



CLOSET CASE
SEE PAGE 12

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE GROWING PAINS ISSUE



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

ALL ABOARD: Big Blue Bus, which operates on a \$51 million budget, is seeking to expand its Rapid bus service to reach the Rimpau Station in Los Angeles, better connecting Santa Monica to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority system. Big Blue Bus also recently conducted an analysis on ridership, calibrating existing counters, which transit officials have called inconsistent. The analysis confirmed that the Super 7 Pico Boulevard route experiences the highest ridership and the Sunset Ride, one of the newest in the system, is the fourth most popular.

City budget is ready to go

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL After dissecting the fiscal 2008-09 budget for two nights, mulling issues like tree trimming and funding for the arts, the City Council concluded discussions on a half billion dollar spending plan on Wednesday, setting the stage for approval next month.

The study sessions ran relatively smoothly compared to last year when issues such as the \$500,000 increase in funding to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District was being contested by a number of councilmembers, concerned about a controversial special education program. The budget discussions last year were further complicated by changes as a result of the reorganization within the City Manager's Office.

While neighboring communities are feeling the heat from a sluggish economy, hurt by a slumping housing market and low

consumer spending, Santa Monica has felt minimal effects, comforted by a buffer thanks to a diversified tax base. The result is a \$521.7 million budget that is actually approximately 8.6 percent higher than the current fiscal year, according to City Manager Lamont Ewell.

The result is enhanced staffing for public safety, funding for new capital improvement projects like an upgrade to the Santa Monica Public Library's software catalog, and new programs like the all-night artist festival this summer, called "Glow."

Among the most notable inclusions in the upcoming budget, particularly in light of the recent ficus and carob tree controversies, is a nearly \$900,000 for tree trimming in order to enhance public safety and reduce City Hall's exposure to tree failure related litigation.

City Hall just last week removed 23 ficus trees from downtown that were deemed as structurally unstable. Roughly 300 carob trees, also determined to pose a safety risk,

could also be removed during the coming weeks.

There has been a backlog in tree maintenance the past several years, a result of maintenance contract costs increasing during the 2000-01 fiscal year, resulting in 40 percent less trees getting trimmed that year, according to Elaine Polachek, the community maintenance director.

There are about 6,200 trees awaiting deferred maintenance, she said.

City agencies have received about \$200,000 to help maintain the trees as well as \$286,000 to increase trimming frequency on palm and ficus trees.

"We've gotten quite far behind," Polachek said. "Instead of doing them (every) one to two years, in some cases it's three to five years."

Department staff are currently in the process of initiating a comprehensive study of tree species in Santa Monica and with

SEE BUDGET PAGE 11

Students get ready for next stage of life

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

JAMS Kristen Vasquez took a moment to gather her thoughts, smoothing out the wrinkles in her spring dress, patiently waiting for the most important interview of her young life.

Her name called, Vasquez arose and walked to a cluster of tables, taking a seat face-to-face with a stranger, the unfamiliar adult before her clutching a pen and paper.

In just 20 minutes, Vasquez relived the past three years.

The intent wasn't to land a job, but more than 300 graduating students at John Adams Middle School treated their exit interviews this week with equal importance, a rite of passage in which the eighth graders are confirmed ready to set off to a bigger and more challenging campus.

The exit interviews — a program unique to JAMS — is part of a trifecta of requirements students must fulfill in order to graduate in June, grouped with the mandatory eighth grade essay and community service project.

"We feel it's a good culminating activity that gives them a good opportunity to reflect on their experience here," Titia Murphy, the eighth grade social studies teacher and interview coordinator, said.

The one-on-one interviews were scheduled in 20-minute sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, conducted by parents, teachers, counselors and district staff. The students were asked to reflect on their time at John Adams, about their academic experience and goals for the future. The students were provided with the list of questions beforehand.

The students spent several weeks preparing, schooled in interviewing etiquette, learning such skills as making good eye contact, dressing appropriately and engaging the interviewer. School officials said the exit interviews not only give students a chance to reflect, but also prepares them for the next phase of their life, many of them just a year or two from finding their first job.

"It prepares them for a world of work," Principal Martha Shaw said. "It won't be long before they apply for jobs."

SEE INTERVIEW PAGE 11



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Calendar

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FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'Camila' comes to SMC

1900 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.

As part of Los Angeles' first Festival of New American Musicals, Santa Monica College Theatre Arts Department presents the world premier musical "Camila." The play will be presented at SMC's Theatre Arts Main Stage.

March over to the Temple Bar

1026 Wilshire Blvd., 9:15 p.m.

The MarchFourth Marching Band is a 30-person madcap carnival of horns, drums, electric bass, stiltwalkers and dancers that can only be described as fun.

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 24, 2008

Building self esteem

1401 Olympic Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

In these classes you will have an opportunity to learn why you have low self esteem, how to move past the barriers that keep you stuck, and become the confident, self assured person you want to become. These free classes take place at Memorial Park. For information, call (310) 230-5163.

Hitting the right note

Santa Monica Main Library, 2 p.m.

Take a musical journey around the world with L.A. Philharmonic Pianist Junko Ueno Garrett when she plays pieces from Gabriel Faure and Sergei Rachmaninov, to name just a few.

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.

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.



State rewriting marriage forms for gays

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES You have to figure "bride" and "groom" are out.

So, what will the California marriage license look like in the new era of same-sex marriages? Will it list "Partner A" and "Partner B"? "Intended No. 1" and "Intended No. 2"? Or will it contain just blank spaces for the betrothed?

The court decision last week that legalized gay marriage in California has created a semantic puzzle with scant time to solve it. With the ruling tentatively set to take effect June 16, state bureaucrats must rapidly rewrite, print and distribute a marriage license application.

The current one-page form uses "bride" and "groom" four times each, and also requires the signatures of an "unmarried man" and an "unmarried woman," wording

that is obviously out of step with the California Supreme Court ruling opening the way for gay marriages.

Thousands of same-sex couples are expected to flock to the state next month to wed. But typically it takes the state months to churn out new forms.

Kate Kendell, executive director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said she is not particularly worried.

"This is where you don't want the perfect to be the enemy of the good," she said. "If people can marry and those marriages are legally recognized in compliance with the court ruling ... the t's crossed and i's dotted on the form are the least of our concerns."

The person with the final word is Mark Horton, director of the state Public Health Department, which oversees the Office of Vital Records.

"It's too early for us to give specifics," said Linette Scott, a deputy director at the

department. "We are going to be in compliance with the court order."

In Massachusetts, the only other state to legalize gay marriage, "bride" and "groom" were dropped from its marriage certificate in favor of "Party A" and "Party B." Those individuals then check a box to indicate male or female. In Vermont, which issues certificates of civil union for gays, couples also are identified as "Party A" and "Party B."

Simply scratching out "bride" and "groom" on the current California form could be problematic. The form reads: "Make no erasures, whiteouts or other alterations."

Tom McClusky, a vice president at the conservative Family Research Council, said the state should maintain two marriage forms, one of which preserves "bride" and "groom."

"If the definition is seen to be so fluid, where do you stop?" he asked. "I can imagine the discussion in a couple of years of how

many people should be included. Why is it wrong for two men and a woman to get married? I don't want to see the top of THAT wedding cake."

The wording on the license is just one of many unanswered questions left in the wake of the ruling that struck down laws against gay marriage in the nation's most populous state. There are questions about its effective date. And it could be a fleeting victory for gays, since religious and social conservatives hope to put a constitutional amendment on the state ballot in November that would undo the ruling.

Unlike Massachusetts, California has no residency requirement for obtaining a marriage license. That means the state could become a magnet for gays nationwide eager to tie the knot.

The conservative Alliance Defense Fund plans to ask the high court to stay its ruling until after the election.



MEN AT WORK

Work on Santa Monica Place, located on Broadway and Fourth Street downtown, is moving along at a brisk pace as of Thursday afternoon. The once-covered structure is being transformed into an open-air shopping complex slated to be reopened in the fall of 2009.

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

L.A. welcomes 18,000 new citizens, a record

BY CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Record crowds of immigrants — more than 18,000 in all — took citizenship oaths here Thursday, a showing credited to rising fees, a heated debate over illegal immigration and one of the brand-new Americans raising their hands.

In becoming a citizen, radio host Eduardo "Piolin" Sotelo was taking the advice he has frequently dispensed on the nation's most popular Spanish-language radio show.

"This is a new page in my life," the native of Mexico said as he was swarmed by well wishers and fans clamoring for a photo. "We have to make a difference."

Sotelo, who came to the country illegally 22 years ago in a car trunk, chronicled his own citizenship process as he urged fellow Hispanics to seek citizenship at a time when immigration is still a hot-button issue and a presidential election is underway.

The need for three separate ceremonies at the Los Angeles Convention Center reflected a 350 percent increase in citizenship applications last summer before immigration fees jumped from \$400 to \$675 on Aug. 1.

On top of that, Spanish-language media, launched massive campaigns to get more immigrants to become citizens and vote.



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

Problems with Big Blue
Editor:

As a resident near downtown Los Angeles, I rely on the Big Blue Bus No. 10 a lot. One reason, it gives excellent service.

But the same cannot be said of the folks at the BBB transit office in downtown Santa Monica. I entered that office on May 15 to ask if the No. 7 bus stops at or near Pico and Doheny? “Absolutely not,” said a woman there who suggested that I seek help from the MTA.

I exited that office mightily confused. I wanted to visit a company located between Doheny and Robertson on Pico. Soon after I spotted a No. 7 bus with a driver on Santa Monica Boulevard. Rushing toward him, I asked if his bus stopped at Pico and Doheny? “Yes,” he affirmed, twice.

When will the Big Blue Bus recognize that its center employees should possess intricate information about all bus routes? And not spout the gross misinformation that I got.

Joanne Gamlin
Los Angeles

Getting emotional over ficus
Editor:

I knew the trees on Second and Fourth Streets were in peril but I never imagined it would make me so emotional when I saw them lying in the middle of the street on Friday morning.

I never imagined so many on the City Council would vote to remove such beautiful trees and be so indifferent to the massive public opinion to save the them. I also can’t imagine that those on the council who voted to destroy the trees have any aspirations for a political future in Santa Monica.

