



PAYING UP
SEE PAGE 14

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE REACHING OUT ISSUE

Districts share experiences

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS In a school district entangled in controversy over the special education program, its reputation taking a hit from claims of secrecy and intimidation, administrators and parents were shown a light at the end of the tunnel, the possibility of healing for the divided community.

The light comes in the form of the special education program at the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, a proud educational institution that is also undergoing its own healing process and so far has seen positive results, families and administrators once considered each other as adversaries now partners.

Some key figures in those changes that have taken place at the Northern California district shared their experiences with the Santa Monica and Malibu school community during a special Board of Education meeting on Tuesday. The meeting, which addressed the need to create a culture of inclusion with the special education department, was held with the Special Education District Advisory Committee and the Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council.

San Ramon Valley experienced a similar level of turmoil in its special education program, parents distrusting the district, the underlying cause attributed to the lack of sufficient state funding, which is plaguing all school districts, according to Nancy Vandell, the immediate past president for the San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs.

The PTA formed a Special Needs Committee in the fall of 2002 to provide support to parents and serve as an informational resource for both families and district staff. The district eventually formed a Special Education Design Team to work on improving existing policies and hired a special needs liaison.

The committee met about 10 times during the 2006-07 school year, among its key concerns being staff retention.

"We were able to break down some barriers," Vandell said. "We developed a vision for special education."

Todd Gary, a former attorney and father of a special needs child, was hired as the district liaison last summer. He outlined a

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 12



ROLLING ALONG

The City of Santa Monica's Ride Your Bike To Work Day gave city employees a reason to stop turning their keys and start turning their pedals on Thursday morning. Workers who rode their bicycles to City Hall were treated to complementary valet service and bike accessories.

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

No word on airport injunction

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN L.A. A temporary restraining order barring Santa Monica City Hall from enforcing its ban on the fastest jets at Santa Monica Airport remains in effect as the U.S. District Court has yet to rule on whether to issue a preliminary injunction requested by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Both parties met in U.S. District Court on Thursday morning to argue a request for a preliminary injunction that would further enjoin City Hall from enforcing the ban until the FAA studies the legality of the city ordinance. Judge George Wu had not reached a decision by the time the court had adjourned for the day.

The Santa Monica City Council last month passed an ordinance banning category C and D jets, which includes the Gulfstream IV and Citation X, citing dangers associated with the type of aircraft, including the possibility of a plane overshooting the runway.

Runway safety at the airport has long been a source of contention between the

SEE BAN PAGE 13



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Calendar

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FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



West on the Westside

1026 Wilshire Blvd., 9 p.m.

Cool crooner John West will be bringing his laid-back brand of jazzy pop to the Temple Bar. For more information, call (310) 393-6611.

Dancing with Isabelle and Reiko

1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7:15 p.m.

Learn how to dance hot salsa in a relaxed atmosphere with Isabelle and Reiko. There are two classes offered: One for beginners and another for more advanced dancers. Once both classes are over, hang out for a while and socialize with fellow students. For more information, call (310) 392-3493.

More than meets the eye

1323-A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

"The Transformers," a group of Emmy-winning comedy writers from a number of hit TV shows comes together to perform their high-wire improv antics every Friday through August. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

Saturday, May 17, 2008

An afternoon with Jim Lynch

1900 Pico Blvd., 3 p.m.

The award-winning author of "The Highest Tide" presents a reading and discussion, followed by a book signing. Co-sponsored by the Santa Monica College Associates. The event takes place at Santa Monica College's Pavilion.

Come try it on

2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m.

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

Santa Monica on two feet

1436 Second St., 10 a.m.

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

Does the slipper fit?

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

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

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 story about Malibu's ban on plastic bags should have stated that Santa Monica is considering a ban. The city is currently drafting an ordinance, but the City Council has yet to rule on the matter.



BEER LOVERS UNITE

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

Grant Wood, a brewer for Samuel Adams, holds up a tester glass of the company's Summer Ale at the Craft Beer Week celebration at the Daily Grill located on Colorado Avenue on Wednesday night. Sous-chef Gonzalo Cruz presented the crowd of beer lovers with dishes that complemented the long list of Samuel Adams beers available with the special three-course meal.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITY HALL

Owners get chance to vote on assessment district

Property owners in Downtown Santa Monica can soon expect to see ballots in the mail asking them to sign off on a new assessment district in the city's busiest commercial area. The City Council – convening as the Redevelopment Agency – on Tuesday accepted petitions necessary to launch a ballot measure regarding the formation of a Property Based Assessment District (PBAD). The petition included the signatures of 45 percent of the total properties in the proposed district, exceeding the mandatory 40 percent threshold.

If formed, the district will be bounded by properties on Ocean Avenue to the West, Seventh Court to the east, the I-10 Freeway to the south and the north side of Wilshire Boulevard. The district will be in existence for 20 years with a reaffirmation vote of property owners after the first decade. The properties will be assessed based on their location, size and type of use. The properties in the Third Street Promenade will be assessed at the highest value with the levy decreasing in accordance with the distance from the center of the district. The revenue from the assessments will be used to pay for services such as an ambassador program, which will provide concierge services to the public, and homeless outreach.

The ballots will be tallied by the City Clerk on July 22.

DAILY PRESS

CITY HALL

Massage parlors may face new regulations

Massage parlors in Santa Monica might be subject to more city regulations, an attempt by city officials to combat alleged illicit sexual activities at several of the businesses. A proposed amendment would require that all technicians seeking a permit in Santa Monica be fingerprinted, a regulation that exists in all other Southern California cities that have a massage ordinance.

The council approved the amendments to the massage ordinance on first reading at its meeting on Tuesday. The changes are expected to be formally adopted by the council at an upcoming meeting. Santa Monica Police Department officials estimate that approximately 25 percent of the massage businesses in the city engage in illicit activities, most commonly, prostitution. Police have shut down approximately 10 businesses in the past several years, five of which closed voluntarily. Four of the businesses had a massage license. "We've had a number of complaints from community members because of the increased number in illicit massage operations in the city in recent years," City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said.

DP

Governor proposes lottery borrowing to reduce deficit

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger released a \$144.3 billion state budget that eliminates a massive deficit by selling lottery bonds and cutting billions in state programs.

The spending plan for the fiscal year that begins in July is austere, a byproduct of a slowing state economy.

Tax revenue has been falling far short of what California needs to keep pace with spending obligations, leading to a \$15.2 billion shortfall.

"As everyone knows, we are facing an extremely tough budget year," Schwarzenegger said during a news conference at the Capitol. "Our crisis is real, and it is very serious."

The centerpiece of Schwarzenegger's budget relies on a plan to make the state lottery more lucrative and thus more attractive to potential investors.

The governor hopes to raise \$15 billion over the next three years by selling bonds based on anticipated lottery revenue. He will use about \$5.1 billion of that in the 2008-09 fiscal year to help erase the state's deficit.

The other \$10 billion would remain in a rainy day fund the governor wants to create to help the state get through rough financial times in the future.

Schwarzenegger said maintaining a cash reserve is crucial. He said California's tax system means revenue can fluctuate wildly from year to year, while the budgeting and initiative processes have created a system in which spending rises annually.

The governor, sounding frustrated at having to deal with yet another budget deficit, said that instability needs to be resolved.

The 2003 recall of former Gov. Gray Davis that propelled him to office was fueled in large part by California's ballooning deficit, then estimated at \$16 billion.

"So now we are back again, and I want to say to the people of California and to the Legislature, how many more years, how many more decades should we go through this crisis?" he said.

Even without more far-reaching structur-

al budget reform, Schwarzenegger said putting \$10 billion from a lottery bond into reserves will help future governors cope with budget deficits.

The revenue proposal — which administration officials refer to as "securitizing" the lottery — would require voter approval on the November ballot because the lottery was established through the initiative process. Schwarzenegger would seek to cap the amount of lottery proceeds that go to education programs at their current level, about \$1.2 billion a year.

