

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

The city's only source for daily news

Wrongful death suit filed for Maran murder

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The parents of slain teenager Deanna Maran on Wednesday filed a wrongful death suit against six people who they claim were responsible for their daughter's murder.

Santa Monica residents Ilja and Harriet Maran filed the suit against the parents of the girl who allegedly stabbed Maran, her 15-year-old half-sister, and the owners of the home where the incident took place.

The 15-year-old, whose name is being withheld because she is a minor, was allegedly involved in Maran's Nov. 17 murder. She allegedly kicked Maran while her half-sister, Katrina Sarkissian, allegedly

stabbed Maran at an unsupervised party hosted by a 15-year-old boy at his parents' Westwood home.

According to the Marans' complaint, Maran got into an altercation with the 15-year-old girl at the party, which was attended by about 40 to 60 people who were mostly minors.

Maran had told the 15-year-old girl to stop breaking planters and other property at the home, according to the complaint. The two girls briefly fought before party goers broke it up.

The 15-year-old then allegedly called her half-sister, Sarkissian, who came to the party and "viciously attacked Deanna, with fists and a weapon, ultimately causing her death," the complaint states.

Sarkissian and the 15-year-old then left the party and allegedly conspired to get rid of the murder weapon, the

complaint states. Police have never found the weapon, or determined what it was. Maran's autopsy states that she suffered a fatal stab wound to the chest.

Gary Casselman, the attorney representing the minor and her parents, refused to comment.

The lawsuit claims the parents of Sarkissian, who was emotionally unstable, should have known about her "violent, vicious and destructive tendencies" prior to Maran's murder. The Marans argue that Sarkissian's parents and her half-sister had an obligation to control her from harming others.

"Deanna's last words were 'please let me tell my side of the story,'" the complaint states. "(Ilja and Harriet Maran) bring this action to insure that Deanna's side of

See MARAN, page 6

Large jets may be banned from Santa Monica Airport

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Large corporate jets landing every day at Santa Monica Airport may be banned from the municipal airfield.

The Airport Commission recommended Monday that the Santa Monica City Council restrict the city-owned airport to only small jets that carry up to six passengers.

An aviation consultant hired to assess airport constraints testified before the commission that the runway would have to be expanded by 1,000 feet to comply with Federal Aviation Administration requirements for large jets — which on average fly into the airport five or six times a day.

Bringing the airport into compliance with federal regulations would require purchasing

\$100- \$200 million worth of single-family homes that surround the runway, rerouting Bundy Drive and relocating a gas station across the street from where airplanes currently take off.

Airport officials called the expansion project unrealistic. Instead, they propose restricting the airport to small jets and shortening the usable runway space by 300 feet on each end to create a buffer zone in the event aircraft over-run the strip.

Larger planes need long runways to get up enough speed to take off and more time to slow down once they land. As a result, they need a much larger runway and designated safety area.

A Cessna 340A — a propeller-driven aircraft — skidded off the runway and burst into flames Nov. 13, 2001, killing both the pilot and pas-

senger aboard. Neighbors, some of whom live only 220 feet away from the runway, got a heightened sense of fear when they realized how close they were to having a plane crash into their living room. A guardrail was the only thing that stopped the plane from going down an embankment into the neighborhood.

Residents asked for a safety review of the airport and specifically, that the runways be shortened at both ends to create a buffer zone.

City officials said the neighbors' request was not the cause behind the

safety study. They said the airport continually assesses the facilities to find ways to improve safety.

"Because of the way the airport is situated, we're always trying to find compatibility with the airport and the surrounding neighborhood," said deputy city attorney Marty Tachiki.

The FAA requires new airports to make the additional space available at the end of runways, but older fields — like Santa Monica Airport — are often exempted.

See AIRPORT, page 5

Firm hands out signs plugging the company to panhandlers

By The Associated Press

DENVER — An advertising firm is handing out signs to panhandlers with a plug for the company — a stunt homeless advocates say trivializes the plight of those on the streets.

Laminated signs with snappy messages such as, "At Least I'm Not Spamming Your E-Mail," and "Hell, It Beats a Cubicle," have begun replacing cardboard placards normally waved by panhandlers at motorists.

Dennis Wakabayachi, CEO of Sumaato Advertising, handed out the signs on Tuesday. Panhandlers are not paid to hold the signs.

"Kind of synergistic, if you think about it," he said. "We're an ad agency, and in this tough market we have to do something to get attention."

Homeless advocates said the signs focus attention in the wrong direction.

"We're trying to create lasting solutions to homelessness, and certainly panhandling, and promoting that, are not going to get us there," said John Parvensky, president of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. "We've never encouraged folks to give to panhandlers or for people to go out and panhandle."

One out of five panhandlers refused the signs, said Wakabayachi, who added that the stunt was designed to help the homeless.

Bobby Harden, 27, had good luck when she used a sign that read: "The Market Sucks/ But I Offer a High Return On Your Investments: Good Karma."

She said a woman stopped and handed her a \$20 bill, saying: "I need all the good karma I can get."

Mike Garvey said the only response he got to the sign was negative.

"Some guy yelled out, 'Get a job!'"

Contesting the ticket



Seth Kotok/Special to the Daily Press

Stephen Wilson gets a parking ticket from Alan Parrish on Wednesday at Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue while two other enforcement officers look on.

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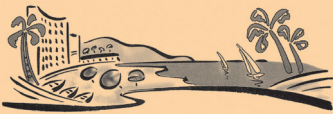
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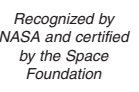
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Deal with others with your customary strength. A family or domestic matter stars as an immediate problem. Unexpected developments with a friend or in a meeting could have you trotting in a new direction. Keep smiling. Tonight: Work with a loved one.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others demand a lot from you. Stay on top of work and personal matters, despite an onslaught of calls and requests. Curb socializing at work, as someone close might become quite irate as a result. Think in terms of success and new choices. Tonight: Say "yes."