Dick Orton
Santa Monica

Removing trees was a good idea
Editor:

Regarding the removal of the ficus trees in Santa Monica, I must say that as a long time resident of this area and frequent visitor to Santa Monica, I am glad the ficus trees are being removed.

I admire the Treesavers passion but I believe it is misplaced. Just because something has been there a long time is not a reason to preserve it. The ficus is not rare nor endangered. It has a very broad and dense canopy that prevents all sunlight from passing down through it as well as completely obscuring anything behind it. It has an invasive and destructive root system that uplifts, cracks and destroys the sidewalk making them dangerous to walk on. How many liability claims have to be filed before the city/residents remove the problem? Ficus trees just do not belong on city sidewalks. I am sure the replacement trees will meet everyone’s expectations in time.

John DerSarkisian
Los Angeles



The Soap Box
Bennet Kelley

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The lion in winter

IN THE 1962 CAMPAIGN TO FILL THE Senate seat vacated by President Kennedy, the then state attorney general dismissed his primary opponent by stating that “if your name was Edward Moore instead of Edward Moore Kennedy, your candidacy would be a farce.” Nearly a half century later few remember that gentleman’s name but throughout this period his opponent has been a dominant force in American politics precisely because he was not Edward Moore but instead was Ted Kennedy.

I was born a year later in an era defined by Dion’s song “Abraham, Martin & John,” mourning the loss of the decade’s three giants; and as we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the death of Dr. King and Bobby Kennedy, it is clearly a loss that we carry with us today.

But throughout there has always been Teddy. Like Ulysses, he endured immeasurable hardships, including surviving a plane crash and the tragic death of three brothers, and rose to the challenges he faced. He was not only the last link to this age of giants, but he became one himself.

Sen. Kennedy has built a record of legislative achievement unmatched in our history (often working with Republicans despite his status as the GOP’s official punching bag); with some saying he has had more impact on the lives of Americans than most of the nine presidents he has served under.

It is fitting that his maiden Senate speech was on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and his career would be marked by a tireless commitment to civil rights.

He has always been a champion for the forgotten and less fortunate whether it be the disabled through the Americans with Disabilities Act and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which guarantees public education to children with disabilities in every state; the elderly through programs such as Meals on Wheels; children through the expansion of Head Start and the creation of the National Military Child Care Act, which has establish a top notch child care system for military families; and working Americans through his passionate battle to increase the minimum wage and for home heating oil assistance for the poor.

But it has been health care that has defined his career and drove his decision to challenge President Carter for the Democratic nomination in 1980.

While he has been thwarted in his efforts to pass a national health plan, he is responsible for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which enables 25 million Americans to maintain their health insurance when they switch jobs; the State Children’s Health Insurance Program to help states provide health insurance to children in low-income families; as well as legislation promoting the use of mammograms and creating a national system of health centers.

Kennedy has been called the Senate’s “Last Lion” and his mighty roar now circulates on YouTube including his famous plea “when does the greed stop” to those opposing a minimum wage increase.

More importantly, this lion has been the heart and soul of the Democratic Party. He has campaigned for Democratic candidates across the country non-stop since the cruel

hand of fate made him the heir to the family legacy; and the family has opened their homes to party leaders across the nation who stand in awe as the glory and tragedy of the Kennedy family is on full display on the walls around them.

While the announcement that Sen. Kennedy has a malignant brain tumor has stirred a nationwide reaction; let us not eulogize him prematurely since if there is one thing Democrats and Republicans agree upon is that Ted Kennedy is a fighter.

But what has moved people is not just the thought of this great lion in winter, but the unsettling thought that with his passing the

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age of giants, which made the nation what it is today, will have ended. It has been replaced by the age of sound bite politics which has left us few leaders with the boldness to appeal to our better selves to build a better nation for all Americans, instead of a Wal-Mart nation that foolishly believes we can maintain our quality of life on the cheap.

Kennedy will be forever remembered for his 1980 Democratic convention speech in which he himself invoked the legend of a weary Ulysses who remains “strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield” before promising the faithful that “the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die.”

While the Senator and his family will remain in our thoughts and prayers, we also must recognize that it is now our turn to remain strong in will to ensure that the cause endures and that the dream shall never die.

BENNET KELLEY is an award-winning columnist, political analyst and founder of the Internet Law Center; and also was a volunteer on Kennedy’s 1980 presidential campaign. He can be reached at bennet@bennetkelley.com.

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A newspaper with issues

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West L.A. Members of CNPA, AFPP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

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Greed is not good

IN A FEW WEEKS WE'LL ALL BE GOING TO the polls. Well, actually about 25 percent of us. June primaries, especially with no presidential or gubernatorial races, attract a low voter turnout. And this year there's so much at stake. Proposition 98 would put an end to rent control. As a renter, this isn't exactly heartwarming news.

It's a little ironic that the initiative movement in California that began in 1912 by reformers is now dominated by special interests. Approximately 87 percent of Prop. 98's \$7 million campaign comes from apartment building and mobile park owners. You can't get much more "special" than that. With the specter of losing my apartment, I'm packing up my sea shell collection, taking a wistful look back on my "hometown."

When I first moved here in 1975, Ocean Park was hardly an upscale neighborhood. My apartment complex was built with low-income, HUD financing. Rents started at \$245. Today they start at \$3,000 and go up to \$5,800 (giving new meaning to "low-income").

Soon everybody it seemed wanted to live in Santa Monica and rents skyrocketed. Each month waiting in the mailbox, was another rent raise. Residents, especially poor and the elderly, panicked. At the time I was neither, but I still panicked. In 1978 a rent-control initiative went on the ballot, but, guess what, it failed.

Dodging a bullet, some landlords preached moderation but they were ignored by their greedy brethren who felt that, in a capitalist system, supply and demand should always prevail (except for Chrysler or sub prime mortgage companies). The landlords figured they ought to gouge while the gouging was still good. As a result, the next year rent control passed. Ever since the landlords have been trying, by hook or crook, to overturn it. Prop. 98 may employ both hook and crook.

When Prop. 13 passed in 1978 the landlords promised renters would share in the savings (and something about the tooth fairy, as I recall). Then in 1999 statewide vacancy de-control went into effect. You'd think they'd have been satisfied, but, unfortunately, greed is insatiable. It is, after all, one of the seven deadly sins, along with lust, gluttony, sloth, wrath, envy, pride and not getting my jokes. OK, the last one I made up.

In 2003 Santa Monica landlords saw to it that No. 3304 was added to Rent Control regulations (saying either give us this or we'll pass a state law that'll be worse). The landlords reclaimed approximately 100 units

through No. 3304 and since then things have been relatively quiet. But, just when you thought your rent-controlled apartment was safe, (like the monster in a bad horror movie) "The Landlords Are Back." On June 3, Prop. 98 will be playing at polling booths near you. I'm giving it two thumbs down.

You have to hand it to the landlords, they're like rust, they never sleep. Lest you think I'm being partisan, the big backer of 98, the Apartment Owners Association USA, in their March newsletter refers to rent control advocates as "terrorist bombers." Whose style does that remind me of? Actually Bush/Cheney/Rove and the proponents of 98 have a lot in common. The neo-cons used 9/11 as an excuse to invade Iraq and AOA is using "eminent domain" to end rent control.

The backers of 98 assure rent control residents they'll be allowed to stay. Gee, thanks milord. Frankly, after 7 years of WMD's and "we'll be greeted as liberators," such assurances are as comforting as "the check's in the mail."

In addition to ending rent control, 98 would stop cities from zoning to limit height and density, and would end the state's environmental protections on the use of land (just what we need in the era of global warming). Don't rich people have to breathe the same air? Or, maybe they've got something up their sleeve?

In my opinion, Prop. 98 is so onerous that it's no wonder there's a long list of thumbs down: The League of Women Voters, AARP, environmental and tenant groups, labor unions, League of Cities, the California Chamber of Commerce and even Gov. Schwarzenegger, who issued a statement, "While eminent domain is an issue worth addressing, Proposition 98 would undermine California's ability to improve our infrastructure, including our water delivery and storage."

Fortunately there is an initiative that does address eminent domain abuses, Prop. 99. If 99 passes and gets more votes than 98, it will go into effect. The editorial boards of 85 percent of the newspapers in California have come out against 98, and most are in favor of 99 (so is Fran Pavley, who's running for the Democratic nomination for state Senate from our district).

I'll be honest. I don't have a sea shell collection. With only 10 days until the election, maybe I'd better hurry up and start one.

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



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The Q-Line

Where to eat?

There are oodles of quality dining options in Santa Monica. Whether it's hamburgers or haute cuisine, this city by the sea seems to have it all.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Where is your favorite place to eat in Santa Monica and why?

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



Kate Bransfield
Estates Director

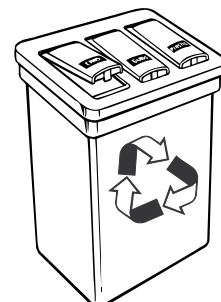
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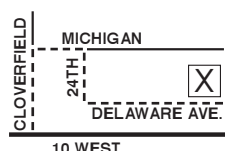
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NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AND THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA REGARDING THE PROPOSED DISPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AND RELATED/SANTA MONICA VILLAGE, LLC, PROVIDING FOR THE 99-YEAR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE VILLAGE SPECIAL USE DISTRICT OF THE CIVIC CENTER SPECIFIC PLAN AREA AND THE REDEVELOPMENT AND USE THEREOF

On June 10, 2008, the Santa Monica City Council ("City Council") and the City of Santa Monica Redevelopment Agency ("Agency") will consider a proposed Disposition and Development Agreement ("DDA") by and between the Agency and the Related/Santa Monica Village, LLC, providing for the 99-year lease of the real property located within the Village Special Use District of the Civic Center Plan ("Property") to Related/Santa Monica Village, LLC (the "Developer") for the redevelopment and use thereof. Pursuant to California Community Redevelopment Law, Health and Safety Code Sections 33000 et seq. ("Law"), City Council and Agency will be conducting a public hearing on this matter.

