

FREE

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 171

# Santa Monica Daily Press

The city's only daily newspaper

## City finances look bleak for two years

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER  
Daily Press Staff Writer

Economic forecasts released Tuesday predict the City of Santa Monica will face increasingly worse budget cycles for at least the next two years.

A series of bad investments by the California Public Employees' Retirement System will drive up the amount the city must contribute toward its workers' retirement.

CalPERS lost its shirt in the stock market when the economy took a nose-dive into the recession last year. Instead of making interest on its investments as it had predicted, the pension fund actually lost money.

And CalPERS will be lucky to break even on this year's investments, even though it had predicted an 8.25 percent return.

But CalPERS bases the amount municipalities pay into the retirement system on figures from the previous year's budget, meaning the effects from those disastrous investments won't come due until July 2003.

When the economy was strong, the payments the city made to the retire-

ment system decreased by several million dollars. In 1999 the city paid CalPERS \$10.2 million while this year it anticipates paying \$8.54 million.

However, Mike Dennis, director of the Santa Monica's finance department, said the city estimates those annual payments will increase by \$2.6 million to roughly \$11.2 million by the middle of 2003.

"We won't have the exact figures until next fall," Dennis said. "But it's highly likely the rates we are currently paying will significantly go up."

CalPERS provides retirement and health benefit services to more than 1.3 million municipal and public employees and nearly 2,500 public employers.

Unfilled hotel rooms and unsold merchandise in 2001 led to the first decline in tax revenue for the city in more than a decade. The shortfall has produced one of the most severe budget shortages in Santa Monica since the recession of the early 1990's.

The city council began a series of detailed budget hearings Tuesday night to discuss the depth to which city services and departments will be cut. City staff have recommended a series of \$23.1 million in reductions as part of

## Take your pick



Seth Kotok/Special to the Daily Press

Farmer's Market shoppers on Arizona Avenue choose their wares Wednesday.

next year's \$387.3 million budget.

While each department head was asked to come up with a 2.5 percent reduction in their operating costs, the bulk of the city's proposed savings will come from deferring capital improvement projects.

City officials have asked council members not to enter the city into any new long-

term obligations — like creating new services — and to consider how they want to increase the amount of money the city brings in each year.

However, the proposed budget is not cast in stone and the city council can still make

See FORECAST, page 3

## Tow company on the hook for alleged scam

Operator accused of inventing complaints to illegally tow cars

BY DAVE DANFORTH  
Daily Press Staff Writer

A towing service apparently made up a person out of thin air so the company could tow a car illegally from a Santa Monica alley, a judge's ruling suggests.

The ruling stung the towing service, since it includes an order that the service not only return the \$240 it charged to tow the car, but also pay the car owner \$300 in lost income because she had to spend a day finding it.

The award by Judge Julius Title implies a cautionary note: towing services could be roaming the streets of Santa Monica, towing away the cars they choose illegally, and intimidating owners into paying sums they don't owe.

Jenna Caden found her car missing when she went to the back alley behind her residence on Sixth Street in January. She admitted the car was illegally parked in a cubbyhole off the alley, but said police don't bother ticketing there.

She finally found it after Williams Towing Service of Culver City reported it towed to police, as tow operators are required to do by law. Caden said she spent a day run-

ning down the car and taking a \$47 cab ride to Culver City to pick it up. Caden, a Pilates instructor, claims she had to cancel six student sessions, at \$50 a head, to retrieve her car.

When Caden sued, she got help from Brian Linnekens, a lawyer who shares her address. She claimed the towing service illegally towed her car and should return the fee, plus damages.

William Amaya, the towing service's proprietor, claimed he received a call from a Michelle Jones who complained that Caden's car was blocking her own.

However, a search by Caden and Linnekens turned up no Michelle Jones in the adjacent building in which Amaya claimed she lived.

"This woman was a phantom," Linnekens claimed in arguing Caden's case. He charged that Amaya invented the name in order to tow Caden's car, and hoped that Caden would simply pay the towing fee and disappear without asking questions.

California law specifies that only police or the car's owner may tow a vehicle without giving notice.

See TOW SCAM, page 5

## Senate okays Office of Homelessness

By The Associated Press

**SACRAMENTO** — The state Senate approved a bill Wednesday that would create a statewide Office of Homelessness and require counties to track how many homeless people die in the streets.

The bill, by Senate Leader John Burton, D-San Francisco, was

approved 23-12 and now goes to the Assembly.

The office would be within the governor's office, Burton said, and would eliminate duplication among the various social service agencies that serve the homeless.

Gov. Gray Davis issued an executive order in March directing state agencies to coordinate their services

to better serve the homeless and those at risk of losing their homes.

Davis' order covers programs under the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency and the Health and Human Services Agency, plus a dozen state departments involving housing, mental health, drugs, alcohol, veterans, employment and others.

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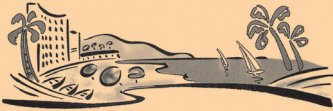
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#### ♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Dance to another's tune, understanding what motivates this person. Whether you realize it or not, you have the same agenda and follow the same beat. Brainstorm with others in a meeting, understanding that you're working toward a mutual goal here. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

#### ♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Head on out the door, making sure you see eye to eye with others. Your vision revolving around a project could be met with enthusiasm. Just lay an idea out on the table. Stay sensitive to someone who functions as an authority figure. Tonight: Join a pal for a late dinner.

#### ♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Return calls. While you have a chance, check your balance. Events might happen far more quickly than you thought. Do needed research by making calls, hopping on the computer or whatever mode you find appropriate. Tonight: Consider taking off this weekend.

#### ♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Realize more of what you want from a key relationship or an association. Be sensitive to this person's ideas. What you deem necessary might not actually be. Move away from a set concept of what needs to happen. Tonight: Play along.

#### ♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Allow others to play their cards first. Listen well to another's suggestion. Lighten up with discussions, especially if you find that someone could be too distracted to listen. Choose the right time for a talk. Give yourself several days. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

#### ♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Don't worry so much about what another thinks or feels. Loosen up and do what you must. Schedule an appointment that could be long overdue. You might not want to take a break from work, but you need to. Tonight: Clear off your desk at home.

#### ♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Kick up your heels all you want. Perhaps that extra bit of energy encourages you to zoom into your work and get the job done. There might be no stopping you once you get started. You whirl through task after task, leaving with time for yourself. Tonight: Get into weekend spirit.

#### ♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ News comes in from a distance. You might feel the need to think through your plans before you leap into action. Understand your limitations in a domestic matter. You might try to plead your case with a loved one. Tonight: Your home is your castle.

#### ♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Extend yourself toward those who aren't as perky or able as you. In fact, a close associate or partner might ask you for additional help. Do all you can. Meanwhile, start clearing your desk and getting your work done. Tonight: Out on the town, if you can.

#### ♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Deal with funds, especially after an early-morning message or thought. You might be one of the few who manages his or her funds adroitly. Others could seek you out for advice. Concentrate on your work rather than others' problems. Tonight: Treat yourself.

#### ♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Suddenly you're a power to behold. As the moon slides into your sign, your natural energy and personality come out. If you see a problem arise, ask yourself how have you been a part of it. Deal with others directly. Tonight: It's up to you!

#### ♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Slow down and think about what a loved one shares with you. Consider what your options might be and where you might be best off. It doesn't hurt to rethink a decision carefully. You're playing for the long term. Consider your options. Tonight: Vanish into your own world.

## QUOTE of the DAY

**“Hollywood is a place where they place you under contract instead of under observation.”**

— Walter Winchell (1897-1972)

## Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

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## LOCAL □ STATE



A southwest swell builds toward a peak today, with surf increasing at some exposures. Northwest activity also continues, with a few spots reaching waist-height this afternoon.

A strong southeast swell, peaking today, will miss L.A. completely. It may affect combo breaks farther south, adding one -to-two-feet of surf to exposed Orange County beaches.

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

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

## Assembly passes bill aiding TV and movie production

By The Associated Press

**SACRAMENTO** — In a bid to keep Hollywood centered in California, the Assembly passed a bill Wednesday that would provide incentives for producing television shows and movies within the state.

AB 2747 would establish a wage-based tax credit for film, television and commercial production companies that keep at least 50 percent of production in California. The total cost of the production's wages must be between \$200,000 and \$10 million.

California's film entertainment industry lost nearly 18,000 jobs within the last year — a 12 percent drop in employment — largely as the result of runaway production, said the bill's author, Speaker Herb Wesson, D-Los Angeles.

Wesson pointed to television movies and shows like "L.A. Law: The Movie" and "Pasadena," which were filmed in Canada.

The bill, which would take effect in 2004, was passed 68-1 and now goes to the Senate.

## A father's tragedy



Steve Malone/Santa Barbara News-Press

Television director Daniel Attias testifies in court Tuesday in Santa Barbara during his son's trial. David Attias, 19, faces 13 felony counts that include murder, manslaughter and driving under the influence of drugs for a Feb. 23, 2001, crash that killed four people and injured a fifth.

## Retirement fund losses spur city's budget pains

FORECAST, from page 1

changes.

"I wouldn't say that we don't want to create any more services," Councilman Ken Genser said. "We may want to enhance programs in areas of public safety, where we are having some acute problems, but then that means we have to choose to cut something else — what exactly I don't know."

The council does not necessarily have to raise local taxes or increase the city's levy on occupied hotel rooms to make up for the shortfall, Dennis said. Instead, he said the city could increase fees on things like street meters and parking tickets.

"We are looking hard at all of these variables, and if over the next two years things do not improve, we will have to look at

those possibilities more seriously," City Manager Susan McCarthy said Tuesday.

Another complication for the city council is finding more money to support the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and its multi-million dollar deficit.

Currently, the city donates \$3 million annually to support the school district. However, this year school officials have asked for an additional \$2 million to help balance their books without having to make significant cuts.

"Even though its not a legal responsibility of the city, it's a program many residents expect to be fully funded and we need to work with the school district as a team to solve that issue," Genser said. "We have to help fund schools. The city has stepped up to the plate but we need to do more."

## The Q-Line

The City of Santa Monica is facing an \$8 million revenue shortfall this year. City administrators have proposed slashing more than \$2 million from City Hall's departmental operating budgets. And millions of dollars in capital improvements will be cut from what was budgeted last year. That means many projects will be put on hold indefinitely.

Some residents have suggested that the city could run a much tighter ship.

City officials are meeting this week to begin figuring out how painful the cuts are going to be.

So this week Q-Line wants to know, "Where would you cut from the city budget?"

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

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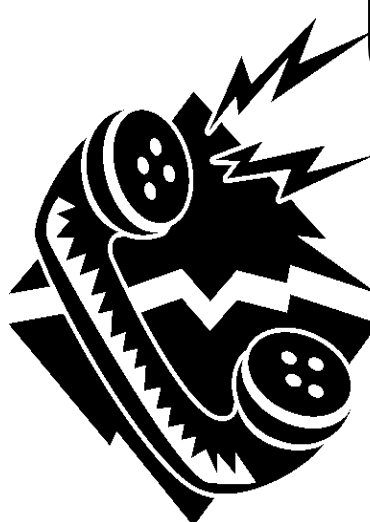
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## OPINION

# LETTERS

### Affordable housing with an ocean view? Not

Editor:

Anyone who knows anything about "affordable housing," price controls or rent control knows that it has the unintended effect of creating a housing shortage and declining building conditions. Anytime the government artificially imposes price controls, you get a shortage. This applies to produce, gas, milk, and housing. Just like raising minimum wages causes unemployment.

If the Santa Monica City Council built a million new apartments (with our tax money) and rented them for whatever they deemed "affordable," there would still be a waiting list to live in them and there would still be an "affordable" housing shortage. This is taking tenants away from apartment owners in more affordable areas of Los Angeles. It makes the government an unfair competitor in the rental market. Why not put "affordable" apartments on the beach with ocean views? Why not put price controls on sushi, lobster, or steak dinners? It's certainly a basic right to be able to eat well and have ocean views. Keep the government out of the real estate business and let the market take care of itself.

Things like "Living Wages" and "Affordable Housing" are full of good intentions, make people feel good, and give politicians a boost in image.

But the fact is that these ideas don't work and actually do harm in the long run to our economy.

**Kenny Bond**  
Santa Monica

### City Hall: No more excuses, give us solutions

Editor:

Anyone that has ever driven through downtown Santa Monica is painfully aware of the incredible congestion of cars. This actually is not solely because of the construction, although that is what the city would like everyone to believe. This has been going on for years. The construction only made it that much more harrowing!

Why doesn't the city time the traffic lights better? In the age of computers I don't understand why they cannot adjust the signals to keep the traffic flowing better during peak hours .... or for that matter, off-peak hours too!

