme Court that ultimately blocked Alaska Native villages from attaining a greater degree of sovereign powers in areas such as taxation, land use and law enforcement.

The case had been tied up in the federal courts for nearly 18 years before Roberts came on board, said Botelho, who is now mayor of Juneau.

> **"NO ONE ACTUALLY KNOWS WHY THE NUMBER OF CASES WE ARE TAKING IS DECLINING."**
>
> **Chief Justice John Roberts,** Supreme Court

"We're here to let him know that women don't need the government to protect them from their own medical decisions," said Barbara McDaniel, President of the Matanuska-Susitna chapter of the National Organization for Women.

In his remarks, Roberts made almost no reference to the several cases he litigated for the state of Alaska while in private practice at Hogan & Hartson, one of Washington's premier law firms. Two of Roberts' 39 arguments before the Supreme Court were made on behalf of the state.

The first came in 1997 when former Alaska attorney general Bruce Botelho hired Roberts in a complex and high-profile

"Working with him was a great learning experience for our lawyers," Botelho said. His decision to hire Roberts, he said, "was probably one of my best as attorney general."

Roberts also successfully argued that Alaska's online sex offender registry did not violate the rights of convicted offenders. The 2003 decision was the Supreme Court's first review of Megan's laws, named for a New Jersey girl who was raped and killed by a convicted sex offender living in her neighborhood.

He also worked on case in which the Environmental Protection Agency challenged the state's decision to grant a permit to the Red Dog Mine.

BPA authority may have been abused

By the Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. A federal appeals court on Thursday ruled the Bonneville Power Administration overstepped its authority on setting rates in 2000, a decision that may end up increasing electric bills for residential customers of investor-owned utilities such as Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp.

Three-quarters of Oregonians are served by investor-owned utilities.

"My initial reaction is that this is not good news for Oregon ratepayers," said Lee Beyer, chairman of the Oregon Public Utility Commission. "Save a little extra money to pay your power bill."

The Northwest Power Act of 1980 requires Bonneville to share the benefits of its historically cheap hydropower with residential and small farm customers of those utilities under a program known as the "residential exchange."

But the BPA is required to make the residential exchange payments without raising rates paid by publicly owned utilities, which have first rights to low-cost BPA power.

Bonneville and its utility customers have long battled over the appropriate level of the subsidy, which is supposed to fluctuate based on the difference between the BPA's system costs and those of the private utilities.

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Hawaii House avoids override

BY BRIAN CHARLTON
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU Hawaii won't change the way its electoral votes are counted for presidential elections after the state House decided not to override Republican Gov. Linda Lingle's veto on Thursday — the final day of the session.

The override, already accomplished in the Senate, would have made Hawaii only the second state after Maryland, to approve giving electoral votes for president to the winner of the national popular vote, rather than the candidate chosen by state voters.

The law, being pushed in several states by the California-based National Popular Vote organization, would only kick in if states representing a majority of the nation's 538 electoral votes decided to make the same change.

It would, in effect, nullify the Electoral College system and make it impossible for a candidate to win without a majority of the nationwide popular vote, as happened in 2000 when Democrat Al Gore lost to George W. Bush.

The House, which had approved the original bill 35-12, had only until Thursday to pass the override, which would have taken just 34 votes. The Senate voted 20-5 to override on Tuesday.

Several Democrats voiced concerns about changing the electoral college system after the measure got more publicity, causing majority leaders not to attempt the override.

Majority Leader Rep. Kirk Caldwell said there probably were enough votes for the override, but a group of Democrats were worried about giving up the state's electoral votes.

"It's hard to get people to move off of that," he said. "They look at it as giving up their four votes."

Linda Smith, Lingle's senior policy adviser, applauded the decision to let the governor's veto stand.

"They rushed this through, and then cooler minds prevailed and realized a small state like Hawaii should not disenfranchise voters," Smith said.

Lingle opposed the bill because she said it could result in Hawaii's electoral votes going to a candidate who failed to garner a majority of votes in the state.

Supporters had said a popular vote could make the presidential elections more democratic and force candidates to pay attention to voters in small states rather than put most of their effort into battleground states.

In 2000, if the proposed law had been adopted by states carrying a majority of electoral votes, all their votes would have gone for Gore and he would have won, even if Bush and Gore had each led in the same states.

While Maryland has passed the plan, both Montana and North Dakota have considered and rejected it. National Popular Vote says bills have been introduced in 40 states. The Colorado Senate and Arkansas and Illinois houses have voted for the change.

Hotel occupancy falls statewide, daily rate increases

By the Associated Press

HONOLULU Hotel occupancy statewide fell 6.2 percentage points in the first quarter compared with a year ago, according to Hospitality Advisors LLC.

Occupancy fell from 83.3 percent to 77.1 percent, which ranked third highest in the nation behind Phoenix (81.2) and Miami (79.8), according to the survey. The drop in occupancy reflected declines in visitor arrivals from the East Coast, Japan and Canada.

Hawaii's average daily rate, however, soared from $187.38 to $201.41, which was second highest in the nation, behind New York City's $221.57.

"For the first time in five years, the decline in room demand has begun to erode the successive records in room revenue that Hawaii has enjoyed over the past several years due to increasing room rate," said Joseph Toy, president of Hospitality Advisors. "With this current softening in the market, a major shift toward shorter booking windows by consumers has made it more difficult for the industry to anticipate the rest of the year."

All islands reported lower occupancy but higher room rates in the first quarter.

The highest occupancy rate of 79.4 percent was recorded on Maui, which also recorded the highest average daily room rate of $266.36.

Oahu posted an occupancy rate of 77.5 percent with an average room rate of $167.32, followed by the Big Island at 74.6 percent and $208.59 and Kauai at 72 percent and $201.50.

Toy said while concern has been expressed throughout the industry, the decline has not been as deep as other market corrections that occurred in the 1990s and early 2000s.

"Still, the current softening has been much anticipated and hotels are now rolling out marketing campaigns that will hopefully cushion the impact to a certain extent," he said.

The hotel survey is compiled by Smith Travel Research in conjunction with Honolulu-based Hospitality Advisors. The survey included 146 properties in Hawaii representing 46,835 rooms, or 82.1 percent of all major lodging properties in the state.

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NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed request for proposals for:

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Copies of the RFP's can be downloaded at www.smgov.net/isd.

Please submit seven (7) copies of your entire proposal and one (1) electronic copy in Portable Document Format (PDF) format for each RFP that you are bidding on to Keith Kurtz, Internet Systems Coordinator, at 1685 Main Street, Room 110, Santa Monica, CA 90401 by 5:30 PM, on Thursday, May 24, 2007.

There will not be a pre-bid conference

All requests for information or clarification are only accepted in writing and should be submitted to Mr. Kurtz by email (keith.kurtz@smgov.net) or fax at (310) 260-7940.



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A piece of the action comes with isolation

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN As a writer, Akuyoe Graham isn't used to being silent, but since she moved downtown two months ago, she has found herself without a voice in City Hall.

Homelessness, traffic and the lack of parking are issues she would like addressed, but without a neighborhood group to influence public policy, she and thousands of other residents in the district feel they're on the outside looking in. Many wonder how they can get involved and create a real community instead of just a collection of condos that serve as scenery for the millions of visitors making their way to the Third Street Promenade.

"I think there should be strong neighborhood voices," said Graham, who moved to Downtown because of its proximity to the beach, quality restaurants and her favorite yoga studio. "This area is booming, growing by leaps and bounds, and with that comes a need to address issues affecting our quality of life. These condos aren't cheap."

Nearly every area of the city is represented by a strong coalition of neighbors who join forces to fight ills in their community or support policies which they believe will make their lives better, like creating a new park or advocating for the installation of a stop sign.

There is the North of Montana Association, Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition, Friends of Sunset Park, the Pico Neighborhood Association, Ocean Park Association and Mid-City Neighbors, which has been less active in recent years.

Conspicuous by its absence is a residents group for Downtown, an area that is seeing significant growth with the addition of 1,500 units since 2000 and thousands more planned for the near future.

"Some sort of group would be nice," said Frank Rios, who lives in a Section 8 apartment on Sixth Street and feels there needs to be some representation for those in his position. "I think as more people move in you will see more attempts to organize. Right now, Downtown seems to be in its infancy, which is funny to say because it is one of the older areas of town, but infancy in terms of being a residential neighborhood.

"I just don't think there is that much of a demand for a group yet."

At one time, there was. The Downtown Area Residents Association (DARA), was formed in the late '90s to address downtown development issues but has since been hibernating and it is unclear if it will emerge again as a dominant force in Downtown.

There is also the Bayside District Corp., a public-private management company that helps City Hall manage and promote Downtown. The board of directors includes property owners and residents of Downtown who report to the City Council on issues affecting Downtown. Meetings are held regularly and occasionally members of the public will attend, but most people know little of the organization and what it does. Some feel it exists solely to represent business interests in Downtown, not residents.

Calls to Bayside seeking comment were not returned.