WHAT: City Council and Agency public hearing on the proposed DDA between Agency and Developer, providing for the 99-year lease of certain property to Related/Santa Monica Village, LLC, and the redevelopment and use thereof.

WHERE: Santa Monica City Hall
City Council Chambers
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica



WHEN: June 10, 2008
5:45 p.m. (or as soon as possible thereafter)

The proposed 99-year lease of the Property to Related/Santa Monica, LLC, will be made in accordance with the Law. The joint public hearing will be held to consider the proposed 99-year lease of the Property by the Agency to Related/Santa Monica, LLC.

The following documents are available at the City Clerk's Office located at City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California, and the Redevelopment Agency, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA:

1. A copy of the proposed DDA;
2. A Summary Report prepared pursuant to Section 33433 of the Law;
3. A copy of the Civic Center Specific Plan EIR and related documents; and
4. A copy of the Development Agreement by and between the City of Santa Monica and Related/Santa Monica Village, LLC for the Village at Santa Monica.

At any time before the date and time set forth above for the joint public hearing by the City Council and Agency, any written comments on or objections to the proposed DDA may be filed with the City Clerk. Comments may also be submitted during such period on the Summary Report. All persons wishing to question, comment, object to, or be heard on any or all such matters at the joint public hearing will be given an opportunity to appear and be so heard. If you later desire to challenge actions of the Agency or City Council in connection with this transaction, you could be limited to issues you have raised at or before the public hearing.

Publish: May 23, 2008
May 30, 2008

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Dissing the disabled

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SUNDAY, MAY 18, AT 10:50 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 2600 block of Main Street regarding a report of a grand theft that just occurred. When officers arrived they spoke with several witnesses who said the suspect ran up to a man in a wheelchair who was about to purchase some tacos and grabbed \$40 from the man's front shirt pocket and then ran off. The victim yelled for help and police were called. The victim provided officers with a description of the suspect, who was apprehended a short time later. The victim positively identified the suspect, who was placed under arrest for grand theft and committing a crime against a dependent adult. The suspect was identified as Steven Ray Ward, 44, a transient.

TUESDAY, MAY 13, AT 9 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1300 block of Palisades Beach Road regarding a burglary and vandalism investigation. When officers arrived, they made contact with the owner of a home under construction who said that a transient had broken into the home, damaged several windows and defecated on the floor and in a sink. The owner said the transient had been sleeping in the home for several days. He gave a description of the suspect to officers. Two days later officers went by the home to see if the suspect was there, and sure enough, he was. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for burglary and vandalism. The estimated cost of the damage was \$2,000. The suspect was identified as Brandon Kentro Washington, 21, a transient. His bail was set at \$50,000.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, AT 3:40 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2800 block of Third Street regarding a burglary that just occurred. When officers arrived they spoke with a woman who said she left her apartment earlier in the day and when she returned she found her front door unlocked and several items missing, including an iPod, a digital camera, some costume jewelry and a bottle of prescription medication – a total loss of \$750, police said. Several weeks later, officers arrested a suspect for burglary and violation of probation. The suspect was identified as Ryan Jennes McAteer, 27, a transient. No bail was set.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, AT 9:30 A.M.,
Officers responded to the Third Street Promenade Farmers' Market after receiving a report of an attempted kidnapping that just occurred. When officers arrived they made contact with a nanny who said she was shopping at the market, pushing a 14-month-old child in a stroller when a man walked up to her, grabbed one of the stroller's handles and attempted to push it on his own, saying, "My baby." The nanny fought back and managed to regain control of the stroller and rushed over to a traffic safety officer who called police. Armed with a description of the suspect officers were able to locate him a short time later and placed him under arrest for attempted kidnapping and violation of parole. The suspect was identified as Darrell Craig Johnson, 43, a transient. No bail was set.

MONDAY, MAY 19, AT 12:57 P.M.,
A park ranger patrolling Palisades Park observed a man with an open container of beer sitting behind the senior center. The ranger approached the suspect who began pouring out the beer. The suspect began to walk away, trying to avoid being issued a citation. The ranger called for police and stood in front of the suspect, blocking him. The suspect allegedly removed his belt and swung the buckle end at the park ranger. The ranger moved out of the way and tackled the suspect. The two wrestled on the ground, the suspect kicking and punching the ranger, police said. When officers arrived they placed the suspect in custody and he was booked for assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest. He was identified as Jose Rodriguez, 28, a transient. His bail was set at \$30,000.

SUNDAY, MAY 18, AT 1:40 A.M.,
Officers responded to the corner of Fifth and Bay streets regarding a report of a kidnapping in progress. When officers arrived they spoke with a witness who said he was visiting a friend when he overheard a woman screaming, telling someone to leave her alone. The witness went outside to see what was going on and watched as a man threw a woman up against a tree and then picked her up over his shoulders and walked toward a gray Toyota against her wishes. The witnesses called police and officers placed the suspect under arrest for attempted kidnapping, domestic violence, battery and resisting arrest. The suspect was identified as Dillon Anthony Negrete, 19, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at \$100,000.

Compiled by Editor in Chief KEVIN HERRERA

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Dig at Manson desert hideaway called off

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK The dig for clandestine graves at Charles Manson's last hideout ended this week, yielding no bodies and leaving scientists puzzled over the clues that had enticed them to come this far.

"There have been no human remains found," Inyo County Sheriff Bill Lutze said Wednesday after the four sites with greatest probability of holding human remains were dug up. "We're finishing up this site and that'll be it for the day — nothing."

Manson and his followers hid out at the isolated ranch following their killing spree in Los Angeles. For years, rumors have swirled about other possible Manson victims, including hitchhikers and runaways who visited the site and were never heard from again.

Scientists had brought forensic equipment designed to identify disruptions in the soil and chemicals typical of human decomposition to the high desert mountains in February.

They'd identified five spots that could be graves. Four seemed to be very promising, prompting Lutze to conduct the exploratory excavation.

A crew of about 20, including nine members of the Inyo County Sheriff's Department, plus National Park Services staff and scientists, started to dig on Tuesday, planning to stay until Thursday.

But the work went faster than scheduled, with the scientists and sheriff's deputies shoveling side by side until dusk then camping out beside the ranch house Manson and his followers had used.

By Wednesday afternoon, the four sites had been excavated and the dirt sifted. With the work done, the teams packed up and went home for good.

The search revealed little more than a .38-caliber shell casing, found on the surface on the first day and promptly dismissed by law enforcement personnel as being recent, and a pack rat's underground nest.

One site revealed fragments of animal bones, an ash pit, and some stones used to make arrowheads.

Rangers determined it was of archaeological interest. The digging stopped, and the site was turned over to the National Park Service.

The researchers and law enforcement personnel involved in the effort said the unique physical environment — the high alkaline desert, the unusual plants that survive there — made it harder to determine what was underground. They said vegetation that exuded unusual chemicals and rocks with magnetic properties were throwing off their equipment.

"This is just a foreign, lunar landscape," said Arpad Vass, a senior researcher at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

"I haven't been this frustrated in a very long time," he said, resting from the 100 degree heat and trying to understand how several technologies could have pointed to these sites — and have been wrong. "It's very perplexing. We spent a long time trying to pinpoint the exact location to dig."

Standing over the third pit, Inyo County Sheriff Sgt. Jeff Hollowell explained how the results from different forensic technologies were combined to decide exactly where, amid the sharp folds of the

THERE HAVE BEEN NO HUMAN REMAINS FOUND. WE'RE FINISHING UP THIS SITE AND THAT'LL BE IT FOR THE DAY — NOTHING."

Bill Lutze,
Inyo County Sheriff

Panamint Mountains, to plant the shovel.

He held an image representing a five by ten meter section of the area.

It was the result of overlaying information coming from the various scientific methods — ground penetrating radar, magnetic readings that probed underground, and chemical analyses of the soil. Spots on the map glowed red or blue depending on what clues they provided.

"On this particular site, we had four anomalies," he said, pointing to the pit dug behind the ranch house.

"It was a magnetic hot spot, and in the soil samples, the hydrocarbons they found here were high," he said. "They're still chasing down the explanation for that, trying to find out what could be the cause of that odor."

Vass said the excavation was a learning process.

"We're trying to improve the science. It's in its infancy," he said. "There could be additional people out there. But unless there are leaps in this kind of science, we'll never know."

Although Sheriff Lutze said the dig had "cost him some dollars," he felt there was enough evidence to make it necessary.

"What if there was someone in there?" he asked, pointing to a gaping pit.

Working closely with scientists who are developing tools to help law enforcement analyze a crime scene or determine where in an open desert to start looking for a body was worth it, Lutze said.

"We learned something for all law enforcement out there," he said, explaining that he'd already gotten calls from other agencies interested in the methods. "There was a lot of science used here that was breaking technology, that had never been used in the field before."

In Ballarat, an abandoned mining town near the mouth of the narrow canyon that leads to Manson's last refuge, Rock Novak, the town's only resident, held out the last of a series of Manson T-shirts he had made.

Few people come through the area — off-roading enthusiasts, the occasional movie crew looking for a dramatic landscape, Manson fanatics. Even after the out-of-town crew leaves, he expects he'll continue to see a trickle of visitors to the cult's abandoned home.

"Everybody loves a mystery," he said.

Manson's clan was ultimately prosecuted for nine murders that took place in the summer of 1969.

He is serving a life sentence at Corcoran State Prison.

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Send letters to editor@smdp.com



Kate Bransfield



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Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 3,160,091	\$ 992,700
South of Wilshire	= \$ 1,059,539	\$ 738,756
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,480,630	\$ 615,938
Ocean Park	= \$ 1,866,667	\$ 1,349,523

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STATE BRIEFS

WASHINGTON

Feinstein opposes Iraq money

California Senator Dianne Feinstein voted against a \$165 billion Iraq spending bill Thursday — the first "no" vote the centrist Democrat has cast on funding for the war.

Though she initially backed the Iraq war, Feinstein now regrets that position and supports curtailing the conflict. But in the past she's stopped short of opposing money for the troops and military operations.