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Recognize what is going on around you. Your efforts could clear out quite a few problems. Don't try to instruct or lecture anyone, just do! Be cautious with spending, as it might get a bit out of control. Financial matters spark. Tonight: Off to the gym.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your high energy helps others jump over an obstacle. Do not let yourself be triggered into an argument, be it over money or feelings. Allow your ingenuity to sleuth out a solution. Think in terms of resolution rather than contradiction. Tonight: Let off steam.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Keep your temper in control. You could be frustrated by someone. Learn to express your feelings before they ignite like kindling. Others will hear you, provided you communicate in a fashion that means something to them. Tonight: Make an easy dinner.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ A friend lets someone know where he or she is coming from. Your friend pushes hard for what he or she wants. It might be necessary to make a professional adjustment. You might be unnerved by the amount you need to do. Tonight: Finish up phone calls and clear your desk.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Expenses easily could have you concerned, causing you to work even harder. Unexpected developments affect a budding tie or existing relationship. Your unpredictable behavior easily could unnerve someone. Use your good will and personality. Tonight: Your treat.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You're personality plus. Reach out for someone at a distance. You might need his or her feedback, even if it might be a bit uncomfortable. Recognize the role that unpredictability plays on the home front. Gather information and act on it tomorrow. Tonight: Beam in what you want.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Where your friends are is where you want to be. Deal with an associate who might be on a tear right now. Certainly, putting this person on the back burner could only cause more of a problem. Lighten up about what could be possible. Tonight: With your friends.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Listen to feedback that comes your way when dealing with a long-term objective. A partner makes a big difference in how you achieve your goals. Work with others, emphasizing teamwork. Tonight: Start your weekend early.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A trip or news could toss you into a tizzy. Stop and remember how much you enjoy excitement. Flex and reorganize your workload. You'll find a solution and manage to squeeze in everything that must be done. Tonight: Work late if need be.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your relationship with someone proves again to be your strength. Work with an associate, brainstorming to your heart's delight. Answers naturally come from you. Seek out hard answers. You gain unexpected insight. Tonight: Take in a movie.



QUOTE of the DAY

“Better that a girl has beauty than brains because boys can see better than they think.”

— Unknown

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LOCAL



Juvenile arrested after leading police on chase

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A juvenile was arrested Monday after he led a Santa Monica Police officer on a short car chase through an alley and then on foot.

As a SMPD officer was driving east-bound on Arizona Avenue, a silver Toyota Camary driven by a 14-year-old, sped in front of him while crossing the street through the alley near Euclid Street, Lt. Frank Fabrega said.

Police say the juvenile was initially traveling southbound in the alley at between 35 mph and 40 mph. The speed limit in alleyways is 10 mph.

As the juvenile was crossing Arizona Avenue, he looked directly at the officer and then accelerated to 60 mph, according to police.

The officer gave chase to the driver, who nearly hit trash containers, parked cars

and a light pole while reaching speeds up to 70 mph through the alley, Fabrega said. When the driver reached Colorado Avenue, he couldn't turn because of his high speed and as a result, he crashed into a building.

The juvenile got out of the vehicle and started running east on Colorado, then south on 14th Street. The officer caught up with him and arrested him.

He was taken to a local hospital after he complained of chest pain from hitting the car's steering wheel when he crashed into the building.

The car the juvenile was driving had been reported stolen on May 16 in the 2000 block of Cloverfield Avenue.

The juvenile was arrested for unlawful taking of a vehicle, failing to yield to an emergency vehicle and resisting arrest. He was booked into the Santa Monica Jail and later released to his mother.

Police increase patrols for Memorial weekend

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Police Department will be out in full force this Memorial Day Weekend.

Lt. Frank Fabrega said the police department will have added traffic enforcement officers patrolling the city's streets over the next few days.

The extra patrols will be looking for drunk drivers, drivers without licenses and whether people have their children in the proper safety seats.



Swell leftover from Tuesday and Wednesday will be enough for waist-to-chest-high waves at LA's best southwest exposures today. Expect inconsistent sets and conditions approaching fair. The bumps will lie down a bit thanks to fading winds.

Friday's surf will drop off, losing a foot to a fading southwest swell. Northwest exposures offer waist-high sets.

(Information compiled by Jesse Haley.)

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	2-3'/Poor-Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

A wave of patriotism



Seth Kotok/Special to the Daily Press
A flag waves over pedestrians on the Third Street Promenade Wednesday as the city prepares to observe Memorial Day this weekend.

The Q Line

The powers that be in City Hall are kicking around the idea of re-naming the Santa Monica Public Library. One idea is to name the building after the celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, one of the most distinguished American leaders of the civil rights movement.

As the city council continues to move forward with its plans to rebuild the building for \$50 million, our elected officials want to gauge the public's thoughts

on this idea.

So, this week's Q-Line question wants to know:

"If you had your way, what should the library be called and why?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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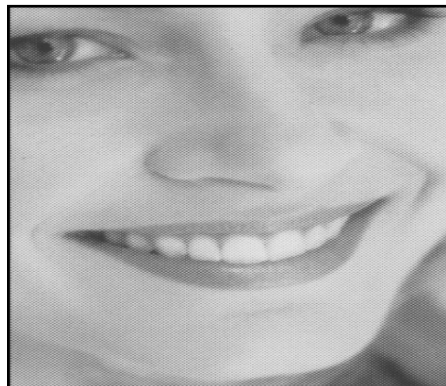
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OPINION

LETTERS

Excessive spending related to city budget woes

Editor:

I read your article in the May 20 edition of the Santa Monica Daily Press regarding the dire financial straights Santa Monica is facing with alarm. I feel, however, that the city has been spending money like it is going out of style, overspending particularly in areas such as the Third Street Promenade sidewalks and the streets on Broadway, Santa Monica Boulevard, and Arizona.

Quite some time ago, I thought it was an unnecessary and costly expenditure, which, no doubt is an unpopular point of view. I think all they needed to do was maintain the area, but that is all "spilt milk," now. I also feel that the expenditure for improving the Palisades Park area north of Arizona was also excessive, and, some of it unnecessary.

What also surprises me is "that the negative effects on local economies, particularly ones that rely on tourism, are related to terrorism." I had no idea that this was so. That is very sad indeed.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Library should be named after MLK

Editor:

It is precisely because of opinions such as those of letter writer Barbara Walther (Daily Press, May 21) that the entire, new Santa Monica Public Library building — not just a wing or single room — should be named in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ms. Walther's statement that "he certainly does not represent Santa Monica" is a distasteful, year 2002 variant on the prevailing attitude of many whites 50 years ago that African-Americans "should know their place ... and that place isn't here."

Should the legacy of Dr. King only be celebrated in predominantly minority communities, such as the King-Drew Hospital in Watts or King Blvd. in Crenshaw?

As a substitute teacher in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, I have first-hand experience that students at all 16 of our district schools understand that Dr. King taught non-violence as the way to protest injustice and bring about social harmony and tolerance for all Americans.

What a shame that some of their elders are still squeamish at the mere mention of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the new Santa Monica Public Library in the same sentence!

Personally, I'd like to suggest the city also consider a name change for the Fairview branch when it reopens in November to the Caesar Chavez branch, since that library houses the city's finest services and collections for both the general Latino and the Spanish-speaking communities.

Finally, Ms. Walther's linking of opposition to the King name for our new library and support for the spurious Veritas bad-government scheme on the November ballot is a revealing reflection of repressed racial-ethnic-social stratus beliefs becoming to our historically tolerant hometown Santa Monica.