Knowing the city as I do, they will have some excuse as to why it can't be done ... when in reality it's that the city won't do it. They're complaining about the loss of revenue and the budget shortfalls, but there are an abundance of Santa Monica residents who will not go near downtown due to the extreme congestion.

**Cydney Chamorro**  
Santa Monica

*Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.*

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Please send letters to:  
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## LOCAL



# Operator ordered to pay for woman's illegal tow

TOW SCAM, from page 1

According to the state's vehicle code, a towing company cannot remove a vehicle from private property without first obtaining written authorization from the property owner or lessee, who must be present at the time of removal.

**"The vehicle code was put in place to stop this sort of thing."**

— BRIAN LINNEKENS  
Plaintiff's attorney

"This was not a city matter," Amaya claimed in calling the episode a "private impound." He conceded that neither police nor Caden had requested the tow. But he insisted Michelle Jones was a real person who placed the call.

"The vehicle code was put in place to stop this sort of thing," Linnekens retorted, charging Amaya with running a scam.

Judge Title agreed, although he rebuffed Linnekens' claim for \$1,000 in attorney's fees for pressing the claim.

The towing service lost the case originally on Feb. 20, but appealed the ruling. In affirming the earlier small claims

award, Title added \$50, ordering Williams Towing to pay Caden \$657.

Caden said the towing service was located "in back of a Sav-On lot" in Culver City set apart by a chain-link fence. She said her car was blocking nobody, and that the two spaces in the alley behind her apartment are commonly left alone by Santa Monica police.

In a bizarre twist, Caden claimed she received a threatening phone call from a woman who warned her to drop the case against Williams Towing. The woman, said Caden, hung up without identifying herself, but Caden's caller ID picked up her number.

The number is listed to Nadia Chehade, a Culver City attorney. Contacted at her office, Chehade confirmed she has represented Williams Towing on some matters. She declined to answer when asked whether she had called Caden, claiming such a call would be confidential due to attorney-client privilege (Caden is not her client).

She then said she does not engage in threats.

When a Daily Press reporter confirmed the paper planned to run a story on the episode, she threatened a lawsuit.

"I'm telling you, I'll have an action against you if you do," she said before hanging up.

# Comedian Bob Hope celebrates 99th birthday

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN  
AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES** — Bob Hope turned 99 on Wednesday with an outpouring of birthday wishes and a new honor from the nation.

The partying started early for the Hope family, with the comic's wife, Dolores, celebrating her 93rd birthday on Monday. Balloons, flowers and gifts arrived at their Toluca Lake home throughout the week, and the couple had a low-key cake and ice cream party Tuesday night.

Ward Grant, Hope's longtime publicist, said the comedian is in a sort of longevity derby with his late grandfather.

"His grandfather lived to be 99 and 11 months and he's always joked about wanting to top him," Grant said. "So 99 is a good milestone, but we're busy planning his 100th birthday."

Hope was honored Wednesday afternoon with the dedication of a veterans' chapel at Los Angeles National Cemetery in his name to salute his decades of service entertaining U.S. troops overseas.

Meantime, in a tongue-in-cheek tribute, the 99 Cents Only Stores sold 99-cent copies of a Bob Hope tribute book and promised to donate at least \$9,999.99 of the proceeds to the Bob Hope Hollywood USO charity.

Hope, who is frail and was hospitalized briefly last year with pneumonia, did not make any public appearances. His wife attended the afternoon chapel ceremony on his behalf along with such celebrities as Connie Stevens, Red Buttons and Debbie Reynolds.

"Speaking with Bob today ... I whispered in his ear that we were coming out

for this, and although he can't respond very much vocally, he had just the most beautiful smile," Dolores Hope said. "He knew what was going on and wishes he could be here."

The ceremony included the reading of a statement from President Bush lauding Hope's work with U.S. troops and a fly-over by the vintage Condor Squadron propeller fighter planes.

**"... We're busy planning his 100th birthday."**

— WARD GRANT  
Bob Hope's publicist

Hope began as a vaudeville joke-teller, dancer and singer, but radio shows and dozens of TV specials and films, most notably his "road movies" with Bing Crosby, brought him international acclaim.

Over 60 years, he was a favorite guest of every president from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Bill Clinton.

"We wish we had some extraordinary gift to give him because he's given all of us so many smiles and so much laughter for so many years," said former first lady Nancy Reagan, in a statement released on behalf of Ronald Reagan, who is suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Hope made his last overseas visit to entertain U.S. troops at age 87, stopping in Saudi Arabia in 1990 during Operation Desert Storm, but since has fully retired from show business.

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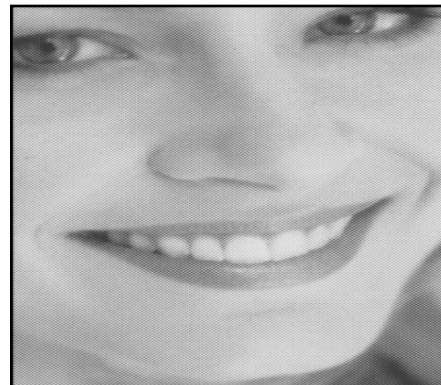
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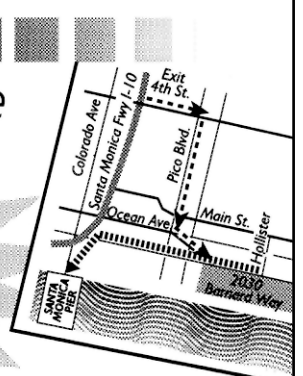
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## STATE

# Brains and brawn on the big screen this summer

BY DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

**LOS ANGELES** — Brains are accompanying brawn on the big screen this summer.

Along with "Spider-Man," "Star Wars" and other mammoth action movies, Hollywood's busy season brings an unusually healthy crop of smarter films for older adults to balance the popcorn flicks aimed mainly at viewers in their teens and 20s.

Counter-programming such films during the youth-oriented summer is standard Hollywood practice to keep baby boomers theater-bound. What's different this year is how steadily those films are coming and how well they're clicking with audiences.

A major new adult release has arrived each of the last three weekends: the adultery thriller "Unfaithful," starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane; the Hugh Grant romantic comedy "About a Boy"; and the edgy crime drama "Insomnia," with Al Pacino and Robin Williams.