"Maybe because of the nature of Downtown, it may be harder for a group to get together, but whether there is a

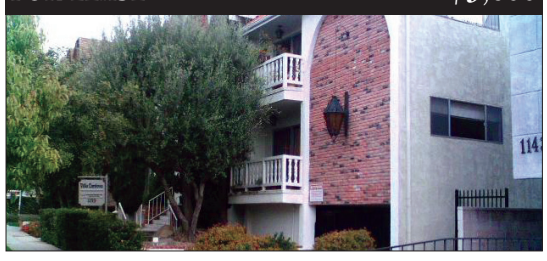
SEE **DOWNTOWN** PAGE 20



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

FEELING ALONE: **Tenants enter their apartment building at Second Street and Arizona Avenue. A number of Downtown residents complain they have no neighborhood group, resulting in less of a voice at City Hall.**

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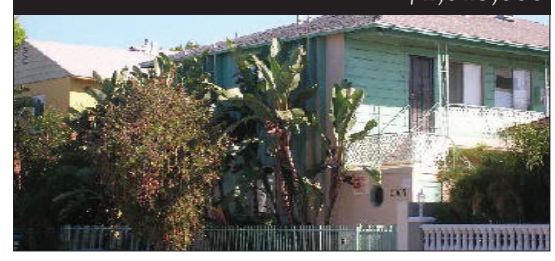
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Christine Chang *news@smdp.com*

MAKING BIG EYES: **Jalen Armstrong waits patiently on Friday as her mother makes a purchase at Le Cupcake in Santa Monica Place in honor of Armstrong's fifth birthday.**

Cupcakes making a splash in SM

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE For lovers of sweets, it's the perfect piece of decadent heaven.

For the newly broken-hearted, it's the perfect escape from the painful realities of life.

For the diet-conscious, it's a snack that's just small enough to keep the pangs of guilt away.

The cupcake — it's the not-so-new culinary invention that has made a comeback in the baked goods scene in recent years; its petite round shape and super sweet topping causing sweets lovers to foam at the mouth.

The latest food craze has hit Santa Monica in the past few months with the opening of two cupcake shops in the downtown area — Le Cupcake in the Santa Monica Place food court and Yummy Cupcakes at 313 Wilshire Blvd.

Such a simple dessert sparking memories of afternoons spent in mom's kitchen, it's little wonder why the cupcake has had a resurgence in the past few years.

Le Cupcake co-owner Robyn Savage and many cupcake fanatics believe the dessert's newfound popularity can be traced to a small bakery in Manhattan.

Magnolia Bakery opened its doors to New York City pastry lovers more than a decade ago in Greenwich Village, but it didn't start offering cupcakes until a few years later.

"It all started with extra leftover batter from making cake and we were wondering what to do with it," said Bobbie Lloyd of Magnolia Bakery.

The batter was used to whip up a few batches of cupcakes and word slowly spread throughout the neighborhood that the old fashioned bakery was offering some of the best cupcakes around.

It wasn't until 2000 when "Sex and the City" characters Miranda Hobbes and Carrie Bradshaw were filmed indulging in Magnolia cupcakes that a star was reborn.

"They're the mother of all cupcake shops," Savage said on Friday. "There are about 10 cupcake shops in New York City now."

But not every hot item on the market comes from New York City.

The Academic Chair of Culinary Arts and Management at the Arts Institute of California-Los Angeles, Chef Christophe Bernard, has a different theory about how the frenzy started. The Arts Institute, located in Santa Monica, recently launched a new pastry and baking program.

The resurgence of cupcakes can be attributed to the Los Angeles catering companies that provided cupcakes as a dessert to parties and weddings. Demand for the cupcake slowly caught on as guests enjoyed the childhood memory of biting into a cupcake.

"This is something that is hip and trendy at parties," said Bernard, who once catered 70 to 80 cupcakes for a woman's 89th birthday party. "There is a lot of flexibility in creating cupcakes and that is the beauty of the cupcake. You can customize to the need of the customer."

"California is the trendsetter," Bernard said.

Many businesses across the country have jumped on the cupcake bandwagon, developing their own unique brand of the 200-year-old snack.

It's what Mark Libertini and his business partners had in mind when they launched the Little Cupcake Bake Shop in the Bay Ridge community of Brooklyn in a predominantly Italian neighborhood.

"You hear about how there are too many cupcake places in New York," Libertini said. "There are quite a few cupcake places but each one of them has something slightly different."

The cupcake frenzy has taken over Los Angeles, with cupcake shops like Sprinkles in Beverly Hills attracting a celebrity following.

Yummy Cupcakes owner Tiffini Soforenko anticipates more cupcake shops will pop up in the next few years and eventually die down. But she wouldn't call the resurgent popularity of cupcakes a "trend."

"When people see success, people will try to copy," she said. "Only the truly good will stay."

Los Angeles is the logical place for the cupcake shops to catch on, said Savage, who called Los Angeles "the second biggest city in terms of cupcakes-only shops."

"Cupcakes generate the memory of your childhood and [plays] on people's natural affinity for cake," Savage said.

Morgan Jenkins has paid visits to both Magnolia Bakery in New York City and Sprinkles in Beverly Hills. It was her first time at Le Cupcake Friday morning.

Spending the day shopping, Jenkins stopped in the food court when the colorful display at Le Cupcake caught her eye.

Does the cupcake evoke memories of her childhood and her mother's baked goods?

"No, they're a lot better," she said.

INTERNET PHENOM TO SANTA MONICA PLACE

Drawing from the success of the Internet-based business, Le Cupcake opened its doors in Santa Monica in November 2006.

The business was the brainchild of Manhattan Beach resident Doug Davidge and his younger sister Savage, who started the original Le Cupcake from her Virginia home kitchen in the summer of 2003.

It was after a visit to Magnolia Bakery when Savage decided to start her own cupcake business.

A friend in advertising designed the company logo — a small cupcake topped with a swirl. Savage fell in love with the logo and decided to use the swirl on all the cupcakes.

The business continued at a steady pace until October 2005 when lifestyles Web site Daily Candy wrote a raving review about Le Cupcake.

"My phone was ringing off the hook," Savage said.

What started as a small Internet-based business turned into a phenomenon as Le Cupcake started compiling a list of clients that included the White House, Justice Department and Senator Hillary Clinton's Office.

In the months following, Davidge sold his sports wear company that he ran successfully for 20 years and started looking for his next big venture when he set his sights on Le Cupcake.

SEE **CUPCAKES** PAGE 17





Christine Chang *news@smdp.com*

TASTY: Frosting gets whipped into shape at Yummy Cupcakes on Wilshire Boulevard.

FROM **CUPCAKES** PAGE 16

"It was a concept I thought could compete with a Wetzel's Pretzels or Mrs. Fields — an under $3 snack," Davidge said on Friday. "I was looking for a mall that would give us great exposure."

They landed a goldmine in Santa Monica Place where the food court is always packed and scores of potential clients cross the intersection of the Third Street Promenade and Broadway every time the light changes.

"It seems liked a great place to get tourists and locals and test the concepts," Davidge said.

The actual Le Cupcake store offers more variety than its online counterpart, which Savage still runs from her home in Virginia.

Whereas the online Le Cupcake offers only vanilla and chocolate cupcakes, the Santa Monica shop sells eight different flavors — Van Gogh Vanilla, Chocolate, Parisian Peanut Butter, Banana Bonbon, Velvet Rouge, La Coconut, Tres Tres Fraise and Tour De Carotte.

Each cupcake costs $2.75 and the most popular is the Velvet Rouge, also known as Red Velvet.

Setting Le Cupcake apart from its competitors is extra care by employees to ensure cupcakes are beautiful when they go from the display case, to the box, to the mouths of its consumers.

"It's the care that goes into them from taste to aesthetic value," Savage said.



Christine Chang *news@smdp.com*

QUICK HUDDLE: Sonia Contreras (left) and co-owner Robyn Savage discuss sweet options at Le Cupcake.

FROM THE VALLEY TO SANTA MONICA

A 16-year career at Universal as the director of operations ended in 2004 when Soforenko decided she wanted to switch to a profession that allowed her to spend more time with her family and allow her to engage more with customers.

Cupcakes just seemed like a good fit, Soforenko said.

She started catering cupcakes for weddings in March 2004, working seven days a week in a commercial kitchen in the San Fernando Valley.

Weddings led to catering events for movie studios in the valley, which ultimately led Soforenko to open the Yummy Cupcakes shop in Burbank in December 2005 for her movie clientele.

In March, Soforenko opened her second store on Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica.

Setting Yummy Cupcakes apart from its competitors is the size of its menu, which features 105 different cupcake combinations. The shop offers 13 of the same cupcakes — its "regulars" — every day along with a set of four special cupcakes that changes every day.

Friday's special was the carrot cream cheese, chocolate malt, lemon drop and chocolate cherry chunk.

The cakes range in price from $2.50 to $3.

Cupcakes are made fresh every day in the kitchen. Every cupcake is made from fresh ingredients, including the carrot cake which is made from carrots grated on site. Much of the produce is purchased from the many local farmers' markets.

The cupcakes are made throughout the day to keep the baked goods tasting fresh. Baking stops about two hours prior to closing. Leftover are either turned into biscottis, donated to shelters or given away to the employees.

Both the Burbank and Santa Monica stores have attracted a large celebrity following, including Diane Keaton, Eva Longoria, and Jennifer Garner. Days of our Lives actress Kristian Alfonso is a regular and was in the Santa Monica store the other day recommending cupcakes to customers, Soforenko said.

Former Family Matters star Jaleel White was also in the same store this week, offering to buy cupcakes for the customers standing in line.

Like many of the cupcake shops in Los Angeles, Yummy Cupcakes sells its product with a thick layer of frosting, though customers can request to have their cake slathered with less sugar.

But for Soforenko, who often locks up the store with a spoonful of frosting in her mouth, there's nothing better than a cupcake piled high with frosting.

"To me, a cupcake with little frosting is not a cupcake," she said.