Feinstein said in an interview Thursday that the time has come for Congress "to exercise the power of the purse, and to say we want to see an end to this — not to produce so many dollars that it's guaranteed to continue for 13 months."

California's other senator, the more liberal Barbara Boxer, opposed the war from the start and also voted against the funding bill Thursday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALM DESERT

Four arrested for elderly abuse, grand theft

Four desert residents are in jail for alleged elder abuse.

Riverside County sheriff's deputies made the arrests Wednesday morning in Palm Desert after an investigation into an accounting firm. Several elderly clients of the firm reported irregular statements.

Lt. Craig Ammons says five or six people over 65 years old were apparently defrauded and losses exceed "six figures."

David Winnings, Petra Washington and Dayanna Watts, all of Cathedral City, and Indio resident Doris Urbina were arrested and booked for investigation of elder abuse and grand theft.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Herlinda Valenzuela says the investigation is continuing and details aren't being released. She would only say the case is "related to the financial relationship between the victims and the firm."

AP

SAN DIEGO

Skin graft surgeries for burned hotel blast workers

Two construction workers burned in this week's downtown San Diego hotel explosion have undergone temporary skin graft surgeries and a third worker could get skin grafts on Friday. The two workers who underwent surgery Wednesday at University of California, San Diego, Medical Center will remain in drug-induced comas for two weeks to control pain. A third worker is too swollen for skin grafts and surgery for that worker could be scheduled as early as Friday.

Medical center burn unit chief Dr. Bruce Potenza says the men may be ready for permanent skin grafts late next week. All three are in critical condition.

Thirteen workers were injured during Monday afternoon's explosion at the San Diego Bayfront Hilton, a 30-story hotel under construction. Fire investigators say a water heater flame or electrical spark ignited natural gas that had been leaking into a mechanical room on the fifth floor.

AP

CAPITOLA

Poll finds voters favor extending sales tax

A survey shows Capitola voters favor extending the city's quarter-cent sales tax that expires in two years.

The City Council this week is considering City Manager Richard Hill's bid to ask voters in November to extend the tax to April 2021 to pay for police, street repairs and parks.

Seventy-five percent of the 350 likely voters surveyed last month by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates favor extension of the tax.

Capitola's quarter-cent sales tax was approved by 60 percent of the voters in 2004 as Measure P, which expires in April 2010. It generates about \$1 million a year.

AP

SANTA MARIA

EPA says cleanup of Greka oil site nears completion

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says the nearly two-month pollution cleanup at the Greka Oil and Gas facility in Santa Maria will be completed Friday.

The EPA took control of the Greka Bell Lease site cleanup on April 1.

The agency says cleanup included removal of about 5,000 cubic yards of oil-contaminated soil. Additionally, the EPA and state Department of Fish and Game restored a creek to prevent storm erosion.

The cleanup also involved removal of more than 3,000 cubic yards of oil-contaminated solids from the western Upper Bell Pond that was the source of the January spill.

Greka has had multiple spills at the site since last summer.

AP

CARSON

L.A. sheriff's chopper fired on by gunman on ground

Two bullets struck a Los Angeles County sheriff's helicopter responding to a robbery call, forcing the pilot to make an unscheduled landing at the Carson station.

Sgt. Carol Rogers says a bullet struck the belly of the helicopter and another hit the tail area at about 11 p.m. Wednesday. The pilot landed at the nearby Carson sheriff's station for inspection and the helicopter is described as safe to fly.

No one on the helicopter was hurt.

Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a residence in what investigators described at 5 a.m. Thursday as "an ongoing tactical operation." A sheriff's spokesman says no information is being released until that operation is complete.

AP

WASHINGTON

Senate bill targets ship pollution

Domestic and foreign ships traveling to U.S. ports would be required to use cleaner fuel under legislation that passed a Senate committee Wednesday.

Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer of California says emissions from ship engines are a major cause of air-quality problems at the nation's ports. The problems are particularly severe at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Her bill passed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee by voice vote and now goes to the full Senate.

AP

Schwarzenegger defends budget, borrowing plan

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he is convinced California voters will support his plan to borrow \$15 billion against future lottery proceeds once they understand the details.

Schwarzenegger's proposed spending plan for the fiscal year that begins in July relies on using \$5 billion in lottery-backed bonds to balance the budget. The other \$10 billion would go into a fund that could help balance the budget in the future when revenue plunges.

"They don't know yet that we don't take risks," he told reporters after a speech to the California Chamber of Commerce. "It is not borrowing, and it will help us with our budget because we are short of revenues because we don't have a rainy day fund set aside."

He has work to do, according to a survey released Wednesday. Most Californians dislike the lottery proposal, according to the poll by the Public Policy Institute of California.

The survey found that 58 percent of residents and 62 percent of likely California voters oppose the plan to borrow money from future lottery earnings. That opposition held true for majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents.

Majorities of Democrats and independents, and half of Republicans, did favor Schwarzenegger's fallback plan to increase the state sales tax 1 cent if voters reject his lottery plan in November.

Administration officials have characterized their budget plan, released last week, as a double solution: closing the \$15.2 billion deficit for the coming year and providing long-term reform by socking away money in the rainy day fund. Schwarzenegger emphasized his contention that the state faces no risk in pursuing his lottery proposal.

Under his plan, the state would expand the types of games the lottery could offer and market them more aggressively. Californians spend about \$91 per capita on their state lottery, about half the national average, leading Schwarzenegger to call it an underperforming asset. The state would take steps designed to boost the lottery's revenue and sell bonds to investors based on the value of those future sales. This is the best way for California to close its budget deficit without raising taxes, Schwarzenegger told about 1,500 business leaders in a speech hosted by the California Chamber of Commerce.

"This would tide us over," Schwarzenegger said. "There is nothing gimmickry or exotic about it. ... It is important to recognize that the ones that are taking the risks on the whole thing are the investors. Investors take the risks, they buy the bonds based on future lottery projections."

"That is the bottom line, and I think this is the direction to go, because we don't want to raise taxes."

While investors will take that risk, they also will want to be repaid. If the lottery revenue fails to increase as the administration anticipates, investors could tap the roughly \$1.2 billion the lottery distributes to schools each year.

To make up for that money, the state most likely would have to dip into its general fund

and reduce spending for other programs, according to a report this week from the Legislative Analyst's Office.

An announcement this week by the California Lottery Commission casts doubt on whether the lottery can grow as Schwarzenegger envisions and thus sustain his budget proposal. The commission said it had voted for a midyear budget revision because revenue was running behind expectations.

Updated sales projections show revised 2007-08 lottery sales of just more than \$3 billion, a \$275 million decrease from projected revenue. Schools would receive \$94 million less than projected.

In a statement, lottery officials blamed the shortfall on "poor brand image and low prize payouts, as well as arcane restrictions." Schwarzenegger wants to change those operations and encourage Californians to gamble more of their money.

If his plan survives the Legislature, it would go to voters for approval on the November ballot. Rejection by voters would trigger a temporary 1 cent sales tax increase, under Schwarzenegger's plan. He compared his lottery proposal to the state's issuing of bonds to take immediate advantage money from a 1998 tobacco company settlement with states nationwide. That money otherwise would have trickled in over a period decades.

The governor noted that voters initially were skeptical of proposals to borrow \$37 billion for highway, school, flood protection and affordable housing projects in 2006, yet all passed.

Schwarzenegger did not respond to criticism of his budget plan from the state's non-partisan legislative analyst.

In a report this week, analyst Elizabeth Hill said the governor's lottery revenue projections were overly optimistic and could harm education funding. She agreed, however, that selling lottery bonds should be part of a solution to the budget crisis.

Hill also encouraged lawmakers to raise \$3.3 billion by closing a variety of tax loopholes.

Schwarzenegger said his \$144.3 billion budget is a moderate plan that could be supported by legislators of both political parties.

Legislative leaders drew different conclusions from the Public Policy Institute survey, just as Californians were split over how to solve the state's budget mess. While 43 percent said the deficit should be closed through a combination of cuts and tax increases, just 8 percent preferred only tax increases.

Strong majorities favored raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles, said in a statement that the poll shows voters are "skeptical about the governor's risky lottery plan" and want to protect education and health care from budget cuts.

Her Republican counterpart, Assembly Minority Leader Mike Villines of Clovis, said the poll shows that "the last thing we should do is raise taxes, temporary or permanent." He said doing so would hurt economic growth.

The telephone survey of 2,003 residents was conducted May 12-18; 1,503 adults answered questions about the budget after it was released on May 14. The survey's margin of sampling error ranges up to plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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Committee requests senior stormwater engineer position

FROM BUDGET PAGE 1

that information, will develop a community renewal master plan.

"We've begun the process of identifying trees at the end of their life," Polachek said.

MONEY FOR HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

Approximately 50 percent of calls to the Santa Monica Police Department are related to the homeless, according to Chief Tim Jackman. Councilmember Bobby Shriver, who has been outspoken on homeless issues, pointed out during the meeting that roughly half of the department's \$66 million budget, or \$33 million, is being spent on homeless related calls.

The figure should indicate a fallacy in public perception that the homeless don't cost local government any money, Shriver said, calling the belief "erroneous."

One of the newest ventures that the SMPD is taking on is working with service provider West Coast Care, a firm contracted by the department since March.

The firm has in the past several months made over 1,500 contacts with the homeless and has been able to help 48 individuals find alternatives to living on the street — seven placed in long-term rehab; 34 returned to family or friends; and one who voluntarily went to an Orange County jail. The department plans to award a \$250,000 contract to the firm in June.

"This is a unique operation," Jackman said.

STAFFING LESS OF A PROBLEM

The upcoming budget provides funding for seven positions within public safety departments — four jailers and three firefighters.

Both departments requested additional personnel during a budget study session earlier this year. SMPD requested 45 new positions, while Santa Monica Fire Department asked for 22, both over the next five years.

The fire department also requested an administrative staff position but felt it was more pressing to hire the three firefighters, according to Chief Jim Hone.

"Due to the increases in other (areas), it seemed reasonable at this time to move that forward and see what the projection in next year's budget is," Hone said.