If it fails, the governor will ask the Legislature to approve a temporary 1 cent increase in the state sales tax to pay for the reserve fund. It would last no more than three years.

Schwarzenegger's fellow Republicans said they disagree with his plan because it links the lottery and sales tax proposals. They have taken a pledge to oppose any tax increase.

"The idea that we use the lottery to pay down debt is a good one," said Assembly Minority Leader Mike Villines, R-Clovis. "Tying it to borrowing is, I think, a mistake, and tying it to a tax is a mistake."

Sen. George Runner, R-Lancaster, said Schwarzenegger had reversed his long-standing opposition to a tax increase.

"The fact is, you're trying to secure future dollars on a scheme that has yet to be proved and ... if it doesn't work, triggering a tax increase," he said.

The Democratic leaders of both houses also were critical.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles, praised Schwarzenegger for trying to find new ways to raise money and not reducing the deficit solely through cuts. But she decried a proposed \$2.9 billion reduction to health care and social service programs, and an \$824 million cut to public transit.

State Sen. President Pro Tem Don Perata compared Schwarzenegger's plan to sell lottery bonds based on future revenue to the kind of ill-advised lending that led to the housing crisis.

"The lottery proposal he unveiled today seems to me as the worst kind of market speculation," he told reporters.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Kudos to Kenny
Editor:

I am the parent of a student at Lincoln Middle School. I want to thank Kenny Mack for his common sense commentary ("Lesson learned?" page 5, May 14). The first few nights after I found out about this problem I did not sleep.

I have a daughter, age 13, who is in special education. It's bad enough what the other children have done to my child. The thought of a teacher violating my child is just unthinkable.

Debra Shepherd
Santa Monica

Taking a columnist to task
Editor:

I tried. I really did. I tried to ignore him. But sometimes, and you know exactly what I mean, sometimes you just want to tie someone to a chair, gag them, shut the door and walk away. But hey, freedom of speech; it will test us. So I tried ignoring Steve "the Postman" Breen and his aptly named column "Going Postal." But I couldn't.

On May 3 I replied to his "Let Them Eat Cake" piece (page 4, April 30), an extended rant about Barack Obama, wherein he kept referring to him using the diminutive form "Barry." His column was a childish exercise in hackneyed wisecracking, vulgar style, overly abundant non sequiturs, contrived vocabulary, maddening alliteration and really, really crappy metaphor.

He concluded with a "haircut challenge" linked to the outcome of the November election. The loser, he or I, would receive a public head shaving (he assumes liberals have long hair). I took him up on it. If I lose, a shaved head it is. If he loses, no haircut for a year. Actually, six months would be fine with me.

In his next column, "Commonality in all People" (page 4, May 7), he declined the wager and went off again with his stream-of-consciousness blather to again target Obama, delivering super-sized portions of relentless petty mudslinging, endless abusive epithets and partisan narrow-mindedness.

I picture Breen working at the post office, index cards and a pen in his shirt pocket, having these "aha" moments, grinning as he jots down another zinger for his column.

Steve, you are obviously quite preoccupied with self-indulgent gymnastic wordplay.

Would it be too much to ask you to turn off your word processor's thesaurus function and stop trying to show everyone how "clever" you are?

Tim Dillenbeck
Santa Monica

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David Pizarra
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Thank you kindly, Mayor Newsom

YESTERDAY I BECAME, ALONG WITH other gay and lesbian Californians, equal.

I wrote four years ago that one man with courage could change the way the world works, in response to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's prescient and incredibly humane action of opening up the possibility of true marriage to gays and lesbians in his city.

His actions were construed as political grandstanding, a vain attempt to get attention for himself and his city.

The throngs of people who circled City Hall notwithstanding, and the fact that people from all across the country flew in to get married in San Francisco, were of no consequence.

The critics of gay rights were appalled. The lawsuits flew, and the marriages were ruled to be null and void.

But Thursday, the California Supreme Court in a remarkably thorough 120 pages made clear that the time had come for true equality to be the hallmark of our state.

Many people don't really understand why the cases matter, after all isn't domestic partnership the same thing as marriage? Well, in a word, no.

The court looked at that argument and said that so long as there is a separate definition of domestic partners, there can be no equality. Separate but equal was struck down decades ago in the black civil rights cases, and today it is just as unacceptable in regards to gays and lesbians.

The way in which the court wrote the opinion is crucial to its understanding. The court said that being gay is no less an immutable characteristic than race and gender. In so doing they elevated the standard of review to the highest possible, and with it, the court has given gays and lesbians a place of respect in law and society that they have never had.

What is the practical effect of all this? Legally very little will change for those people who choose to get married, they will be entitled to many of the same benefits they would have received under a domestic partnership registration. But socially it is the sense of belonging that is the crucial difference.

And that is what it means to be equal. To belong.

To belong to a society that one participates in fully, as an equal, in all ways. From paying taxes to raising children, to getting married and buying a home together.

It means for gay men they no longer have to explain to educated people that when they say "husband" they really mean long-term committed partner. It means that when a lesbian refers to her "wife" she doesn't have to have the conversation about not being "really married."

It means that our relationships are not just some pseudo-marriage equivalent that we're given to shut us up. It means we're viewed as respectable, and more importantly, it means we are respected by the state.

It proves that we are not just a group of self-indulgent drunken frat boys playing at being like the real adults — the heterosexuals.

Much will be written about the legal theory behind it all, and the implications for the national fight for marriage and lots and lots of constitutional scholars and civil activists will be talking on the television.

The religious right is sure to spend millions trying to get a ballot measure to change our state constitution, and the political talking heads will make much hay for the next week.

... FOR GAY MEN THEY NO LONGER HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO EDUCATED PEOPLE THAT WHEN THEY SAY 'HUSBAND' THEY REALLY MEAN LONG-TERM COMMITTED PARTNER.

They will spout off about polygamy and the downfall of society, issues that the court, in its wisdom dealt with specifically by saying that this does not open the door to polygamy. Not that opponents will actually read the ruling, just like they don't actually read the Bible.

Then it will all die down, and soon it will be as unremarkable as seeing a mixed race couple holding hands on the Third Street Promenade.

But today, it's remarkable. Today I cried with joy at being able to finally enjoy something that every heterosexual person takes for granted.

We don't often in our life, get to witness history so clearly made, and rarely too does it become so very personal.

Earlier this year I wrote that as an educated, white, male, lawyer, I rarely feel discriminated against, except when I tell people I'm gay.

No more. The state of California has granted me full rights of equality. And it feels wonderful.

I, and millions of other gays and lesbians in the state, owe a big thank you to Gavin Newsom.

He did a small act, with profound effects. He honored people's humanity and in so doing, changed the world, or at least the state of California.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Many talk the talk, few walk the walk

RECENTLY I WROTE ABOUT THE TIME I SAW a one-legged man crawling along the sand and into the ocean where he floated contentedly. The man was a homeless Vietnam vet who lived on the Hollywood Walk of Fame near the star of his hero, Humphrey Bogart. Somehow writing about him made me wonder about the Walk of Fame. Thanks to the Internet, (and too much free time?) I was surprised by what I discovered.

Today they're 2,500 and, get this, each honoree had to come up with \$25,000. (Often the studio or record company pays the bill.) In all, 2,500 multiplied by \$25,000 comes to a tidy \$62.5 million. I suppose over all these years I hadn't realized it was a business scheme. Next you're going to tell me the Academy Awards is a ... whoops.

Money aside, it still seems like quite an honor to have a star. On the other hand, PeeWee Herman has one. The most recent Walk of Fame honoree was Sean "Diddy" Combs on May 2. I can only wonder why it took so long.

I'm actually friends with someone who has a star. (No, not PeeWee or Diddy.) A few years ago, Ed Asner ("Mary Tyler Moore" and "Lou Grant") optioned a screenplay of mine and we've stayed in touch ever since. Ed's received seven Emmys and five Golden Globes. (And six hip operations) But I'm even more impressed with his politics, and how committed he is, even at 78. If there was a "Walk the Walk" section of the Walk of Fame, Ed would have to be in it, though he might be a little lonely.