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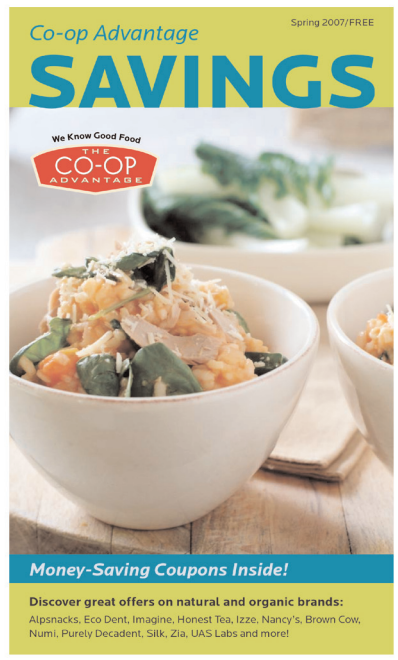












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Santa Monica Classic heads to starting line

FROM CLASSIC PAGE 3

"We're all about keeping beaches and the ocean clean and it's a perfect match for us," said Hillary Atkin, spokeswoman for Heal the Bay. "We're really proud of Peter for putting it all together."

The race will once again feature a team of athletes from Nike Elite Runners. Venice resident and Culver City High School teacher Ali Mann has trained with the Nike Elite Runners for the past three years and will be among the participants traversing the city this weekend.

The avid runner has participated in a race every weekend since March.

Her goal this weekend is to break her personal best record in the 5K run, which is 17 minutes.

"I feel like I definitely can [break my record]," she said. "I've been doing the 1,500s for weeks now so it's nice to do something different."

DEDICATION TO THE BAY

It was more than 20 years ago when Abraham first decided to volunteer for Heal the Bay, an organization he discovered one morning as he was surfing in Venice Beach. The organization was much smaller back then and was setting up a booth on the beach.

His commitment has slowly grown over the years, starting with volunteering in beach cleanups and eventually moving up in the ladder to producing benefit concerts and speakers bureaus.

In 1995, he joined the Board of Directors.

"I find it really gratifying and enjoyable to work with Heal the Bay," he said.

(Editor's note: Interested runners can register at REI , 402 Santa Monica Blvd., on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or on the morning of the race. For more information, visit the Santa Monica Classic's Web site at www.santamonicaclassic.com.)

melodyh@smdp.com



Photo courtesy

SOME HAPPY FEET: **This Sunday's second annual Santa Monica Classic will feature a 5K and 10K run through scenic Santa Monica, with both races culminating at the Santa Monica Pier. Close to 3,000 people are expected to participate in this year's race, which benefits the environmental group. Heal the Bay.**

Local actress gets caught exercising on Fourth Street median

FROM LAW PAGE 3

Stevens said. "I think it's a stupid law, absolutely, but you don't blame the cop or take it out on him. He didn't write the law."

The law was put into effect to protect the public, city officials and police said. Exercising in a median can be dangerous because of the mix of pedestrians and vehicular traffic, especially at the northern end of Fourth Street, at Adelaide Drive, where fitness fanatics from all over the Westside flock to climb "The Stairs" — a collection of nearly 160 cement steps, said SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla.

"There are several dangers," Padilla said. "You have people frequently crossing the street to the median and a lot of cars coming through because it is such a popular area, and that mix of pedestrians in a busy roadway creates concern. Then you have to take into account people with headphones on and drivers on cell phones. People exercising are just in a different zone. Sometimes you aren't paying attention to what's around you, especially if you've just climbed those stairs."

FINDING MIDDLE GROUND

While all city medians are off limits to those looking to practice Pilates, enforcement has been heaviest at the Fourth Street location because of resident complaints. Signs were posted about six years ago after City Hall received a high volume of calls. Officers periodically patrol the area, especially after receiving complaints.

"It hasn't been an issue on San Vicente or Olympic (boulevards), where we have wide medians," said Elaine Polachek, City Hall's director of Open Space Management. "People tend to just walk or jog, but there on Fourth Street, it's really a unique place. There is not the type of vehicle traffic that you see on those more heavily traveled streets and the medians are really flat and don't have the tree roots, making it more inviting.



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

ATTENTION: **A sign at the median on Fourth Street warns exercisers, but is seldom enforced.**

"In other areas, it just doesn't come up."

McClellan Sain's ordeal was the topic of much discussion at the Fourth Street median Friday morning. Several people working out, as well as neighbors, had heard about it or had seen it on television.

Sam Araghi, who has been working out at the stairs for four years, said he has seen officers in the area "every once in awhile," but he has never received a ticket. He believes issuing citations is "extreme" and believes the city should lighten up and let people sweat in peace.

"This area has really become a landmark, with the stairs and the medians," he said. "It has become a little community and something special to people. Most people here are respectful of the residents, they aren't loud and I really don't see what the problem is."

At least one resident agrees. She said she likes the interaction she has with those who visit the area and believes a few residents have gone overboard by requesting a police presence.



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

THROWING FITS TO KEEP FIT: **Antonio Decicco plays Friday with his daughter Lauren and son Julian on the Fourth Street median near Adelaide Drive, a point of contention.**

"It's a good thing to be healthy," said the neighbor, who did not want to give her name. "There are women out there who have just had babies and are trying to lose that baby weight and we should be encouraging them. Giving them tickets, that's just insane."

Ron Hankey doesn't think so. A resident of the area for nearly 40 years, Hankey said he has seen his quiet neighborhood turned into a gymnasium where personal trainers bring classes of four or more students, lay down mats and conduct classes, all within a few yards of people's homes. The area has become so popular that Hankey often has a hard time finding parking when he comes home from work or running errands around town.

And then there's the trash.

"It's frustrating," he said. "Sometimes people are out in the street or are using the sidewalks. Sometimes it's hard to drive or walk through here because there are so many people. There are plenty of other places to go."

Antonio Decicco can sympathize, however, he will still continue to exercise on Fourth Street with his wife and their two children.

"If I lived here I would be opposed to anyone working out here but the locals," Decicco said as he played soccer with his son, Julian, and daughter, Lauren. "It gets really crowded and there is an issue of privacy and having one's peace and quiet.

"I'm sure some kind of compromise can be made."

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Christine Chang *news@smdp.com*

GOING TO LENGTHS: **Residents in downtown fend for themselves by posting parking signs in the struggle to live in a commercial district.**

Downtown blues

FROM DOWNTOWN PAGE 14

group or not, you can still get people involved," said Councilwoman Pam O'Connor. "Those who have opinions or issues they want to address don't have to go through a neighborhood group to be heard."

That said, it's always better to have 20 people show up during a City Council meeting than just one. Neighborhood groups have a considerable amount of influence in City Hall, helping to design new parks or block an assisted living facility for those with mental problems, something Friends of Sunset Park was able to do recently by mobilizing residents who fired off e-mails and letters to City Hall and the council.

"They're definitely more powerful because more people are talking with a unified message and that's helpful in getting the message across," said Councilman Ken Genser, who lived in downtown during the '80s and was forced to join the former Ocean Park Community Association because no residents group existed at the time.

"I think neighborhood groups are always a benefit for both the neighbors and the city as a whole," Genser said. "I certainly would want to encourage that kind of organization, but it really has to be the people who live there that have to be interested in starting a group."

SOUNDS OF SILENCE

So far, there doesn't seem to be a clamor for representation. That could be because of the relatively new batch of residents who have moved to Downtown. They are younger and more apt to relocate within a year or two, which makes for a transitory population that has no real roots or vested interest in the future of the area. There is also a very diverse group of residents, from the computer programmer working at Google to the homeless sleeping at SAMOSHEL and the seniors residing at the Salvation Army's Silvercrest apartment complex.

"Neighborhood groups do well when there is a crisis. Groups tend to come together then. But if you don't have a settled community — and not enough people connected to one another — it will fall apart," said Art Harris, a founder of DARA. "It takes a lot of work and you will find that any group that survives has a very small core of people who are willing to do all the work in between the big events."

That is exactly why Rios, the Section 8 tenant on Sixth Street, doesn't believe a group will form anytime soon. He said that he did not want the responsibility that comes with organizing and is sure many others won't either because they are too wrapped up in their own lives to become involved.

> **"THEY'RE DEFINITELY MORE POWERFUL BECAUSE MORE PEOPLE ARE TALKING WITH A UNIFIED MESSAGE AND THAT'S HELPFULLY IN GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS."**
>
> **Councilman Ken Genser**
> Santa Monica City Council

"I think you just have to take it upon yourself to go down to City Hall and speak on what you believe," Rios said. "I know that I couldn't lead a group. I have a bad temper."

Until someone steps up and takes the initiative, residents in Downtown will continue to complain to each other about the lack of dog parks or the annoying construction noise, but whether or not they will take those complaints to City Hall remains to be seen.

"We need something to help us feel like a real community," Graham said as he head out for a walk along the beach. "I think it will be sooner rather than later though. It's in our nature as humans to want to socialize with one another so I think it's just a matter of time. Will I still be here when it happens? I don't think so."

kevinh@smdp.com

Military to target Iranian-made arms

BY ROBERT H. REID
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD U.S.-led forces on Friday arrested suspected Shiite militants accused of smuggling powerful bomb components from Iran, and clashes between Shiite factions broke out in two major cities. The U.S. announced the deaths of five American soldiers — three of them in bombings.

The arrests occurred during a raid early Friday in Baghdad's teeming Shiite district of Sadr City, stronghold of the notorious Mahdi Army militia of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

A U.S. military statement did not identify them as Mahdi Army members but said they were part of a "secret cell" that smuggles powerful bombs known as "explosively formed penetrators," or EFPs, from Iran and sends Shiite fighters from Iraq for training in Iran.