The jail positions were vital for the police department to stay in compliance with the state's Correction Standards Authority, which requires a certain ratio of inmates to jailers.

The former city jail had a capacity of 82 inmates while the jail in the new public safety facility can accommodate 112 inmates. Jail staff has not increased since 1974, Jackman said.

The department's jail staff is constrained because of state standards, which require inmates be checked on at least twice every 30 minutes. Opening cell doors also requires additional staff because of the configuration.

It is for this reason that Jackman expedited his request for additional jailers.

BUS RIDERSHIP INCREASES

The Big Blue Bus is enjoying increased ridership thanks to the success of two community routes — the Sunset Ride, which is the fourth most popular, and the Crosstown Ride.

The bus agency recently entered into an

WE HAVEN'T BEEN HERE TO FIGHT TOO OFTEN ON BUDGET ISSUES BUT THIS IS SOMETHING THE ENTIRE TASK FORCE FELT VERY STRONGLY ABOUT."

Mark Gold,
Environmental Task Force Chair

agreement with Santa Monica College to institute a new increased fee structure allowing students to ride any bus line any time.

Stephanie Negriff, the director of the transit agency, said that an analysis was recently completed on the ridership on all bus lines, complementing the physical automated counters that exist on some of the buses. Negriff said some of the counters have been inaccurate.

"During our morning and evening peak hours, our buses are standing loads only all the time except three hours a day when we don't have exceeding loads on the busiest line," Negriff said.

The bus agency is also looking to develop a rapid service from Pico to the Rimpau Station in Los Angeles, allowing Santa Monica riders to better connect with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority system in Los Angeles County.

Big Blue Bus officials have a meeting with MTA staff next week during which they will make a formal presentation.

"We think it's a great idea," Negriff said.

CLEANING DIRTY BEACHES

One possible change in the budget when it comes back to the council next month is the inclusion of a green building case manager and a senior stormwater engineer, both of which are recommendations made by the Environmental Task Force on Monday.

The senior stormwater engineer should be hired to expedite the Santa Monica Pier storm drain rehabilitation project, which is currently slated for completion in 2010.

"It's something we passionately believed in," Mark Gold, the chair of the task force, said. "We haven't been here to fight too often on budget issues but this is something the entire task force felt very strongly about."

Gold is also the president of Heal the Bay, which released its 18th annual Beach Report Card on Wednesday. The report card found that the water under the pier is the second most polluted in the state.

"This is a project that is of utmost importance to the city of Santa Monica," Gold said.

The green building case manager position can be fully or partially subsidized by increasing inspection and permit fees.

"You don't have the expertise on staff to deal with these green building projects, yet we have these amazing sustainable goals," Gold said. "We need that expertise so we can allow people to building these green projects."

melodyh@smdp.com

Exit interviews help kids get ready to find work

FROM INTERVIEW PAGE 1

Vasquez, who like many of her peers will attend Santa Monica High School in the fall, said she spent the past several days brainstorming possible answers to the questions, her parents holding mock interviews.

"I feel confident," Vasquez said before her interview. "I don't feel it's stressful because it's not for a grade."

Just a few tables away, David Ramirez engaged in a conversation with interviewer Carmen Paul, who teaches Spanish at Santa Monica High School.

A few moments later, Ramirez took a seat next to Vasquez, reliving the interview, which he deemed a success.

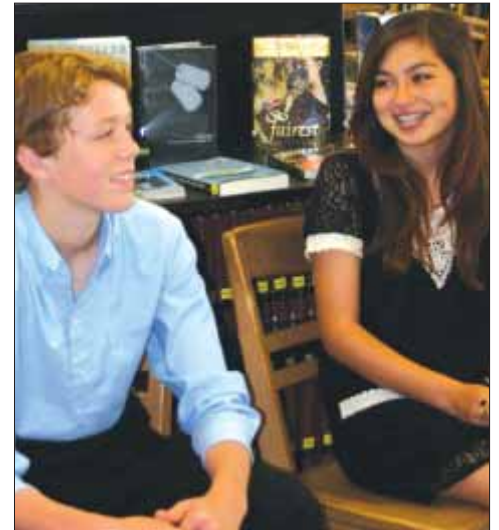
"I was not nervous at all," Ramirez said. "I felt comfortable the whole time."

Many of the interviewers were brought in from other schools, allowing the students to interface with a stranger, emulating a real-life interview.

Among the volunteers was Estela Flores, a mother of two children at JAMS who works in the College and Career Center at Samohi. Her daughter is graduating from JAMS this year.

"They get to close their life in middle school and get an idea of what to expect at Samohi," Flores said. "The students work very hard, are well prepared, which is a credit to the teachers."

Jose Hernandez, a counselor at Lincoln



Melody Hanatani melodyh@smdp.com

WAITING THEIR TURN: Andrew Capron and Valerie Vance, eighth graders at JAMS, chat as they wait for their exit interviews on Thursday.

Middle School, said he would like to see an exit interview program adopted at his school. Lincoln has a similar program called "Who am I" as part of the seventh grade curriculum.

"There's a sense of self awareness of what they've gained here and how to move on to the next level," Hernandez said. "They won't be as nervous when they go to high school."

melodyh@smdp.com



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



Dear Affordable Housing Provider:

The City of Santa Monica Housing and Economic Development Department is currently accepting proposals to create and preserve affordable housing in the City of Santa Monica beginning June 1, 2008 until funds are exhausted. These proposals will be evaluated pursuant to the Housing Trust Fund Guidelines - primarily the Redevelopment Housing Trust Fund subsection of Section VII. An electronic copy of the Guidelines is available upon request at the Housing Division, located at 2121 Cloverfield Boulevard, Suite 100, Santa Monica, 90404 and is available online at <http://smgov.net/housing/nofa/htfguidelines.pdf>.

The mission of the Housing and Economic Development Department is to promote affordable housing opportunities and a sustainable economy in Santa Monica. The Housing Division is responsible for increasing and preserving the supply of affordable housing units, and accomplishes this primarily through financing strategies.

One of California's most coveted urban coastal communities, Santa Monica offers a diverse array of residential neighborhoods, vibrant commercial districts, numerous recreational and art venues, high profile corporate headquarters, a substantial hi-tech and entertainment sector, small entrepreneurial start-ups and an exciting mix of retail businesses. Santa Monica is home to 86,000 residents and 16,000 businesses. The City Council serves as the governing body.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Kemper at (310) 458-8702.

Cordially,

Barbara Collins, Housing Manager



West Dressed

Mariel Howsepien

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A year without want

MY FRIEND HAZEL KIGHT WITHAM IS halfway through a year-long experiment.

On Dec. 1, 2007, Hazel announced to the blogosphere that she would not be buying any clothes for a whole year. (Hazel averages a mere 1.3 blog entries per month, but she decided that posting her resolution to shop only from her own closet for 12 full months would keep her accountable.)

Like many women, Hazel has a closet full of clothes, but enjoys going out and buying more.

What is it about shopping? Is it the act itself? Are we seduced by the artistry of stacks of perfectly folded sweaters? Are we lured by the opportunity to disguise ourselves? Is it that we think we've gained some sort of upper hand when we find a bargain?

Take that, Gap! I bought this on clearance.

Are we just hardwired to stockpile, like cave women storing our bison jerky for the cold winter ahead?

Hazel and I are both middle school teachers. We're both married, we're both in graduate school, and neither of us has children.

But, when it comes to shopping, Hazel and I are total opposites. Hazel loves to buy clothes, but isn't letting herself. I hate trying on clothes and I will undoubtedly have buyer's remorse about anything and everything, but I love writing about fashion, and am therefore forced to shop.

Hazel is a self-proclaimed packrat. She believes in "in with the new," but she's not so keen on "out with the old." Over the past decade, she hasn't gotten rid of much.

Before she started her experiment, Hazel would bring home new purchases, (clothes that, in the store, she just had to have), hang them in her closet, and it wouldn't be long before she forgot about them.

She's not a shopaholic. Hazel estimates that, before the experiment, she spent about \$2,000 dollars per year on clothes and shoes. That's an average of \$5.48 per day – such a reasonably priced vice.

I don't know how much money I spend on clothes, but now I'm certainly curious. It can't be as much as Hazel spends. But maybe it is. It can't be. But what if? How is it I have nothing to wear?

A MONTH-LONG EXPERIMENT

■ Start by doing all of your laundry, and hanging up your clothes with the hangers going the "right" way.

■ For the next four weeks: Each time you return an item to your closet, turn its hanger the "wrong" way.

■ When the month is over, take inventory of what you're actually wearing. You might be surprised at how many options you really have in your closet.

Hazel is calling her experiment "A Year Without Want."

But Hazel wants.

We were having coffee, when a woman in cute jeans walked into the café. "Damn, I want a new pair of jeans," said Hazel.

(The jeans Hazel was wearing were fine.)

Her birthday is coming up, and she has hinted to her husband Drake that she really wants a pair of sandals she describes as "perfect."

(Hazel has more than 30 pairs of shoes, but only "seven are in the rotation regularly.")

She also wants new black pants.

(Hazel has six pairs of black pants. I'm not counting the ripped linen pair she won't throw out though her seamstress deemed them irreparable.)

Hazel's earliest shopping memory is from the fifth grade.

"It was the Guess/Esprit era and I wanted these two Guess shirts," she said. "They were like \$35 each, which was ridiculous."

Her parents were divorced, and her mother was a teacher. Spending \$35 on a T-shirt was out of the question. Hazel said, "I had a friend who had name brands, and I had my one Esprit sweat-shirt."

I remember that era. I begged for scrunch socks. Misty Mason had scrunch socks. When I accuse Hazel of being an infrequent blogger, she bursts into laughter.

"I am, aren't I? It's not something that I have something to say about everyday. I'm a total infrequent blogger. Maybe it just hasn't been as hard as I thought. After a while, it's just been a real sense of freedom."