Rufus Baker
Santa Monica

Get library name sponsored

Editor:

I read that some of the city council members want to name the new Santa Monica Public Library after Martin Luther King, or some other historic figure. The council might consider asking for bids for the naming rights, as is done with new sport arenas. Then we might have a Verizon Public Library, or MGM-United Artists Public Library, or ever a Bubba Gump Public Library. The bidding should be very competitive, and the city could then make up its budget deficit.

Fredric Reichel
Santa Monica

Literary oblivion

Editor:

Reference letter writer per Dr. King and proposed Santa Monica Library moniker: What on earth will a barely literate product of seditious traitors cook up next (not excluding the offal (sic) that they cooked for the thousands they enslaved?)

Dr. King will be remembered and (continuously) lauded for eons to come. No dirty peckerwood, nor a yellow "journalistic" rag, subject to nothing less than eternal oblivion, can besmirch or degrade his indelibly magnificent achievements.

William Cook
Santa Monica

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 sack@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 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

LOCAL



File photo

Airport officials are proposing 300-foot buffer zones at each end of the runway at Santa Monica Airport, which is crowded by a residential neighborhood.

Airport proposes to comply with federal regulations

AIRPORT, from page 1

"If you are designing and going to build a new airport you have to have an over-run area," said airport manager Bob Trimborn. "We have very little space between where the runway ends and where our terrain ends."

The city council will have to hold a public meeting on the commission's proposal before voting on it.

Airport officials said preventing large planes from landing at the airport would not decrease the volume of daily traffic, just constrict the field to smaller jets which currently make up 5 percent of the total air traffic.

"It would be misleading to suggest that heading in this direction would alter the number of operations," said airport commissioner Jean Gebman. "Indeed, large aircraft with higher approach speeds could simply be replaced by more smaller planes."

About 1,300 aircraft take off and land at Santa Monica airport in a month. About 90 percent of them are propeller-driven planes, which conform to the airport's regulations.

Jets constitute the other 10 percent of total airport traffic, and half of them are non-conforming, large planes.

Though no current or pending federal legislation requires the city to make the restriction, airport officials recommend doing it for safety reasons and to bring the airport into compliance with FAA regulations. The restriction also would protect the city from litigation stemming from a large plane having an accident at the airport.

Cause for concern increased when officials said they found that the large jets are becoming more common at the airport.

"The current aircraft are being used safely," Trimborn said. "What we are trying to determine is whether this new fleet mix is compatible with FAA design standards."



CrimeWatch

Woman's car stolen after keys were snatched from her hand

■ A woman's car was stolen after a man ripped the keys from her hand while she was shopping at a Santa Monica store.

At about 5:20 p.m. on May 12, a woman was shopping at 2 Frugal Brits, located at 3000 Lincoln Boulevard, when a man took her keys she was holding, ran outside to her car, and sped off in the vehicle. The woman's purse, containing cash, a cell phone and miscellaneous items, was in the car.

The 1979 Cadillac was recovered at 11:15 p.m. the same night at Fairbanks Avenue and Chester Place in Long Beach. There was no damage to the car.

The suspect is described as a male Hispanic, 5' 9"1, 30 years old, wearing a baggy gray shirt and gray pants.

■ A transient was arrested for sexual battery after he grabbed a woman in broad daylight.

At 2:40 p.m. on May 7 a woman was unloading her car in the 900 block of Wilshire Boulevard when a man walked up to her from behind and grabbed her in the crotch area. The woman screamed and the man ran away.

Santa Monica police arrived and took a description of the man. Shortly after, police stopped a man at the 1100 block of Seventh Street fitting the suspect's description. Police drove the woman past the suspect, and she identified him as the man who grabbed her.

Lee Tarvis Belcher, a 39-year-old white transient, was arrested and booked for sexual battery. Bail was set at \$5,000.

With any additional information regarding these crimes contact the office of crime investigations at 310-458-8451.

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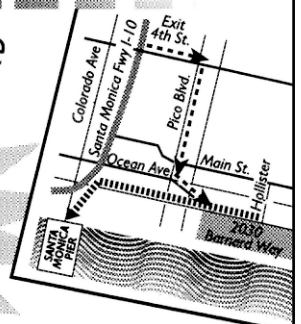
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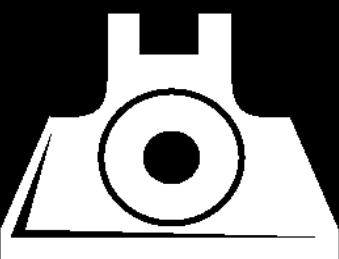
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LOCAL □ STATE



Wrongful death case filed in Santa Monica

MARAN, from page 1

the story is heard and to insure that those who played a role in the death of their child are held accountable."

The suit also claims the owners of the home where the murder took place put Maran at risk because they negligently entrusted the property to their children without adequate parental or adult supervision. Alcohol was served at the party, according to the complaint.

Sarkissian died while in police custody on Nov. 18 — the day after the murder. The Los Angeles Coroner's Office ruled in February that she overdosed on anti-depressants.

But her parents, Angelique Sarkissian Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian, filed a wrongful death claim earlier this month against the Los Angeles Police Department, alleging that detectives could have prevented their child's death while she was in custody on suspicion of murder. They claim detectives questioning Sarkissian should have immediately summoned paramedics when

she collapsed unconscious while she was being interrogated.

After months of investigation by the LAPD, the district attorney's office charged the 15-year-old with one count of

battery, a misdemeanor. The DA's office also charged her with a felony — making a terrorist threat unrelated to the case. Apparently the girl threatened someone over the Internet months after the party. She is expected in court again May 31 for a pre-sentence trial.

Attorneys for the owners of the home where the murder occurred couldn't be reached for comment.

The defendants have 30 days to respond to the complaint.

Tony Glassman, the Marans' attorney, said his

firm will begin interviewing witnesses at the party through depositions. The Marans are seeking a trial at the Santa Monica Courthouse.

"The bottom line is we are doing what is necessary and appropriate to investigate the claims," he said.



Deanna Maran

Chandra Levy's parents distraught, in seclusion

BY BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press Writer

MODESTO — The parents of Chandra Levy remained secluded in their home Wednesday after learning that a body found in a Washington, D.C., park was that of their long-missing daughter.

Dr. Robert and Susan Levy were said to be distraught and did not immediately plan to appear in public.

"Two parents have just received the most horrifying news they could ever receive," family spokeswoman Judy Smith said outside the family's home. "Certainly no parent would think they would ever bury their child. It's usually the other way."

Washington Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey said he told a family lawyer that dental records confirmed the identity of the skeletal remains, found not far from Chandra's apartment in the Capitol.