U.S. and some Iraqi officials suspect the Iranians may be stoking a growing power struggle among Shiite factions and political parties — despite the Tehran government's insistence that it is working to help bring stability to its neighbor Iraq.

Clashes broke out Friday in Baghdad and in the Shiite shrine city of Najaf when police said Mahdi Army gunmen attacked offices of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Republic in Iraq, or SCIRI, a key member of the U.S.-backed Iraqi government but with strong ties to Tehran.

Four people were injured in Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad, prompting local authorities to impose a curfew. The clash in Baghdad occurred when Mahdi gunmen fired rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons at a SCIRI office in the Habibiya district, injuring two guards, police said.

In Diwaniyah, a Shiite city 80 miles south of Baghdad, suspected Shiite gunmen attacked a joint U.S.-Iraqi patrol late Friday, killing one Iraqi soldier and wounding four civilians, police said.

It was unclear what provoked the attacks, but they appeared to be part of an escalating power struggle brewing throughout the dominant Shiite community, which intensified after Britain announced plans to draw down its troops in the mostly Shiite south.

U.S. AND SOME IRAQI OFFICIALS SUSPECT THE IRANIANS MAY BE STOKING A GROWING POWER STRUGGLE AMONG SHIITE FACTIONS AND POLITICAL PARTIES.

Shiite parties are trying to oust the Shiite governor of oil-rich Basra province, and violence has broken out recently in Kut and other Shiite cities.

Some Mahdi Army members in Sadr City have said a pro-Iranian faction has been sending fighters to Iran for training. The members spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears for their own safety.

In another sign of unrest, hundreds of angry Shiites poured onto the streets of Najaf and Basra to protest what they considered insults by Al-Jazeera television.

Boat jammed with Haitians capsizes killing at least 20

BY VIVIAN TYSON
Associated Press Writer

SOUTH DOCK, Turks and Caicos Islands Every year, Haitians by the hundreds set off in rickety boats hoping to escape poverty by sneaking into the United States. The perils became gruesomely apparent Friday when a crowded boat capsized, flinging migrants into shark-infested waters.

Hours after the sailing vessel overturned in moonlit waters a half-mile from shore, rescuers had recovered more than a dozen bodies — some with savage bite wounds — and were searching for about 60 missing people.

A Turks and Caicos police boat picked up 63 survivors, and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter spotted 10 more clinging to the overturned vessel and guided in another boat to get them, said Petty Officer Third Class Barry Bena. The Coast Guard sent a cutter and a C-130 plane to join the search.

"We have 17 confirmed dead," a harried Turks and Caicos official told The Associated Press as bodies were being delivered to South Dock, the main commercial port of this British territory. "Five or six small boats of ours are out searching. The survivors are being fed."

The Coast Guard said its helicopter reported spotting about 20 dead. An AP reporter saw about a dozen bodies, some with missing feet and limbs.

The Turks and Caicos official, who would not allow her name to be used because she was not authorized to speak to the media, said it was unknown if the sharks fed on the victims while they were still alive or after they drowned.

It could become the worst disaster in years to hit Haitian migrants, who jam into boats to attempt the treacherous journey. The boat that overturned Friday was only about 25 feet long and carried some 150 people.

"When it's done that way it takes almost nothing for a disaster to occur," Bena said in a telephone interview from Miami. "A strong wind or a sea swell or people moving around can capsize a boat in an instant."

The Coast Guard said the migrant vessel capsized while being towed by a Turks and Caicos police boat at 4:30 a.m., but local authorities said the police boat arrived on the scene only after the accident.

Survivors were taken to a detention center on Providenciales, the island that is the urban center of the Turks and Caicos and features an 18-hole golf course.

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NBA

Lakers living down disappointment

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Just when it appeared the Los Angeles Lakers were nearing a return to elite status, coach Phil Jackson gave fair warning.

"We're happy for the win, but we're not going to crown ourselves just yet," he said 3 1/2 months ago following a 100-96 victory over the Spurs at San Antonio, giving the Lakers their seventh win in nine games and a 26-13 record.

A lot has happened since then — most of it bad. The Lakers lost 27 of their last 43 regular-season games to finish 42-40, and were eliminated by the Phoenix Suns 4-1 in the first round of the playoffs.

So now, following a third straight disappointing season after three championships and another NBA finals berth in a five-year span, it's reasonable to question the Lakers' direction. And that's what Kobe Bryant did after a second straight first-round loss to the Suns.

"Personally for me, it's beyond frustration — three years and still being at ground zero," Bryant said. "This summer's a big summer. We have to see what direction we want to take as an organization and make those steps and make them now."

The Lakers won 20 playoff series from 2000-04, with Jackson, Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal leading the way. They've won four postseason games and no series in the past three years.

O'Neal was traded away after the Lakers lost to Detroit in the 2004 NBA finals — a move the Lakers couldn't avoid since he wanted out and had they kept him, Bryant might have moved across town to the Clippers.

> **"PERSONALLY FOR ME, IT'S BEYOND FRUSTRATION – THREE YEARS AND STILL BEING AT GROUND ZERO. THIS SUMMER'S A BIG SUMMER. WE HAVE TO SEE WHAT DIRECTION WE WANT TO TAKE AS AN ORGANIZATION AND MAKE THOSE STEPS AND MAKE THEM NOW."**
>
> **Kobe Bryant,** Lakers superstar

Bryant decided to stay, signing a seven-year contract for maximum money, and led the NBA in scoring the past two seasons. But as he pointed out, the supporting cast has had its limitations, and that was never more evident than Wednesday night, when Bryant and Lamar Odom combined for 67 of the team's 110 points and a leaky defense allowed 119.

And that meant season over.

While injuries played a part in the Lakers' demise, so did front-office errors. The draft picks of the past three years have made little impact to date, and Aaron McKie and Vladimir Radmanovic, the primary free-agent acquisitions the past two years, have been complete busts.

Lamar Odom, Kwame Brown, Luke Walton and Radmanovic were hampered by various injuries this season, and Chris Mihm didn't play at all.

"I would love to have seen what we could have done had we had the whole team all season long," Brown said. "We had so many guys out of the rotation. Every time you lose, everyone wants to see changes. I would love to see what will happen if we all come back."

Even if everybody does — and that won't happen — the Lakers don't appear to have what it takes as currently constructed to make a significant jump in a strong Western Conference next year. Their success early this season was helped in part by a favorable schedule.

Despite having a superstar such as Bryant and the outstanding track records of Jackson and owner Jerry Buss, there doesn't appear to be a lot the Lakers can do to improve their stock right away.

They're over the salary cap, so they can't add high-priced free agents. It's possible Kevin Garnett, Jermaine O'Neal and Jason Kidd could be acquired in a trade, but who do the Lakers give up? They don't have much to offer beyond Bryant, Odom and 19-year-old Andrew Bynum, who might be a star someday but isn't close now.

Brown wasn't the same after severely spraining his left ankle Dec. 31, and probably faces offseason surgery. He had his moments, but that's how his career has gone. Brown has one year remaining on his contract.

PGA

Woods, Singh surge to the top of Wachovia Championship

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Tiger Woods hit his stride early with three birdies through five holes and a collection of par saves that kept his round going. Vijay Singh came to life late with an eagle-birdie flurry to rescue an otherwise shaky round.

It left them atop the leaderboard on a chilly Friday at the Wachovia Championship, setting up the possibility of a showdown so desperately missing at the majors, at a tournament that has all the trappings of a major.

Woods missed birdie putts of 3 feet and 6 feet, and he finally dropped a shot on the final hole by hitting into the pine trees left of ninth fairway and settled for a 4-under 68. Playing in the group behind, Singh played his final three holes in 3 under for a 71.

They were at 6-under 138 and tied for the lead among early starters at Quail Hollow, happy to be in the clubhouse as rain threatened.

"I've got to go fix a few things," said Woods, who hit only five fairways and twice swatted his bag with the handle of his driver after watching tee shots sail into the trees. "I'm very pleased with my score. I felt I pretty much have maximized my rounds."

First-round leader Padraig Harrington took three quick bogeys at the start of his round and was spiraling down the leaderboard in the afternoon, while Jason Bohn, Carl Petterson and Ted Purdy took turns trying to join Woods and Singh at the top.

Ken Duke, the Nationwide Tour player of the year in 2006, had a second straight 70 and was at 140.

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BOXING

Big fight has been decades in making

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS The precocious teenage boxer from Michigan was watching the Barcelona Olympics on TV and couldn't take his eyes off another handsome teenage fighter who had just won a gold medal and was basking in a nation's adoration.

That's when Floyd Mayweather Jr. claims he saw his destiny.

Even before he won his first Golden Gloves championship under the tempestuous tutelage of his father and uncle, Mayweather knew he had to fight Oscar De La Hoya someday to be considered the best boxer of his generation.

"That's the only way I can be who I want to be," Mayweather said. "It's the only challenge left for me. After that, what else is there? What can I do that's worthy?"

He finally will meet De La Hoya on Saturday night in the ailing sport's biggest fight in years.

Since watching those games 15 years ago, Mayweather became a charismatic champion with more skill and speed than any of his first 37 opponents. He also became a larger-than-life character similar to the great fighters he admired. The kind who could lose $170,000 in a brown paper bag at a Las Vegas shopping mall while buying Christmas presents for his four children — and could reward the finder with $10,000.

