



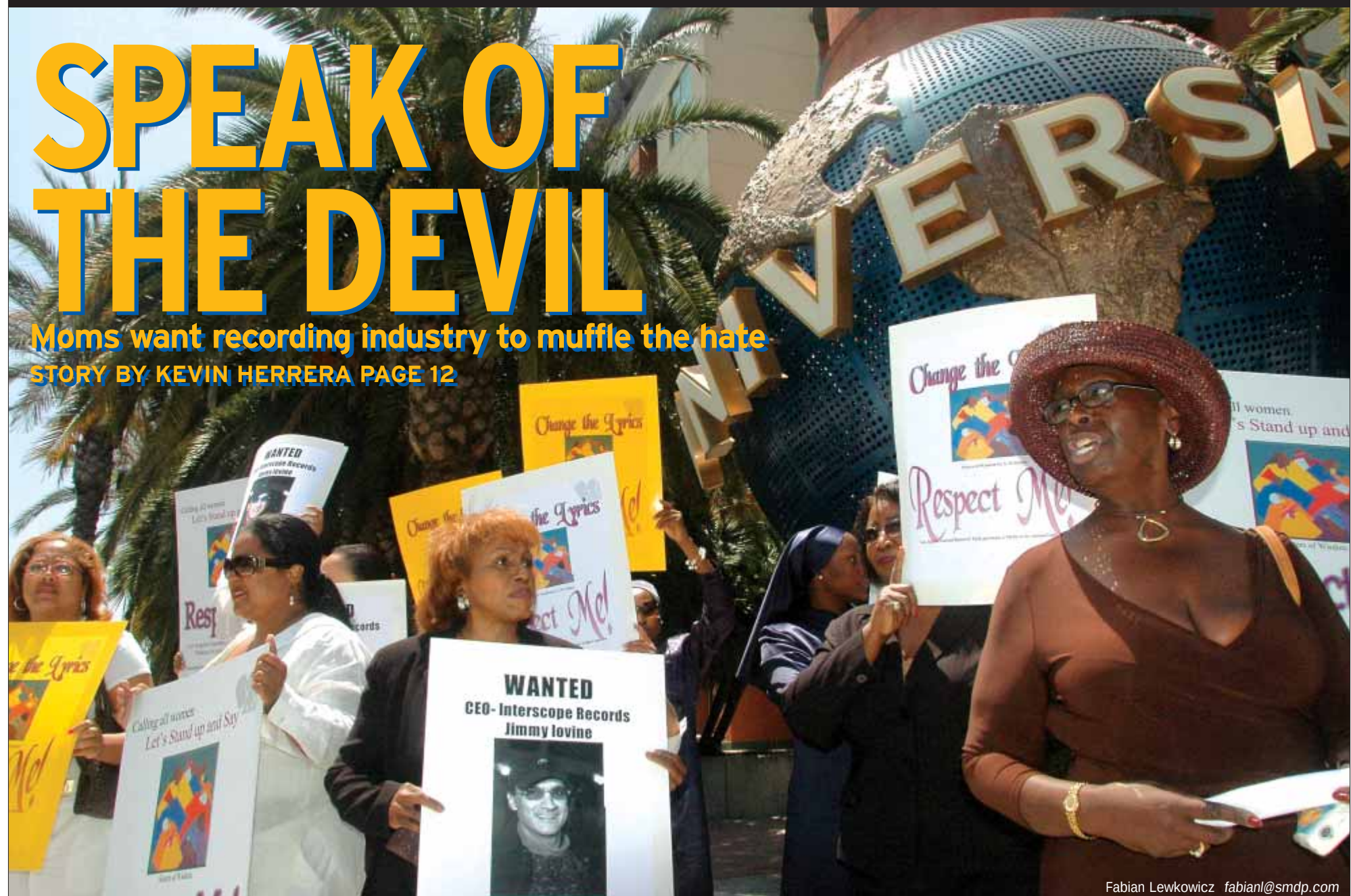
KOBE WANTS OUT
SEE **PAGE 15**

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE SLAP IT, RIP IT AND SHIP IT ISSUE

THE INDUSTRY



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Choosing ‘gag orders’ or money

District may have to abandon practice to please City Council

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Despite a City Council decision last week to withhold \$750,000 from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District until school officials address the issue of confidentiality agreements, all hope is not lost.

At its regular meeting on June 12, the council is expected to present a proposal to the Board of Education to release the funds so long as school administrators agree to revise the district’s policy on confidentiality agreements — clauses in contracts that have raised concerns in recent months about the district’s transparency and accountability.

Until recently, former Chief Financial Officer Winston Braham was contractually restricted against speaking about the district’s financial matters. Braham abruptly resigned in late 2006 amid rumors that he disagreed with an impending 5-percent teacher salary raise and cautioned against its effects on the district’s financial health.

Last year, parents of special education students accused former Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Services Tim Walker for brokering so-called “secret deals” with their children’s Individualized Education Plans (IEP). The IEP outlines an educational program specific to the needs of a special education student for the school year.

The parents alleged that their children lost out on services in the “secret deals” — so-called because the parents signed confidentiality agreements not to discuss the contents of the respective contract with a third party.

SEE GAG **PAGE 11**

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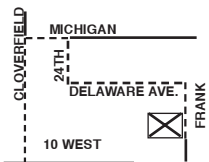
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Calendar

2

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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(310) 829-9597 Hours: 6:30am - 10:00pm Daily

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Girls Central!

Santa Monica Place Mall, open times
"Girl Central!" is a free conference created to address the needs, issues and challenges of being a middle-school girl. On June 2, girls will attend workshops on self-expression, healthy eating, communication, healthy relationships, coping with stress and personal fitness. Pre-registration is necessary and is on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration form can be found online at www.smywca.org/GIA.HTML. For more information, call (310) 452-3881 or visit www.smywca.org.

'Being Prepared for Disaster'

1450 11th St., 7 p.m.
The American Red Cross of Santa Monica is offering free classes on disaster preparedness on May 17 and May 31. A reservation for either of the two sessions is recommended. Both sessions will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Capacity is limited to 40 persons. To reserve a place, for additional information or to inquire about other programs or assistance, call (310) 394-3773 during weekday business hours or visit www.redcrossofsantamonica.org.

Spring Sing Concert

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 10:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
The Santa Monica Public Library hosts The Lyric Chorus of Santa Monica College Emeritus College under the direction of Bill Elliott. For more information, call the library at (310) 458-8600.

Yappy Hour @ Tails of Santa Monica

2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
A social gathering for dogs and their people. There will be light refreshments, dog snacks and play time. For more information, call (310) 392-4300.

Malibu Pier Sportfishing

23000 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, 6 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Half-day Sportfishing boat excursions will depart from the Malibu Pier seven days a week through May 31. Ticket prices are \$37.50 for all ages. The excursions last approximately 5 1/2 hours. A galley onboard will provide food and beverages for purchase. Fishing equipment is available for rent. For more information and reservations, call (310) 456-8031.

Friday, June 1, 2007

Santa Monica Critical Mass bike ride

Santa Monica Pier entrance, 6:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Ride through the neighborhoods of Santa Monica and Venice once a month. For more information, visit www.SantaMonicaCriticalMass.org.

'Pure'

1700 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Daniel Francisco's current exhibit, "Pure," is on display at Kulturas Books. For more information, call (310) 450-8707.

Fridays at Santa Monica Bar and Grille

3321 Pico Blvd., 6 p.m. — 1:30 a.m.
Inebriatedinc.com is hosting Friday nights at Santa Monica Bar and Grille. Live music until 10:30 p.m. and a DJ until closing time. For more information, visit www.inebriatedinc.com.

'Ester Goldberg's The Big Show'

8433 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, 9 p.m. — 11 p.m.
The Comedy Store presents this musical-comedy event, starring Ester Goldberg and featuring her orchestra, The Archibald Leeches. Tickets are available by calling (323) 656-3225. Tickets are \$25, with a two-drink minimum.

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.





DOUBLE UP

A couple ride tandem atop a Segway along the Third Street Promenade on Wednesday. "Segway" is a homophone of "segue," which means "to follow."

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Planet saving

Students brainstorm to soothe the earth's environmental issues

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY Along with completing a history assignment and finding a prom date, saving the environment is becoming a priority for high school students these days.

It can be hard for young minds, some of whom will one day become world leaders, to ignore an issue that is constantly in their faces, whether it's through news reports or documentaries starring former vice presidents.

Rather than sit idly by, students from more than 13 local private and public high schools are taking action, reaching out to their peers and insisting that they have the power to create change.

A group of environmentally-minded students spent a few hours away from the classroom on Wednesday at the Crossroads School, attending the first Youth Environmental Leadership Summit, where they brainstormed solutions to global warming and forming a green youth coalition.

Students from several Los Angeles County high schools, including Santa Monica High School, Our Lady of Malibu, Dorsey High School and Environmental Charter High School gathered for the three-hour summit, hosted by the Crossroads Student Environmental Action Club and The Green Ambassadors, a coalition of the Vistamar School, Hamilton High School, Venice High

School and Environmental Charter.

More than 50 students attended the conference, wearing cream-colored youth summit shirts and cheering along as student after student spoke passionately about global warming and how teenagers should unite to make a difference, rather than sitting at home watching the most recent episode of "Laguna Beach" or listening to their iPods. The event in itself incorporated sustainable practices, including the biodegradable plates on which the students ate their organic lunches.

Representing their school's environmental and sustainability clubs, the students shared green initiatives that have been implemented at their schools.

At Santa Monica High School, the goal of its Samohi Solar Alliance club is to transform the high school into a zero-emissions campus one day. The club is well on its way to achieving this goal, starting with the conversion of the high school pool to be heated by thermal power this summer.

The club was founded by seniors Isabel Polon and Molly Strauss in 2004.

The Crossroads School's Student Environmental Action Club has helped minimize the presence of bottled water on campus, selling reusable water canisters that the students can fill up at vending machines. The school has also eliminated the use of polystyrene products.

The club is also working with the school to convert its fleet of buses to run on biodiesel. There is currently one Crossroads school bus running on biodiesel.

THE POWER OF THE STUDENT VOICE

Many companies target youths with their products and teenagers should use that power to their advantage, said Sabina

SEE EARTH PAGE 11

Wall Street indicators reaching new heights

BY JOE BEL BRUNO
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Wall Street shot higher Wednesday, sending the Standard & Poor's 500 index to its first record close in more than seven years, as investors grew more confident that the

Federal Reserve might cut interest rates in the second half of 2007. The Dow Jones

industrials also reached a new high close.

The S&P 500, considered by traders as the best barometer of U.S. stocks, surpassed the record of 1,527.46, set March 24, 2000, at the peak of the dot-com boom, closing at 1,530.23, up 12.12, or 0.80 percent.

The index of 500 of the nation's biggest companies was powered by investors' relief over the minutes from the Fed's May 9 meeting of its Open Market Committee. The cen-

tral bankers called inflation "uncomfortably high," a stance that made it less likely that the Fed would act to cut interest rates

However, analysts said the Fed indicated in the minutes that the drag on the economy from the housing slump may be more severe than first thought — and that raised the possibility that the Fed hasn't ruled out lowering rates. The Fed has left rates unchanged at 5.25 percent for seven straight meetings.