Each has scored with adults 25 and older, drawing solid business in a movie market dominated by blockbusters "Spider-Man" and "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones." "Insomnia" debuted last weekend with a robust \$26.1 million, while "Unfaithful" and "About a Boy" opened well and have held up strongly in subsequent weekends.

"There's been room for a lot of different kinds of films that are specifically directed toward different audiences," said Jeff Blake, head of distribution and marketing for Sony, which released "Spider-Man." "It seems like the blockbusters have expanded the market enough to let these other films do quite nicely."

Another higher-minded film, an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest," debuted strongly in limited release last weekend.

Also coming this summer are "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," an ensemble women's film featuring Sandra Bullock, Ellen Burstyn, Ashley Judd and Maggie Smith; Nicolas Cage's "Windtalkers," about Navajo code-men during World War II; a new three-hour cut of the beloved Italian film "Cinema Paradiso"; the brainy Sundance Film Festival comedy hit "Tadpole," with Sigourney Weaver; Steven Soderbergh's pseudo-sequel to "sex, lies and videotape," "Full Frontal," featuring Julia Roberts and David Duchovny; and "Road to Perdition," from "American Beauty" director Sam Mendes, a 1930s Irish-American mob tale with Tom Hanks, Paul Newman and Jude Law.

"Here's a film that you would normally expect to see toward the end of the year. I'm happy the studio feels confident to let the movie stand on its own two feet in the middle of summer," Mendes said.

Steven Spielberg, whose DreamWorks studio backed "American Beauty" and "Road to Perdition,"

teams with Tom Cruise on "Minority Report," a hybrid of action and ideas. Cruise plays a cop of the future accused of a murder he has yet to commit by a psychic police corps that arrests people before they carry out their crimes.

"It's that rarest and best combination — big, summer, popcorn fun — but it's also about something," said Tom Rothman, studio co-chairman for 20th Century Fox, which is distributing "Minority Report" and also released "Unfaithful."

Adult-oriented films such as "Unfaithful," "Insomnia" and "About a Boy" rarely rise to blockbuster status. But they are far cheaper to make and market than a \$120 million behemoth such as "Spider-Man," so they can become solidly profitable even in a summer crowded with explosive action and dumb comedy.

"There's a huge market available for good, solid, adult entertainment," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., which made "Insomnia." "Good movies rise to the occasion. It's as simple as that."

## Assembly votes to make landlords pay interest on security deposits

By The Associated Press

**SACRAMENTO** — The state Assembly voted Wednesday to make landlords pay tenants interest earned on their security deposits, a practice required in 10 California cities and nine other states.

The 42-30 vote, considered a victory for approximately 14 million

renters in California, must still pass the Senate and receive the governor's signature before becoming law.

The bill would give tenants the right to their earned interest when they terminate their lease, or every five years. The bill, authored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, also makes it

more difficult for landlords to withhold parts of their tenants' deposits.

Migden's office reported similar requirements already apply to landlords in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Berkeley, East Palo Alto, Hayward, Rohnert Park, Santa Cruz, Santa Monica, Watsonville and West Hollywood.

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# NATIONAL



# Top 175 spellers face unprecedented written test in quest for title

BY GREG TOPPO  
AP Education Writer

**WASHINGTON** — Sarah Brand smiled as she looked over The Written Test.

Like 174 of her fellow competitors in this year's Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee, Brand pushed through the 25-word test that ended the first day of the national competition. About half of the contestants were expected to score high enough to continue to Thursday's final rounds.

"I think I did well," said the 12-year-old from Knoxville, Tenn., as she got up from her seat amid a sea of spellers. She said she had downloaded and studied an 18,000-word list of all the words from past spelling bees, an exercise that "helped me with a couple of the words."

The written test was unprecedented but necessary to reduce the competition from three days to two, given the original group of 250 contestants, organizers said. The 25 words ran the gamut from elementary ("allot," "solveny") to advanced ("decoupage") to nearly impossible ("geusioleptic," "boswellize," "scagliola").

Most contestants said the exam was tougher than they had anticipated.

"This was the hard part, this test," said Michael Zivat, 14, of Chicago, as he looked over the list. "The oral rounds were easier — you only had one word and you had time to think it over."

Asked how he did, Zivat shook his head. "Not too good." He went back over many of the words, changing the spellings. "I second-guessed myself."

As he reviewed the official list, Andy Wade, 10, of Scott Depot, W.Va., said he got 18 correct. Asked how he knew, Wade said, "I remembered how I spelled the words."

Abhijith Eswarappa, 14, of Memphis, Tenn., said he copied his spellings onto scrap paper and matched them with the printed list, which was "surprisingly hard, compared to the practice test."

Eswarappa, who tied for seventh place last year, said most of the words in general this year seem "somewhat harder" than last year.

Spelling bee lists are always tricky, but this year's list has its share of humdingers,

including: "scrobiculate," "escabeche," "farinaceous," "iatrogenic," "psittacism" and "Nietzschean."

Jessica Menor Palola, 14, of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, calmly stared at judge Mary Brooks and slowly ticked off the many letters of "trichotillomania," an abnormal desire to pluck out one's hair.

Other contestants stumbled on words that would make even well-read adults pull their hair out: "soubise," "seguidilla," "thalassocrat," "heäume," "Ogygian" and "ulotrichous."

This year's winner takes home \$12,000. The spellers come from every state except Vermont and Utah, and from several U.S.



Kenneth Lambert/Associated Press

**Michael Carilli, 13, of Socorro, N.M. covers his eyes while waiting his turn to spell in the 75th annual National Spelling Bee in Washington on Wednesday. The national competition began early Wednesday with a record 250 finalists. Only 175 proceeded to Round 2, taking a written, 25-word test designed to cut the number of competitors in half.**

# Defendant shot to death in fatal courtroom melee

By The Associated Press

**MILWAUKEE** — A murder defendant was shot and killed in a county courtroom after he grabbed a deputy's gun and shot him as the jury returned with its verdict, authorities said.

"He lunged and struggled with the deputy trying to disarm him," said Milwaukee County Sheriff's Sgt. Charles G. Coughlin. "There was a shot that fired, and the deputy was injured."

A Milwaukee police officer who had testified in the case fired on the defendant, killing him, Coughlin said. He said the jury had just returned with a verdict in the defendant's trial, but he did not

know what the verdict was.

The shooting happened about 11:35 a.m. on the third floor of the Milwaukee County Safety Building, which also houses the sheriff's department and other offices, police said.