Outside the family's one-story brick home, a crowd of reporters massed on the sidewalk and a wall of satellite trucks lined the street. It was a replay of last summer, when Chandra's disappearance — and her romantic links to the area's longtime Democratic congressman, Gary Condit — gripped the nation.

A friend had been at the Levy house Wednesday morning and left just before the remains were identified. "They held out so much hope, and they've been so strong. It's just devastating to them," Donna Raley said.

Neighbor Joanne Tittle's eyes were red and puffy from crying. "My gut instinct was hopeful," she said. "I hoped she was in a foreign county or something."

Ribbons that lined neighborhood trees

and lamp posts a year ago were tattered and faded.

Condit, who lost re-election in March after his political support crumbled amid the scandal, was in Washington Wednesday. His offices referred all calls to his Los Angeles attorney, Mark Geragos.

"Congressman Gary Condit and his family want to express their heartfelt sorrow and condolences to the Levy family. The Levy family will remain in our prayers," the lawyer said.

Gov. Gray Davis said Wednesday he and his wife were "deeply grieved. ... I hope the Levys find some sense of closure from today's event." Levy had worked as an intern in Davis' office before moving to Washington for an internship with the federal Bureau of Prisons.

Geragos said Levy's death seems to parallel the cases of two other missing girls in Washington and supports Condit's belief that a serial killer may be responsible.

"It's certainly not a red-letter day for the D.C. police," the lawyer said. "If, as reported, she left with only her tennis shoes and her keys, and was going jogging, wouldn't you look on the jogging trails? How do you miss somebody? It's mind-boggling."

"My feeling is that the police have a lot of explaining to do," Geragos added.

Speculation and rumors dogged Condit after Levy disappeared. He denied having anything to do with the disappearance but he acknowledged to investigators that he had an affair with her, a police source said.

"But everything he went through pales in comparison with what the Levy family is going through," Geragos said.

NATIONAL



Expected post-9-11 rebound fizzles for East Coast resorts

BY JOHN CURRAN
Associated Press Writer

SHIP BOTTOM, N.J. — When skitish travelers began avoiding airplanes after Sept. 11, Jersey shore real estate brokers thought it might mean big business for summer rentals.

After all, ocean beach resorts like this one on New Jersey's Long Beach Island are an easy drive for millions of East Coast vacationers. It stood to reason that families would forego flying to drive somewhere closer to home.

"We thought it was going to be robust because of the tightening economy, and the catastrophes of Sept. 11. But after the first two months of the year, our bookings dropped precipitously," said Joe Mayo, broker-owner at Re/Max of Long Beach Island.

Cheap air fares, attractive package deals offered by cruise lines and stepped-up marketing campaigns by fly-drive destinations like Miami and Orlando, Fla., have provided stiff competition for drive-to resorts.

With Memorial Day approaching, rental agents and tourism officials in some other beach destinations are wondering where their customers are, too:

— In Cape Hatteras, N.C., summer rental bookings are down.

"There are, in fact, more July weeks available this year than we usually have," said Dick Davis, property manager for Hatteras Realty.

Davis, who handles rentals for 420 luxury homes on the Outer Banks, said they are 78 percent booked for the summer, a 4 percent decrease from this time last year.

He blames the post-Sept. 11 economy.

"One of the things we have found is that there have been a tremendous amount of layoffs and people aren't able to go on vacations like they used to."

— In Ocean City, Md., rental agents

say the economy, high unemployment, an uncertain economy and low airline fares have hurt business.

"As a drive-to destination, we expected a significant increase, but we haven't seen that," said Susan Holt, vice president and regional director of rentals for O'Connor, Piper and Flynn/ERA in Ocean City. "We are victims of our own expectations."

Her company's rentals are keeping pace with last year's, but many vacationers are steering clear of July and August in favor of off-season rates, Holt said.

— In Pensacola, Fla., vacation bookings for June are lagging — but July and August appear to be very strong, according to Ed Schroeder, vice president for tourist development for the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce.

Some resort areas are flourishing, thanks in part to Americans' desire to stay closer to home this summer.

Demand for rentals along California's Orange County coast — between Los Angeles and San Diego — remains high. Gary Liggett, who rents out a three-bedroom, one-bathroom house in Sunset Beach, says demand for it increased this year, even after he boosted the weekly rent from \$2,250 to \$2,450.

"It's probably going to be our best year, booking-wise. We're told by people renting that they want to vacation closer to home," Liggett said.

On Cape Cod, summer rental business is booming.

"I wouldn't say that business this year is all attributed to 9/11, but we are getting a lot of inquiries from people who say they'd rather drive than fly this summer," said Ken Brochu, rentals manager for Martin Surett Realty, in West Dennis, Mass.

"Our phones started ringing in January, and they haven't stopped," Brochu said.

Miami has no road manners

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — For the second straight year, a survey of drivers in several major cities has ranked Miami motorists as the rudest.

Miami received an "F" in manners in a survey released Tuesday by the Steel Alliance, a steel industry association.

Drivers in the high-octane city are more likely to tailgate, honk their horns and make inappropriate gestures than their counterparts in Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

The survey said 57 percent of Miami drivers admitted to four or more "aggressive" acts. Fifty-eight percent of the city's drivers admitted to honking their horn regularly, compared with 26 percent in all the cities surveyed.

When it comes to high beams, 26 percent of Miami motorists flash them regularly.

Miami also was named one of the most unsafe cities to drive in, finishing third behind Boston and Washington, D.C.

Seattle was the safest city, followed by Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The unscientific survey questioned 2,000 licensed drivers about habits in their city. Based on survey results, safety and rudeness grades were assigned to each of the 10 cities.

Rockwell's Rosie the Riveter painting sold for \$4.9 million

By The Associated Press

Norman Rockwell's Rosie the Riveter, the painting that gave an iconic face to the millions of American women who worked in factories during World War II, was sold at auction Wednesday for \$4.9 million.

The 1943 painting became a cover of the popular Saturday Evening Post and later was taken around the country to help sell war bonds.

Elliot Yeary Gallery of Aspen, Colo.,

bought the painting Wednesday on behalf of Ranger Endowments Management of Dallas, an asset management firm. Two bidders vied for the painting in a telephone auction from New York's Sothebys auction house that lasted less than three minutes.

Mary Keefe, now 78 and living in New Hampshire, posed for the painting when she was 19. Rockwell used Keefe's face, but modeled Rosie's body on Michaelangelo's painting of Isaiah from the Sistine Chapel ceiling, Sothebys said.

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SPORTS

Bryant ill; Laker’s doctor predicts food poisoning

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO — Kobe Bryant vomited several times and left practice Wednesday to see the Los Angeles Lakers’ team doctor, two days after nearly missing a playoff game because of what was believed to be food poisoning.