"Wall Street took the minutes to mean that later on this year there will be more of a chance for a rate cut, and people rallied on that," said Ryan Larson, senior equity trader at Voyager Asset Management. "It put a cut back on the table, and that's what led to these record index closes."

Many economists believe the Fed will

SEE STOCKS PAGE 9

Grand Opening



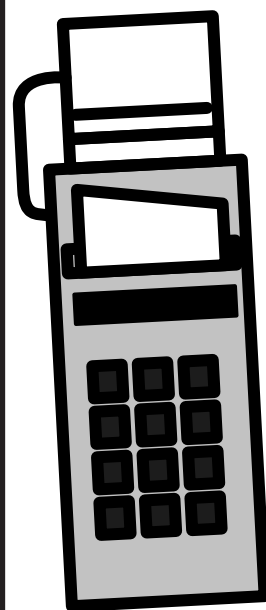
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deflowering of town continues
An open letter to Santa Monica City Council:

I can't believe you are planning on allowing your "management company" – Bayside District Corp. – to cut down (or remove) the beautiful ficus trees on Fourth and Second streets. No, let me take that back. Actually, I can believe it, having seen what sort of urbanization has despoiled this lovely little beach town in the past 15 years; an "urbanization," otherwise commonly called "planning and development" in the Bayside Corporation's mission statement, and apparently endorsed by the city or its "Council." Haven't we, the residents of this city, made it clear, especially in the past two or three years, that we're fed up with the over-development, the traffic, the rampant commercialism that seems to make it anything but a livable environment for its residents. But again, looking more closely at Bayside's list of objectives, one can see where "community life" and "residents" fall ... dead last.

No, I guess I'm not surprised that the trees along Fourth and Second streets are doomed. And what about Santa Monica's supposed commitment to a "green awareness" and supposed determination to become a leader against "climate change?" Yes, I'm sure cutting down lush green trees and replacing them with trees that will allow more light (and less shade for pedestrians) will really help on that end. But, hey, people driving by in their cars will be able to see the merchants' signage better, especially as they will also be forced to slow by the "curb bumpouts" that will accompany the tree removal. Don't even get me started on that.

Perhaps the Bayside District should take a look at some of the merchants it's encouraging set up residence on Fourth Street and Second Street in the first place. I can't tell you how many times I've run down to buy a new sofa or bicycle or shop at a big, glorious chain's flagship store. (I live on Fourth Street by the way). I pledge to do everything in my power to fight this deflowering of my city and the priorities that apparently are being decided by the dollar versus the "living" standard of real people.

Nanne Snow
Santa Monica

Reasons for war are a ruse
Editor:

I have to take exception to the Memorial Day columns by Bill Bauer ("Arlington West exploits the dead," May 28) and Paul A. Morin ("It's time to respect Memorial Day"). Memorial Day is not about honor, duty and dying for your country. That is what Hitler told the German people. There is only one thing I would die for – to protect my family, but that is not what Iraq is about. Most wars are fought over trade. Patriotism, nationalism, freedom and religion are just pretexts governments use to get us to lay down our lives so they can profit.

There was a Christian rally near Ocean Park Boulevard and the bike path that was held to glamorize war and encourage sacrificing one's life for God and country. Is that really that much different than what the Islamic martyrs are doing? The poor sheep didn't even comprehend the irony. What would Jesus do? He was about peace, love, brotherhood and communal sharing, not go out, invade and occupy other countries. The real Jesus was a teacher and a preacher. The same Jesus who threw out the money changers from the temple.

I have seen war and it isn't pretty. Both sides claim God is on their side. Memorial Day is not just about remembering those who died protecting freedom. What about those who died for wars over oil and other resources, like in Vietnam and Iraq? Should not those of us who mourn those pointless deaths be allowed to voice that opinion so there will be an end to such wars? How much longer must the slaughter in Iraq continue? Saddam is dead, but he was just a pretext. No WMD were found. There was no Al Qaeda connection, but there sure is now! What ever happened to getting bin-Laden?

Jon Mann
Santa Monica

Guest Commentary

Greg Foisie

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Arlington West
is appropriate

I WANTED TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS after reading the column "Arlington West exploits the dead" by Mr. Bill Bauer (May 28). I have been a volunteer at Arlington West Santa Monica for the past three years, and have also helped out at memorials in Huntington Beach and Santa Barbara.

While claiming not to disagree philosophically with the memorial's and it's sponsoring organization's mission statements (the Los Angeles chapter of the national, non-profit organization Veterans for Peace — <http://www.veteransforpeace.org/purpose.html>), Bill suggests that the memorial is "too much 'in your face,'" "heavy-handed, inappropriate and exploitative." He considers the memorial an effort that "politicizes the grieving process and does nothing to change national policy," labeling volunteers like myself as "manipulative promoters" who proselytize. He also remarks the memorial offers conflicting messages — honoring our dead soldiers on the one hand, while offering the message of ending the war, and states we "do not respect people who differ from our opinion." Because of the beliefs we hold as memorial volunteers, the memorial itself might offend or hurt other, he concludes.

The memorial's primary purposes are to honor the fallen and to illustrate the human cost of war. Almost one thousand families and friends of those we have lost have personally provided mementos in support of their loved ones with the knowledge the same will be erected whenever possible until our current conflict in Iraq comes to an end and our remaining soldiers return home. Many of these same families visit the memorial several times over the course of any given year. Thus, I would argue that offering respect, preserving dignity and recognizing the merits of duty and sacrifice are very successful components of memorial operation, and Bill's perceptions are not shared by many of the military families he claims to speak in support of.

Every reader should also be aware that the memorial and its volunteer staff go to great lengths to not offend the families of those departed. If, for whatever reason, such people express the desire to not have their loved one memorialized by Arlington West, their pictures and names are not illustrated on our walls. This has always been the case for the Santa Monica memorial. Respect is paramount in our efforts.

The memorial's "message" that Bill finds offensive is the need to end war. But this message is one that Bill has come to of his own accord. It is not stated by any written memorial sign promoting the memorial's purpose or effort. The consequences of war is a message one infers by the scope of our loss as a country, as illustrated by the sheer size of the memorial.

I suggest the main issue Bill is dealing with is his own reaction to the memorial's "bearing witness" — a time-honored tradition amongst luminaries including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., many Quakers, and

other elements of American society. Such efforts are considered by our Supreme Court to be an element of our First Amendment right to freedom of expression, which is the reason the memorial's volunteers are allowed to set up the memorial on the beach.

I WOULD ALSO COUNTER
THAT THE MEMORIAL IS
INDEED EFFECTIVE IN
AFFECTING
CONSIDERATIONS IN
REGARDS TO WAR, AND
THUS CAN HAVE A DIRECT
EFFECT ON BOTH PUBLIC
OPINION AND NATIONAL
POLICY.

There will always be people who take offense where none is intended. I suggest it is not in the best interest of our society to yield to such people, denying others (in this case) the opportunity to gain access to an offering that helps us come to terms with our losses and consider the lessons such situations bring. In this way, we have a chance to grow as a society and culture.

I would also counter that the memorial is indeed effective in affecting considerations in regards to war, and thus can have a direct effect on both public opinion and national policy. Due in part to on-going, weekly volunteer efforts in support of the memorial since February 2004, last Memorial Day weekend, thousands of people interacted with Arlington West Santa Monica. The memorial received front-page coverage in the Santa Monica Daily Press, the Los Angeles Times and was the center of news reports broadcast by Fox News on Channel 11 and other TV stations. Almost all would agree that our world with less warfare would be a better place. This is a call the memorial presents to us.

As human beings, it is most natural for us to reluctantly engage in the process of change. However, there are times when the need to change becomes apparent. I suggest that we are in such times. Those who do not wish to consider change in the face of overwhelming evidence of the need for it have that right. Nevertheless, I suggest that they allow the rest of us the chance to consider the truth and make up our own minds.

GREG FOISIE is a resident of Lancaster, California.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Deep in the crabgrass are beautiful flowers

IT IS WITHOUT EXAGGERATION THAT I say my sister Allison and I have historically not seen eye-to-eye. She was born two years and two days before me, although at times it has felt as though our divide could be measured in light years.

I always wanted Allison to be my best friend. Looking back though, I will concede that the manner in which I tried to gain her affection was probably not the most compelling. When we were kids, I figured knocking incessantly on her bedroom door would make her want to play with me. If that didn't work, I reasoned that chasing after her as she scurried away from me would do the trick. As a last resort, I whimpered and sobbed to my parents, thinking they could force Allison to be my play date. After all, wasn't it their parental responsibility to coerce her into recognizing how very much I had to offer in the way of dollhouse amusement and swingset romping? Even still, my sister generally scorned most everything to which my name was attached.

What little time Allison did spend with me she tended to pass meting out torture, both psychological and physical. To this day, when I touch my left tricep, I can almost still feel the actual pain from the dead arms that she took perverse pleasure in inflicting on me regularly.

By simply being herself, Allison also made my life significantly more difficult because unlike most firstborns, she did me the distinct discourtesy of not breaking in our parents. Quite the opposite was true, actually. She was never made to adhere to a curfew, because none was necessary. She never dated the wrong guy or ran around with a less-than reputable crowd. Grounding was a punishment Allison never experienced. There was no point — she didn't skip school or even a single class. Like, ever. Which means she also never forged notes. Or a dismal report card. In fact, when she received any grade lower than an A, my parents had to console her. It all made my life ten times worse. I mean, coming second after the map of her life would have been a difficult course for Rand McNally to follow.

Everyone kept telling me to be patient. "When she leaves home, you guys will finally get along," they'd say. That didn't pan out, so the line turned into, "Once you're also in college, just wait, that'll make all the difference in your relationship." And then,

"After you've both graduated, you'll connect at last." We did, in fact, become literally closer after college, living for a few years in the same neighborhood in Manhattan and then in same building. However, even then, we didn't spend much time together.

ALMOST OVERNIGHT, OUR GLACIER-SIZED DIFFERENCES WERE RENDERED IRRELEVANT.

Eight years ago, Allison became pregnant with her first child. And magically, after a 25-year discord that nearly rivaled the Coke and Pepsi war, her unborn child became the panacea for my brattiness and the sun that melted her aloofness. Almost overnight, our glacier-sized differences were rendered irrelevant. Instead, we managed to forge our own kind of closeness and bond over the arrival of her baby.

Since then, few things have brought me as much joy as being part of the lives of Allison's children. In each of them I see bits of her — from 4-year-old Julia's rock hard stubborn streak to 7-year-old Jacob's bottomless curiosity to the cerulean eyes of 17-day-old Zoe — divided amongst them. The pieces of Allison that drove me mad now make my heart smile as I watch the same qualities alive in them.

I look at my sister these days and instead of seeing the villainous girl who once chased me around the house brandishing a knife after I stole the orange she had just peeled, I marvel at this woman — my sister — raising with her husband three delicious kids, all of whom will be doubly blessed if they're lucky enough to inherit even half of their mom's intellect, grace and compassion.

Charles Schulz wasn't entirely wrong when he said that big sisters are the crabgrass in the lawn of life. But ultimately, the fact remains that Allison and I will always be flowers from the same garden. And I wouldn't want it any other way.