Authorities did not immediately release the man's name.

The injured deputy was hospitalized in satisfactory condition with a wound to the abdomen, said Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital spokesman Mark McLaughlin.

Another deputy and an attorney also were hurt in the commotion, Coughlin said. He said their injuries were not serious.

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## SPORTS

# Nets take control, lead Celtics 3-2

By The Associated Press

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** — After letting a 20-point lead drop to one, the New Jersey Nets used a 20-1 run to make certain it wouldn't happen again.

Taking control of the game with stunning quickness, the Nets pulled away from the Boston Celtics in the fourth quarter to a 103-92 victory Wednesday night that gave them a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

With one more win, the Nets will be going for their first title since the days when they played with a red, white and blue basketball.

Jason Kidd was the star of the show once again for the Nets, who got out to a big early lead for the third consecutive game. Kidd finished with 18 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists, and his jumper with 9:30 remaining started New Jersey on the game-clinching run.

By the time Keith Van Horn ended the 20-1 burst with two 3-pointers, the Nets had turned a 74-73 lead into a 94-73 advantage with 5:36 left. The Nets began celebrating, but not too emphatically.

The former ABA franchise still needs one more victory to make it to the NBA Finals for the first time since



## National Basketball Association playoff schedule

By The Associated Press

### ALL TIMES EDT CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7)

#### Saturday, May 18

L.A. Lakers 106, Sacramento 99

#### Sunday, May 19

New Jersey 104, Boston 97

#### Monday, May 20

Sacramento 96, L.A. Lakers 90

#### Tuesday, May 21

Boston 93, New Jersey 86

#### Friday, May 24

Sacramento 103, L.A. Lakers 90

#### Saturday, May 25

Boston 94, New Jersey 90, Boston leads series 2-1

#### Sunday, May 26

L.A. Lakers 100, Sacramento 99, series tied 2-1

#### Monday, May 27

New Jersey 94, Boston 92, series tied 2-2

#### Tuesday, May 28

Sacramento 92, L.A. Lakers 91, Sacramento leads 3-2

#### Wednesday, May 29

New Jersey 103, Boston 92, New Jersey leads series 3-2

#### Friday, May 31

New Jersey at Boston, 7pm

Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 9:30pm

#### Sunday, June 2

Boston at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary

entering the league in 1976. They'll go for it Friday night at Boston in Game 6.

New Jersey, which lost all of a 26-point lead in Game 3, showed once again that it appears to be the deeper and

more talented team, getting 21 points from Kerry Kittles and 19 each from Van Horn and Kenyon Martin.

Paul Pierce scored 24 points for Boston, none in the fourth quarter.

# Shaq still not 100 percent as Los Angeles faces Game 6

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

**EL SEGUNDO** — Shaquille O'Neal can still dominate, as evidenced by the third quarter Tuesday night when he shot 8-of-9 — mostly on ferocious dunks — for 16 points.

But it comes in bursts these days, not whole games.

And that, more than anything, is the biggest difference in the Los Angeles

Lakers from last spring when they rolled through the playoffs with a 15-1 record.

Oh, the Lakers might still win their third straight NBA championship despite trailing the Sacramento Kings 3-2 in the best-of-seven Western Conference finals, which resume Friday night with Game 6 at Staples Center.

The Lakers left Arco Arena looking mighty grim Tuesday night after the Kings beat them 92-91 on Mike Bibby's 22-foot jumper with 8.2 seconds remain-

ing, but by Wednesday they were back to being their confident selves.

A seventh game, if necessary, will be Sunday in Sacramento.

If the Lakers manage to become the third team coached by Phil Jackson to three-peat, joining the Chicago Bulls of 1991-93 and 1996-98, it'll be with a different Shaq from the last two years.

At age 30, he should be at the peak of his career.

But he isn't because of the painful

arthritic right big toe that has driven him to distraction all season.

And that's made it difficult for him to keep his weight down, run the floor and defend as well as he has in the past.

Anti-inflammatories help, but O'Neal doesn't like taking them because of the possible damage they can do internally.

It's likely he'll undergo surgery sometime during the summer, which has been called a last resort but should relieve the pain.

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# FBI announces changes in response to 9-11 criticism

BY TED BRIDIS

Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** — The FBI, under sharp criticism for its performance, will undergo a wholesale reorganization of its “structure, culture and mission” to better cope with threats against the United States in an age of terrorist attacks, Attorney General John Ashcroft said.

Both Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller publicly acknowledged bureau investigative lapses Wednesday and conceded the agency failed to quickly adapt to a changed law enforcement environment following the Sept. 11 attacks.

“It became clearer than ever that we had to fundamentally change,” Mueller said.

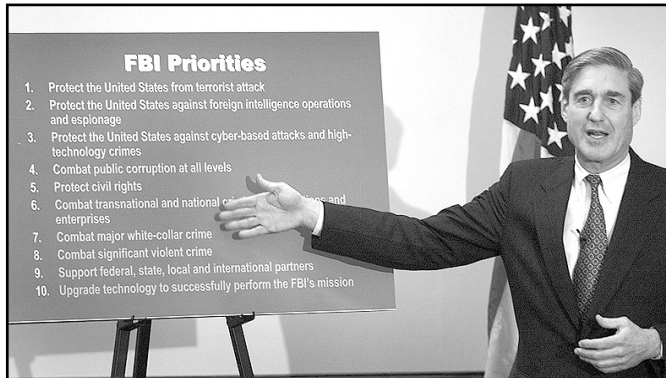
“Because our focus is on preventing terrorist attacks, more so than in the past we must be open to new ideas, to criticism from within and from without, and to admitting and learning from our mistakes,” he said.

The FBI director said the reorganization will make protecting the American people from another terrorist attack the FBI’s top priority. Number two, he said, will be protecting the United States against espionage. One change will require the bureau to hire some 900 new agents nationwide by September, mostly specialists in computers, foreign languages and sciences.

The broad reorganization will include a new office of intelligence and strengthened oversight of counterterror investigations. It also will improve FBI ties with the CIA and overhaul the FBI’s outdated computer systems.

Mueller pointedly criticized his bureau’s response to attempts by agents in the field to alert headquarters to the possibility — before Sept. 11 — that terrorists could hijack commercial aircraft and use them as weapons against the American people.