Fortunately for Bryant and the Lakers, Game 3 of the Western Conference finals against the Sacramento Kings isn’t until Friday night at Staples Center.

Bryant was stricken early Monday, but scored 22 points in 40 minutes that night in a 96-90 loss at Sacramento that evened the best-of-seven series 1-1.

It wasn’t a typical Bryant performance. But he seemed fine, albeit weak, after the game, and was upbeat on the plane flight home, coach Phil Jackson said Tuesday.

It was a different story Wednesday.

Team spokesman John Black said Bryant left practice several times to vomit, and finally went to see Dr. John Moe.

“The tests came back pretty much normal,” Black said. “The doctor still thinks it’s from the food poisoning. There

is a very, very slim chance it’s a bacterial infection, they weren’t able to eliminate that possibility 100 percent.”

As a precaution, Black said, Byrant was put on antibiotics, and also will take medication for his stomach cramping.

Black said he didn’t know if Bryant would practice Thursday, saying he was “day-to-day.”

Black said it was his understanding that Bryant slept most of Tuesday and ate breakfast Wednesday before heading to practice. Apparently that didn’t sit well.

“He was back and forth between the court and the locker room,” Black said.

Bryant’s illness in Sacramento was blamed on the bacon cheeseburger and slice of cheesecake he ordered late Sunday night from room service.

“There’s no way to tell 100 percent what caused it, but you would think that’s what it was,” Black said. “That was the last he ate before becoming ill.”

Black said he didn’t know what Bryant ate Tuesday.

When asked if he was concerned, Jackson replied: “Not very. Knowing Kobe, he thought that he could jump right back in. His system wasn’t ready for that. We’re not

going to make an issue of that.

“You guys do,” he added, referring to the media. “You guys overplay it, OK?”

Jackson said he was optimistic that Bryant would be able to play Friday night.

“I don’t think there’s anything that can deter him from playing,” he said.

Bryant’s teammates said much the same thing.

“I’d be concerned if we had to play tonight, or even tomorrow,” Rick Fox said. “I know he’ll be fine by Friday.

Nomo pitches six shutout innings

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE — Hideo Nomo threw six shutout innings and Shawn Green tripled home in the only run in a 1-0 victory by the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Milwaukee Brewers on Wednesday night.

Nomo (4-5) allowed four hits, walked three and struck out seven.

The Dodgers scored in the third when Adrian Beltre struck out but reached first in a wild pitch by Ben Sheets and scored on Green’s triple to right field, which drew a weak throw back to the infield from Jeffrey Hammonds.

An inning earlier, Green threw out Geoff Jenkins at the plate when he tagged up on a shallow flyout by Paul Bako with runners on second and third.

Omar Daal, Paul Quantrill and Eric Gagne completed the six-hitter. Gagne pitched the ninth for his 15th save in 18 chances.

The Brewers got a one-out single by Alex Sanchez in the eighth, but he was caught stealing for the seventh time in his last nine attempts.

It was the 20th out the Brewers have made on the bases this homestand, turning manager Jerry Royster’s running style from aggressive to egregious.

National Basketball Association playoff schedule

By The Associated Press

CONFERENCE FINALS — EDT (Best-of-7) Saturday, May 18 L.A. Lakers 106, Sacramento 99, Lakers lead series 1-0 Sunday, May 19 New Jersey 104, Boston 97, New Jersey leads series 1-0 Monday, May 20 Sacramento 96, L.A. Lakers 90, Series tied 1-1 Tuesday, May 21 Boston 93, New Jersey 86, Series tied 1-1 Friday, May 24 Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m. Saturday, May 25 New Jersey at Boston, 5:30 p.m.	Sunday, May 26 Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 27 New Jersey at Boston, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28 L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 9 p.m., if necessary Wednesday, May 29 Boston at New Jersey, 9 p.m., if necessary Friday, May 31 New Jersey at Boston, TBA, if necessary Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, TBA, if necessary Sunday, June 2 Boston at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary
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- 14th and Santa Monica Boulevard
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- Colorado Boulevard and 3rd Street
- Santa Monica Courthouse
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INTERNATIONAL



Suicide bomber kills two in city south of Tel Aviv

BY JASON KEYSER
Associated Press Writer

RISHON LETZION, Israel — A suicide bomber blew himself up in a southern city Wednesday night, killing two other people and wounding 27, police and rescue workers said. The suicide blast, the second here in two weeks, followed a series of Israeli attacks that left five Palestinians dead.

Among the Palestinians killed in the attacks was Mahmoud Titi, 30, local leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade militia who had said his goal was to build a Palestinian army that would hunt and kill Israeli soldiers and settlers.

In Rishon Letzion, a residential community of 100,000, police spokesman Gil Kleiman said two people and a suicide bomber were killed and 27 wounded, including three in critical condition.

Israel television said the dead were a 15-year-old boy and a 66-year-old man.

The bomber blew himself up under a green canopy at the edge of a small park where immigrants from the former Soviet Union gathered nightly to play cards.

Police spokesman Haim Cohen said the bomber had dyed his hair blond, apparently so that the Russians would not think he was an Arab.

"His hair was dyed blonde, short, punk looking," Cohen said. "I'm sure he disguised himself so as not to arouse suspicion at the scene."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

"There was a loud boom and I just saw body parts," said witness Orin Mahmon. "I saw a guy all black and people with no arms and legs."

After the bombing, a body lay under the canopy, covered with a black blanket. Blood was splattered across the pavement and a blood stained red scarf laid on the pavement.

One woman stood at the corner of the

park crying because she could not find her son.

On May 7, a suicide bomber blew himself up at a pool hall in the same city, 10 miles south of Tel Aviv, killing 15 Israelis and himself.

Following Wednesday's blast, police closed off the area and ambulances raced to the scene. The bomb went off at 9:09 p.m. on Rothschild Street on a pedestrian mall in the middle of the city.

David Baker, an official in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, said the bombing, "was another cowardly act of terror committed by Palestinian terrorists who have once again resorted to their murderous deeds. Israel will not buckle under in the face of terror and we will use whatever measures are needed to root it out."

The last bomb attack in Israel was in the coastal city of Netanya on Sunday, killing three people plus the Palestinian bomber and wounding dozens.

On Monday, a suicide bomber detonated explosives at a northern Israeli junction, killing only himself.

An attack on March 27 that killed 28 people set off a massive Israeli military operation in the West Bank, aimed at rooting out "terrorist infrastructure." During the operation, which wound-down this month, Israel took control of main towns and refugee camps and fought battles with Palestinian gunmen and bombers.