MARIEL HOWSEPIAN digs black coffee, fairy tales and a man in coveralls. She lives in Santa Monica and can be reached at Mariel_Rodriguez@antiochia.edu.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEF

Curran rocks

Surfer/musician Timmy Curran will be performing at the Santa Monica Surf Shop tonight at 9 p.m. His latest CD, "Word of Mouth" is an ethereal, melodic blend of nylon string and electric guitar (in the vein of Death Cab For Cutie meets Simon & Garfunkel) and is available for free download on his Web site, www.timmycurran.com.

Curran, known for his unique surf style and big-air trademark maneuvers, lists his musical influences as Ben Harper and Band of Horses. He started playing guitar at the age of 13 but said, "It all clicked three years ago in Japan, when I wrote by myself."

Since then, he's played mostly local gigs with bands who share his affinity for surfing, such as Switchfoot and Easley, but his big break came in September 2006, when Foo Fighters' guitarist Chris Shiflett (also a surfer) and Curran's manager got to chatting and offered Curran a spot to open for the Foo Fighters on their "Afoostic" tour.

"I went from playing a couple of solo shows a year to opening for the Foo Fighters ... at the Santa Barbara Bowl ... a 4,500 seat arena."

The pressure was on, but Curran gathered together several musicians, they practiced for a month and said they, "winged it and pulled it together."

Parking is available behind the store or on the street. The show is open to all ages. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (310) 315-7244.

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE

NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy Fox

'24' Season One: Special Edition

The popular crime drama starring Kiefer Sutherland includes all 24 one-hour episodes from the inaugural season. Cleverly packaged in a tin box with a "ticking clock," it is filled with over three hours of never-before-seen special features including a season seven trailer, over 25 deleted and extended scenes, alternate endings, and two all-new behind-the-scenes segments. (Fox)

'Twister' Two-disc Special Edition

The action blockbuster whose true star was Mother Nature at her worst, was the first movie ever to be released on DVD. Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton are featured as an estranged couple who are thrill-seeking meteorologists with a passion for chasing tornadoes. In their pursuit to launch electronic sensors into the funnel to obtain data for improving early warning systems, the storm chasers (including Philip Seymour Hoffman and Cary Elwes) get more than they bargained for when one of the worst of these 300 MPH forces in 50 years, comes through mid-America's Tornado Alley. Nominated for two Academy Awards (visual effects and sound), this digitally re-mastered version includes commentary by director Jan DeBont, Anatomy of a Twister, a making-of segment, a Van Halen music video and Chasing the Storm: Twister Revisited. (Warner Bros)

The Fall of the Roman Empire' Deluxe Edition

Here's a story that stars Stephen Boyd as Livius, the loyal soldier and symbolic son of an aging Roman emperor (Alec Guinness), and Christopher Plummer as Commodus, the corrupt heir to the throne – boyhood friends turned enemies when the latter accedes to the throne and sells out the values of his father for greed and hedonistic pleasures. This is a magnificent spectacle of the decadence, corruption, and intrigue that tore apart one of the greatest empires the world has ever seen. Co-starring Sophia Loren, Anthony Mason, and Omar Sharif, the three-disc presentation offers a bounty of special features. A reproduction of the original 1964 souvenir program, six color production stills, filmographies, stills, and a multitude of documentaries and analysis on the historical aspects of ancient Rome are provided. (Genius)

'The Reich Underground'

The complete story of an amazing and sinister world of Hitler's secret labyrinths provides a compelling look at a place long forgotten after the Allied Army sealed them off. Using unreleased film material and exclusive interviews with experts and eyewitnesses, the sprawling tunnels and vast open spaces are re-opened to explore a horrific truth. The Nazis undertook a bold gambit in an effort to turn the war back to their favor by moving 80 percent of their industry underground. Spending hundreds of millions of Reichsmarks, the Nazis forced hundreds of thousands of slave laborers to dig and toil in abysmal conditions to not only produce weapons but also submit to ghastly experiments and store priceless artwork. (First Run)

'Paranormal State' The Complete Season One

Follow the supernatural exploits of The Paranormal Research Society, a group of Penn State students venturing out to the darkest corners of the unknown seeking the truths behind terrifying real life mysteries. A strange way for young adults to find balance within their lives, nevertheless viewers will see how renowned psychics, demonologists, psychologists and good old student research aim to help victims of hauntings, possessions, and other paranormal problems. Twenty episodes on three-discs of a mind-expanding, horizon-stretching unusual take on extracurricular school activities. (A&E)

'Law&Order' Special Victims Unit-Year Six

All 23 episodes of the sixth season are included as members of the New York Special Victims Unit hunt down perpetrators and aid the emotionally scarred victims of sexually based crimes. The ripped-from-the headlines format include special guests like Angela Lansbury, Martin Short, and Amanda Plummer. (Universal)

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.

BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'Symphony of Secrets'

Sharon Hinck • Bethany Book Publishers

SECRETS ABOUND BUT THAT IS OK FOR our sleuth, Amy Johnson.

"On Monday, I uncovered a drug ring in South Minneapolis. On Tuesday, I spotted a felony theft at a country club in Edina. On Wednesday, I overheard plans for industrial espionage while staking out the back room of a work shop in St. Paul.

"On Thursday, my daughter blew all my cases out of the water.

"No, my daughter isn't a defense attorney; she's a hopeless practical girl with no imagination."

Her daughter, " had no passionate music ambitions, but I'd insisted she study piano. She was fairly proficient, now that I'd found her a teacher other than myself." But she has ideas for herself, as any 15 year old would. Her present dream is to be a cheerleader.

Mom's dream is to be part of the Minneapolis Symphony. "Music was my world. It owned me. And I was a grateful servant."

Can a mystery loving flute player save the Minneapolis Symphony from closing because of unexplained mishaps? Can she also start a relationship with the new conductor at the same time she acts as an amateur sleuth?

The title of this book refers to the many layers of secrets that the main character holds. She is a single mother with a teenage daughter. She has never explained to her daughter about her father.

Also there is the secret of who is trying to sabotage the orchestra. Soon after a new conductor for the symphony orchestra comes, music performance starts to suffer.

"The shocking sound of David's wrong notes carried through the orchestra."

Stefan's instrument gets tampered with. He develops a reaction to his violin.

Another time his violin strings are cut just enough that they snap during a performance.

Will the symphony get its' grant to continue or is this the last season?

Suspense is kept at a manageable level. Amy has her own problems. Her 15-year-old daughter is getting curious about her dad whom she has never met. How can Amy explain he didn't want to stay around after finding out Amy was pregnant? And now her daughter is developing an interest in cheerleading, not at all a choice a mother would make for a girl who could be an average to good piano player if she just practiced more.

The premise of this delightful light hearted mystery romance is facing life's many secrets. The story is told from the first-person viewpoint. Sharon Hinck handles both comedy and mystery in a suspenseful manner. It is a delightful read.

The publisher of this book is Bethany House. Anytime you see that imprint on a book you can be assured of a wholesome story and it doesn't fail to deliver.

DANE ROBERT SWANSON wants to hear from you, the reader. Books are only good if they are read. Write me and tell me how my reviews are helping you in your selection of good reading. Drop me a line at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

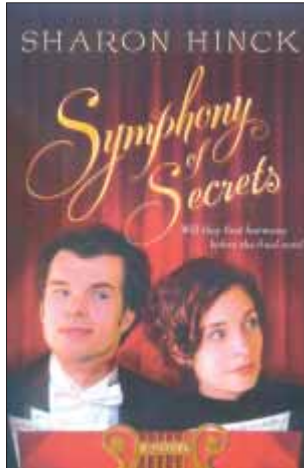


Photo courtesy Bethany

Burroughs has faith in memory and memoir

BY KRISTEN A. LEE

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK On the book tour for "A Wolf at the Table: A Memoir of My Father," Augusten Burroughs is ready for the skeptics.

The "Running With Scissors" author is the first to broach the subject, mockingly referring to himself as a "fake memoirist."

"As one of the leading fake memoirists," he said. "I constantly get asked how do you remember scenes and dialogue from when you were 15 or 13? And I'm amazed by that question, because I think, 'Well, how can you not?'"

In person, Burroughs, 42, who was born Christopher Robison, speaks in the disarmingly frank and funny voice in which he writes. If he's also slightly defensive, that's understandable. The media coverage of his latest memoir, "A Wolf at the Table," has been skeptical, if not suspicious, about its accuracy.

"It would be easier for me, certainly, to

have written "A Wolf at the Table" and called it a novel and avoided all these questions, but I will never do that, ever," Burroughs says. "I have to write what I have to write, even if it's harder, you know. Even if it's tougher and makes my job tougher and I have to answer the same questions and defend myself endlessly, I'll do it."

The book is a departure in almost every way from "Running With Scissors," the uproarious account of his bizarre adolescence, which made Burroughs a best-selling author and a celebrity.

In "A Wolf at the Table," Burroughs' trademark brand of off-color humor is gone. There's nothing funny about his story of living with a father he describes as a sociopath given to alcohol-fueled homicidal rages. According to Burroughs, his father threatened to kill him and once even tried to crash his car into a telephone pole with his young son in the passenger seat.

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SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

June 5, 2008

Public hearings will be conducted at the regular Santa Monica Rent Control Board meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chamber, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California 90401. The hearings will be on the following items:

1. Consideration and adoption of the Santa Monica Rent Control Board's Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Operating Budget.
2. Consideration and adoption of the proposed annual general rent adjustment for 2008 of 2.7%. (Proposed Regulation 3030.)

All interested persons are invited to present their views at these hearings. Copies of the proposed budget, the staff reports and the proposed regulation are available in the Board's office in Room 202 of Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California 90401, and on the Rent Control WEB page: www.smgov.net/rentcontrol.