“Our analytical capacity is not where it should be,” he



Rick Bowmer/Associated Press

**FBI Director Robert Mueller talks about the reorganization of the FBI during a news conference at FBI headquarters in Washington Wednesday, May 29, 2002. The FBI, under sharp criticism for its performance, will undergo a wholesale reorganization of its “structure, culture and mission” to better cope with threats against the United States in an age of terrorist attacks.**

said, noting criticism the bureau has received from the legal counsel for the bureau’s Minneapolis field office for its handling of accused terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui, and its failure to respond sufficiently to a warning sounded by an agent in the Phoenix FBI office.

To prevent future terrorist attacks, Mueller said FBI headquarters will have to do a much better job of coordinating and analyzing information from its field offices, like the reports from Phoenix and Minneapolis.

“It is critically important that we have that connecting of dots that would enable us to prevent the next attack,” he said. “What we need to do better is being predictive... That is the shift.”

Ashcroft said the overhaul will occur “by shifting the

FBI’s structure, culture and mission to one of preventing terrorism.”

Ashcroft expressed confidence in Mueller’s ability to see the agency through this historic transformation. “Bob Mueller is the right man for that job.... This reformer will overhaul the FBI,” he said. Mueller said he was grateful but said he found the attorney general’s praise “somewhat embarrassing.”

Other priorities for the reorganized FBI, Mueller said, will be preventing high technology crimes, combating public corruption, protecting the civil rights of Americans, battling national and international criminal organizations, combating major white collar crimes and violent crimes.

In advance of Wednesday’s announcement, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., had predicted that congressional hearings next week on the reorganization plan will focus on the bureau’s handling of the warning last June from its Phoenix office about an inordinate number of Arabs attending flight training schools in the United States.

The bureau also will have to answer questions about a letter from a Minnesota FBI agent angry about failed efforts to win permission to search the home and computer of Zacarias Moussaoui in the weeks before the Sept. 11 attacks. Moussaoui is awaiting trial on charges he was an accomplice in the September attacks.

“Before I can evaluate the adequacy of these changes, I have to know a lot more about the specifics of the problem,” said Specter, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Although Mueller previously suggested a wholesale shift of some investigations to state and local police, officials say the FBI will continue to pursue bank robbers, white-collar criminals and drug dealers even as it concentrates more on terrorists.

## India foreign minister tells Pakistan patience running low

BY LAURINDA KEYS

Associated Press Writer

**NEW DELHI, India** — India’s foreign minister said Wednesday that Pakistan must take urgent steps to halt cross-border terrorism and rein in Islamic insurgents in Kashmir.

Jaswant Singh said that Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf had been given enough time to fulfill his pledges to halt terrorism by militants operating from Pakistani soil.

“It is vital that he recognizes the urgency of the situation,” Singh told reporters at a joint news conference with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. “India has waited patiently for the fulfillment of those commitments, which are vital for peace.”

Pakistan denies arming or funding the militants, saying it only provides them with “moral” support.

Straw, after meeting with leaders from both South Asian nations, said, “The situation is dangerous, but war is not inevitable.”

Straw refused to detail his discussions except to say they covered “material worthy of further discussion.”

While it is Pakistan’s responsibility to end cross-border terrorism against India, Straw said, the international community can offer “precise assistance,” which he said

he could not spell out.

Pakistan’s state TV quoted Musharraf as telling air force officers on Wednesday that, “India has created a dangerous situation in the region and the defense forces were ready to face any challenge if war was thrust upon us.”

Nuclear-armed India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over the disputed Himalayan province since independence from Britain in 1947.

They now seem to be on the brink of yet another war, having placed one million troops along their border since India blamed Pakistan for a militant attack on its Parliament in December.

Relations were further strained two weeks ago after an assault on an Indian army base in Kashmir killed 34 people.

Cross-border firing resumed Wednesday killing at least 11 civilians, six of them in Dras, 95 miles north of Srinagar, the summer capital of India’s northwestern Jammu-Kashmir state.

On the Pakistan side, an army spokesman said artillery and mortar duels along the frontier near Sialkot killed 5 civilians, injured 7 others and sent hundreds of residents fleeing for safety.

India also has moved ships into the Arabian Sea, closer to Pakistan, both armies have deployed missiles, and Pakistan completed three days of tests on Tuesday of nuclear-capable missiles that can reach inside India.



Davinder Luther/Associated Press

**An Indian Border Security Force soldier, right, stands guard as his Pakistani counterpart Pakistani Rangers grimace at him during a retreat ceremony in which both the countries take off their flags in the evening at India’s Hussaniwala border with Pakistan on Tuesday. India’s response to the Pakistan president’s speech was that it was disappointing and dangerous. After three days of missile testing by Pakistan, and continued shelling on the India-Pakistan border, both have amassed around onemillion troops along the line of control.**

## Hunter reports findings in search for Kennedy’s PT boat

BY MIKE CORDER

Associated Press Writer

**SYDNEY, Australia** — Shipwreck hunter Robert Ballard said Wednesday he would consult with naval experts over his “promising” but “inconclusive” findings in the search for the World War II patrol boat commanded by John F. Kennedy off the Solomon Islands.

Earlier Wednesday, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corp. radio reported Ballard found the remains of the wooden boat, PT 109, lying on the seabed in the Blakett Strait near Gizo in the New Georgia group of islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Gizo is 235 miles northwest of the capital of the Solomons, Honiara.

The National Geographic Society in Washington Wednesday would only say the expedition had ended.

In that same statement, Ballard was quoted as saying,

“While promising, the expedition findings are inconclusive at this time. We will review the results with naval experts over the next several weeks.”

National Geographic said it will announce the results when the analysis is complete.

According to the radio report, Ballard — who led a team that found the Titanic shipwreck in 1985 — said he located the wreckage of Kennedy’s boat last week after searching for about a week. He did not provide further details of the discovery, citing contractual obligations for film and magazine rights to the search.

Ballard could not be reached for comment. A worker at the Gizo hotel where Ballard had been staying told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the explorer left the islands.

The John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston had no information on the report. Ballard’s Institute for Exploration at Mystic Marinelife Aquarium

in Mystic, Conn., could not confirm the story.

Aquarium spokeswoman Lisa Jaccoma said, “They have found something. They’re waiting to get confirmation of what they have found.”

The PT 109 sank in August 1943 after it was hit by a Japanese warship.

It is unknown how much of the boat remains besides the engines. Water is expected to have caused extensive damage to the hull.