The Palestinian leadership denounced Wednesday's bombing, according to a statement from the Palestinian news agency, Wafa. The leaders called on Palestinians to "declare their condemnation of such terrorist attack." The statement said the bombing gives Israel an "excuse to continue its aggression (against) our people."

In Washington, Lynn Cassel, a State Department spokeswoman, condemned the bombings "in the strongest possible



Brennan Linsley/Associated Press

Israeli soldiers ride armored troop carriers on the outskirts of Salfit, during all day army sweep through the Palestinian town in the West Bank, near Nablus on Wednesday. Although the Israeli Army denied journalists access to the town for verification, Palestinian witnesses claimed that hundreds of men aged 15 to 50 were rounded up and detained for questioning, with some of those being taken away.

terms." She called on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to exercise leadership against terror and warned the violence could not help the Palestinians achieve their national aspirations.

Arafat is under pressure to rein in militants and end the terror that has taken the lives of scores of Israelis over the last 19 months.

In his own internal battle, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon won a budget vote in parliament on Wednesday, but the victory left his coalition stripped of its clear majority and vulnerable to collapse.

Sharon on Tuesday served notice that he was dismissing the representatives of two Orthodox Jewish parties from his governing team after they refused to back the budget cutbacks bill in an earlier vote. The dismissals went into effect early Thursday.

With the two parties out of the coalition, at least for now, Sharon's team commands only 60 of the 120 seats in parliament. A vote of 61 would bring down Sharon's government in a motion of no confidence at a time when Israel remains engaged in a violent conflict with the Palestinians.

Since Israeli-Palestinian violence erupted in September 2000, there have been nearly 60 suicide bombings.

Earlier Wednesday at the Balata refugee camp next to Nablus, witnesses said Israeli forces fired shells at the camp cemetery, killing three activists, including Titi and a bystander.

In a statement, the military described Titi as a "senior terrorist" responsible for many attacks against Israelis. The statement said that after the attack, Israeli forces left Palestinian territory.

Rock group Alien Ant Farm injured in Spain bus crash

By The Associated Press

NAVALMORAL DE LA MATA, Spain

— All four members of the U.S. rock group Alien Ant Farm were hospitalized Wednesday after their bus collided with a truck, killing their driver, a record company spokesman said.

Six crew members were also injured in the crash 120 miles west of Madrid, DreamWorks Records said in a statement.

Alien Ant Farm, which formed in

Riverside, Calif., and was on tour when the accident occurred, is best known for last year's hit remake of Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal." Their debut album, "ANTology," which was released last year, has gone platinum.

Lead singer Dryden Mitchell was under observation for a neck injury at a hospital in the town of Navalmoral de la Mata, where the collision occurred, said Jose Puig of the Universal Music Group, which

distributes DreamWorks Records.

A second driver and a bodyguard were also hospitalized, he said.

However, guitarist Terry Corso, bassist Tye Zamora and drummer Mike Cosgrove were released following treatment of broken bones, sprains and bruises, according to Puig.

"They're all OK. That's what's important," he said.

The DreamWorks Records statement

said the band's tour bus collided with a parked truck on the highway.

However, Spanish news agency Efe quoted the truck driver as saying the bus rear-ended him on the approach to a tunnel.

Efe identified the British bus driver by the initials C.H.

An appearance Friday at Madrid's Festimad festival and a Saturday performance at WHFS Festival in Washington, D.C., have been canceled.

Trouble in toyland: Iran casts dragnet for Barbie dolls

BY BRIAN MURPHY
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — The suspect fits the following description: slim, curvaceous, perpetual smile, no head scarf. Goes by the name of Barbie.

Iranian police are combing the shelves for the perky ambassador of American culture. The doll's uneasy sojourn in the Islamic country could be drawing to a close.

Agents have been confiscating Barbie from toy stores since a vague proclamation earlier this month denouncing the un-Islamic sensibilities of the idol of girls worldwide, shopkeepers said Tuesday.

"They took them all," said a toy seller whose shop window is plastered with the flower-shaped Barbie logo. "I have no idea if we'll ever see Barbie back again."

The shop owner refused to give her name, fearing more trouble with authorities. Other toy dealers also asked for anonymity. The Barbie ban apparently has them spooked.

"We're all a little nervous," said a toy shop clerk who

admitted employees stashed their Barbie stock after learning of the sweep.

It's not the first time Barbie has run afoul of authorities. In 1996, the head of a government-backed children's agency called Barbie a "Trojan horse" sneaking in Western influences such as makeup and revealing clothes.

Barbie is sold wearing swimsuits and miniskirts in a society where women must wear head scarves in public and men and women are not allowed to swim together.

In March, Iranian toy makers responded to Barbie with Sara, a moonfaced doll clad in an Islamic chador or traditional Iranian folk costumes. Her twin brother Dara is also the picture of Iranian propriety — a far cry from Barbie's beefcake boyfriend Ken.

Government officials have not elaborated on the reasons behind the Barbie crackdown.

But it's widely perceived as another pinpoint strike by conservatives. The expanding personal and commercial liberties since the rise of reformist President Mohammad Khatami in 1997 have left his opponents feeling weak

and isolated.

On Monday, the hard-line newspaper Jam-e-Jam ran a front-page story accusing a popular Tehran fast-food restaurant of selling "American sandwiches." The restaurant uses third-country suppliers that distribute products of the U.S. chain Hardee's.

Barbie and other U.S. products enter Iran through similar roundabout channels, skirting the ban on direct trade imposed by Washington for Iran's alleged support of international terrorism. Toy shops are filled with Disney items. Markets sell well-known American brands such as Gillette, Xerox and Coca-Cola.

The Barbie purge hit some shopkeepers right in the cash register.

Barbie, made by Mattel Inc., is a best seller despite the cost: about 320,000 rials, or \$40, in a nation where the average monthly salary is about \$100. An Iranian-made Barbie knockoff is about \$3. Sara and Dara go for about \$15 each.

"People would come to my shop just for Barbie," said one merchant. "There's a big empty space on my shelves."