It's much easier to talk the talk. A good example is the neo-cons that led the charge for the war in Iraq. It turns out none of them ever saw combat. Or President Bush recently telling the troops how he envied their "romantic adventure." When it was his turn, I guess it wasn't so romantic. Forget fighting, he couldn't even make his reserve meetings.

Reverend Jeremiah Wright was a Marine for six years and was decorated. VP Dick Cheney got six deferments. Military service wasn't in his "priorities." It also wasn't for Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly, none of whom served. Surprise, surprise.

Ed paid a price for his politics. In the early '80s he lost a TV series ("Lou Grant") because he spoke out about death squads in Central America. (The nerve.) But who else would be in the "Walk the Walk"? I'd have to include

the late Charlton Heston, a fervent spokesman for the NRA but also for civil rights. I'd add Humphrey Bogart for standing up to the House Un-American Activities Committee. (The name alone sounds un-American to me.) And Ed Begley Jr. for being green before anyone knew what it meant and probably driving his wife crazy in the process.

Asner is actually a lot like Lou Grant, gruff, but with a big heart. After reading one of my scripts, he said that I was so talented it was an honor to know me. Not knowing how to respond, and doing a poor Mary Tyler Moore impression, I joked, "Ooh, Mr. Grant, I think I'm gonna cry."

Dead silence.

Realizing I had bombed, I thanked him for the compliment and hung up without causing further damage. For weeks I proceeded to relate Ed's compliment to any friends or strangers who would listen.

A year later Ed was on Jay Leno in a recurring segment, "Does This Impress Ed Asner?" Dressed in a tuxedo Ed judges three painfully bad amateur acts. One was an unusually overweight man who removed his underwear without taking off his walking shorts. I don't know how he did it, nor do I care. But to my horror, Ed basically told the guy he was so talented it was an honor to know him. Still crushed the next day, I called the office. Ed's response was, "I felt sorry for the fat guy, I didn't feel sorry for you."

Soon, Ed will be on "The John Kerwin Show" shot in Santa Monica. I gather he mentioned my script "The Amazing Mr. Z." It's on Time Warner, channel 77, 11 p.m. (Also on YouTube, "Thejohnkerwinshow.")

If Ed exemplifies "walk the walk," what does President Bush exemplify? Yesterday, Bush acknowledged that to show his empathy with the grieving families from the Iraq war, he gave up golf. (I couldn't make this stuff up.) "It's just not worth it anymore to do," Bush said. To me that's like saying to show empathy to starving people everywhere, I'm not going to have pizza. Or rather, I won't order certain toppings.

Bush should have his own walk of fame called WPE, worst president ever.

JACK NEWORTH can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.



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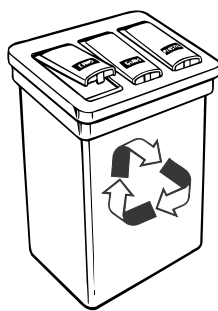
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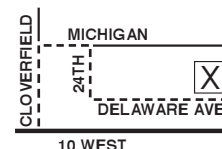


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The Q-Line

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Kate Bransfield
Estates Director

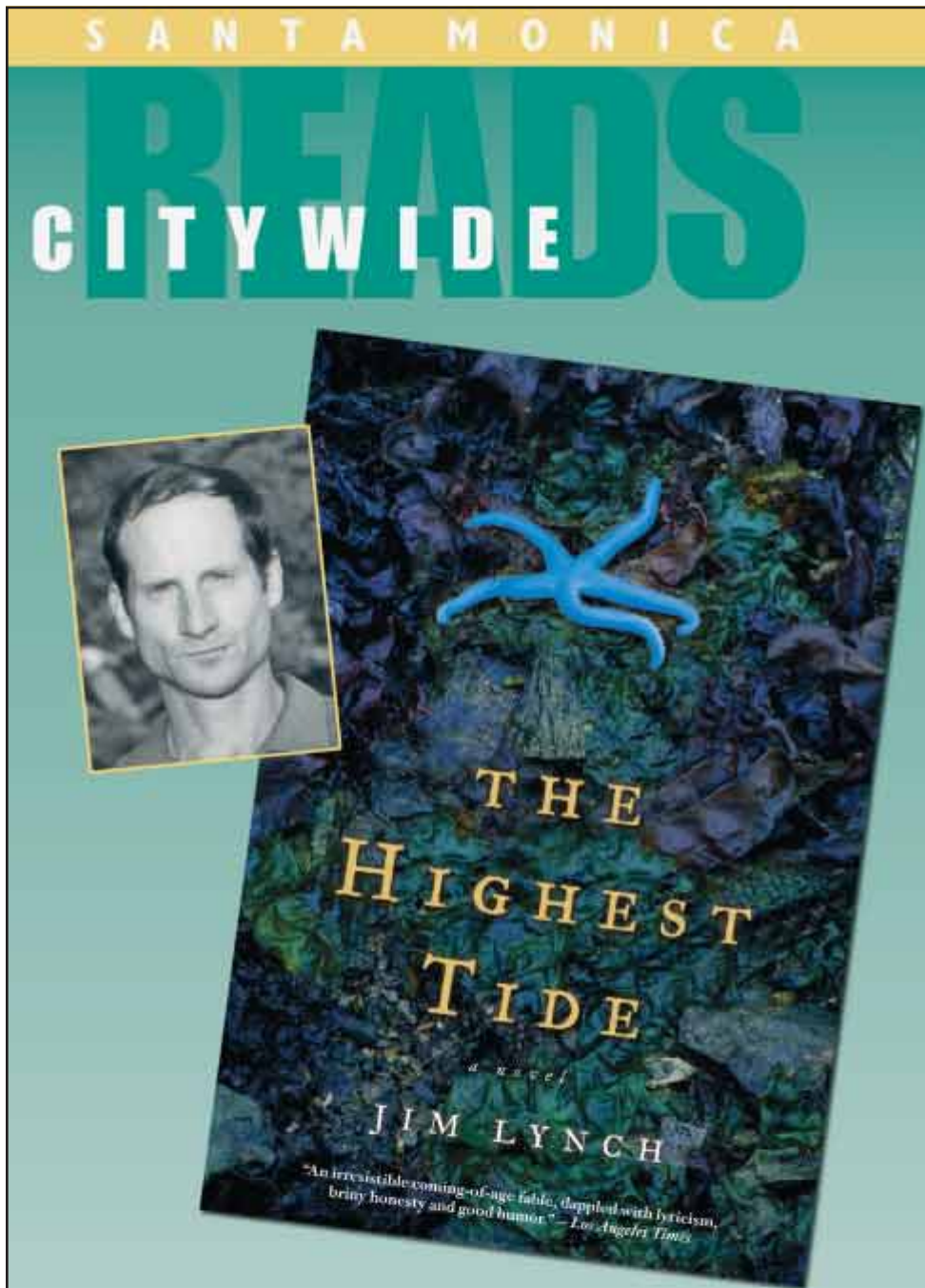
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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



What a wild ride

SUNDAY, MAY 11 AT 3:31 P.M.,

Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 100 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a trespassing violation in progress. Officers arrived and spoke to a security guard who told them he wanted to make a citizen's arrest of a homeless person who had been sleeping in a hotel rest room and had been warned several times about the practice in the past. The guard told officers that when he attempted to detain the man the suspect kicked him in the leg and tried to run away. The guard caught and held the man until officers arrived. The suspect was arrested for trespassing. He was identified as Jomo Krishna Barnett, 47, a transient. His bail was set at \$20,000.

SATURDAY, MAY 10 AT 9:30 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade regarding a report of vandalism. As officers arrived they detained a man as he exited a restaurant there. They talked to the restaurant's staff who said the male suspect had locked himself in a bathroom for 30 minutes. The staff unlocked the door to check on him and saw he was writing with an etching tool on the bathroom mirror. When the suspect realized he had been caught he pushed the staff member out of the bathroom and locked the door. As the suspect walked out of the restaurant he was immediately detained by awaiting officers. The suspect was arrested for vandalism. He was identified as Jeffry David Sackman, 51, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at \$20,000.