Ballard, who has located the wrecks of the Bismarck, USS Yorktown and Lusitania, had planned to use remote cameras to search for the boat.

The late president’s brother, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, and daughter, Caroline Kennedy, agreed to the expedition after being assured that the site would not be disturbed. Two members of Kennedy’s crew died when the boat was hit.



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



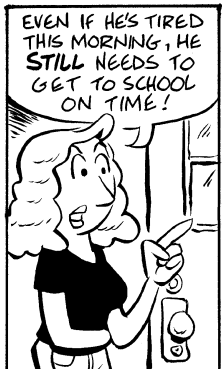
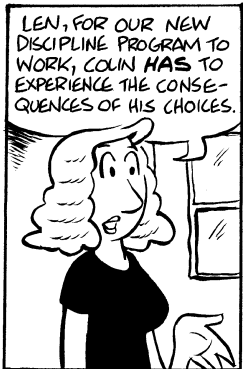
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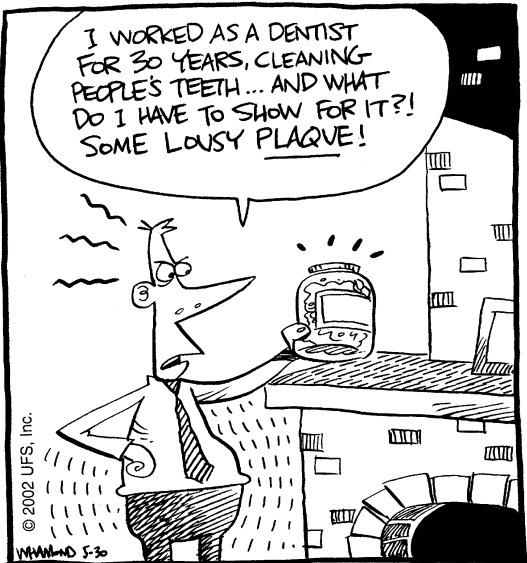
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|   | P | E | T |   |   | T | E | E | M |
| F | A | X |   | T | A | X | R | A | T |
| E | G | O | T | I | S | T |   | R | A |
| R | O | D | I | N |   | T | H | I | N |
| A | D | U | L | T |   | O | U | N | C |
| L | A | S | T |   |   |   | T | E | E |

Yesterday's answer

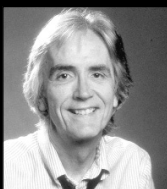
- 31 Minnows milieus  
33 Actor Jannings  
34 Easy gait  
35 Come in last  
36 Krazy —  
37 "— little teapot ..."  
38 "Dark Angel" heroine

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |

5-30

STUMPED?

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



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Permit issued to import wine with pot seeds

- The British firm Drinks Merchants said the government had finally issued it a permit to import a Czech Republic vodka that contains cannabis seeds (Nottingham).
- A judge ordered a man to tear down his brand-new \$300,000 (U.S.) home because it was 14 feet too close to a park boundary, a fact the owner's lawyer failed to notice (Ottawa, Ontario).
- A psychiatrist was acquitted of sex abuse when a jury apparently believed him when he said that his multiple-personality accuser must have planted his DNA by breaking into his house and stealing his dirty underwear (DeLand, Fla.).
- In an online auction, two fans bid \$525 and \$600 to acquire a piece of bubble gum once briefly chewed by Arizona Diamondbacks baseball star Luis Gonzalez.

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**FULLTIME RECEPTIONIST** needed for busy Santa Monica physical therapy office. Heavy phones and scheduling, experience a plus. Mon-Fri, 11:30-8:30. Good salary and benefits, profit-sharing, etc. Fax resume (310)656-8606.

**GENERAL OFFICE,** Santa Monica. Computer skills, bilingual Spanish. Fax resume (310)828-6829.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is looking for experienced journalists to contribute on a freelance basis to its daily coverage of Santa Monica. Applicants must have a knack for investigative stories and a hard news background. Newspaper experience is required and daily experience is preferred. If you want to have some fun in a growing newsroom at Santa Monica's only daily newspaper, send your resume, clips and story ideas to:

Carolyn Sackariason  
530 Wilshire Boulevard  
Suite 200  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

**RECEPTIONIST NEEDED** for upscale, contemporary, new salon. PT/FT. Second and Wilshire. Please call Roni (310)451-4477

### Employment

**SANTA MONICA Travel Wholesaler** seeking reservations/sales agents. No experienced required, but an ability to learn quickly, computer familiarity and a happy personality a must! No telemarketing, incoming inquiries only. Join our happy environment with travel benefits! \$9/hour + commission. Call Karen (310) 319-3445.

THE SANTA Monica Daily Press is looking for local columnists to contribute to its editorial page. Knowledge of the city's issues is helpful. Send your ideas and contact information to:

Carolyn Sackariason  
530 Wilshire Boulevard  
Suite 200  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

### For Sale

**ROM 4 minute exerciser.** Lasts thirty years, paid \$13,000 in Y2K, sacrifice \$6,600. www.quickgym.com (310)392-1679.

**UPRIGHT PIANO** Cherrywood, (310)451-5054.

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WIN A \$500 ring, up to 50% off quality jewelry under \$600 www.jewelrydiscounter.com

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### Wanted

**WANTED**  
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**SANTA MONICA** \$1450.00 1bdm/1bath, garage w/storage. Bright upper unit. 848 5th St. Call (818)707-3391.

**SANTA MONICA** \$1600.00 Nice unfurnished 2 bedroom in private triplex. New hardwood floors and paint. Large kitchen w/dining area. Includes stove, refrigerator, W/D and blinds. Safe and secure. Controlled access parking. 1 year minimum lease. Available NOW! 5 blocks west of SMC. Call Paul (310)452-3673.

**SANTA MONICA** \$1700.00 N. Wilshire. 2bd/2ba. Five blocks to ocean. Two tandem parking. Balcony, quiet bldg. (310)305-1105.

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

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

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

### For Rent

**SANTA MONICA**, north of Wilshire, \$1,650. 2BR, 1BA duplex apartment. Hardwood floors, laundry, patio. (310)394-8121.

**WEST LA** \$650.00 Studio, fridge, carpets, laundry, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

**WESTWOOD** \$1200.00 2+2, balcony, walk-in closets, laundry, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

### Guest Houses

**MARINA DEL Rey** \$850.00 Guest House, patio, central access, carpets, pl, yard, garage, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

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**SANTA MONICA** \$750.00 Guest house, R/S, carpets, laundry, parking, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

### Houses For Rent

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**PACIFIC PALISADES** \$1600.00 House, pet ok, R/S, hardwood floors, parking included. Westside Rentals. 395-RENT

**SANTA MONICA** \$2000.00 First & last month. 1 year lease. 2bdm/1bath. Fenced front yard. Rear patio. Close to beach. (310)314-3197.