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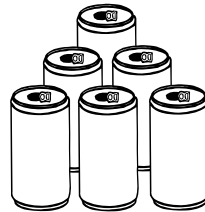


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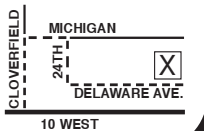
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The Q-Line

Seeing through the haze

Transparency in government and leadership is a hot topic these days. The public's need to know is sometimes trumped in favor of privacy.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think the City Council was correct in withholding funds from the school district until they address a series of gag orders they put on parents, or is it overstepping its bounds?

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.

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BY ROB GILLIES

Associated Press Writer

TORONTO Ontario will not go as far as California to limit emissions from cars and trucks that contribute to climate change, the province's premier said Tuesday.

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will sign an agreement Wednesday that includes low-carbon fuel standards for vehicles.

But McGuinty said Canada's most populous province will stop short of California's tough tailpipe emission standards, which he said could hurt the province's auto industry. He advocated a national standard or one for all of North America.

"I just don't think it's sensible for individual jurisdictions here in Canada to set their own emission standards," he said.

Schwarzenegger supports a 2002 California law that requires automakers to cut emissions by 25 percent from cars and light trucks and 18 percent from sport utility vehicles starting with the 2009 model year. The auto industry is fighting the law in federal court.

California officials estimate this would lead to an 18 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles in the state by 2020. At least 11 other states are ready to follow California's lead, but the law cannot take effect unless California obtains a federal waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency. Schwarzenegger has said he will sue the agency if it fails to act by Oct. 25.

Schwarzenegger has been signing agreements with other

state and foreign governments to address global warming. He will sign agreements this week with Ontario and British Columbia during a three-day visit to Canada that begins Tuesday. He will stop in Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver.

He also will promote California products and tourism with the state's second-largest trading partner.

The landmark global warming law Schwarzenegger signed last year requires industries, such as utilities, oil and gas refineries and cement manufacturers, to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

Democrats have complained that Schwarzenegger's memorandums of understanding with other governments are more show than substance. They say his administration instead should focus its energies on hammering out the regulations needed to put California's law into place.

They also say Schwarzenegger may be using the agreements to shift the focus from regulation to the emission trading systems that are favored by businesses.

The California governor held a news conference about the Special Olympics shortly after arriving in Toronto. He then visited a liquor store to promote California wines and a Toronto supermarket to push the state's produce, which is found in many Canadian grocery stores.

McGuinty said Canada's largest province and the most populous American state have a lot in common, so it only makes sense for them to explore new areas of cooperation.

On Wednesday, Schwarzenegger will sign a deal with Ontario to promote more stem cell research, something opposed by many of the governor's Republican colleagues — including the Bush administration — because embryos are destroyed in the process.

He also will meet with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa.

Sheehan 'resigns' as protest leader, goes back to California to regroup

BY ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas Cindy Sheehan, the soldier's mother who galvanized an anti-war movement with her month-long protest outside President Bush's ranch, said Tuesday she's done being the public face of the movement.

"I've been wondering why I'm killing myself and wondering why the Democrats caved in to George Bush," Sheehan told The Associated Press while driving from her property in Crawford to the airport, where she planned to return to her native California.

"I'm going home for awhile to try and be normal," she said.

In what she described as a "resignation letter," Sheehan wrote in her online diary on the Daily Kos blog: "Good-bye America ... you are not the country that I love and I finally realized no matter how much I sacrifice, I can't make you be that country unless you want it."

"It's up to you now."

Sheehan began a grass roots peace movement in August 2005 when she camped outside Bush's Crawford ranch for 26 days, demanding to talk with the president about her son's death. Army Spc. Casey Sheehan was 24 when he was killed in an ambush in Baghdad in 2004.

Cindy Sheehan's protest started small but swelled to thousands and quickly drew national attention. Over the next two years, she drew huge crowds as she spoke at protest events. But she also drew criticism for some actions, such as meeting with Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's leftist president.

"I have endured a lot of smear and hatred since Casey was killed and especially since I became the so-called 'Face' of the American anti-war movement," Sheehan wrote in the diary.

Kristinn Taylor, spokesman for FreeRepublic.com, which has held pro-troop rallies and counter-protests of anti-war demonstrations, said dwindling crowds at Sheehan's Crawford protests since her initial vigil may have led to her decision. But he also said he hopes she will now be able to heal.

"Her politics have hurt a lot of people, including the troops and their families, but most of us who support the war on terror understand she is hurt very deeply," Taylor said Tuesday. "Those she got involved with in the anti-war movement realize it was to their benefit to keep her in that stage of anger."

**I'M GOING HOME FOR
AWHILE TO TRY AND BE
NORMAL."****Cindy Sheehan**
former protester

When Sheehan first took on Bush, she was a darling of the liberal left. "However, when I started to hold the Democratic Party to the same standards that I held the Republican Party, support for my cause started to erode and the 'left' started labeling me with the same slurs that the right used," she wrote in the diary.

She said she sacrificed a 29-year marriage and endured threats to put all her energy into stopping the war. What she found, she wrote, was a movement "that often puts personal egos above peace and human life."

She said the most devastating conclusion she had reached "was that Casey did indeed die for nothing ... killed by his own country which is beholden to and run by a war machine that even controls what we think."

Sheehan told the AP that she had considered leaving the peace movement since last summer while recovering from surgery.

She decided on Memorial Day to step down and spend more time with her three other children. She said she was returning to California on Tuesday because it was Casey's birthday. He would have been 28.

This is not intended as an indication if you currently have alcohol. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Substance Database. Some of these exceptions have been noted in bold with other Dual Diagnosis Issues.

Microsoft shows off new screen

'Surface' monitor is responsive to touch

BY JESSICA MINTZ
AP Business Writer

SEATTLE Microsoft Corp. has taken the wraps off "Surface," a coffee-table shaped computer that responds to touch and to special bar codes attached to everyday objects.

The machines, which Microsoft planned to debut Wednesday at a technology conference in Carlsbad, Calif., are set to arrive in

November in T-Mobile USA stores and properties owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. and Harrah's Entertainment Inc.

Surface is essentially a Windows Vista PC tucked inside a shiny black table base, topped with a 30-inch touchscreen in a clear acrylic frame. Five cameras that can sense nearby objects are mounted beneath the screen. Users can interact with the machine by touching or dragging their fingertips and objects such as paintbrushes across the screen, or by setting real-world items tagged with special bar-code labels on top of it.

Unlike most touchscreens, Surface can

respond to more than one touch at a time. During a demonstration with a reporter last week, Mark Bolger, the Surface Computing group's marketing director, "dipped" his finger in an on-screen paint palette, then dragged it across the screen to draw a smiley face. Then he used all 10 fingers at once to give the face a full head of hair.

With a price tag between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per unit, Microsoft isn't immediately aiming for the finger painting set. (The company said it expects prices to drop enough to make consumer versions feasible in three to five years.)

Some of the first Surface models are planned to help customers pick out new

cell phones at T-Mobile stores. When customers plop a phone down on the screen, Surface will read its bar code and display information about the handset.

Customers can also select calling plans and ringtones by dragging icons toward the phone.

Guests sitting in some Starwood Hotel lobbies will be able to cluster around the Surface to play music, then buy songs using a credit card or rewards card tagged with a bar code. In some hotel restaurants, customers will be able to order food and drinks, then split the bill by setting down a card or a room key and dragging their menu items "onto" the card.

'Bewusstseinslage' and more at spelling bee

BY JOSEPH WHITE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The start of the 80th Scripps National Spelling Bee on Wednesday resembled a classroom of students taking the SAT as 286 youngsters from the English-speaking world filled in ovals with their No. 2 pencils.

Along with the 25-word, multiple-choice spelling test, they were also given their only guaranteed moment on the Grand Hyatt's ballroom stage: a chance to spell one word before an audience of parents, friends and judges.

"Macaroni — what does it mean?" asked 14-year-old Michael Yeh of Kokomo, Ind., exercising his right to ask for a definition before correctly spelling the popular kids' food often served with cheese.

The multiple choice test (worth 25 points) and the pre-

liminary oral round (worth three points) served to narrow the field to 90 or so spellers, who advanced to the quarterfinals Wednesday afternoon. The semifinals and finals take place Thursday, with the champion crowned in prime time on ABC for the second consecutive year.

The winner receives \$35,000 cash, a \$5,000 scholarship, a \$2,500 savings bond and a complete set of reference works.

The oral round was hardly taxing for the top spellers. Tia Thomas, 12, of Coarsegold, Calif., back for her fourth national bee, correctly spelled "flagrant." The audience laughed when pronouncer Jacques Bailly defined "ninety" as "being one more than 89" for 13-year-old Mary Harrington of Vineyard Haven, Mass.

Aishwarya Pastapur of Overland Park, Kansas, made her feelings known by wearing a T-shirt with the words "mishpelt werds eeritate me." She displayed no irritation whatso-

ever by correctly spelling "enumerated."

Kate Weir, 13, of Christchurch, New Zealand, traveled far to participate, and she must have felt the wait was even longer when she was kept at the microphone while the judges conferred over her Kiwi-accented spelling of "eeriness." Her spelling was eventually replayed over the loudspeakers before it was declared correct.

There were a few flubs, however. Ten-year-old Seher Sethi of Rhinebeck, N.Y., let out a sigh after misspelling "pallbearer." Christian Wilks, 10, of Freeport, Ill., tried to put an "a" and an extra "l" in "felony."

Thirteen-year-old Samir Patel of Colleyville, Texas, was scheduled to take part in the morning's final oral round. Samir has finished third, 27th, second and 14th in his four national bees and is considered by many the favorite to win.

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Arizona rejects new electric line

BY PAUL DAVENPORT
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX Saying they won't hurt Arizona utility customers to benefit Californians, state regulators on Wednesday rejected a utility's plan to build a \$581 million cross-desert power transmission line to carry electricity generated at plants in Arizona to customers in California.

The Arizona Corporation Commission voted 5-0 against the application by Southern California Edison, a utility that serves 13 million residents of Southern California, part of a region designated by the federal government as needing more trans-

mission capacity.

While numerous power plants and transmission lines have been built in Arizona, California hasn't done enough to meet the energy needs of itself or the region, Commissioner Bill Mundell said. "I don't want to be an energy farm for California — that's my bottom line," Mundell said. "It needs to be a two-way street."

The commission said the project would mean rate savings for California utility customers but higher bills for their Arizona counterparts as California soaks up generating capacity that Arizona will need to meet its own energy needs. Also, the project would contribute to air pollution.

Stocks jump, S&P 500 hits record at closing

FROM STOCKS PAGE 3

keep rates unchanged for the rest of this year, although some say they're still looking for one or possibly two rate cuts at the end of 2007 if inflation pressures have moderated by then and the unemployment rate is rising.

The S&P 500, which crossed its closing record on May 21 and then retreated, remains below its all-time trading high of 1,552.87, also reached in March 2000.

The Dow, the first of the major market indexes to recover from Wall Street's prolonged slump in the early part of the decade, closed at 13,633.08, up 111.74, or 0.83 percent, and also reached a new trading high of 13,636.09.

The recovery of the S&P 500 comes as the index now has fewer technology stocks than in 2000. Financial services companies, which now make up the largest slice of the index, have helped drive the market's run since the second half of last year.