FRIDAY, MAY 9 AT 12:35 P.M.,

Officers responded to a gas station located on the 400 block of Wilshire Boulevard. When they arrived they spoke to an attendant who told them that the business had been dealing with a homeless woman for two years and had extended her store credit. When they asked the woman to pay her debt for the past two to three months she became upset and claimed to be part owner and said she is entitled to 78 to 80 percent of the store's profits. She then went to a payphone and called 911 and asked for the police to come before hanging up. As the attendant went outside to discuss the matter with the woman, she picked up a gas nozzle and began waving it toward him. She then slammed the nozzle on the ground before picking it up and slamming it down into the nozzle's pocket on a nearby gas pump. She then fled on foot. Assisting officers found her in the alley to the rear of the 1200 block of Fourth Street. The store's attendant identified her. The suspect was arrested for felony vandalism, abuse of the 911 system and a probation violation. She was identified as Nicolle Keranka Oneill, 41, a transient. Her bail was set at \$20,000.

THURSDAY, MAY 8 AT 4:55 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 1400 block of the Third Street Promenade – Broadway Deli. An officer arrived and spoke to the restaurant's manager who told him that a subject had ordered a meal and eaten it, but didn't have any money to pay the tab. The manager just wanted the subject to leave the restaurant and didn't want to press any charges. The officer escorted the man out of the restaurant and asked to see identification to do a standard warrant check. The check showed that the subject was currently on probation. The officer asked the man if he would submit to a search and agreed. During the search the officer found a small amount of cocaine in his pocket. The man was placed under arrest for possession of a controlled substance and for a probation violation. The suspect was identified as Thomas Boyd Mitchell, 44, of Santa Monica. No bail was set because the suspect was on probation.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 AT 9:25 A.M.,

Officers responded to the 1500 block of Ocean Avenue – Travel Lodge – regarding a fraud investigation. A Los Angeles resident had called and notified the police that her credit card had been stolen on May 2 and her credit card company notified her that it had been used by individuals who were currently staying at the motel. When officers arrived, they contacted the motel's front desk and confirmed that the victim's credit card had been fraudulently used to book a room. Officers went to the room and detained a male and female. The staff member who checked the couple into the room identified the suspects. The pair were arrested for commercial burglary, forgery, unauthorized use of a credit card, possession of drug paraphernalia and a parole violation. The female suspect was identified as Sonia Kolikias, 38, of Los Angeles. The male suspect was identified as Christopher James Kolikias, 36, also of Los Angeles. No bail has been set.

MONDAY, MAY 5 AT 2:43 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 600 block of Montana Avenue – Blockbuster Video – regarding a commercial burglary. When they arrived they contacted the store's manager who said that three subjects had entered the store and inquired about purchasing a video game. When she walked away to retrieve the game, she noticed that they began stashing items underneath their shirts. Without purchasing the game, the subjects exited the store, setting off the electronic theft detectors in the process. The manager pursued the subjects and ordered them to stop, they refused. The three got into a vehicle and began to flee. Fearing that the vehicle would hit her, she jumped onto the hood to protect herself and to make the vehicle stop. The vehicle drove down a nearby alley with the manager on the hood. As they approached Montana Avenue the manager jumped off. At that time, she contacted the police and gave the vehicle's license plate number to the dispatcher. Responding officers located and stopped the vehicle on the 1400 block of Court 13. The manager identified the three males. All three suspects were arrested for robbery and burglary for stealing video games. Two of the suspects were juveniles and could not be identified. The third suspect was identified as Jason Michaels, 19, of Los Angeles. No booking information was made available.

Managing editor Daniel Archuleta compiled these reports.

NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy Disney

'National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets'

Nicolas Cage returns in this glossy globetrotting adventure as Benjamin Franklin Gates, treasure hunter extraordinaire who must find the missing pages of a diary that holds a secret so explosive it could change the course of history. Joining Cage in this international treasure hunt story is an impressive supporting cast: Jon Voight, Helen Mirren, Ed Harris and Harvey Keitel. A gold mine rich in special features include: Book of Secrets: On Location, Underground Action, Evolution of a Golden City, Easter Eggs, The Treasure Reel, Street Stunts, Inside the Library of Congress and deleted scenes to name a few. (Disney)

'27 Dresses'

After serving as a bridesmaid 27 times, a romantic and selfless young woman (Katherine Heigl) wrestles with the idea of standing by her sister's side as her scheming sibling is headed to the altar with the man she's secretly in love with, but the surprise is who ends up as husband and wife. The picture co-stars Judy Greer and Edward Burns. (Fox)

'And Justice For All'

Al Pacino stars as Arthur Kirkland, a passionate lawyer full of righteousness whose morals are tested when he is forced to defend a hated judge (John Forsythe) charged with a dreadful crime. Despite his deep dislike of the judge personally, Arthur must represent him in court or face the near certainty of being disbarred. He thus has no choice but to carefully navigate his way within the corrupt legal system without losing his beliefs. Directed by Norman Jewison ("Fiddler on the Roof," "In the Heat of the Night"), the picture co-stars Jack Warden, Christine Lahti, and Jeffrey Tambor. Special features include interviews with director Jewison and co-writer Barry Levinson as well as deleted scenes and a television pilot episode of "Damages," the legal thriller starring Glenn Close. (Sony)

'Michael Palin: New Europe'

Award-winning adventurer Michael Palin ("Around the World in 80 Days," "Pole to Pole") takes us on an expedition into once forbidden territory. No longer hindered by the Cold War, the gregarious world traveler and former Monty Python star treks nearly 12,000 miles on a four-month journey spanning 20 countries. The three-disc set follows the witty and insightful Palin on a trek taking us from Estonia in the north to Turkey in the south, interacting with some distinctive characters and memorable events along the way. (BBC America)

'Ken Burns' The West'

The epic saga of the vast America frontier is brought to life as a compelling history presentation. The maestro of documentaries offers 12 hours on five discs overturning old stereotypes, discovering new personalities while exploring the triumphs and tragedies that make this one of the more dramatic chapters in America's evolution. (Discovery)

'All You Need Is Love'

Based on a suggestion in the mid-'70s from John Lennon to his journalist/film director friend, Tony Palmer, comes this monumental documentary exploring in-depth the major players of the music world – across all genres. Out on DVD for the first time, 17 segments on five discs provide a brilliant exposition about "The Story of Popular Music." A visually rich exploration, it encompasses everything from Jazz, Folk, Blues, Country and Western to Rock 'n' Roll. Nearly all of the major performers are interviewed including: Dizzy Gillespie, Elvis Presley, Jimi Hendrix, Benny Goodman, Bing Crosby and Paul McCartney among many others. (MVD)

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



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Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale

Single Family Homes Condo & Townhomes

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North of Montana	=	\$ 4,177,846	\$ 1,699,765
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,054,667	\$ 956,759
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 973,121	\$ 731,368
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,474,071	\$ 853,188
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,804,154	\$ 1,378,837

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with a story

High brow art



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Buckwheat to make the funk the Pier funk



THE UNDER THE BANNER SPECIAL



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GATES OPEN 7:15 A.M.

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FIRST LIVE RACE 12:00 NOON

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Free Beach Chair Giveaway*

**Free Family Fun Day Activities
in North Park**





NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD REGULAR MEETING

DATE/TIME: May 19, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- ☐ ARB 08-037, 309 Broadway: Commercial
- ☐ ARB 08-045, 1726 Santa Monica Boulevard: Auto Dealer
- ☐ ARB 08-051, 1221 Ocean Avenue: Multi-Residential
- ☐ ARB 08-094, 732 Montana Avenue: Commercial
- ☐ ARB 08-127, 3005 Main Street: Commercial
- ☐ ARB 08-138, 1448 Twenty-Fifth Street: Multi-Residential
- ☐ ARB 08-184, 395 Santa Monica Place: Commercial

More information is available on-line at <http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arb agendas.htm> or at 310/458-8341 (en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). Call 310-458-8341 or TTY 310-450-8896 for disability accommodation requests. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8 serve City Hall.