But he never lost his determination to beat De La Hoya, the golden boy who effortlessly seemed to receive everything Mayweather worked so hard to get.

Where the public saw a model citizen straddling the sport's line between showmanship and savagery, Mayweather saw a phony with four losses. To add a dimension of Greek tragedy, De La Hoya even stole Mayweather's father for a time. Floyd Sr. trained De La Hoya from 2001 through 2006.

"I think he resents everything that's happened to me — not only my boxing career," De La Hoya said. "I learned a lot about Floyd Jr. through his father. Over the years, he would talk to me about him. 'Oh, he's so jealous of you. Everything you do, he wants to be like you."'

Mayweather said he began calling out De La Hoya — just four years his senior, but exponentially more famous and beloved — shortly after he became a professional fighter. His unblemished record grew along with his wealth and confidence, and he even demanded a fight with the 154-pound champion three years ago when De La Hoya was widely thought to be on the decline after losing to Bernard Hopkins.

"They said, 'This kid is in over his head,"' Mayweather recalled. "'He doesn't know what he's talking about.'"

MLB

Police: Cardinals' Hancock was drunk at time of fatal accident

BY BETSY TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Josh Hancock was drunk and talking on his cell phone at the time of his fatal accident, and marijuana was found in the sport utility vehicle he was driving.

Medical examiner Michael Graham said at a news conference Friday that the 29-year-old reliever was dead "within seconds" from head injuries in the crash early Sunday on Interstate 64 in St. Louis. His vehicle hit the back of a tow truck parked on the highway to assist a driver from a previous accident.

"There is nothing at all that could have been done for him," Graham said.

Hancock's blood-alcohol level was 0.157, nearly twice Missouri's legal limit of 0.08, Graham said.

Police Chief Joe Mokwa said 8.55 grams of marijuana and a glass pipe used to smoke marijuana were found in the rented Ford Explorer. Toxicology tests to determine if drugs were in his system had not been completed.

An accident reconstruction team determined Hancock was traveling 68 mph in a 55 mph zone when his SUV struck the back of a flatbed tow truck stopped in a driving lane. Mokwa said there was no evidence Hancock tried to stop. He did swerve, but too late to avoid the collision.

Hancock was not wearing a seat belt, but Graham said the belt would not have prevented his death.

Mokwa said Hancock was speaking with a female acquaintance about baseball and baseball tickets and that the conversation ended abruptly, apparently when the accident occurred. A police report said Hancock told the female acquaintance he was on his way to another bar, and that he planned to meet her there.

Hancock, a key bullpen member on the World Series championship team last season, was driving alone.

Cardinals officials expressed sadness at the news and said the team will re-examine what it can do to warn players of the dangers of drinking and driving.

"I think it's probably a wakeup call to everybody," general manager Walt Jocketty said at a news conference at Busch Stadium. "The one thing they have to understand is they're not invincible. They have to conduct themselves and make better decisions. Unfortunately, Josh didn't make very good decisions that night."

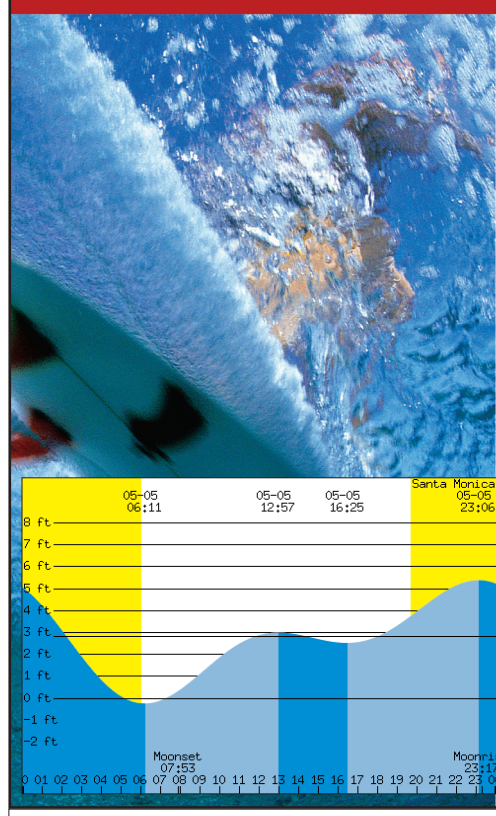
Jocketty and Cardinals manager Tony La Russa both acknowledged the Cardinals continue to provide alcohol to players after games, but said use of alcohol in the clubhouse has diminished over the years. Jocketty said the team will "examine and discuss" its policy.

La Russa was arrested on a drunken driving charge in Jupiter, Fla., in March, when police said they found him asleep at the wheel at a traffic light. His blood alcohol level was measured at 0.093 — Florida's legal limit is 0.08. His lawyer waived La Russa's arraignment last month and requested a trial. No trial date has been set.

Hancock, left Busch Stadium around 6:30 p.m. and arrived about two hours later.



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SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 59°**

SWELL FORECAST (6-8 FT)

Saturday, we're expecting the SW to increase towards chest to head high. NW swell is expected to run at least chest to head high at west facing breaks, perhaps even slightly overhead at times at standouts. Sunday should hold its own with at least chest high surf, head high on the better set waves.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SMALLER SURF NEXT WEEK...

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 **May 1, 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 -- 2
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / 21
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 9

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from Ford

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	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	B	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	F	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	C	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	C	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	C	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	D	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	A	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+

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	D	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	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	A	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)	A	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+

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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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.

All smiles, aquarius

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)
★★★★ As much as you might try to detach and gain a perspective, you could easily get caught up in the moment. Go with the moment, brainstorm and enjoy those around you. Don't allow someone to rain on your parade. Tonight: Follow the music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ A partner simply does what he or she wants, no matter what. Think in terms of gains and growth. Consider your ideas in reference to this person's perspective. Then you might be able to understand some of his or her behavior. Tonight: Go along for the ride!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You might try to do something totally different or a touch avant-garde. Head in your own unique direction. Others have their own plans and will not want to change their path. Tonight: Consider an invitation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Accomplishment needs to be your middle name, even if just approaching a hobby or fun project. To feel good right now, you will need to see results. Don't start a diet today, but do decide to paint a room or throw a party! Tonight: Don't push.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Tap into your creativity. Let your wild imagination loose, and everyone will have a good time. Now is not a good time to hold back. A child feels in sync with you. A natural bond forms. Tonight: Fun and games.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Come from a secure spot when making a decision. Consider your options more carefully. Invite family or friends over for a low-key get-together. You will like hanging out together. If you need help completing a project, throw a party. Tonight: Happy at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Keep conversations moving. You might be amazed by what comes down if you keep a friend or loved one comfortable. When this person feels safe, he or she will express a whole different side. Know that anything is possible. Tonight: Fun and games.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Center and make decisions based on your budget and needs. You might be tempted by a friend or loved one to go a bit overboard. You will not be happy ultimately if you make that choice. Tonight: Out for dinner and/or a movie.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ The planets beam on you. With this additional help, you might want to look at what could be possible. Your imagination might be limiting you. Tonight: Brainstorm with others if you want to open up possibilities even more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Know when to back off and gain a perspective. Your finances could use some self-discipline or restraint, as money appears to be slipping out of your hands. Take time to evaluate and think. Tonight: Do your thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Aim for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Manifesting a dream will delight you, if not others. Don't allow a demand to cause you to spend or use assets you would prefer not to. Say "no," and you will like the end results more. Tonight: All smiles, if with your friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Others need your guidance in making plans or causing what you need to happen. Your above-it-all mentality helps you clear out a problem. If you are noticing that you are losing your temper, pull back. Tonight: Others take their cue from you.

Born Today

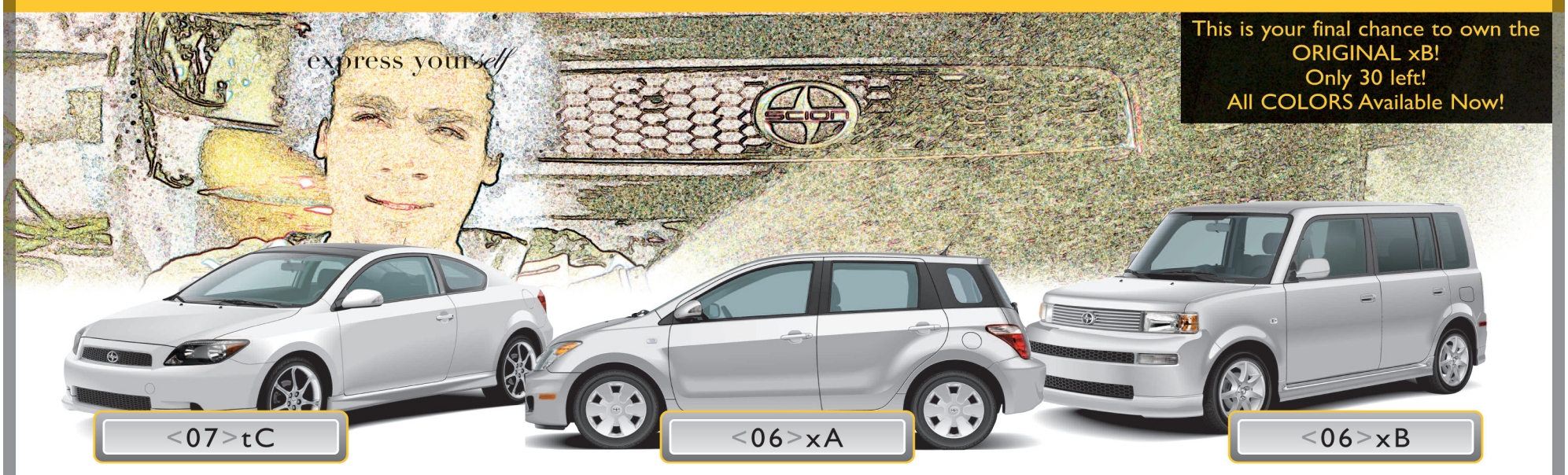
Author Christopher Morley (1890)
Political philosopher Karl Marx (1818), Singer Tammy Wynette (1942)

Happy Birthday!