By comparison, the Nasdaq isn't expected to reach its closing high of 5,048.62, set March 24, 2000, anytime soon. The tech-dominated index — which closed up 20.53, or 0.80 percent, at 2,592.59 — was arguably overinflated by the rush to join the Internet boom.

The record close for the S&P and Dow came after the markets had opened sharply lower following a pullback in the often volatile Chinese stock markets. But, investors remained resilient and pushed stocks higher after determining China's problems were likely contained and found little reason for pessimism from the Fed's comments.

The S&P's advance is of greater significance to many investors than the 47 record closes the Dow has achieved since the beginning of October. There are more investments, like mutual funds, that track the S&P 500; these funds are an integral part of many retirement plans.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies also closed at an all-time high, up 5.82, or 0.69 percent, to 843.35. The large-cap Russell 1000 and the broader Russell 3000 also hit record closes.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by about 2-to-1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consol-

idated volume came to 2.87 billion shares, compared with 2.56 billion on Tuesday.

Bonds erased most of the gains posted earlier in the session after the release of the FOMC meeting minutes. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury was unchanged at 4.88 percent. Fixed-income investors had previously driven down bond yields in anticipation of a possible cut.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell. Crude oil rose 34 cents to \$63.49 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Stocks spent most of the morning session in negative territory after the plunge in China's markets stunted U.S. investors. But, Wall Street's rebound showed investor confidence that the latest drop in China's markets would not trigger a global sell off as it did in February.

Beijing tripled a tax on stock trading to cool the country's market boom, causing the main Shanghai Composite Index dropped 6.5 percent and the Shenzhen Composite Index for China's smaller second market slid 7.2 percent.

Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 0.48 percent; Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.41 percent; Germany's DAX index dropped 0.61 percent, and France's CAC-40 declined 0.52 percent.

Investors had been jittery since comments last week from former Federal Reserve Chairman

Alan Greenspan, who said the Chinese markets could experience a significant pullback.

In corporate news, Pulte Homes Inc. said late Tuesday it will slash about 16 percent of its work force, or about 1,900 jobs, to save the homebuilder an estimated \$200 million a year before taxes. Shares of the company fell 2 cents to \$27.43.

Bookseller Borders Group Inc. fell \$1.10, or 4.7 percent, to \$22.22 after it reported late Tuesday a wider loss in the first quarter than in the year-ago period, citing a difficult sales climate.daq.com

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Students strive for sustainability

FROM EARTH PAGE 3

Ibarra, an 11th grade student at the Environmental Charter High School.

Youth should dictate what is hot, not corporations, she said.

Students should demand environmentally safe products, such as cell phones made from recycled parts and locally made organic cotton T-shirts that didn't originate in sweatshops, Ibarra cited as an example.

WE'RE L.A. AND IF THE YOUTH OF L.A. CAN GET TOGETHER, WE CAN SET THE TREND."

Sabina Ibarra

Junior, Environmental Charter High School

"We're L.A. and if the youth of L.A. can get together, we can set the trend," Ibarra said to the cheers and applause of her peers.

Marlon Williams, an 11th grader at Environmental Charter High School and a Green Ambassador doesn't believe that young people are involved in environmental initiatives as they should be.

The difference between the Green Ambassadors and many activist organizations is the student group is not just about preaching, they actually offer solutions that have been implemented, Williams said.

"We can have the power to affect someone else," he said.

It seems appropriate that the summit was held in Santa Monica, a city whose government is leading the way in sustainable measures.

"(Adults) look at the enthusiasm of high school students and somehow listen to them in a way they don't listen to other adults," said Kelly Olsen, a former City Councilmember who attended the event.

FROM DIESEL TO BIODIESEL

It was the Green Ambassadors that ultimately convinced the Southern California Disposal Company, the sponsor of the summit, to convert its entire fleet of trucks to run on biodiesel fuel, a clean-burning alternative that is both non-toxic and biodegradable.

When the company's fleet of vehicles was still operating on petroleum-based diesel, the management did consider converting to biodiesel, but brushed off the idea as unfeasible.

Then a company employee attended a meeting hosted by the Green Ambassadors and was inspired by the young students' enthusiasm for biodiesel fuel and environmentalism.

It was this reason that Southern



Photo courtesy

SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT: Santa Monica high schoolers on Wednesday inspect the B100 Biodiesel truck, which runs on fuel derived solely from soybeans. Students from more than 13 local private and public high schools attended the first Youth Environmental Leadership Summit.

California Disposal Company funded the summit — to encourage high school students that they can make a difference, using their company as an example.

"It was a huge part of our decision to

make that transition," said General Manager Mike Matosian at the summit. "Don't underestimate the impact you can make."

melodyh@smdp.com

City Council to discuss funding on June 12

FROM GAG PAGE 1

For weeks, published reports stated that City Council members Bobby Shriver, Robert Holbrook and Herb Katz were uncomfortable with the confidentiality agreements and warned they would vote to withhold the funds until school officials addressed the issue of the gag orders.

City staff recommended in April that the council approve a \$750,000 increase in the city's annual contribution to the schools under the Master Facility Use Agreement, a contract whereby the city pays the school district for use of its facilities.

Following a lengthy discussion on May 24, City Council unanimously voted to place the money in reserves, said Mona Miyasato, the deputy city manager.

During the meeting, Council members Pam O'Connor, Richard Bloom and Ken Genser were ready to approve the Master Facility Use Agreement. Council member Kevin McKeown recused himself from the vote because of his employment with the school district.

Of prime concern to Holbrook is a requirement in Braham's deal that precludes the former CFO from making any disparaging remarks about the district, risking his lucrative severance package if he chooses to speak.

Changes also need to be made in the special education policy that prevents parents from speaking about their children's IEP, said Holbrook, who has heard that a lot of parents are "scared to death" to say publicly how they feel about the contracts.

Holbrook said he is willing to give the district a year to revise its policy on special education.

'I LIVED IN HORRENDOUS FEAR'

After signing confidentiality agreements, many parents refrain from speaking out of fear that the district will retaliate against their children, said Katz, whose child was in special education in the district years ago.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT DOESN'T FEEL COMFORTABLE TO HEAR THAT PARENTS CAN'T TALK ABOUT THE SERVICES THAT THEY OBTAINED."

Oscar de la Torre
School Board Vice President

The council member recalls fighting publicly against the district after he felt his children were being mistreated.

"I lived in horrendous fear and we knew we had to fight it," Katz said. "I strongly believe the district has to be transparent."

The school board is currently in the process of reviewing the confidentiality clauses and is asking for a full review of the special education program, according to Board of Education Vice President Oscar de la Torre.

Only about 5 percent of the special education students in the district have an IEP, de la Torre said.

"We recognize that it doesn't feel comfortable to hear that parents can't talk about the services that they obtained," he said. "On the surface, it sounds very uncomfortable."

The school district is trying to act in good faith, having lifted Braham's confidentiality agreement several weeks ago and putting its budget through the most public scrutiny it

has received in SMMUSD history, de la Torre said.

"In the end, keeping resources from our children is not the best course of public policy, especially when it's regarding personnel matters," he said. "We don't punish the children for the mistakes the adults make."

PUBLIC REACTION

District PTA President Laura Rosenbaum attended the City Council meeting on May 24 and spoke about the correlation between education and success later in life, urging that City Council adopt the staff's recommendation to increase funding by \$750,000.

"In this matter, the city's and the school district's interests are aligned in making sure children have excellent education," Rosenbaum said. "There needs to be discussion between the groups ... to air their concerns and issues and work it out."

Shari Davis, president of the Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS), was among the parents who attended the council meetings. The parent organization advocates for the district to receive additional funding from the city.

CEPS is disappointed that the City Council did not approve the funds because it helps all children in the schools, including students with special needs, she said.

Tricia Crane, former chair of the Special Education District Advisory Committee, said she hopes that the school board will "do the right thing" in eliminating the confidentiality agreements on the parents, adding that one of her goals is to stop the "culture of intimidation."

"I am so grateful to those on the council who have demonstrated that they care about these children," Crane said.

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Mothers protest vulgar rap

Pressure mounting
on rap artists

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY A group of concerned mothers still fuming over the Don Imus controversy turned their attention towards the record industry on Wednesday, staging a protest outside of Interscope Records to demand that music labels silence hip-hop artists who promote violence and demean women.

Roughly 20 members of the Respect Me Coalition tried to gain entrance into the label on Colorado Avenue and confront James “Jimmy” Iovine, chair of Interscope, but were denied entrance by security. Members said Iovine has ignored invitations from the coalition to participate in a discussion regarding offensive and potentially damaging rap lyrics and the perceived lack of women in positions of power within the record industry.

“It’s time for us to have a voice,” said Glenda Gill, executive director of the Rainbow Push Coalition’s Entertainment Project, which supports the Respect Me movement. “We are the givers of life and it is up to us to take a stand and not let our communities be destroyed.”

Interscope, which carries such artists as 50 Cent, Busta Rhymes and the Black Eyed Peas, had no comment.

The coalition, which seeks to empower



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

PLAY ‘MISTY’ FOR THEM: Protesters against vulgar lyrics gather in front of the Universal Building along Colorado Avenue on Wednesday.

women to make a change in the way black women are portrayed in the media, formed in the wake of the Don Imus controversy in which the popular “shock jock” radio host

was forced to resign after calling members of the Rutgers University women’s basketball team “nappy-headed hos.”

Black leaders subsequently blasted Imus and called for him to be banned from the airwaves. The outcry put additional pressure on the same leaders to turn their focus towards hip-hop, a predominantly African-American art form that has been under fire for years for its misogynistic and violent lyrics that depict life in the ghettos.

Members of the coalition said there are many positive rappers out there who use the same beats as more popular artists, but are not given the same amount of airplay or support from the record industry, which heavily promotes “gangsta” rap.

‘THE HARSH REALITIES’

Hip-hop artists are speaking out about the latest calls for a ban on some of their music. 50 Cent, who rose to fame after surviving an attack in which he was shot nine times at close range, told reporters recently that rapping is one of the purest forms of self-expression and should not be censored.

“Music is a mirror, and hip-hop is a reflection of the environment that we grew up in,” he told reporters on May 16, during the announcement of nominees for the BET Awards. “It’s the harsh realities that end up in the music ... If I ask you to paint a picture of the American flag and not use the color red, you’re gonna have a difficult time.”

A representative from the Recording Industry Association of America said the trade group representing record labels had no comment on the Respect Me Coalition’s demands.

Hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons, director of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network, recently tried to calm the waters, calling on those in favor of censorship to chill their own speech while at the same time asking rappers and their labels to voluntarily bleep out or omit the words “bitch,” “ho” and “nigger.”

“Going forward, these three words should be considered with the same objections to obscenity as ‘extreme curse words,’”

said Simmons, founder of Def Jam Records.

Instead of pointing fingers at the artists, some hip-hop stars have told parents to look at themselves and the job they are doing at home, which raises the issue of demand. If there wasn’t such a high demand for the racy lyrics and violent imagery found in some hip-hop, would there be artists like 50 Cent?