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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

Seeking Professional Musicians

The City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division is seeking professional jazz musicians to perform at the annual Jazz on the Lawn concert series. Interested parties should submit a resume along with a press kit including items such as sample music disc, photographs, DVD, press materials and/or other sample materials by June 19 to:

Jazz on the Lawn
Cultural Affairs Division
PO Box 2200
Santa Monica, CA 90407-2200
310/458.8350

Going batty for baseball

BY CYNTHIA CITRON

Special to the Daily Press

A bright young artist who had previously earned high praise for her work is twitching through her latest exhibition. She is hiding out in a back room of the gallery, where she is having a crisis of confidence, a panic attack, and a nervous breakdown. Simultaneously.

In the next scene we find her holed up in a psychiatric hospital, where she has been taken after having attempted suicide by slicing her wrists with a knife – lengthwise along the veins rather than across them.

It seems that our heroine, Dana (scrupulously played by CB Spencer), fears that her newest art work doesn't live up to her earlier promise. "Maybe it was all just hype," she moans.

Thus begins the Los Angeles premiere of Rebecca Gilman's haunting comedy "The Sweetest Swing in Baseball." An exploration of success, identity, and the nature of insanity, Gilman's play, like all her work, is intelligent, provocative, and insanely funny.

Dana's behavior at the hospital is influenced by two new friends: Roy (Jerry Lloyd), an angry sociopath who was convicted of attempting to murder a CNN anchorman whose opinions and attitudes he disagreed with, and Michael (Brian Weir), a gay young addict undergoing rehab for the umpteenth time.

It is they who inform her that her health insurance will cover only 10 days of hospital treatment – unless she can come up with some major syndrome that requires a longer stay. After reading a biography of baseball star Darryl Strawberry, Dana decides to assume his identity and the symptoms of Multiple Personality Disorder. Though she knows very little about baseball and keeps making goofy gaffes, the doctors allow her to stay.

As her condition improves ("being Darryl freed me up," she exults), she begins to paint again. Only now she is painting baseball scenes populated by chickens in baseball caps.

"There's no point in trying," Gary, the grumpy sociopath, tells her. "Everybody's a wannabe-something," he says. "The difference between wannabes and losers is that wannabes make things and losers break things."

Strangely enough, Dana's baseball chickens are a huge success and her reputation is revitalized. But not her identity. In the end is she a lost artist or a wannabe baseball player?

Rebecca Gilman, on the other hand, is not a wannabe nor a loser. Her reputation as an award-winning playwright is well-established and her talent has never been in question. With "The Sweetest Swing in Baseball" she has delivered another crowd-pleasing hit. The production starts off slowly, leaving you wondering where it's going, but it picks up the pace in the second act and, while Gilman doesn't completely knock one out of the ball park, "The Sweetest Swing in Baseball" has to go into the record books as a solid RBI.

The company, which also includes Lilo Greenwald and Ferrell Marshall in multiple parts, is earnest and believable and well-directed by the excellent Ross Kramer for the West Coast Ensemble, with which he has been associated for the last 15 years. The set design by Stephen Gifford is adequate and serviceable, but Kramer has added a unique touch to the scene changes.

The two-man crew who move tables and chairs around to create galleries, hospital rooms, and offices (in this case Brad Cook and Brad Ekstrand) are dressed in appropriate costumes for the scene and incorporate little pieces of business that make them part of the over-all action. That play, plus the sound design of Ron Klier, make the many scene changes both speedy and palatable.

"The Sweetest Swing in Baseball" will be presented Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. through June 8 at the El Centro Theater, 804 N. El Centro Ave., in Hollywood.

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The opportunity is here for an introduction and overview to the

LUCE Strategy Framework. (Land Use Circulation Element)

Over the last few years, the Community and the City have worked intently together to develop a cohesive and inclusive vision for the future of Santa Monica.

Please join us at the upcoming Planning Commission meetings to share your thoughts on the LUCE strategy.

Thursday, May 22nd
7:00 pm

Civic Auditorium

Presentation, Discussion & Public Comment

Wednesday, May 28th
7:00 pm

City Council Chambers

Continued Discussion & Public Comment



The LUCE Strategy Framework will be available at:
www.shapethefuture2025.com

District talks about culture of inclusion

FROM DISTRICT PAGE 1

change in mindset that took place in the district during the negotiation process for the Individualized Education Plan, which outlines the services that special needs students receive during the school year.

It was the proceedings for the IEP that first sparked controversy in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, parents speaking in disdain of the practice of settlement agreements and confidentiality clauses that are brokered once negotiations in the IEP breakdown. A moratorium is in place for confidentiality clauses unless requested by the parent.

Gary said that the key is collaboration and a winning negotiation mentality, resulting in a satisfying deal for both parties.

"Most people think of it as adversarial," Gary said. "I don't want people to think of negotiation as adversarial because it doesn't need to be."

The winning negotiation process includes establishing boundaries and defining the services that lie outside, mutually agreeing from the beginning that they're off the table.

Vandell said she believes the SMMUSD is in the same place that San Ramon Valley was when the Special Education Design Team was formed. She likened the work of the Special Needs Committee and the information it gathered to the audit that was conducted by Lou Barber & Associates last month about the special education program in Santa Monica and Malibu.

The school board expressed support for forming a design committee to further explore policy changes for special education. Superintendent Dianne Talarico, who also introduced several measures to improve the program last month, suggested the same group of stakeholders who chose Lou Barber as the consultant also serve as the design

**I DON'T WANT
PEOPLE TO
THINK OF NEGOTIATION
AS ADVERSARIAL
BECAUSE IT DOESN'T
NEED TO BE."**

Todd Gary,

Special Needs Liaison, San Ramon Valley
Unified School District

committee. The group, which was comprised of district staff and parents, was charged with the task of hiring a consultant to conduct the audit, which was mandated by the Santa Monica City Council last summer.

"We have to clean the slate and start over," Talarico said. "There has to be reciprocity in this process and it has to be everyone, from the inside out and the outside in."

School board member Kelly Pye said the experiences in the San Ramon Valley district show that change can be done in a responsible manner.

"I think we have amazing building blocks from which to move forward," Pye said.

Some parents agreed.

Lee Jones, the co-chair of the Special Education District Advisory Committee, said the meeting was a step in the right direction.

"I think that this gives us a model that can help us develop one of the many areas that will allow us to make change in the culture," Jones said. It's one of the pieces."

melodyh@smdp.com

Super publicist Warren Cowan dies

BY BOB THOMAS

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Warren Cowan, one of the last of the super publicists who helped make Hollywood the glamour capital of the world, has died. He was 87.

Cowan, who handled the careers of stars from Joan Crawford to Elizabeth Taylor, died at Cedars Sinai Medical Center Wednesday, just three weeks after being diagnosed with cancer, his office said.

His wife Barbara, daughter Claudia Cowan and stepdaughters Melissa Gilbert and Sara Gilbert were with him when he died.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force and graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles, Cowan joined veteran publicist Henry Rogers in 1950 to form Rogers and Cowan. It soon became the biggest publicity company in Hollywood. Among their clients: Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Doris Day, Clint Eastwood, Gene Kelly, Lucille Ball, John Wayne, Cary Grant, Danny Kaye and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

When asked who his favorite client was, he always answered, "The next one."

Ronald Reagan and Cowan often joked that if Cowan had done a better job of promoting Reagan's acting career, he wouldn't have been forced to find another career in politics.

Beginning in the John F. Kennedy years, Cowan brought stars to the White House for "world premiere screenings." He also promoted "top 10 lists" — like "most watchable man" and "most hypnotic eyes" — to get his stars into print.