Work toward building tighter and more worthwhile relationships this year. Deal on a one-on-one level, and the path to success will appear. Be sensitive to bosses, who might not be practical but are full of ideas. Know when to say "enough" and put in practical structure, though in the most diplomatic manner possible. Aim for more of what you want, even if it causes stress sometimes. If you are single, you might yearn for a relationship. You are also likely to meet a special person while traveling or in an unusual situation. If you are attached, discover the importance of taking plenty of away time together.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com
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No respect

Actress Jessica Biel: `Parts that I really want aren't going to me'

JESSICA BIEL says she still struggles to get respect in Hollywood.

"Parts that I really want aren't going to me," the 25-year-old actress says in Elle magazine's June issue, on newsstands Tuesday. "Like `The Other Boleyn Girl' with Scarlett Johansson and Natalie Portman. I don't want to say that there's nothing I love that I can have. But there's still the occasional script that the director doesn't want to see you for. They want that top tier of girls."

Biel, who began her career on the family-friendly TV series "7th Heaven," has starred in such movies as "The Illusionist," "Home of the Brave" and "Next." In July, she can be seen with Adam Sandler and Kevin James in "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry."

Lately, she has been a fixture in the tabloids and on red carpets, sitting front row at Paris fashion week and sending celeb gawkers into a tizzy over her alleged fling with Justin Timberlake.

"The scary thing about having this opportunity is that if it's `your moment,' that eventually disappears," says Biel. "I think about reaching for `the moment' but never really achieving it. That way, I'm always striving."

Asked if media attention makes dating hard, she says, "It makes everything hard because you can't even go to pick up a prescription without somebody trying to snap a photo of what you have in your Longs Drugs bag.

"Thank goodness I'm a nice person."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSTROPOVICH HONORED

The cellists of the **NATIONAL SYMPHONY** will open a tribute concert to cellist Mstislav "Slava" Rostropovich, the orchestra's former music director who died in his native Russia last week at 80.

The free concert, scheduled for May 19 at the Kennedy Center, will begin with an ensemble arrangement of the Sarabande from Bach's D major suite for unaccompanied cello.

The program, with music director Leonard Slatkin leading the orchestra, will include the Largo from Symphony No. 5 by Shostakovich, whom Rostropovich considered as his musical father.

Also on the program: Bernstein's overture "Slava!," which was composed to honor Rostropovich's first season with the National Symphony; and the finale from Tchaikovsky's "Pathetique" Symphony. The symphony was the last piece Rostropovich conducted in Russia before going into exile in 1974. He also placed it on the first program he would conduct in Russia in 1990.

AP

Prosecutors charge rapper Eve with DUI after Hollywood auto accident

City prosecutors filed misdemeanor charges Friday against **EVE** stemming from a traffic accident in Hollywood last week.

The rapper-actress (real name: Jihan Jeffers) was charged with driving under the influence, driving with a blood-alcohol level of .08 or above, and failure to provide proof of insurance, said Frank Mateljan, a spokesman for the city attorney's office.

The charges stem from an April 26 arrest in which officers stopped Eve at 2:40 a.m. after her car struck a raised concrete center median on Hollywood Boulevard.

A breath test showed her blood-alcohol level was above the legal limit, Mateljan said.

Eve, 28, is scheduled to be arraigned May 17.

She faces a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a $1,000 fine.

Mateljan said a statutory minimum sentence would include a minimum of three years' probation, a fine of at least $390, and an alcohol education program, among other DUI-related conditions.

Phone messages left Friday for Eve's publicist, Amanda Silverman, and her attorney, Matthew Johnson, were not immediately returned.

Eve, a protege of DMX, has released several solo albums and won a Grammy in 2001 for the single "Let Me Blow Ya Mind" with Gwen Stefani.

Her movie credits include "Barbershop," and she once had her own self-titled sitcom.

AP

Borat's brother composes for Kazakhs

The West Kazakhstan Philharmonic Orchestra chose an unusual composer to headline its London performance Friday: **BORAT'S** real-life brother.

Erran Baron Cohen, the brother of the actor Sacha Baron Cohen, composed the 16-minute piece, "Zere," which is debuting at St. James's Church in central London.

The irony of working with a Kazakh orchestra was not lost on Baron Cohen, a trumpeter who also composed the score to his brother's movie "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." In the smash comedy last year, Sacha Baron Cohen portrays a backward Kazakh television journalist.

"After I'd got over the initial shock of being rung up by someone from Kazakhstan, I thought it was a great accolade if they liked the music in the film so much that they asked me to write for a symphony orchestra," Baron Cohen told The Daily Telegraph. He said his piece includes Kazakh folk.

AP

Time magazine names 100 most influential

Heartthrob **LEONARDO DICAPRIO** and envelope-pushers **ROSIE O'DONNELL** and **SACHA BARON COHEN** are among the entertainment newsmakers on Time magazine's list of 100 people who shape the world.

The list of 100 most influential, on newsstands Friday, also includes Queen Elizabeth II, presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, YouTube founders Steve Chen and Chad Hurley, director Martin Scorsese and model Kate Moss. It does not include President Bush.

In a piece she wrote for the magazine, Barbara Walters, the creator of "The View," had kind words to say about O'Donnell, who announced last week she was leaving the ABC talk show in June because she and the network couldn't agree on a new contract forcing her to rewrite it.

AP

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The Condemned (R)
11:55, 5:00, 10:05
The Hoax (R)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:55
In the Land of Women (PG-13)
2:30, 7:45
Spider-Man 3 (PG-13)
9:45am, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45
Year of the Dog (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
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Blades of Glory (Pg-13)
10:20am, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 10:-00, 12:15am
Disturbia (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 9"40, 12:10am
The Invisible (PG-13)
11:20am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55, 12:20am
Next (PG-13)
11:10am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:20, 9:55, 11:55
Spider-Man 3 (PG-13)
10:15am, 11:30am, 12:15, 1:30, 2:50, 3:40, 4:50, 6:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:25, 1010, 11:25, 12:30am

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

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

Away From Her (R)
1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 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)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
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Civic Duty (R)
11:50am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
Fracture (R)
11:10a.m., 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:20
Meet the Robinsons in Disney Digital (G)
11:00a.m., 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:30
The Namesake (PG-13)
11:20am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
Shooter (R)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

More information email **news@smdp.com**

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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

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

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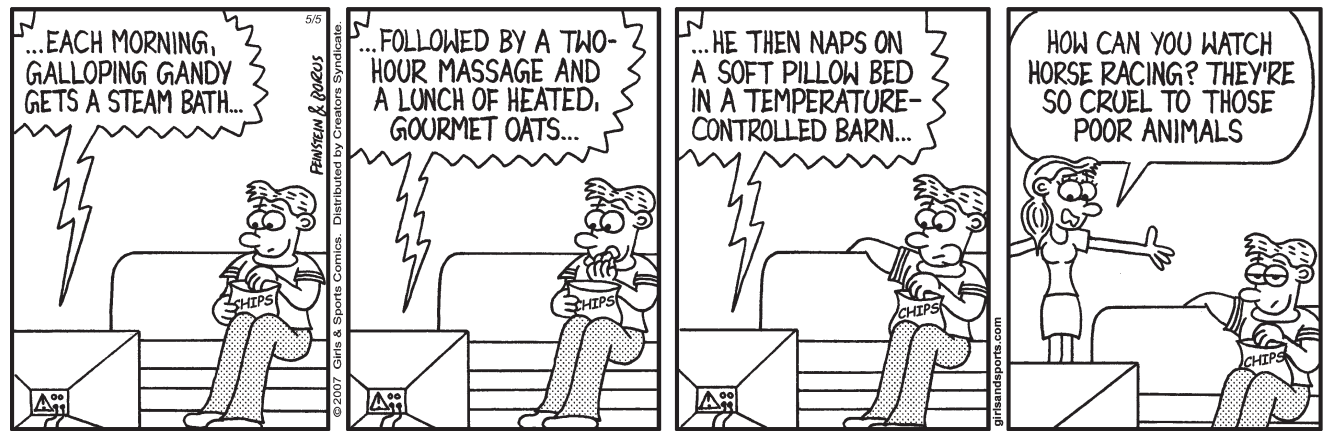
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Girls and Sports