**WE ARE THE
GIVERS OF LIFE
AND IT IS UP TO US TO
TAKE A STAND AND NOT
LET OUR COMMUNITIES
BE DESTROYED.”**

Glenda Gill,
executive director of the Rainbow Push
Coalition’s Entertainment Project

Members of the coalition recognized the role parents play, and called on mothers and fathers everywhere to sit down with their kids and explain to them why some of the lyrics in their favorite songs are hurtful.

The members also called on youth to really listen to the music and reflect on what artists are saying.

“Kids need to be more conscious,” Gill said. “They need to think: ‘What if it was your mother, how would you feel about that?’ Or: ‘What if it was your grandmother? How would you feel about that?’”

The coalition plans to continue protesting and will soon focus on advertisers and other supporters of rap music, including MTV, which distributes music videos to millions of viewers worldwide.

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■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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BY RANDY WILLIAMS

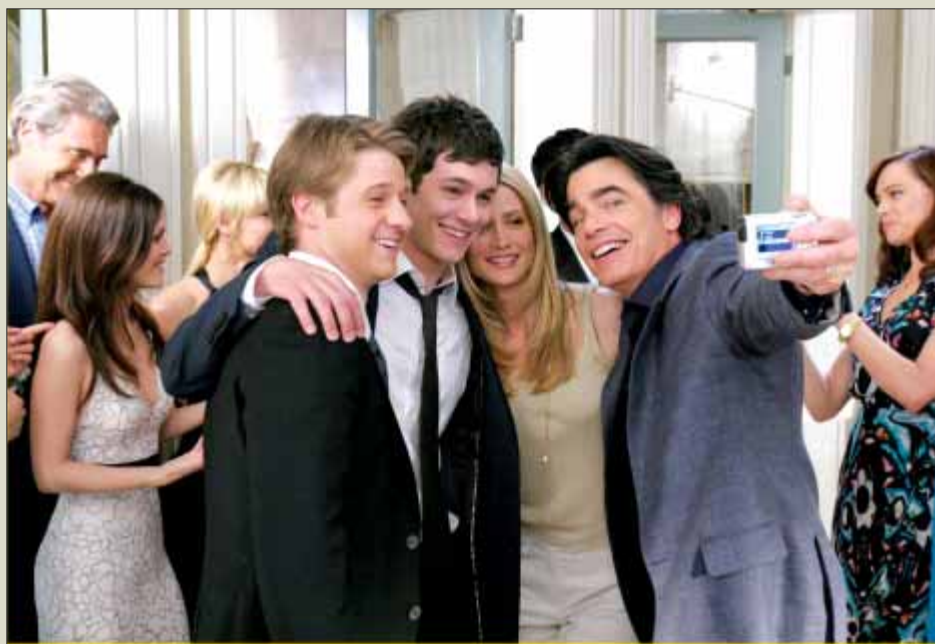


Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

'The OC' Complete Fourth Season

Wedding plans, disappearances, eco-activism, road trips, spiritual renewal, and earthquakes are all part of these young adults' lives in Southern California that take place in the program's final season. The last 16 episodes from this Fox series are available on a five-disc set. Among the bonus features are unaired scenes, a profile of the Summer Roberts character, creator commentary, and a look at the series' distinctive holiday-Christmukkah. (Warner Bros.)

The Peter Sellers Gift Set

The masterful comic actor with few equals delivers the merriment whether it is a romantic farce or spy spoof over this four-disc offering that includes: "The Pink Panther," "Casino Royale," "The Party," and "What's New Pussycat?" Sellers gets help in front and behind the camera with film all-stars such as David Niven, Blake Edwards, Henry Mancini, Ursula Andress, Woody Allen, Claudia Cardinale, and Peter O'Toole. (MGM)

'Becket'

From the producer of "True Grit" and "Casablanca" and nominated for 12 Academy Awards, this magnificent story of friendship and betrayal featuring Peter O'Toole as Henry II and Richard Burton as his confidant now comes to dvd brilliantly restored. Based on the popular play, "Becket" also stars John Gielgud and the disc offers commentary by O'Toole, interviews with the editor and composer, as well as archival comments from Burton. (MPI)

The John Wayne Film Collection

This 100th birthday salute to The Duke brings six new titles to dvd: "Allegheny Uprising," "Reunion in France," "Without Reservations," "Tycoon," "Big Jim McLain," and "Trouble Along the Way." Joan Crawford, Claudette Colbert, Anthony Quinn, and Donna Reed are among Wayne's co-stars covering backdrops ranging from the Revolutionary War, WWII in Paris, railroad building south of the border, espionage in pre-statehood Hawaii, and college football. A stagecoach full of bonus material includes numerous Warner Bros. and MGM shorts and cartoons. (Warner Bros.)

'American Pastime'

A rare and revealing look from the perspective of Japanese-Americans who were forced to uproot their lives and live in internment camps as they were perceived as a security threat during WWII. Seen through the eyes of one imprisoned family who use baseball (and jazz) as a way above their daily adversity, the film stars Gary Cole and Aaron Yoo. Bonus material includes a making-of feature. (Warner Bros.)

'Mission Impossible' 1&2 Special Collector's Editions

Offered separately in both versions, Tom Cruise stars as secret agent Ethan Hunt aided by his tech-whiz sidekick Luther Stickell (Ving Rhames). "MI 1," directed by Brian dePalma, ("Scarface," "Untouchables") and "MI 2" directed by John Woo ("Face Off," "Broken Arrow") reinvigorate the popular television drama with thrilling escapades of international intrigue on the silver screen. Most of the special features are in standard definition but are varied and entertaining including behind the scenes, a profile of Cruise, and a compelling look at the spy game. (Paramount)

'Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam'

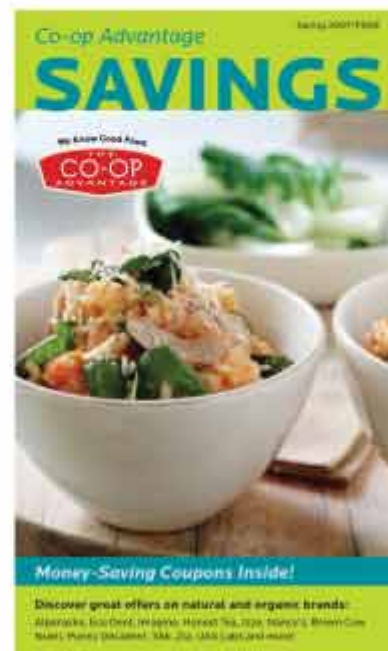
This long-running series that has launched the careers of superstars like Bernie Mac, David Chappelle, Cedric the Entertainer, and Martin Lawrence, continues its cutting edge nights of humor showcasing some of today's up and coming comedians. The two-disc set is hosted by master funnyman, Mike Epps. (HBO)

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BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



‘Tabloid Prodigy’

By Marlise Elizabeth Kast • Running Press

You see them at the check out line in the grocery store or the drug store. Their headlines scream out at you: Read me! Read me! They are your weekly celebrity scandal sheets – the tabloid.

Today’s tabloids are noted for over-the-top sensationalism, the facts of which can easily be called into question. Good tabloid writers do expand upon small news items that appear in the back of traditional papers. Writers may quote “experts” for the story even if the expert has no credentials.

And you wonder to yourself, just who is it who does the writing? How can they lower themselves to that level? What do they do to get the stories? Do they have a life of their own?

All this and more is discussed in the book “Tabloid Prodigy.”

Marlise Elizabeth Kast, in this memoir, attempts to pull us into her world of tabloid reporting for the Globe. Her reporting days for the Globe extended from the death of Princess Diana to the sale of the Globe to the Star. You can ask “What’s a nice girl like you doing writing for a tabloid?”

She attempts to justify her job with her background. She was brought up as the second born in a minister’s family. But as second born she had to prove herself. She got a degree in communications and English from Westmont College, so she is educated. You have to ask yourself then why did she become a tabloid reporter? And she would answer, “It wasn’t as if I

intentionally set out to work for one of the lowest forms of media. It just sort of happened.”

This book reads like a diary in places. You can’t tell if she is trying to write an expose or just attempting to use what she learned in class about creative writing. Through it all you sense that Kast is having too much fun.

She has a marvelous cast of characters that she worked with at the Globe. To mention a few: There’s Sharmin, the senior assistant to the bureau chief, Madeline, the Los Angeles bureau chief, Patrick Kincaid, the traveling reporter.. And when it comes to the celebrities she writes about, her memoirs seem to be a name dropping exercise.

“Teamwork was nonexistent, and there was little opportunity to get to know one another,” she writes in one passage. She details the hold assignments have on the reporters, sometimes even to the extent of having no down time. “Grab the headline, publish the story, and move on,” she writes in another passage.

There is even the lack of job security. “Madeline would invite a reporter into her office and close the door. One by one we would lower our heads, sensing we were about to lose another soldier from the battlefield. We came to think of the simple act of that closed door as the tabloid guillotine, ready to behead another reporter at any moment.”

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

HOLDING ON: “Sarah” by Esme Jackson will be included in exhibition.

Shutterbugs display their wings

Venice Arts Gallery presents the experimental work of a group of young, female photographers who are all students in the Venice Arts Advanced Studies Program. The girls, ages ranging from 14 to 16 years, are Ursula Barker, Esme Jackson, Elena Nardini, Alex Thomas and Francesca Thomas.

Opening on June 2 and running through June 30, the exhibit features documentary photography, self-portraits, environmental portraits, and experimental work.

Each piece in the exhibit is a uniquely individual representation of its artist according to Joanne Kim, the Lead Artist/Mentor at Venice Arts.

The exhibit’s opening reception will take place on June 9, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Venice Gallery, located at 1809 Lincoln Boulevard in Venice.

For more information about the girls and the exhibit, visit www.venice-arts.org/about/hearit/hearit.html.

CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ

The Art Palette

Hamp Simmons

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

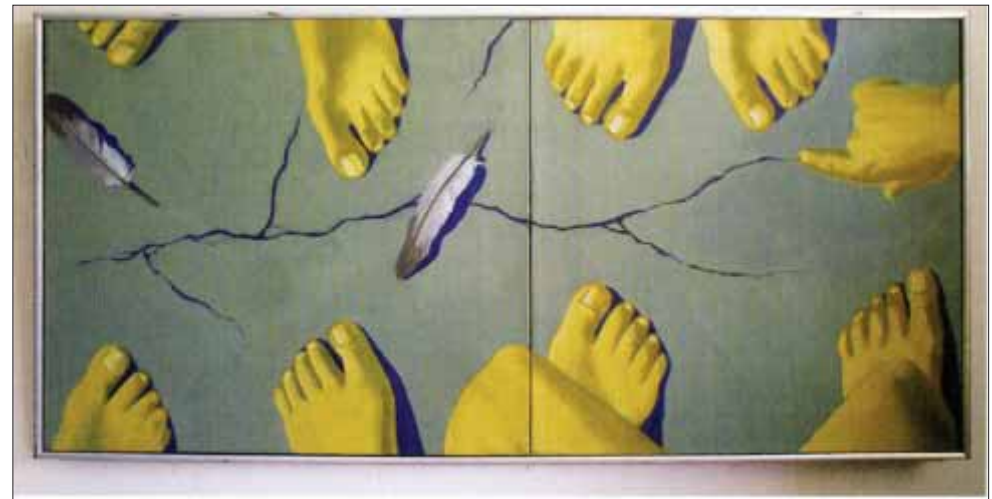


Photo courtesy

A WOMAN'S WORK: Untitled, Luchita Mullican, 1971, Women Artists of Southern California Then and Now.