He was a pioneer in product placement in movies, celebrity charity tributes and film festivals, longtime friend Linda Dozoretz said.

He was a master at creating news as well, she said. He is often cited as the first publicist to place a billboard on a rooftop so airline passengers could see it.

He was quick with a gimmick and a smile; to generate more publicity for his red carpets, he promoted the fact that they were longer, brighter or more expensive than any other. He was also generous and proud of his charity work — he volunteered his time, energy and staff to hundreds of organizations, from the John Wayne Cancer Foundation to the United Way, Dozoretz said.

Rogers and Cowan was sold to an English conglomerate in 1988. Henry Rogers died in 1995.

Cowan formed another company, Warren Cowan and Associates, in 1994 and had another stable of blue-ribbon clients, including Taylor, Paul Newman and Kirk Douglas.

Woman indicted in MySpace suicide case

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A Missouri woman was indicted Thursday for her alleged role in perpetrating a hoax on the online social network MySpace against a 13-year-old neighbor who committed suicide.

Lori Drew of suburban St. Louis, who allegedly helped create a MySpace account in the name of someone who didn't exist to convince Megan Meier she was chatting with a 16-year-old boy named Josh Evans, was charged with conspiracy and fraudulently gaining access to someone else's computer.

Megan hanged herself at home in October 2006, allegedly after receiving a dozen or more cruel messages, including one stating the world would be better off without her.

Salvador Hernandez, assistant agent in charge of the Los Angeles FBI office, called the case heart-rending.

"The Internet is a world unto itself. People must know how far they can go before they must stop. They exploited a young girl's weaknesses," Hernandez said. "Whether the defendant could have foreseen the results, she's responsible for her actions."

Drew was indicted by a federal grand jury on one count of conspiracy and three counts of accessing protected computers without authorization to get information used to inflict emotional distress on the girl.

Drew has denied creating the account or sending messages to Megan.

Dean Steward, a lawyer representing Drew in the federal case, said a legal challenge to the charges was being planned. He characterized them as unusual and puzzling.

"We thought when prosecutors in St. Louis looked at the case and all the facts, it was clear no criminal acts occurred," Steward said.

A man who opened the door at the Drew family home in Dardenne Prairie, Mo., on

Thursday said the family had no comment.

Megan's mother, Tina Meier, told The Associated Press she believed media reports and public outrage helped move the case forward for prosecution.

"I'm thrilled that this woman is going to face charges that she has needed to face since the day we found out what was going on, and since the day she decided to be a part of this entire ridiculous stunt," she said.

Megan's father, Ron Meier, 38, said he began to cry "tears of joy" when he heard of the indictment. The parents are now separated, which Tina Meier has said stemmed in part from the circumstances of their daughter's death.

Tina Meier has acknowledged Megan was too young to have a MySpace account under the Web site's guidelines, but she said she had been able to closely monitor the account. Meier's family has also acknowledged that Megan was also sending mean messages before her death.

Megan was being treated for attention deficit disorder and depression, her family has said. Meier has said Drew knew Megan was on medication.

MySpace issued a statement saying it "does not tolerate cyberbullying" and was cooperating fully with the U.S. attorney.

U.S. Attorney Thomas P. O'Brien said this was the first time the federal statute on accessing protected computers has been used in a social-networking case. It has been used in the past to address hacking.

"This was a tragedy that did not have to happen," O'Brien said at a Los Angeles press conference.

Both the girl and MySpace are named as victims in the case, he said.

Rebecca Lonergan, a former federal prosecutor who now teaches law at the University of Southern California, said use of the federal cyber crime statute may be open to challenge.

City awaits judge's ruling regarding airport jet ban

FROM BAN PAGE 1

FAA and City Hall, city officials echoing concerns of Sunset Park residents that there is a chance a jet will one day overshoot the runway and collide with homes. Santa Monica, which is considered a reliever airport, is unique in that there are homes within 300 feet of the east and west ends of the runway.

The ban was set to go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on April 24 but was suspended by City Hall later that day after the FAA filed for a temporary restraining order. The TRO, issued by the judge on April 28, forced City Hall to comply with the FAA's earlier cease-and-desist order.

The FAA argues that irreparable harm would exist as a result of the ban, disrupting 9,000 aircraft operations a year at Santa Monica Airport, affecting 20,000 to 30,000 passengers. Federal officials also point out that the runway incidents at the airport have involved the smaller A and B category planes.

Deputy City Attorney Lance Gams urged the judge not to issue the preliminary

**WHY NOT
CHOOSE THE
PUBLIC'S INTEREST OVER
THE CONVENIENCE OF A
FEW."**

Lance Gams,
Deputy City Attorney

injunction while the legality of the ordinance is being analyzed.

"Why not choose the public's interest over the convenience of a few," Gams said.

If the judge does side with the FAA, Gams said City Hall will likely appeal to the state Appellant Court. Gams added that the city could petition the Court of Appeals to review the issuance of the cease and desist order.

melodyh@smdp.com

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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)
Today is also looking fairly small, although some light southerly swell should come in to help south facing breaks maintain size waist high on the better sets. Weather is looking unseasonably warm, winds should be offshore in the morning, and tide stays at moderate levels throughout most of the day.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
LIGHT NW SWELL THIS WEEKEND...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



Santa Monica, California
05-16 02:121 05-16 09:22 05-16 13:37 05-16 20:01

Moonset: 03:40 Moonrise: 17:05

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 5, 2008

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 2

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / ns

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Soguit Creek mouth	C	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Luchessa and Los Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Escalante Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	F	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	F	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	D	ns
Marin Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily	D	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	B	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pine Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17260 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

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

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He said he never bet on basketball, and only bet in casinos. He called it a bad habit, but said he intended to continue.

MOVIETIMES

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade	2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45 The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 53min 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40 Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10 Speed Racer (PG) 2hrs 15min 1:10, 2:10, 4:20, 5:20, 7:15, 8:30, 10:15	1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:00
The Babysitters (R) 1hr 30min 12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25 The Fall (R) 1hr 57min 1:15, 3:55, 6:35 Nim's Island (PG) 1hr 35min 1:45, 4:00, 6:25 Speed Racer (PG) 2hrs 15min 12:45, 3:45, 6:45	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741 Redbelt (R) 1hr 39min 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30 Then She Found Me (R) 1hr 40min 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55 The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min 1:30, 4:20, 7:25, 10:00 Smart People (R) 1hr 33min	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599 Iron Man (PG-13) 2hrs 06min 11:00 a.m., 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:05, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00 Made of Honor (PG-13) 1hr 41min 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) 1hr 39min 11:10 a.m., 12:10, 1:40, 2:40, 4:15, 5:10, 6:40, 7:40, 9:20, 10:20
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262 21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50 Baby Mama (PG-13) 1hr 36min 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00 Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) 1hr 42min		

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

Hold off on shopping, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Where you thought it might be difficult to reach an agreement, you discover otherwise. The unexpected earmarks your actions but doesn't toss plans into chaos. You could be surprised by a late offer. Tonight: Say yes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Knowing your limits becomes clear after a discussion. You might need to back down, for your own good. How you see a situation and what evolves could change. Creativity bubbles forth in a jam. Tonight: Look to a new experience

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your creativity emerges, and you find a reason to take off early. After resolving an issue that could be quite challenging to some, you feel free and that you can relax. Tonight: Christen the weekend well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Basics count. You feel as if many possibilities evolve that might not normally. If you want, take the time to explore an option. Your sense of commitment could carry you through a rough period or two. Tonight: Finally, time for you and your loved ones.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Talk up a storm. Opportunities that involve friends strike. Your popularity soars within your immediate circle. The unexpected occurs within a partnership. Could this person be envious or jealous? Tonight: Hang out with a favorite person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to defer to someone else. Your clarity and directness could determine the end results of a key or business discussion. Trust your judgment, especially if faced with a problem or hassle. Tonight: Postpone some shopping, if possible. You might regret your decisions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You are the kingpin of adventure and change. Investigate and understand what needs to happen. Look toward travel, new communication and perhaps a connection with someone very different. Tonight: All smiles. Others cannot say no.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Know when to pull out and rethink a problem. Your ability to understand and gain insight helps you focus on the real issue. Your creativity flows from your centering. Communication could be overwhelming. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Friendship and good will pave the way, in business or in your private life. You could be tired or feel as if you cannot give any more. Be aware of the many different ways you could deal with a problem. Aim for the clear results. Tonight: TGIF.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Stay on top of your game. Understand what will happen if you allow some of your insecurity to enter your life. If you pull back, you could find that your own communication is a bit abrupt. Certainly this is not the time for major decisions. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision. Tap in to your avant-garde thinking, and you'll see many possibilities that could work. If you are moving forward and breaking new ground, don't abandon the conventional either. Tonight: Balance your checkbook before you take off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Your unpredictability doesn't help you move in new directions. Others might offer a partnership or an agreement. Still, if you cannot stabilize, you won't be able to run with the offer in question. Tonight: Follow another's suggestion.