**SANTA MONICA** \$2150.00 3bdm/1ba, hardwood floors, berber carpet, W/D hook-ups, patio, R/S. No pets. (310)456-7117

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

### Townhouses

**SANTA MONICA** \$1400.00 2 bdrm duplex, pet ok, R/S, hardwood floors, W/D, yard. Westside Rentals. 395-RENT

### Roommates

**SANTA MONICA** \$450.00 Private bedroom, pet ok, hardwood floors, large closets, parking included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

**WESTWOOD** \$425.00 Private bedroom, private bath, R/S, carpets, large closets, laundry, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

### Commercial Lease

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

**THIRD ST. Promenade** Small and large office suites available. Great for entrepreneur or small business. Call (310)613-1415.

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**DOUBLE CAR** garage. Santa Monica, N. of Wilshire. Storage only! \$225.00/mo. (310)451-1035.

**STORAGE GARAGE.** \$125-200/month. North of Wilshire, Santa Monica. (310)454-5495. Cell (310)770-2148.

### Vehicles for sale

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

### Massage

**POWERFUL, SOOTHING** deep-tissue bodywork by experienced masseur. First visit only \$35/hr. Normally \$60/hr. Paul (310)967-3953.

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**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE,** Swedish, Accupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

### Announcements

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

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

**VOTE FOR Pro Se Santa Monica City Council!** Our Residents, Businesses, Schools must come first!

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**3 FREE Hours!**  
**Quick Books and Excel.** 4000+ hours **Experience.** Setup/Clean up/Training. quikcel@earthlink.net

**COMPUTER TUTOR** for beginners. E-mail, basic word processing, personal assistant. Judy, (310)451-1319. Very patient, \$20/hr.

**FREE CARPET** cleaning. #1 company introduces new floor shampooer. We want your opinion! Will clean one room in your home, free. Trial appointment (310)962-8189.

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

**MUSICAL THEATRE** Workshop. 4 hour, weekly class and productions. Call (310)995-9636.

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

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

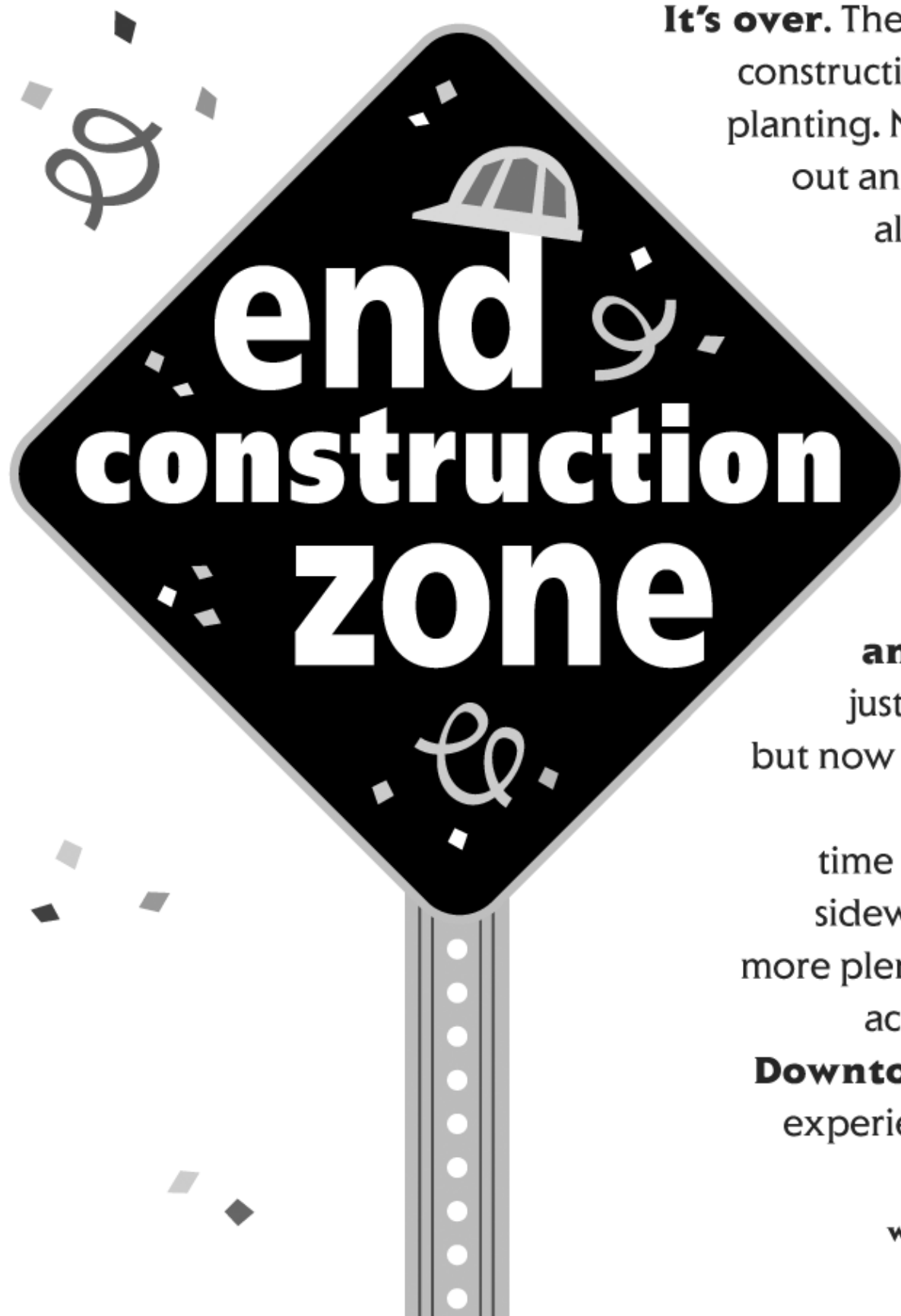
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**WHEELCHAIRS, MOTORIZED** and manual. Available at no cost with most insurance. Doctor's perscription needed. (310)899-1454.

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