A gaggle of ladies are focus of current show

This weekend brings us an impressive collection of work by 36 of the best women artists in Southern California, a great new one-act-play festival, a tour of Santa Monica Canyon’s idyllic past, art from Australia and at Santa Monica College they’re dancing in the streets. It’s all out there just waiting for you. Don’t make it wait too long!

SOCAL'S BEST WOMEN ARTISTS

Women Artists of Southern California: Then + Now

6-9 p.m.

Saturday, June 2

Opening Reception

Exhibition runs through June 30, 2007

Track 16 Gallery

Bergamot Station

2525 Michigan Ave.

(310) 264-4678

Santa Monica doyenne of the arts Bruria Finkel has assembled a collection of work by 36 female artists living in Southern California. “Then” refers to the women’s creations in the 1970s, while “Now” is clearly the present. The exhibition itself bridges the 30-plus-years that these self-identified feminists have been creating work.

SMOKING HOT THEATRE

Collision Festival West

Thursday, May 30 through Sunday, June 3

Ruskin Theatre

3000 Airport Drive

Santa Monica Airport

Twelve playwrights, 10 directors and 22 actors combine forces this weekend to present an even dozen 10-minute plays all in tune with the theme “smoke.”

DANCING IN THE STREETS

Renegade Dance

Synapse Dance Theater

3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

June 2

Santa Monica College Pavillion

Santa Monica College

1900 Pico Blvd.

(310) 434-3000

SMC’s Synapse Dance Theater has escaped the stage and has popped up in unconventional performance spaces all semester long. We’ve seen them in parking structures, on the Third Street Promenade, the Boardwalk, and they’ll be dancing their final concerts for the year at the Santa Monica College Pavilion. The program includes modern, jazz, tap, hip-hop and more.

GREAT ART FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Art for CLARE

2-5 p.m.

Sunday, June 3

Bergamot Station Arts Center

2525 Michigan Ave.

(310) 314-6212

Over 35 local artists will participate in an auction and fundraiser for the CLARE Foundation. Not only can you acquire a great new piece of art for your own collection, but you can support the work that this vital agency does to transform the lives of homeless.



If you would like to subscribe to the Santa Monica Arts Palette via e-mail, please send a blank e-mail with the word “Subscribe” in the subject line to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net

NBA

Bryant ticked

Lakers' star wants out if something isn't done to fix roster

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Kobe Bryant asked to be traded from the Lakers on Wednesday, a day after calling the team's front office "a mess," and said nothing will change his mind.

"I would like to be traded, yeah," Bryant told ESPN radio. "Tough as it is to come to that conclusion, there's no other alternative. It's rough, man, but I don't see how you can rebuild that trust. I just don't know how you can move forward in that type of situation."

Bryant, who helped the Lakers win three consecutive NBA championships, has four years left on the seven-year, \$136.4 million contract he signed July 15, 2004. That was a day after Shaquille O'Neal was traded to the Miami Heat.

Bryant became infuriated Tuesday when a Los Angeles Times columnist quoted a Lakers "insider" as saying it was Bryant's insistence on getting away from O'Neal that prompted the trade to Miami.

Bryant also said he feels owner Jerry Buss misled him three years ago by telling him one thing and coach Phil Jackson something else about the team's goals.

Bryant said he was told the team would immediately try to rejoin the NBA's elite. But he said Jackson told him that Buss was not bringing him back as coach following the 2003-04 season because the Lakers were committed to reducing payroll and rebuild-

ing long term.

"They said nothing to me about a long-term plan. Absolutely nothing," Bryant told KLAC radio, the Lakers' flagship station. "They told Phil one thing and they told me another. Actions speak louder than words."

"It's a trust thing," he added.

Buss issued a statement saying: "We are aware of the media reports. However, Kobe has not told us directly that he wants to be traded. We have made it very clear that we are building our team around Kobe and that we intend for him to be a Laker his entire career. We will speak directly to Kobe and until we do that, we will not comment publicly about this."

Bryant's agent, Rob Pelinka, did not respond to several messages left by The Associated Press.

The Lakers won championships from 2000-02 and reached the NBA finals again in 2004, losing to the Detroit Pistons in five games. The team was broken up at that time. O'Neal was traded, Jackson left and other stalwarts — Karl Malone, Gary Payton, Derek Fisher, Robert Horry and Rick Fox — went elsewhere or retired.

The Lakers failed to make the playoffs the following season. With Jackson returning before the 2005-06 campaign, they finished seventh in the Western Conference in each of the past two years, but were eliminated by Phoenix in the first round of the playoffs.

Bryant urged the team at season's end to do what it takes to get back into contention. He essentially repeated those comments last weekend in an interview with the Los Angeles Times. On Sunday, he suggested former Lakers general manager Jerry West should return. West left the team in the summer of 2000.

NASCAR

Policy relaxation?

BY JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. NASCAR is considering opening up its restrictive testing policy, which several teams already have skirted this season.

Currently, rules limit teams to seven tests on Nextel Cup-sanctioned tracks, and crew chiefs help NASCAR decide the venues and dates. NASCAR adopted that policy two years ago to help underfunded teams keep up with big-budget organizations, who could afford to test anytime.

But as the Car of Tomorrow was rolled into competition, the top teams found ways to test it outside of the rules.

"It appears that we've got teams that want to test more and teams that want to test less, and teams that test on tires that are not made by our tire supplier," Robin Pemberton, NASCAR vice president of competition, told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"So we're going to start looking at a lot of different things, from eventually lifting the test ban completely, or get as restrictive as we cannot let teams test anywhere at any time, or land somewhere in between."

NASCAR most likely will relax the restrictions, because it's having a hard time policing teams. More than 20 teams tested Tuesday and Wednesday at Virginia International Raceway, a road course where

they could simulate the June 24 race in Sonoma, Calif.

Because VIR is not a sanctioned track, any team can go there and still be within NASCAR's guidelines. But teams can't use current Goodyear tires because of a leasing agreement intended to prevent extracurricular testing. To circumvent the lack of available tires, teams have started using other manufacturers for test sessions. They also snapped up much of Goodyear's inventory from 2005 and earlier.

Goodyear officials declined a request from The Associated Press for comment Wednesday, and NASCAR said the teams have not technically broken the rules.

Hendrick Motorsports, winners of nine of the first 12 races this season, is believed to have lapped the field in testing this year. Team officials said they've used a variety of test drivers about 30 times this year, and rival car owner Jack Roush said that's unfair.

He said his own five-car team is behind the competition, because he didn't purchase tires from Hoosier or B.F. Goodrich for tests.

"The teams that have been successful ... they've gone to tracks outside NASCAR's control with tires that were not from Goodyear," Roush said. "Right now, Goodyear is sitting on millions of dollars worth of tires that are growing obsolete and hard in their warehouses. Teams have gotten around NASCAR's policy by buying other people's tires."



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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 62°

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

Today looks like an in-between day before the next swell rolls in from the southern hemisphere. Size is expected to run chest high with 12-14 second periods from 190-200 degrees. The onshore flow could strength a tad with afternoon winds exceeding 15 mph. Tide looks ok, but it will be rather low right before dawn.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

MORE NW WIND SWELL BY END OF WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



Santa Monica, California

05-31 04:10 05-31 10:43 05-31 14:50 05-31 21:15

8 Ft. 7 Ft. 6 Ft. 5 Ft. 4 Ft. 3 Ft. 2 Ft. 1 Ft. 0 Ft. -1 Ft. -2 Ft.

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.8 2.0 2.2 2.4 2.6 2.8 3.0 3.2 3.4 3.6 3.8 4.0 4.2 4.4 4.6 4.8 5.0

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00:10 00:15 00:20 00:25 00:30 00:35 00:40 00:45 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:05

Head home, Virgo

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic

★★★★ Positive

★★★ Average

★★ So-So

★ Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Events inspire you to veer in a new direction. You might be hard-pressed with a financial decision. You don't have all the facts. Stave off a decision, for your own well-being. Tonight: Opt for a new type of movie or different cuisine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You could feel pulled like a piece of saltwater taffy. Relax, and you'll get answers, especially concerning a building financial issue. Inquire, but make no decisions. Interesting facts are likely to drop in your lap if you listen. Tonight: A key partnership is heard from!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You might be on cruise control, but your settings could be slightly off. As events unfurl, you realize a wrong assumption. Follow through by asking strong questions. Meetings pave the way to success. Tonight: Surrounded by people – you have little choice.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Back off, especially as you might not be as strong or secure as you would like. Much that comes down your path is somewhat shocking. Do only what you must and avoid major decisions. Listen, but don't judge. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Push to achieve your goals. Evaluate with knowledge and forthcoming facts. You absolutely know what you want. Mobilize your energy as well as others'. Consider your options most carefully. Tonight: Seek out another opinion. An expert would be even better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Speak your mind, especially involving a personal matter that might be pulling you away from your normal responsibilities. An investment that's too good to be true heads down your path. Tonight: Head home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ A circle of energy and activity surrounds you. Consider your options carefully, more so than in the past. What happens easily could cause you to feel that too much is happening too quickly. You can handle it. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You might want to handle your finances in a stronger, more-direct manner. Listen to your reactions and feelings. If you're feeling overwhelmed, pull back and restructure, for your sake. Do not commit to any financial agreements. Tonight: Play it conservatively.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Express your personality. Others might challenge your thinking, actions or even integrity. Know who you are, and let comments wash off. Your popularity soars, even if you feel like you don't like what you are hearing. Tonight: Dance, play softball – just engage in a fun, physical activity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Know when to head for the hills, like now. Express yourself in a fashion that makes a difference. Understanding develops because of observation rather than participation. Know when to put a halt to current situations. Tonight: Take some personal time. Screen calls.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Where you might have been on hold or deep into responsibilities, today's Full Moon tosses you into the social whirlwind. Whether networking or gabbing with a friend, you could feel overwhelmed at first. Tonight: Watch what you are doing, as you might be accident-prone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Back off and handle only what you must. You could find yourself between the proverbial rock and a hard place. Investigate and find answers. If you're feeling overwhelmed, stop. There is another way. Tonight: Try to exclude yourself from all the action.

Born Today

Singer Peter Yarrow (1938)
Actress Brooke Shields (1965)
Actor, director Clint Eastwood (1930)



Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Happy Birthday!

The one stable element this year will be change. Remaining centered will be instrumental to your well-being. You often find that your mind and heart go in different directions. Learn which voice works for you. Which voice is the authentic person? Often you will juggle several projects and people simultaneously. If you are single, a relationship, though rewarding and significant, could challenge your belief system, forcing growth. If you are attached, you will want to hear and understand your mate's opinions, feelings and ideas. If you agree really isn't important. What remains key is mutual respect.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS



Photo courtesy

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6 > xA < 06 > xB

HOLDING ON: "Sarah" by Esme Jackson will be included in exhibition.

Shutterbugs display their wings

Venice Arts Gallery presents the experimental work of a group of young, female photographers who are all students in the Venice Arts Advanced Studies Program. The girls, ages ranging from 14 to 16 years, are Ursula Barker, Esme Jackson, Elena Nardini, Alex Thomas and Francesca Thomas.