Happy birthday

You might want to veer in a new direction this year. The unexpected keeps heading your way. You might rethink your path if you hit too many problems or obstacles. Your ability to read between the lines will help you make strong financial decisions. You will work hard but also feel good about projects you launch. If you are single, look to meeting someone out of your normal mode. This person could fit the bill perfectly. If you are attached, plan on a very special trip that the two of you might have been discussing or fantasizing about. Just the planning process alone will bring you closer. LIBRA can be gentle and nurturing.

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

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Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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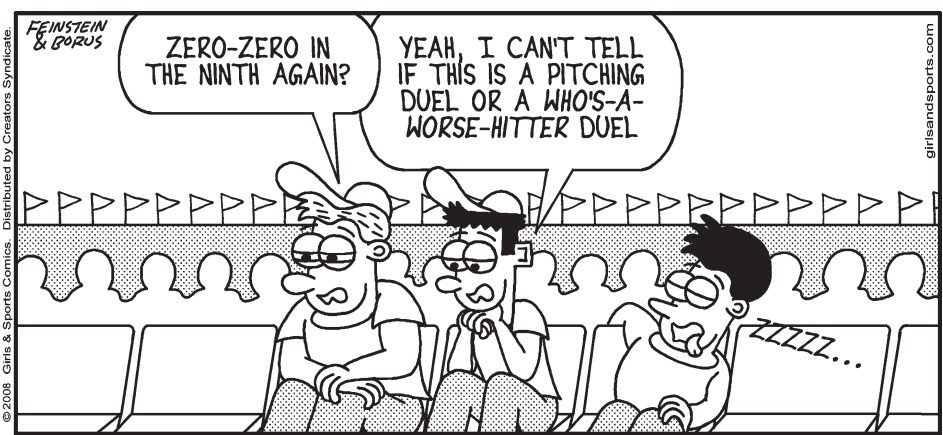
PS0803 11/08

Girls and Sports

5/16

SIGNS THAT THE STEROIDS ERA IS OVER

SIGN #5: SCORING IS DOWN



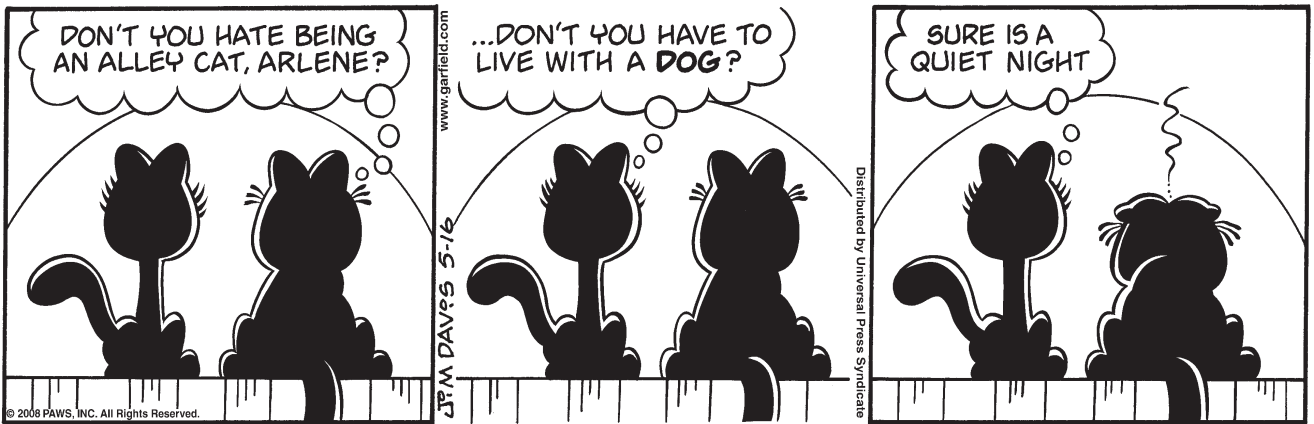
The Meaning of Lila



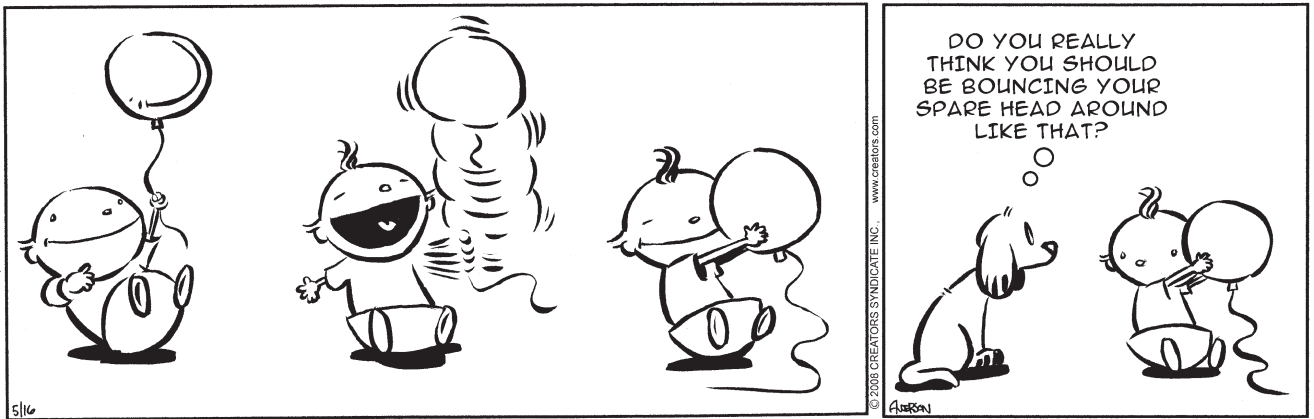
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Garfield



Dog eat Doug



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Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Here's a hint. This was shot on Olympic Boulevard. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Conjure

1 "Aladdin" villain

6 Flutes' kin

11 Sports venue

12 Like argon

13 Abattoir offering

14 Macbeth, for one

15 Waiting rewards

17 Molecule part

18 Scrooge cries

20 Luxurious

22 Mine output

23 Trades

26 Consent

28 French cap

29 In the direction of, informally

31 Pod bit

32 Thus

33 Easter symbol

34 Geol. and biol.

36 High-lander

38 — to (should)

40 Michael of "A Fish Called Wanda"

43 Despise

45 Burger

46 Made hems

DOWN

1 Toast spread

2 Have life

3 Boxing category

4 Opposition force

5 Coarse file

6 In shape

7 Bad way to marry

8 Head rest

9 Cube maker

10 Goblet part

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

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

Yesterday's answer

16 Place for a mud bath

18 Junk, for one

19 Jason's ship

21 Balls

23 Ice chunk

24 Film unit

25 Don't budge

27 Hearing range

30 Kennel resident

33 Head out

34 Bath need

35 Havana's land

37 Jungle group

39 Essay

41 Tina's ex

42 Outlaw Kelly

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20 24 27 31 47
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: \$196M

Super LOTTO
7 19 29 37 43
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$25M

Fantasy 5
1 3 10 15 30

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 6 0 6
EVENING: 5 4 7

DAILY DERRY
1st: 06 WHIRL WIN
2nd: 11 MONEY BAGS
3rd: 03 HOT SHOT
RACE TIME: 1.40.15

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

■ Ahmed Jalloul, 20, was convicted in April of robbing a post office in Adelaide, Australia, based on DNA evidence. Witnesses said Jalloul seemed unsteady and unsure of himself during the crime and consequently vomited on the floor before running from the scene.