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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 62°

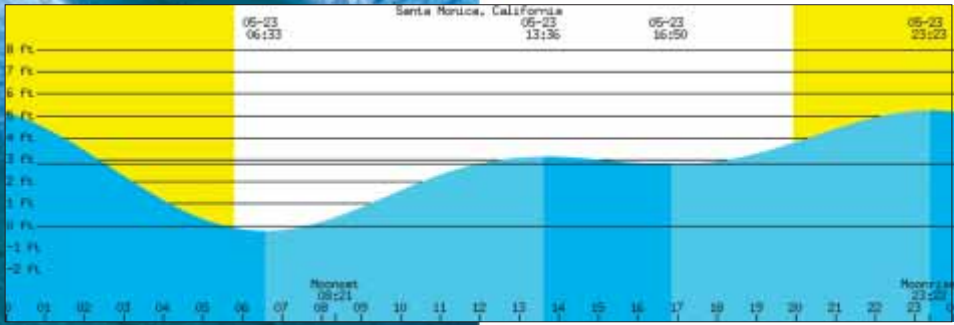
SWELL FORECAST (8-12 FT)

The NW wind swell should still be strong for the AM sessions with similar size as today. By noon or late morning though, this swell should have a noticeable decline. SSE swell also backs off with south facing breaks working mostly the NW wrap for chest to head high sets for early AM sessions, but much smaller by noon. Onshores, once again, are expected to pick up early, but remain below 15 mph in the afternoon. Weather may also be an issue with a 40 percent chance of precipitation.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SMALLER SURF FOR HOLIDAY WEEKEND...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



	05-23 06:33	05-23 13:36	05-23 16:50	05-23 23:23
11 Ft.				
10 Ft.				
9 Ft.				
8 Ft.				
7 Ft.				
6 Ft.				
5 Ft.				
4 Ft.				
3 Ft.				
2 Ft.				
1 Ft.				
0 Ft.				
-1 Ft.				
-2 Ft.				



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

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 — 8

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

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth	C	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Bal Air Day Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescadero State Beach, between Luchessa and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Escorial Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chouatougan)	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancos Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	D	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Escamido Creek, just east of Escamido State Beach	F	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Selkute Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	F	ns	Vanice City Beach, at the Reno Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Puente State Beach at creek mouth	D	ns	Vanice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puente Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns	Vanice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Surfside Beach at Malibu Colony fences	A+	ns	Vanice Fishing Pier - 50 yards north	A+	ns
Surfside Beach (beach location)- daily	D	ns	Vanice Beach- projection of Topsoil St.	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Bellina Creek mouth	B	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	B	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	ns	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	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



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.

© 2008 Copyright Heal the Bay. All rights reserved. Produces recycled paper (except beach)

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—*enterococcus*, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our swimmers are happy.

ON THE SHELVES

REVIEWS BY RANDY WILLIAMS

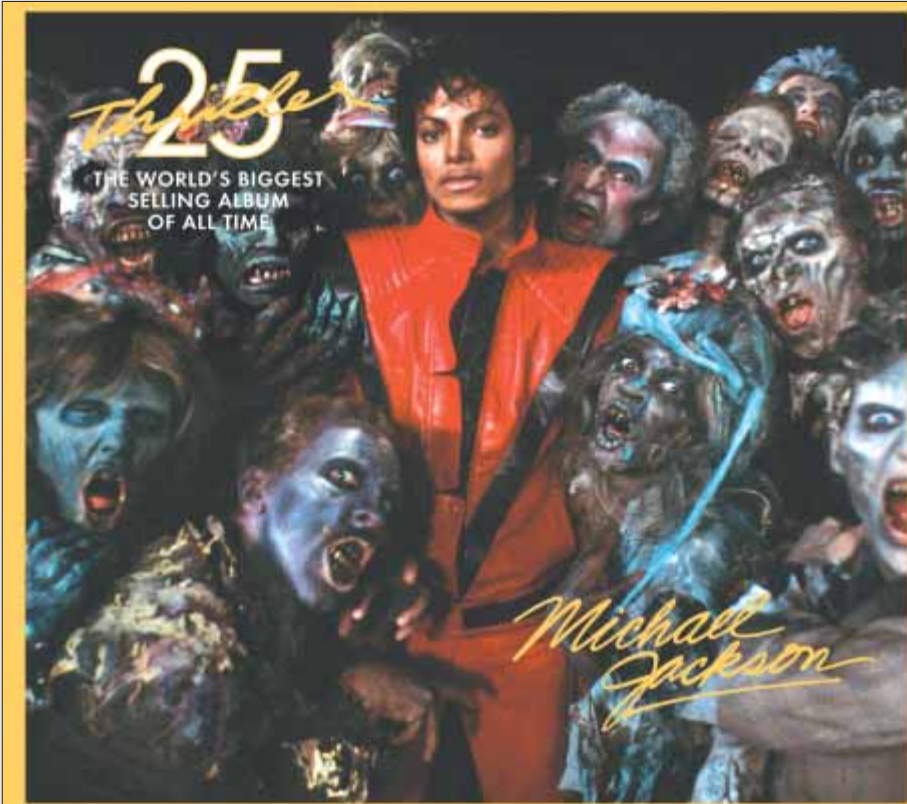


Photo courtesy of Epic/Legacy

Michael Jackson, 'Thriller' 25th Anniversary

The world's biggest selling album of all time just got bigger celebrating it's quarter-century milestone in style. This ground-breaking album holds up well and comes with seven bonus tracks, six of which are previously unreleased. The new tracks include exclusive remixes from Kanye West, Fergie, will.i.am and Akon along with a previously unreleased track from the "Thriller" sessions, "For All Time," newly mixed and mastered by Michael Jackson. There's a bonus DVD with new, digitally restored versions of the three videos from the album as well as the Michael Jackson's groundbreaking performance of "Billie Jean" on the "Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever" television special (first broadcast on NBC May 16, 1983). If you wanna be startin' something, this will get you goin'. (Epic/Legacy)

Classical Baroque, 'The Best 100'

A rich treasure indeed, this six CD set provides a comprehensive overview of Baroque music and serves as an excellent introduction for someone who would like to hear more of the Baroque style beyond "Spring" from "The Four Seasons" or "Canon" by Pachelbel. (EMI)

The Lions, 'Jungle Struttin''

A unique Jamaican-inspired outfit, featuring members of Breakestra, Connie Price & the Keystones, Rhythm Roots All-Stars, Orgone, & Madlib's Sound Directions. Reggae rhythms n' dub techniques mash with the sound of Ethiopia, Africa, Colombia and a heavy dose of laid-back California soul, jazz, and funk. Jungle Struttin' is a bass-bin rockin' authentic take on an old school soulful reggae vibe with a tasty modern edge. (Ubiquity)

Above & Beyond, 'Anjunabeats100-From Goa to Rio'

Some classic trance tunes in a smartly ordered track selection mixed in with some new material. This is certainly the pick for those wanting to jump on the "bandwagon" and learn about these terrific artists. Voted no. 6 DJs in the latest DJ Mag Top 100 poll, Above & Beyond are a true dance music success story. (Ultra)

Classic Soul Ballads

A must-have for when the lights are low, with over 140 lovers' tunes on 10 CDs, here's the pinnacle of the most romantic love soul songs of the '60s, '70s, and '80s. From Luther Vandross and Marvin Gaye to Aretha Franklin and Barry White, all the greats and more than a few rare gems from lesser-known artists are represented here. (Time Life)

Taylor Swift

Just 16 when she recorded this debut album, country-pop singer Taylor Swift's considerably strong voice is sweet yet with a range that projects experience far beyond her young years. From the uptempo "The Outside," the sparse acoustic ballad "Mary's Song (Oh My My My)," and especially the leadoff track, "Tim McGraw," which was the first single from the album, Taylor delivers a vocal array that is both fresh yet mature. Almost lost in this standout premiere is the fact that Swift wrote or co-wrote every song on the record. (Big Machine)

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.

MOVIETIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM	Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) 2 hrs. 10:45am, 12:15pm, 1:45pm, 3:15pm, 4:45pm, 6:15pm, 7:45pm, 9:15pm, 10:45pm The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian 11a.m., 12:05p.m., 2, 3:30, 5, 6:40, 8:10, 9:50 The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian Digital Presentation (PG) 2 hrs 20 min 1pm, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30 Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min 11:10 a.m., 2:05 p.m., 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 Speed Racer (PG) 2hrs 15min 10:55 a.m., 1:55 p.m., 4:55, 7:55, 10:55	Jellyfish (NR) 78 min 12:45 p.m., 5:10, 9:45 The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min 1:30, 4:20, 7:25, 10 Smart People (R) 1hr 33min 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:00 Priceless (PG13) 104 min 2:45 p.m., 7:15
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade	Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull 2 hrs (PG-13) 10 a.m., 11:30, 1 p.m., 2:25, 4, 5:25, 7, 8:25, 10 The Fall (R) 1hr 57min 2, 7:20 Harold and Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay 1 hr 42 min (R) 11:15 a.m., 4:45 p.m., 10:15 Baby Mama 1 hr 36 min (PG-13) 10:15 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 3:10, 5:40, 8, 10:30	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741	Iron Man (PG-13) 2hrs 06min 11:00 a.m., 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:05, 5:00, 6:00, 7:10, 8:00, 9:00, 10:10, 11:00, 12:00 a.m. 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

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

Happy at home, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Greet excess. Try thinking about tomorrow. You might wonder the how and where of getting what you want professionally. Investigate an offer that seems too good to be true. Don't turn it down either. Tonight: The Force is with you.	LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Check an investment, especially if it involves property or an item that concerns family or family values. Your optimism can really make situations happen. Be aware that optimism doesn't necessarily equate to success. Tonight: Happy at home.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ You could wonder about what is being offered. It has also been served up on a silver platter. If you have a touch of cynicism, don't be surprised. Good times are here. Loosen up when dealing with others. Options appear where there previously were none. Tonight: Loosen up and relax.	SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Speak your mind and relax. Your words fall on welcoming ears. You feel as if you cannot say anything wrong. Enjoy the openness and the flow right now. Exchange news. Christen the weekend with those you care about. Tonight: At a favorite spot.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You smile, and someone else grins. Understanding opens up between you and a previously withdrawn person. Whether you are looking at a business partnership or a changing emotional tie, you feel good. Tonight: Dinner for two!	SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★ Whether you are aware or not, your subconscious is working overtime. You are feeling out a situation, trying to make the logical decision and also follow your intuition. Tonight: Your treat.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Opulent indulgence and new options will appear from out of left field. How you deal with someone you care about creates a greater sense of well-being. It is the same with others. Relax and enjoy a special friendship. Tonight: Start the weekend right.	CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Your innate energy and magnetism draw many. Embedded in your actions and words is a newfound optimism. Just be yourself and trust that the results will be great. Decide if it is time to make special plans. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ You might want to try another approach or do something very differently. You are full of smiles. Listen to feedback from different people. Internalize ideas and suggestions. Tonight: Be very creative.	AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Knowing when to slow down could be more important than you realize. Today, perhaps no one will toss a boulder into your path to remind you to stop running. Tonight: Vanish with a favorite friend.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Allow for greater give and take. Brainstorming unhinges a new look or different approach. You can do whatever you desire, if you simply relax. Tonight: Allow the child in you out.	PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ With some extra time, you might start thinking. Stay clear and don't mess up what could be a direct path. Zero in on what you want. Work with others openly. Don't read more into their words. Tonight: Where the party is!