Opening on June 6 and running through June 30, the exhibit features documentary photography, self-portraits, environmental portraits, and experimental work.

Each piece in the exhibit is a uniquely individual representation of its artist according to Joanne Kim, the Lead Artist/Mentor at Venice Arts.

The exhibit's opening reception will take place on June 9 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Venice Gallery, located at 1809 Lincoln Boulevard in Venice. For more information about the girls and the exhibit, visit www.venice-arts.org/about/hearit/hearit.html.



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CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ

True purpose

Being an 'Idol' judge gave Abdul a reason for living

PAULA ABDUL says she didn't figure out her purpose in life until she became a judge on Fox network's "American Idol."

"I knew since I was a little girl that I had this profound way of touching people. My purpose is bringing out everybody's best and being that cheerleader to other people's success," the 44-year-old singer-dancer tells OK! magazine in its latest issue.

"Being a judge on 'American Idol' overshadows being a Grammy Award winner and selling millions of records," she says.

Abdul has been diagnosed with reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD), a chronic neurological disorder that causes severe pain.

"I have four titanium plates in my neck. I've had 14 surgeries over the years. I had an operation the same evening as the

first season finale of 'American Idol,'" she says. "It can come and go at any time, but I no longer have the intense nerve pain that is associated with RSD, thank God."

Abdul - who says she was hit by a drunk driver in 1987 and injured in an emergency plane landing in the early '90s - says she is treated with anti-inflammatory medications and has massage and acupuncture treatments

for her pain.

"If I appear exhausted on television, it's because I am!" she says. "I have a lot of sleepless nights because I'm in so much pain. I was taking far more medication on earlier seasons (of 'American Idol'), and nobody said anything. I try to say something and I stumble, and that's what people have picked up on. I'm not polished."

When asked how she responds to claims that

her behavior during "Idol" is sometimes bizarre, Abdul replies:

"I'm sick of it. I've never been drunk. I don't do recreational drugs. It's defamation of character."

The choreographer and former Laker girl also says: "I'm a warrior. I'm not the best dancer, and I'm certainly not the best singer, but I am an entire package of a great performer."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEDDING BELLS



LISA LING, a correspondent for National Geographic Channel and former co-host of ABC's "The View," married Dr. Paul Song this Memorial Day weekend.

Ling and Song, a Chicago-based radiation oncologist, were wed Saturday in an Asian-themed ceremony in Los Angeles, said Chris Albert, a representative for National Geographic Channel, in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Song, 41, proposed to the 33-year-old Ling in December.

"They plan to spend time with friends in Los Angeles and Chicago in lieu of a honeymoon," Albert said.

Ling, who is also a correspondent for Oprah Winfrey's daytime talk show, ended her engagement to entrepreneur Philip Levine in October 2005.

She left "The View" in 2002 after three years on the ABC chatfest, and went on to become correspondent for National Geographic.

AP

Lauer forgets to buckle-up

NBC's **MATT LAUER** didn't learn his lesson from interviewing New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine about the governor's near-fatal car crash while riding without wearing a safety belt.

A few weeks after that chat, there was Lauer on "Today" on Wednesday, sitting in the back of a sport utility vehicle interviewing Republican presidential contender

Mitt Romney. Both men were unbuckled.

A sheepish Lauer admitted his mistake after "Today" ran the interview, which was conducted Tuesday.

"I should have set a better example," he said. Romney also said he needs to keep reminding himself to buckle up.

Corzine was riding in a State Police-driven SUV that crashed going 91

mph on April 12 along the Garden State Parkway. Corzine, unbuckled in the front passenger seat, broke his leg, 11 ribs, collarbone and sternum.

He voluntarily paid a \$46 fine and apologized to the state. He also released a public service announcement urging people to wear seat belts.

"Today" show producers noticed the oversight

before the segment with Romney aired and decided to have Lauer address it, executive producer Jim Bell said.

Viewers certainly noticed. "Today" got more than 100 e-mails about Lauer and Romney's oversights while the segment was being telecast, Bell said.

"It was amazing," he said.

AP

Michael was high on drugs

GEORGE MICHAEL, who has pleaded guilty to driving while unfit, had several drugs in his system when he was arrested, a court heard Wednesday.

Tests showed the 43-year-old singer had taken a therapeutic quantity of an antidepressant as well as gamma-hydroxybutyrate, or GHB, Prosecutor Andrew Torrington told Brent Magistrates' Court in London.

GHB is often called the

"date-rape drug" because it leaves people groggy and powerless.

Michael, who wasn't in court Wednesday, pleaded guilty May 8 to driving while unfit due to drugs. He said his condition was caused by "tiredness and prescribed drugs."

The former Wham! singer, whose real name is George Panayiotou, was arrested in the early hours of Oct. 2 after police

responded to complaints that a car was blocking an intersection in North London. Police said Michael was found slumped over the wheel of the car.

His lawyer, Michael Grieve, told the court a prescription sleeping drug was the most likely explanation for Michael's condition.

Michael said in a TV interview earlier this month that he is addicted to prescription drugs and

believes the world would be a better place if more people smoked marijuana.

He blamed his erratic behavior to an attention-seeking and "self-destructive" impulse brought on by the death of his mother a decade ago.

The case was adjourned until June 8 for sentencing, the day before Michael performs at Wembley Stadium as part of his European tour.

AP

Barton was healthy enough to travel

MISCHA BARTON was hospitalized for two hours on Memorial Day weekend after an antibiotic she was taking interacted badly with alcohol.

Barton, 21, starred on Fox network's teen drama "The O.C." Her screen credits include "The Sixth Sense," "Notting Hill" and

the upcoming "Virgin Territory."

"She is fine now," said a statement from her publicist, Leslie Sloane Zelnik.

The statement said Barton left Tuesday for an undisclosed overseas location to begin work on a new movie.

AP

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
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Check theatre for showtimes

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Brooklyn Rules (R)
1:55, 4:25, 7:00, 9:25
Georgia Rule (R)
11:35am, 2:10, 10:05
Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (PG-13)
11:30am, 3:00, 6:35, 10:15
The Wendell Baker Story (PG-13)
11:55am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Bug (R)
2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30
Disturbia (PG-13)
1:45, 4:40, 7:25
Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (PG-13)
12:00, 2:15, 3:35, 6:05, 7:15, 9:45
Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End DLP-Digital Projection (PG-13)
12:30, 4:15, 8:00
Next (PG-13)
3:40, 8:00
Spider-Man 3 (PG-13)
12:15, 1:30, 3:25, 4:50, 6:40, 8:05, 10:10

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Angel-A (R)
1:15, 3:45, 7:00, 9:30
Black Book (Zwartboek) (R)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00

LAEMMILE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
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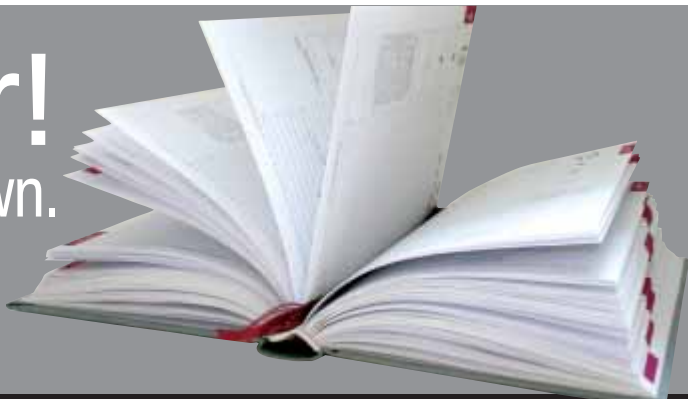
Away From Her (PG-13)
1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
Once (R)
12:00, 2:20, 4:55, 7:20, 9:40
Paris, I Love You (Paris, je t'aime) (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55
Waitress (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

28 Weeks Later (R)
11:50am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
Blades of Glory (PG-13)
1:50, 10:00
Fracture
11:10am, 4:30, 7:20
The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen) (R)
12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
Shrek the Third DLP-Digital Projection (PG)
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
Shrek the Third (PG)
11:00am, 11:40am, 1:30, 2:10, 4:05, 4:40, 6:30, 7:10, 9:00, 9:40

More information email news@smdp.com

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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
BRONZE

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

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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

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

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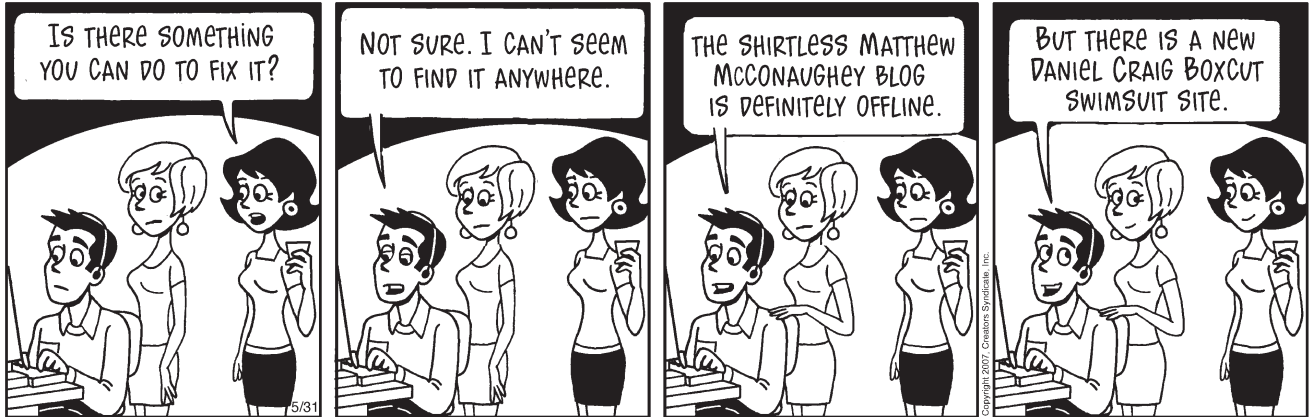
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



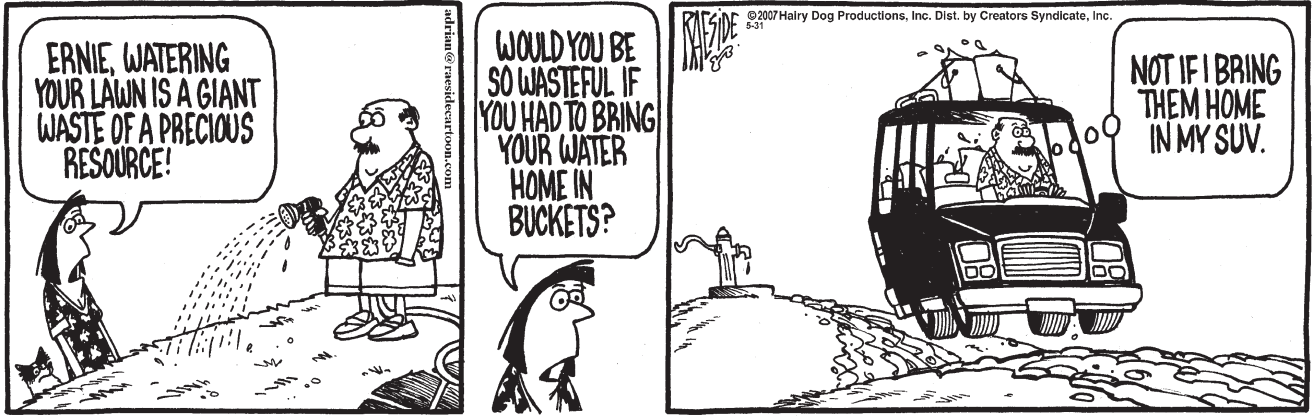
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