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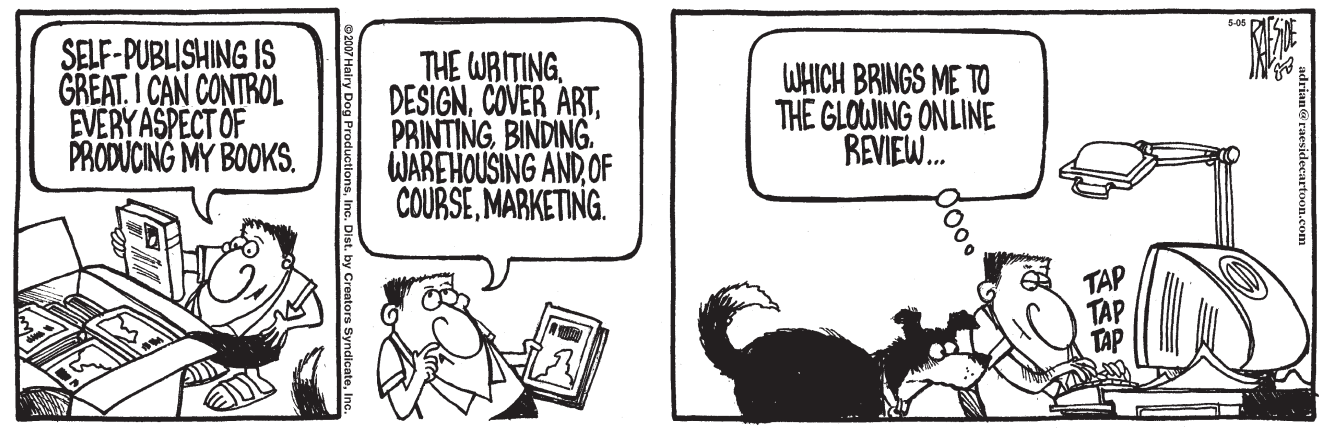
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



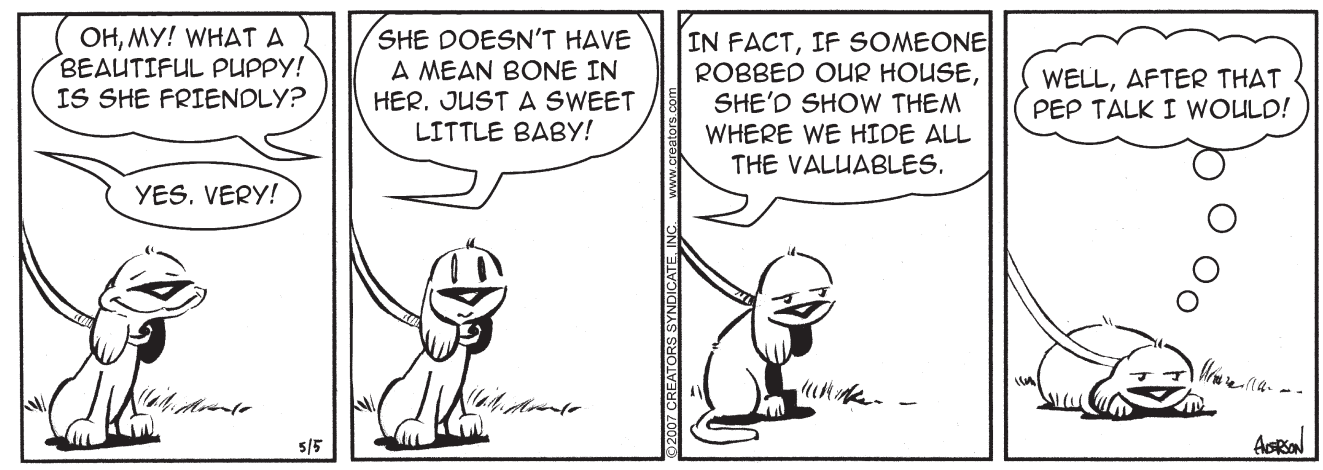
Garfield

By Jim Davis

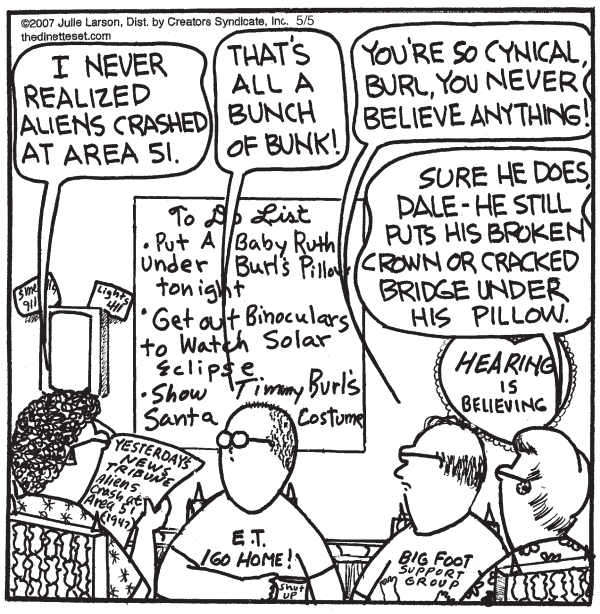


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



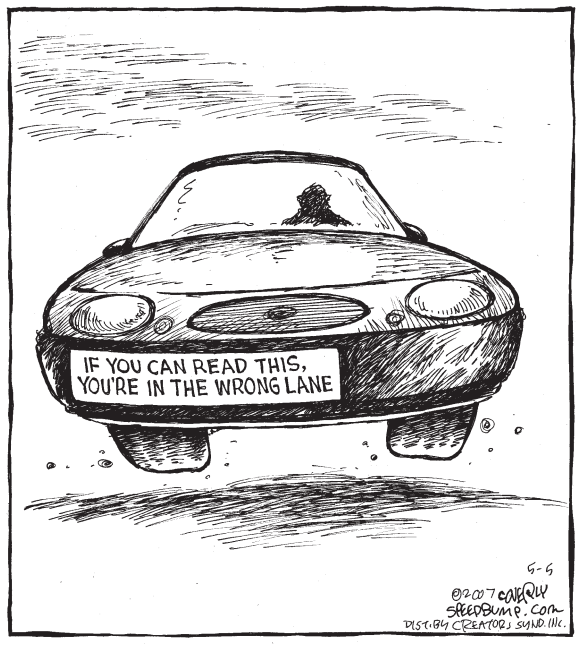
Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace

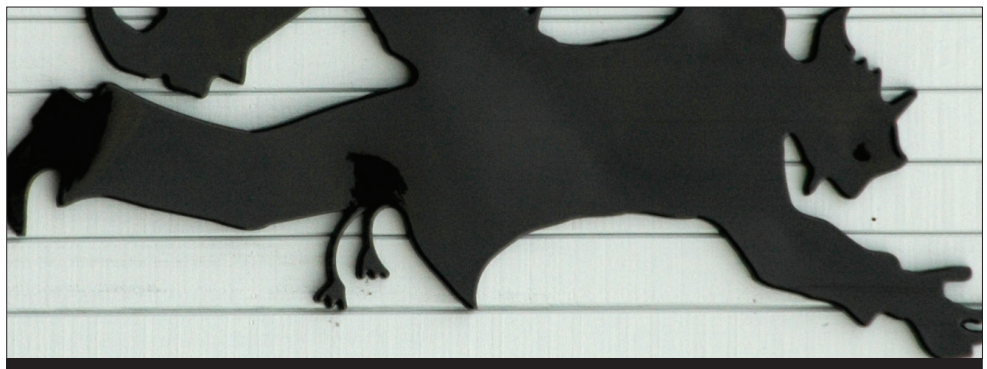


Speed Bump

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Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Claiming cry
5 Chest muscles
9 Confine
10 1977 miniseries
12 Cartoon dog
13 Holiday visitor
14 "Platoon" setting
16 Eroded
17 Stray
18 Accelerate
20 Detecting device
22 Sweeping
23 Tag number
25 Clip contents
28 Operatic gypsy
32 Serves
34 Literary collection
35 The lot
36 Stressed type
38 Laundry problem
40 Series test
41 Thus
42 Coarse stuff
43 Performs
44 Ticked off

DOWN

1 Yen
2 Hospital worker
3 Lancaster of film
4 Ad buyer
5 Of the highest quality
6 Near-eternity
7 Piña —
8 Prestige
9 Covers up
11 Cleaned, in a way
15 Pinkish yellow
19 Eternally
21 Set eyes on
24 Party snacks
25 Overflowing
26 Soda fountain order
27 La Scala setting
29 "The Naked and the Dead" author
30 Concert cry
31 Foul
33 Trig functions
37 Long way to go?
39 Top tortes

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

5-5

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 4 9 20 45 55
Meganumber: 34
Jackpot: $81M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS 3 5 12 20 24
Meganumber: 6
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5 6 10 17 27 28

DAILY 3 **MIDDAY:** 1 0 8
EVENING: 6 3 0

DAILY DERBY
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1.49.19

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

■ A Web site based in Seattle shamelessly encourages pedophiles to look all they want at kids (and gives tips for where the sightseeing is best), as long as they don't touch, and police admitted to Fox News in March that so far, that's not illegal. Said founder Jack McClellan, 45 (whose preference is for girls ages 3 to 11): "I really think this pedophilia hysteria is overblown." "There's a kind of code of ethics that these pedophiles have developed." "(Many people) have the attraction, but they're not going to do anything physical because of the laws." (After the Fox report, the Internet service provider closed the Web site.)

■ Readers' Choice: (1) In March, a British Airways economy-class passenger on a flight from Delhi, India, died onboard, and the corpse was moved to the less-congested first-class section, to the chagrin of Paul Trinder, who had paid the equivalent of about $6,000 for his nearby seat. When he complained, he said he was told just to "get over it" and that no refund would be offered. (2) In March, officials at the Gaza-Egypt border noticed that a Palestinian woman entering Gaza had a particularly lumpy upper body and searched her to reveal, strapped to her chest, three small crocodiles, which she had intended to sell to a zoo.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1260 Kublai Khan becomes ruler of the Mongol Empire.