Happy birthday

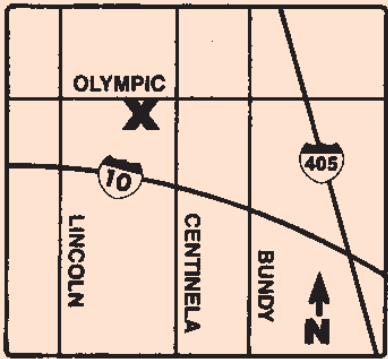
This year, what will be paramount is making those you work with understand how important they are. Words won't convey the message if actions don't follow. In general, you will prefer to be on a one-on-one level with people, not with groups. This desire will be very different and perhaps a bit uncomfortable, as you generally are quite gregarious. If you are single, you'll make waves as you focus on one person after another. You could find someone you simply enjoy to no end, who you want to be with all the time. If you are attached, the more effort you put into your bond, the better the relationship will be. CAPRICORN helps you make money.

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

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Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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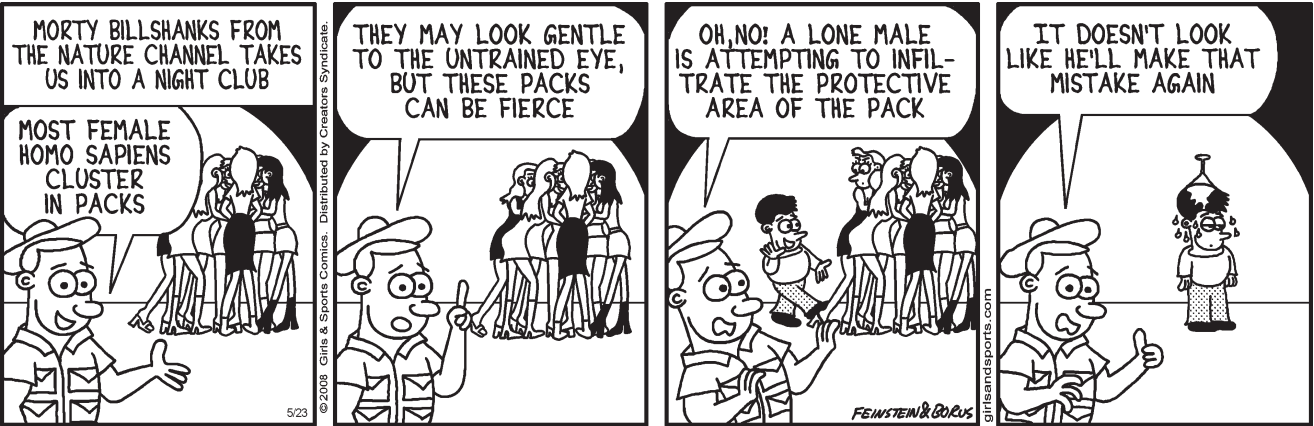
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P0882 11/04

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



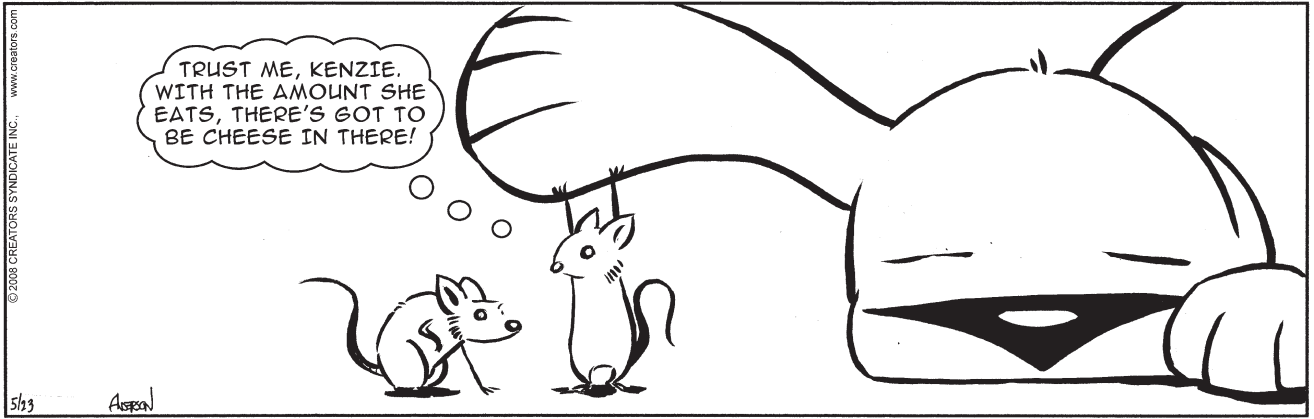
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

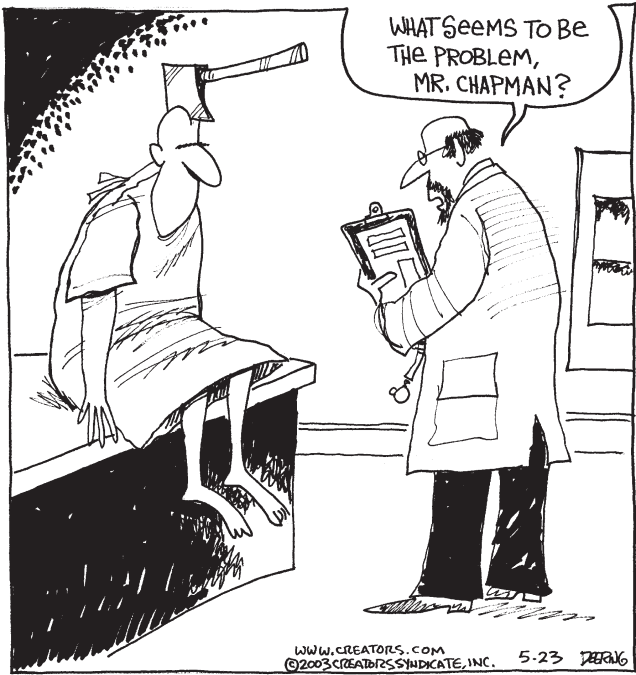


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The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Circus worker
- 6 Spats
- 11 Unanimously
- 12 Put on a pedestal
- 13 Prison problems
- 14 Enter a password, perhaps
- 15 Leather shade
- 16 Novel endings
- 18 Previously
- 19 Bar bill
- 20 Struggle
- 21 Stellar burst
- 23 Gave a score to
- 25 Toy maker
- 27 Postal oath word
- 28 Director De Palma
- 30 Does in
- 33 That fellow
- 34 Recipe amount
- 36 Bitterly cold
- 37 Make trouble
- 39 Top the cake
- 40 Grave
- 41 Packed in boxes
- 43 Apple, in Arles

44 As

- expected
- 45 Some agents
- 46 Organ parts

DOWN

- 1 Kilt
- 2 Flaky
- 3 1941
- 4 Tolkien tree herder
- 5 Bowling button
- 6 Afghan group
- 7 Matinee star

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

Yesterday's answer

- 8 1934 Bette Davis movie
- 9 Cold
- 10 Detect
- 17 Links number
- 22 Noted pugilist
- 24 Overly
- 26 Fronts
- 28 Circus site
- 29 Fanatic
- 31 One way to deal
- 32 Stockholm natives
- 33 Padlock holders
- 35 Texas river
- 38 Occasion
- 42 Wee worker

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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				

DAILY LOTTERY



2 14 26 32 41
Meganumber: 32
Jackpot: \$17M



1 13 20 30 44
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$34M



1 6 24 32 35



MIDDAY: 8 4 3
EVENING: 4 5 5



1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:48:35

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

■ Should've chosen another career: (1) Joshua Crowley, 22, was charged with robbing a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in Camas, Wash., in March after being chased down, wrestled with, and subdued by passerby Mary Chamberlain, 66. (2) In April in Bartlesville, Okla., Robert Horsley, 46, allegedly tried to come through a window in the house of a 95-year-old woman, but she grabbed a screwdriver and continued to stab his hand every time he reached inside. By the time police arrived, said officer Tom Holland, "(Horsley's hand) was pretty chewed up and one knuckle was almost gone."

■ Inadequate Game Plans: (1) In April, in response to a man wielding an ax and demanding the contents of his cash register, the owner of Sam's Cigars in Vista, Calif., grabbed his wife and dashed out the front door, locking the man inside, where he made pleading gestures through the window until police arrived. (2) The next week in a suburb of Tampa, Fla., cafe owner Agustin De Jesus was asleep for the night in a back room but awakened by a break-in. He noticed that the thief had parked his SUV by the back door with the engine running for a quick getaway, so De Jesus hopped in, drove away and called police, who arrested Leonard Levy, 55, who is a candidate for life in prison based on his long record.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1430 Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

1533 the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void.

1701 Captain William Kidd was hanged in London after he was convicted of piracy and murder.

1788 South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

1940 Tommy Dorsey and His Orchestra, the Pied Pipers and featured soloist Frank Sinatra recorded "I'll Never Smile Again" in New York for RCA.

1944 during World War II, Allied forces bogged down in Anzio, Italy, began a major breakout offensive.

1945 Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide while imprisoned in Luneburg, Germany.

1960 Israel announced it had captured former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann in Argentina.

WORD UP!

cadge \KAJ/, *transitive verb*:
1. To beg or obtain by begging; to sponge.

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