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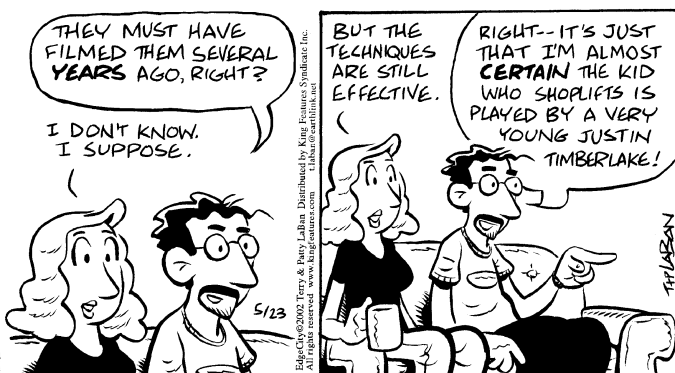
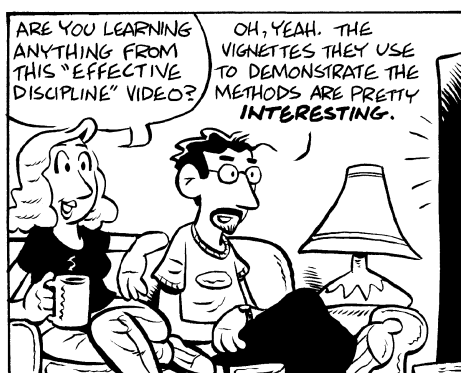
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5-23

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-3168! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

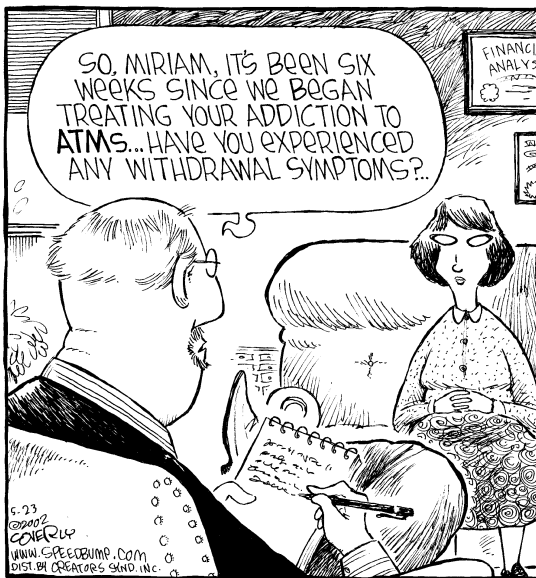
edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



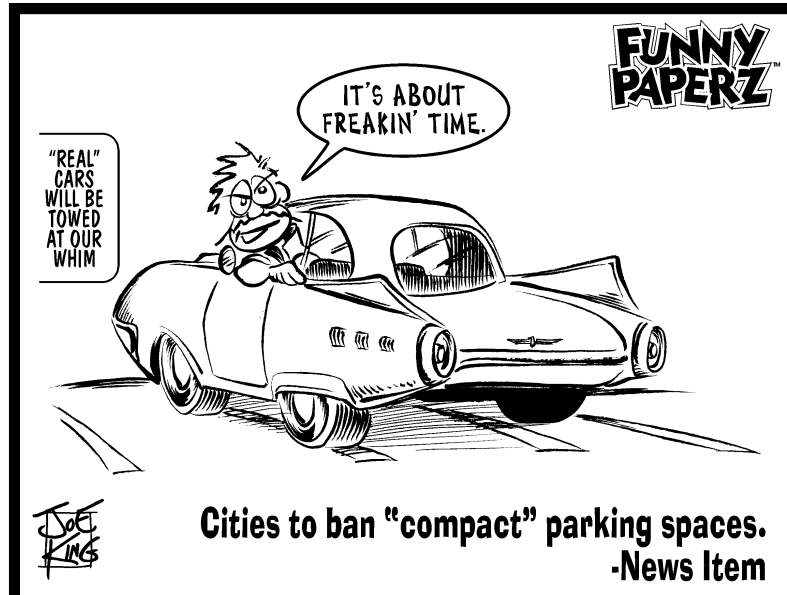
Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Mortician sells dead body parts illegally

- Lake Elsinore, Calif., funeral home owner Michael Francis Brown, 42, was arrested and charged with illegally selling cadaver parts to several major university research institutes (February).
- Widower Jeffrey Post filed a lawsuit against Lynn University (Boca Raton, Fla.), whose mortuary science program allegedly used bodies from a local funeral home for embalming practice without permission of the deceaseds' families (March).
- Following an internal audit, Greenlane Hospital, New Zealand's premier heart facility, revealed that in the last 50 years, it had taken, for research and without permission of the families, the hearts from at least 1,350 babies who had died on the premises (but offered to return all those hearts it still had on hand) (February).



Cities to ban "compact" parking spaces. -News Item

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LOOKING FOR good people? The Santa Monica Daily Press is your ticket to future employees that live in the area! Ask about our hiring guarantee! Call (310)458-7737 to place your ad today.

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For Sale

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Wanted

26 YEARS same location. Unit demoed. Want 1bdrm w/garage, duplex, guest house. Quiet responsible male. 57. Excellent references! Aug-Sept. (310)473-8506.

WANTED!

NEED a room within walking distance of St. John's Hospital with bathing facility. Permanent. Rental. (310)393-3541.

Wanted

PARKING or SPACE for Modern MOTORHOME **WANTED** on vacant land or beside residence. With or without utilities. Santa Monica/Malibu close. Writer/Mediator/Philosopher. Age 59. Code 4567. Pager (323)433-4848.

WANTED

FIRST Car! Good Condition. \$1000 - \$3000 range. Call Lee (310)678-7886.

For Rent

1-3 BEDROOM apartments. \$1,475-2,500. All hardwood floors, newly remodeled, light, bright. 1920's old world charm. Garden courtyards with enclosed patios. (310)454-5495. Cell (310)770-2148.

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SANTA MONICA \$1800.00 2bdrm/1ba. 714 Bay St. Full kitchen, assigned parking. Available 06/15. Call Nancy (310)306-8286

SANTA MONICA \$1800.00 Prime N. Wilshire. Rent ready. 1400 sq. ft. 2bd/2ba, 2 parking spaces. Large balcony. Private, quiet! Francis Drooz (310)479-1012.

SANTA MONICA \$750.00 Pet ok, hardwood floors, walk-in closets, laundry, parking. Westside Rentals. 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$850.00 1bdrm, new carpet, new tile in kitchen and bathroom, laundry. No pets. (310)452-4049.

SANTA MONICA \$850.00 Hardwood floors, walk-in closets, laundry, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA 1-2 bedroom apartments for rent. \$1,500-\$3,000. 310-394-1279

SANTA MONICA, \$1,850, large 2-BR, 2 BA, hardwood floors, 5 blocks from beach. (310)576-9921, (323)277-3940.

SM \$1375.00 N. of Wilshire. Large 1bdrm/1bath. Hardwood floors, balcony, new R/S, parking. (310)641-1149

TOPANGA APT. FOR RENT Furnished Single Unit attached to house. Private entrance, newly renovated, spacious studio for single person. Safe neighborhood, stunning views, patio, full bath, walk-in closet, new fixtures, custom tile and paint, pool, utilities and sat. TV incl. No cats. \$1200/mo.+ security dep 455-4427.