1762 Russia and Prussia sign the Treaty of St. Petersburg.

1809 Mary Kies becomes the first woman awarded a U.S. patent, for a technique of weaving straw with silk and thread.

1862 Cinco de Mayo in Mexico: Troops led by Ignacio Zaragoza halt a French invasion in the Battle of Puebla.

1865 In North Bend, Ohio (a suburb of Cincinnati), the first train robbery in the United States takes place.

1877 Indian Wars: Sitting Bull leads his band of Lakota into Canada to avoid harassment by the United States Army under Colonel Nelson Miles.

1891 The Music Hall in New York (now known as Carnegie Hall) has its grand opening and first public performance, with Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky as the guest conductor.

1916 American marines invade the Dominican Republic.

WORD UP!

redound \rih-DOWND\, intransitive verb: 1. To have a consequence or effect. 2. To return; to rebound; to reflect. 3. To become added or transferred; to accrue.

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Promenade A & B

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Name, age, location, phone, email, current photo & brief history of your love life.
subreality@mtvstaff.com
(310-907-2344 for more info)

Location: Greater Los Angeles
Pay: Yes

Obituaries

FREDRICK (FRED) RUSH

passed away May 10, 2006 in Redlands, CA. He was born June 10, 1912 in San Francisco, CA. to Frederick and Margaret Haase Rush. His family moved to Rosamond, near Lancaster, where he attended local schools. He helped support the family during the Depression by working in the Tropico Gold Mine, and sailed with his father in the Merchant Marine. In the late 1930's the family moved to Palms, near Culver City. He was employed by Douglas Aircraft during World War II. He met Thelma E. Dickey at a local dance and they married in 1944, residing at the Dickey family home on 11th Street in Santa Monica. After Thelma's passing in 1995 he moved to Redlands to be near his family.

A plumber by trade, Fred and Thelma also owned and operated the Dance Arts Studio in Santa Monica. They enjoyed organizing dance parties for their members, and traveled the world participating in ballroom and square dance competitions. Fred had a life-long interest in the healing arts, and was an advocate of natural health care. He was also a member of the Antelope Valley Oldtimers Club.

He is survived by his brother Alvin (Olene) Rush of Redlands; nephews William (Virginia) Brown and Tom Rush; nieces Patricia (Robert) Keijonen, Donna English, Jo English, Janice (George) Cheek, Kathy (Wriley) Burnett and Sandra (Mike) Groseth; and their children and grandchildren. He is also survived by his special friend Virginia Davis of Riverside. He was preceded in death by his wife, and his sister Margaret P. Brown. His sister Dorothy J. English passed away March 25, 2007.

Private services will be held May 10,2007. Memorial donations may be made to the National Health Federation (thenhf.com), P.O. Box 688, Monrovia, California 91017.

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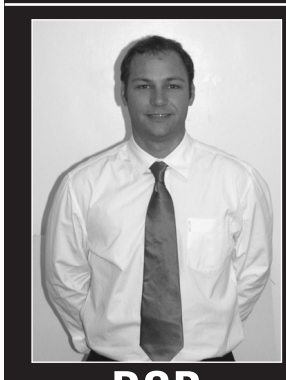
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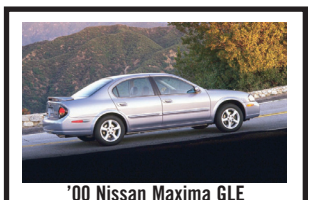
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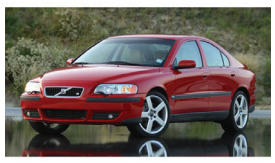
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Black, V6 3.5L, Auto, Stability, Air Bags, Traction, Moon Roof
(P1539A)
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Silver, V8 4.5L, Auto, AWD, Multi CD, Rear Spoiler
(P1547)
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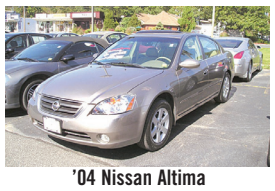


'06 Honda CRV SE
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
AC, P/W, P/L, Alloys, CD, Moon Roof, Leather, ABS, Tilt
(P1556A)
$26,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
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'05 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Red, V6 3.5L, 6 sp. Manual, Bose Premium Sound
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'04 Nissan Altima
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, AC Tilt Wheel, Cruise, CD
(P1571)
$17,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
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Vehicles for sale



'04 Infiniti G35 Coupe
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Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, RWD, ABS, Air Bags, Leather, Alloy
(P1555A) $26,993
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'05 Infiniti FX35
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White, V6 3.5L, Sport Pkg, Touring Pkg, LOADED!
(I6516A) $30,493
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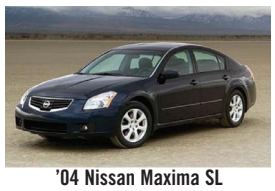
'04 Infiniti I35 Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, A/C, Bose premium sound, ABS (P1563)
$19,993
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'02 Oldsmobile Alero GL
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Silver, V6 3.4L, Auto, Pwr pkg, Multi CD, Air Bags, Leather (I6942A)
$7,995
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'05 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
White, V6 3.5L, Automatic, Air Bags, Leather (I6896A)
$27,495
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'04 Nissan Maxima SL
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Dark Blue, V6 3.5L, Auto, Bose Prem. Sound, Leather
(I6793A) $21,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
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(4L012290)
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Toyota Santa Monica
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'00 S2000 .... $16,700
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T-Top, Auto, IMMACULATE,
A MUST SEE
(W2126678)
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Vehicles for sale



'01 ML320 .... $14,995
OH MY! Chromes & All!
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Toyota Santa Monica
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'03 4Runner SR5 .. $19,700
Auto, Lthr, Alloys & More!
Extra, Extra Clean!
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Toyota Santa Monica
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'05 4 Runner $22,900
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'98 LS400 .... $14,700
Low miles, Factory Chromes, Showroom Condition
(V0105785)
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'99 RX300 .... $12,700
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'03 Dakota $11,788
QUAD CAB/w Shell! Auto, Air, Alloys
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Vehicles for sale



04 C230K 2-Door Coupe
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Certified, Alabaster White Exterior, 6-sp manual, Cruise, Air Bags
(P31491) $19,861
W.I. Simonson
(800) 784-6196



'04 Lexus RX300
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(W72703a)
$25,843
W.I. Simonson
(800) 784-6196500



'04 BMW X-5
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(W64163a)
$33,544
W.I. Simonson
(800) 784-6196



'06 Jeep Wrangler
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(P31532)
$25,411
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(800) 784-6196



'04 Odyssey
Clean Car!
(4B118690)
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'07 ml350 Mercedes Benz
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(P31509) $43,731
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04 S500V 4-Door Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Certified, Black/Charcoal, ABS, Heated Front Seats
(P31500) $58,421
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Vehicles for sale



'04 Prius $22,991
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Slvr/Gry, Go Green
(IS71209A)
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'02 Altima $15,900
Wht/Gry, 50k Mi
(L16255A)
Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned
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'05 Porsche Cayenne
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(P31524)
$49,521
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(800) 784-6196



'01 Maxima GLE $15,900
Silver/Blk
(GS71119A)
Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned
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'90 300SL **$9,993**
Summer Fun, White/Tan,
(RXH71123A)
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'01 Civic EX $9,991
Great Commuter! Silver
(1H5J0918)
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'04 Jeep Cherokee $19,991
White/Limited, Mnrf
(4C267774)
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Vehicles for sale



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(X0034916)
Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned
(800) 406-7782



'01 LS 430 $29,991
White/Tan
(10047522)
Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned
(800) 406-7782



'06 Lexus GS 430 $47,991
Blk/Blk, Navi
(65009896)
Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned
(800) 406-7782



'06 RX 400H
Navi, Certified, AWD
(60013084)
Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned
(800) 406-7782



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



'01 Land Rover Range Rover
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(P31526)
$19,991
W.I. Simonson
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'07 Bentley CGT Cpe
B.Blk/Fireglow
(7C044162) James
Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned
(310) 319-1661

Vehicles for sale



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(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
(P31525)
$24,521
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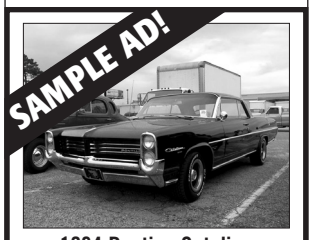
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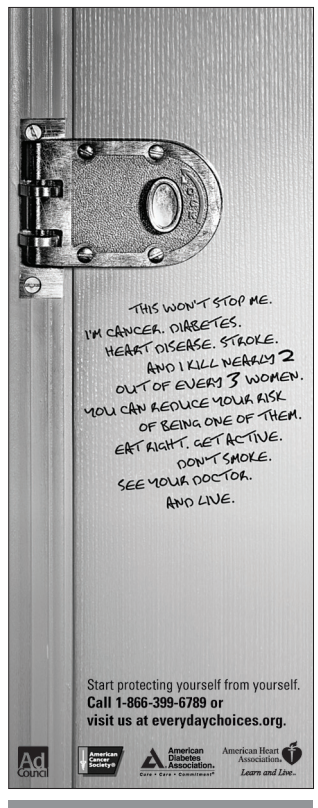
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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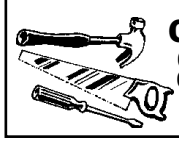
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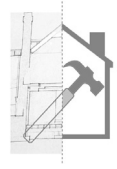
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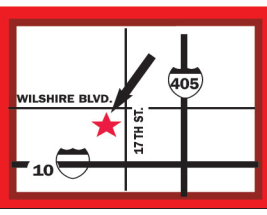
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