■ Eric Hardin, 20, was charged in March in St. Louis with possession of child pornography on compact discs, which his former roommates had turned over to police after cleaning his room. They had kicked Hardin out for his unbearably poor hygiene.

■ "Freestyle" dog dancing continues to thrive, at least in British Columbia (where the first organization sprang up in 1999, amassing an 8,000-person mailing list, as News of the Weird reported). A Globe and Mail dispatch in April noted that Gail Walsh's school for dog dancing, Paws2Dance, teaches moves like dog "weaves" around its human partner's legs and "backups," in which the dog sets its own paces apart from its partner. Holding the dog's paws and waltzing, as in at-home dog-dancing, is apparently tacky and non-artistic and thus never allowed.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1770 Marie Antoinette, age 14, married the future King Louis XVI of France, who was 15.

1866 Congress authorized minting of the first 5-cent piece, also known as the "Shield nickel."

1868 The Senate failed by one vote to convict President Andrew Johnson as it took its first ballot on the 11 articles of impeachment against him.

1920 Joan of Arc was canonized by Pope Benedict XV.

1946 The Irving Berlin musical "Annie Get Your Gun," starring Ethel Merman as Annie Oakley, opened on Broadway.

1948 The body of CBS News correspondent George Polk was found in Solonica Harbor in Greece, several days after he had left his hotel for an interview with the leader of a Communist militia.

1960 a Big Four summit conference in Paris collapsed on its opening day as the Soviet Union leveled spy charges against the U.S. in the wake of the U-2 incident.

1975 Japanese climber Junko Tabei became the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

WORD UP!

paean \PEE-uhn\, noun:
1. A joyous song of praise, triumph, or thanksgiving.
2. An expression of praise or joy.

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Notices

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK OUT-OF-SERVICE ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) gives notice that on or about May 19, 2008, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board (the Board), Washington, DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1.152 Subpart F - Exempt Abandonments permitting the abandonment of service on a 0.3 1 mile line of railroad between railroad milepost 485.69 and railroad milepost 486.00 all in Los Angeles, California, which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 90011 in Los Angeles County California. The proceeding will be docketed as No.AB-409-5-X.This line segment is part of the corridor that was the subject of the Historic and Environmental Report filed by Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) on February 27, 2008, in connection with UP'S proposed discontinuance of trackage rights in STB proceeding AB-33-265-X. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Board's Decision in Finance Docket Nos. 32 172, Los Angeles Co. Trans. Comm 'n -Acquisition Exemption - The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Ry. Co. and 321 73, Orange Co. Trans. Auth., Riverside Co. Trans. Comm 'n, Sun Bernardino Associated Govt 's, Sun Diego Metropolitan Trans. Dev. Bd, North Sun Diego Co. Tran. Dev. Bd. -Acquisition Exemption - The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Ry. Co. (Service Dai? March 12, 1997), LACMTA will adopt and incorporate and rely upon UP'S Historic and Environmental Report into LACMTA's proposed abandonment.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be ad-

Notices

ressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 245-0245.

Because LACMTA plans to use this segment in the operation of its light rail transit system, it is seeking exemption from the provisions of the statute relating to offers of financial assistance to continue rail service or public use of the right-of-way on this segment. Until the Board rules on that request, appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions (unless the Board approves LACMTA's request for exemption from this provision of the statute), or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423 (see 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)), and one copy must be served on applicant's representative (see 49 CFR 1104.12(a)). Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at (202) 245-0231. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Kaplan, Kirsch & Rockwell, LLP, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 905, Washington, DC 20036, Attention: Charles A. Spitulnik.

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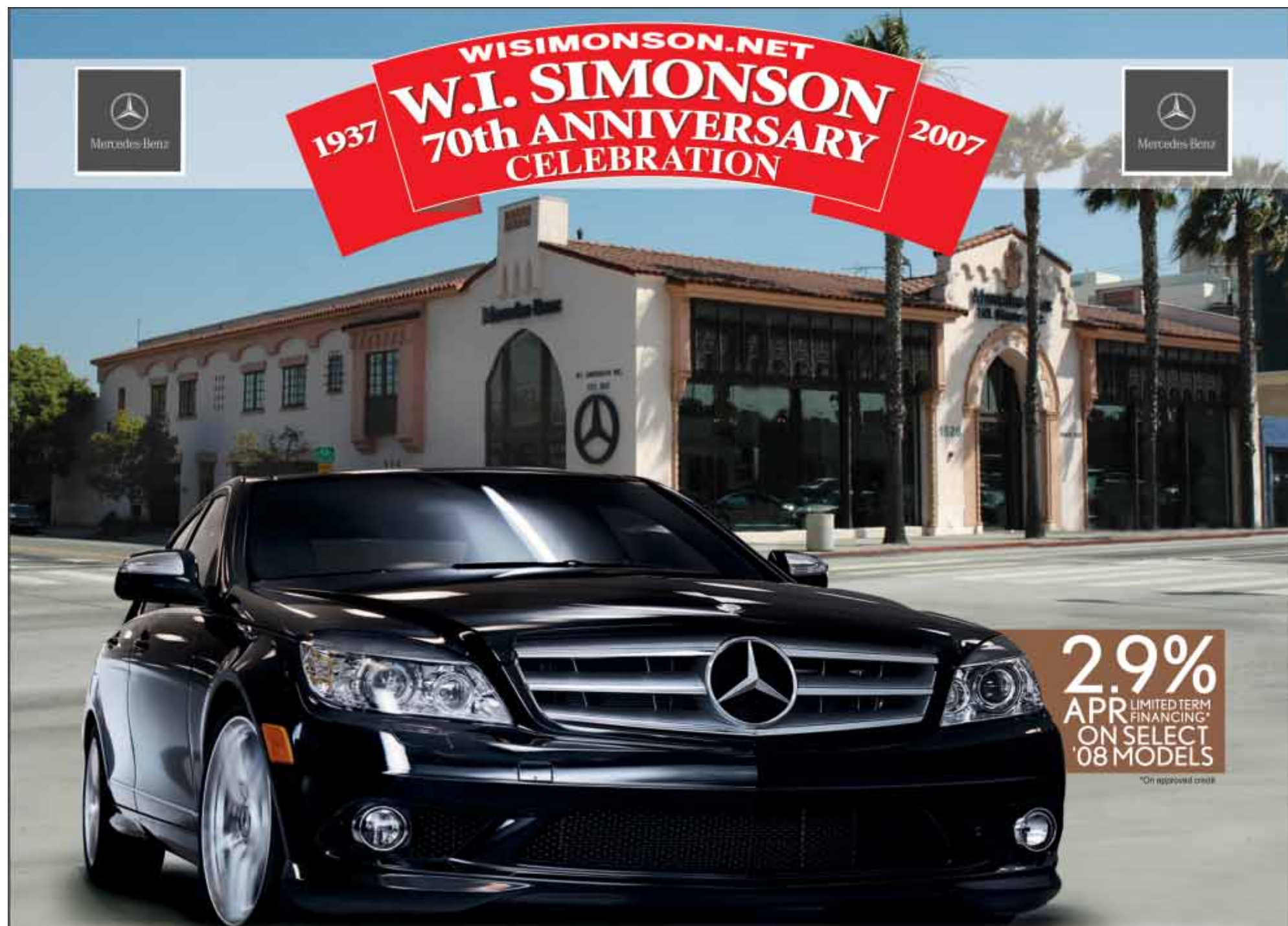
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