VENICE/SM \$899.00 Studio, secure building, parking, pool. 235 Main St. Disabled or citizen 62+ only. 310-261-2093

WEST LA \$650.00 Bachelor pad, carpets, laundry, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

WESTWOOD \$1600.00 2 bedroom/1 bath, upper. Everything new! Bright and airy. 1626 Veteran. (310)479-5235

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WEST LA \$750.00 Guest House, pet ok, R/S, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

WESTWOOD \$800.00 Guest House, cat ok, W/D, near UCLA, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Houses For Rent

MARKET YOUR rental house in the only comprehensive, local guide that is FREE to renters. For a buck a day, you can't afford not to! Call (310)458-7737 to place your classified ad today.

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Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$995.00 Duplex, R/S, patio, W/D hkups, carpets. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SM/\$2450.00 927 7th Street. Newly remodeled English Cottage. 2bdr/1ba, hardwood floors, hi-ceilings, modern kitchen, walking distance to beach. Steps to Montana. 1 year lease. Call Devin (310)360-1813.

VENICE WALK Street. \$2500.00, 903 Nowita Place. Newly renovated original. 1bdrm/bonus. Private patio/deck. All utilities, W/D. (310)827-0222.

Roommates

BEVERLY HILLS \$500.00 Private bedroom, R/S, hardwood floors, A/C. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

WESTWOOD \$400.00 Private bedroom, great location, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

Commercial Lease

COMMERCIAL SPACE can be leased quickly if you market to the right crowd. Reach local business owners by running your listing in the Daily Press. Call (310)458-7737 to place your listing for only a buck a day.

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Vehicles for sale

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FIRST Car! Good Condition. \$1000 - \$3000 range. Call Lee (310)678-7886.

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GET YOUR message out! For only a buck a day, call (310)458-7737 to run your announcement to over 15,000 interested readers daily.

PRO SE of Neighborhood Project need's volunteer's for events that honor our heros. (310)899-3888 pro.se@adelphia.net

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4000+ hours **Experience.**
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HAIR-COLOR SPECIAL. Only \$25, new customers only. With participating stylists. Manu Salon, (310)829-2554.

Services

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HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

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PLAY TENNIS at the beach. Call (310)775-4866. Dial Jones USPTA Certified Instructor. Competitor in US Open, Australian Open, and New Zeland Open.

QUICK AND Dirty (if the newspaper rubs off on your hands). Market your small business in our services section for a buck a day. Call (310)458-7737.

RELATIONSHIP EXPERT. Learn to connect deeply with yourself and others. Experienced local psychotherapist, sliding scale. Roxy DeCou, LCSW, (310)456-6197.

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Yard Sales

GARAGE SALE. 9am-1pm, Saturday, May 25. Incl. 16 mm projector. 908 15th St., Santa Monica.

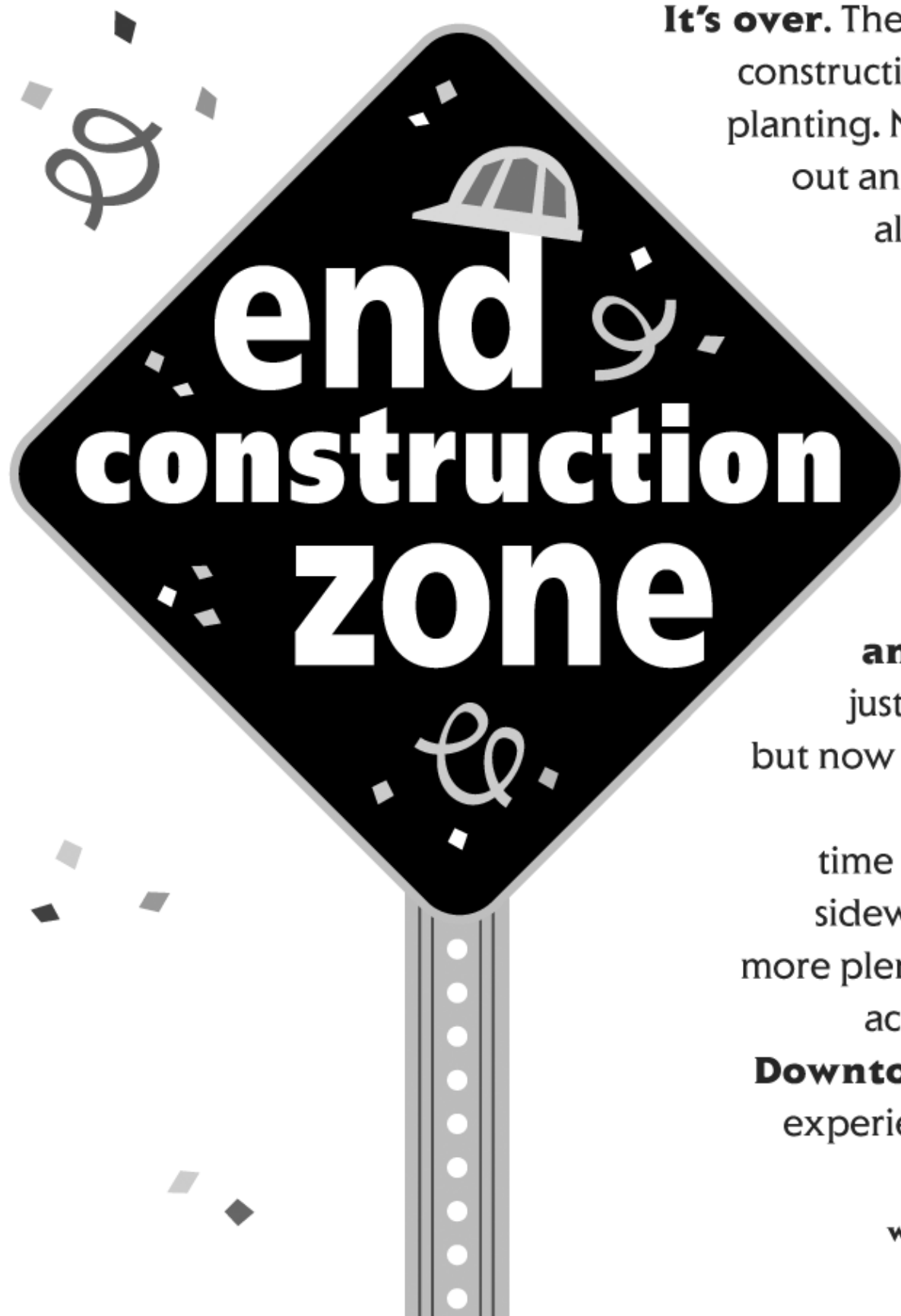
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SINGLE PROFESSIONAL Male. Just turned 50. Looking for someone to enjoy music, movies, and friendship. Prefer woman of child-bearing age. Bruce (310)392-0060.

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