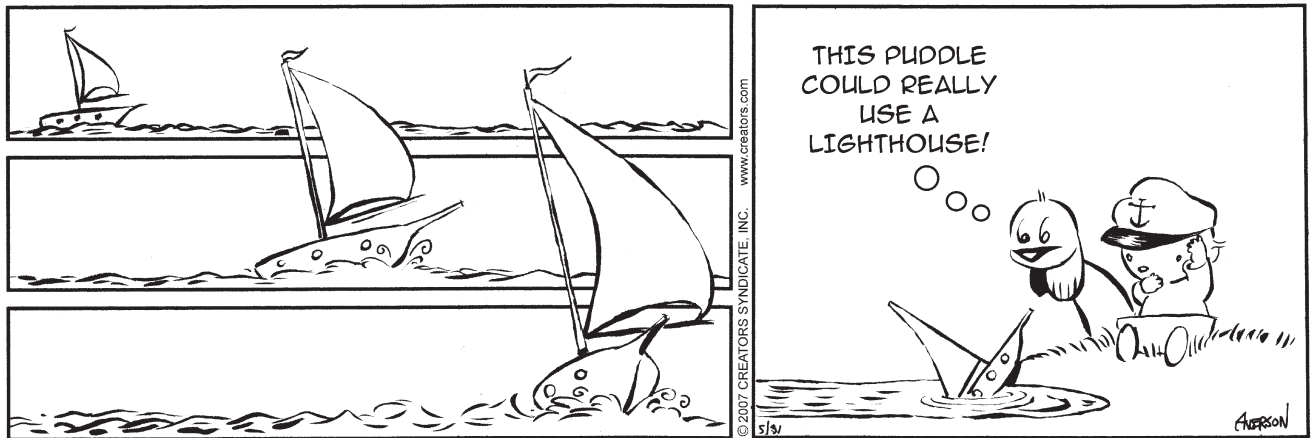
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Notions

1 Tragic king

5 Essays

10 Toil

12 Recoil in pain

13 Make amends

14 Following

15 Coffee, in slang

16 "Drat!"

18 Brief summary

20 Also not

21 Tombstone name

23 Print units

24 Invitation letters

26 Whirl of water

28 Command to Spot

29 Angry

31 Gardner of "Mogambo"

32 To the stars

36 Letters to the stars

39 Injure

40 Birch's kin

41 "My Fair Lady" role

43 Wither-spoon of "Walk the Line"

44 Inert gas

DOWN

1 Pack carrier

2 Simply adore

3 Dwelling

4 Friend of Harry and Hermione

5 Tree bit

6 Fight site

7 Chanted

8 Market concern

9 Home of some gators?

11 Station workers

17 Possessive word

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

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

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
2 24 44 51 54
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: \$12M

Super LOTTO
4 21 26 35 37
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: \$21M

Fantasy 5
10 12 16 35 36

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 7 9 5
EVENING: 1 3 1

DAILY DERRY
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:46.47

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Fake police officers have graced News of the Weird (most recently in 2006) for pulling motorists over for officious scoldings on traffic safety, but a March 20 stop in Boca Raton, Fla., by an imitation, off-duty sheriff's deputy was special. He was riding with his girlfriend when he decided to stop a discourteous motorist, and when a real cop later showed up, the "deputy" was revealed to be not a cop and also not a "he." Rachel Otto, 21, wore her hair short on top and shaved on the sides, and her outing as a woman apparently shocked the girlfriend, who had been living with Otto for a week. Police said Otto's rap sheet included nine arrests for impersonating police officers.

■ Wrongly convicted defendants are freed from prisons regularly now, some after many years' incarceration, and lawsuits against the legal system that put them there are proliferating. Three men in Birmingham, England, who were recently freed after, respectively, 18, 18 and 11 years in prison for murders, were (in separate trials) awarded a total of 2.16 million British pounds (about \$4.2 million), but the Court of Appeal ruled in March that they will have to give 25 percent back to the government as compensation for their "room and board," i.e., tiny cells and prison food, during all those years.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1223 Mongol invasion of the Cumans: Battle of the Kalka River - Mongol armies of Genghis Khan lead by Subutai defeat Kievan Rus, Kipchaks, Cumans, and Volga Bulgars warriors under Mstislav the Bold.

1578 Martin Frobisher sails from Harwich, England to Frobisher Bay, Canada, eventually to mine fool's gold, used to pave streets in London.

1669 Citing poor eyesight, Samuel Pepys records the last event in his diary.

1678 The Godiva procession through Coventry begins.

1759 The Province of Pennsylvania bans all theater productions.

1775 American Revolutionary War: The Mecklenburg Resolutions adopted urging the American Colonies to declare independence from Great Britain.

1790 Alferéz Manuel Quimper explores the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

1790 The United States enacts its first copyright statute, the Copyright Act of 1790.

WORD UP!

chortle \CHOR-tl/, *transitive and intransitive verb*: 1. To utter, or express with, a snorting, exultant laugh or chuckle. *noun*: 1. A snorting, exultant laugh or chuckle.

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* As of May 30, 2007

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Notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS #
CA-07-71318-MS Loan # 0323619817 YOU ARE
IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED
2/18/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PRO-
TECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A
PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF
THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU,
YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auc-
tion sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's
check drawn on a state or national bank, check
drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check
drawn by a state or federal savings and loan as-
sociation, or savings association, or savings
bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial
code and authorized to do business in this state,
will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale
will be made, but without covenant or warranty,
expressed or implied, regarding title, possession,
or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal
sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust,
with interest and late charges thereon, as pro-
vided in the note(s), advances, under the terms
of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees,
charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total
amount (at the time of the initial publication of
the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set
forth below. The amount may be greater on the
day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID
LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s):
AMALIO LOPEZ, AN UNMARRIED MAN Recorded:
3/10/2005 as Instrument No. 2005-0021285 in
book XXX, page XXX of Official Records in the of-
fice of the Recorder of SANTA BARBARA County,
California; Date of Sale: 6/6/2007 at 1:00 PM
Place of Sale: At the main entrance to the County
Courthouse, 1100 Anacapa Street, Santa Bar-
bara, CA. Amount of unpaid balance and other
charges: \$356,216.91 The purported property ad-
dress is: 403 WEST CRESTON STREET SANTA
MONICA, CA 93458 Assessors Parcel No. 117-
065-32 The undersigned Trustee disclaims
any liability for any incorrectness of the property
address or other common designation, if any,
shown herein. If no street address or other com-
mon designation is shown, directions to the lo-
cation of the property may be obtained by sending a
written request to the beneficiary within 10 days
of the date of first publication of this Notice of
Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for
any reason, the successful bidder's sole and ex-
clusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid
to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall
have no further recourse. Date: 5/16/2007 Quality
Loan Service Corp. 2141 5th Avenue San Diego,
CA 92101 619-645-7711 For NON SALE informa-
tion Only Sale Line: 714-259-7850 or Login to:
www.fidelityasap.com Reinstatement Line: (619)
645-7711 ext. 400 Diego Juarez, Asst. Trustee
Sale Officer If you have previously been dis-
charged through bankruptcy, you may have been
released of personal liability for this loan in
which case this letter is intended to exercise the
note holder's rights against the real property
only. THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF
COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING
TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER
AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. ASAP# 849970 05/17/2007, 05/24/2007, 05/31/2007

**SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)**CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso)
SC092820INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT REVIEW
AND CONFERENCE CONTINUED TO
8/28/07, DEPT: H, 8:30 A.M. PER OR-
DER OF 4/20/07

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL
DEMANDADO): MAGDA DEEN, indi-
vidually; DOES 1 through 5, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DE-
MANDANTE): LIPOW & HARRIS, a
general law partnership
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after
this summons and legal papers are
served on you to file a written response
at this court and have a copy served on
the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will
not protect you. Your written response
must be in proper legal form if you
want the court to hear your case. There
may be a court form that you can use
for your response. You can find these
court forms and more information at
the California Courts Online Self-Help
Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp),
your county law library, or the court-
house nearest you. If you cannot pay
the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a
fee waiver form. If you do not file your
response on time, you may lose the
case by default, and your wages, money
and property may be taken without fur-
ther warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You
may want to call an attorney right away.
If you do not know an attorney, you
may want to call an attorney referral
service. If you cannot afford an attor-
ney, you may be eligible for free legal
services from a nonprofit legal services
program. You can locate these non-
profit groups at the California Legal
Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org),
the California Courts Online Self-Help
Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by
contacting your local court or county

Notices

bar association.
Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO des-
pues de que le entreguen esta citacion
y papeles legales para presentar una re-
puesta por escrito en esta corte y
hacer que se entregue una copia al de-
mandante. Una carta o una llamada te-
lefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta
por escrito tiene que estar en formato
legal correcto si desea que procesen su
caso en la corte. Es posible que haya
un formulario que usted pueda usar
para su respuesta. Puede encontrar es-
tos formularios de la corte y mas infor-
macion en el Centro de Ayuda de las
Cortes de California
(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/),
en la biblioteca de leyes de su
condado o en la corte que le quede
mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota
de presentacion, pida al secretario de
la corte que le de un formulario de ex-
encion de pago de cuotas. Si no pre-
senta su respuesta a tiempo, puede
perder el caso por incumplimiento y la
corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y
bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales Es re-
comendable que llame a un abogado
inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un
abogado, pueda llamar a un servicio de
remision a abogados. Si no puede pa-
gar a un abogado, es posible que
cumpla con los requisitos para obtener
servicios legales gratuitos de un pro-
grama de servicios legales sin fines de
lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin
fines de lucro en el sitio web de Califor-
nia Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org),
en el Centro de Ayuda de
las Cortes de California,
(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/)
o poniendose en contacto con la
corte o el colegio de abogados locales
The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR
COURT, 1725 Main Street, Santa Mon-
ica, CA 90401-3299

West District
The name, address and telephone num-
ber of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff
without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la
direccion y el numero de telefono del
abogado del demandante, o del de-
mandante que no tiene abogado, es):
SEAN P. FEENEY, ESQ. (SBN
222109) LAW OFFICE OF SEAN P.
FEENEY, 9952 Santa Monica Boule-
vard, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 Tele-
phone: (310) 415-2471 (310)
943-0306
Date (Fecha): February 16, 2007
John A. Clarke, Clerk (Secretario), by
Julia Rojas, Deputy (Adjunto)
SEAL
5/17, 5/24, 5/31, 6/7/07
CNS-1136548#
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF:
LOUISE A. STONE
CASE NO. SP007147**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors,
contingent creditors, and persons
who may otherwise be interested in
the WILL or estate, or both of LOU-
ISE A. STONE.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has
been filed by BARBARA GARLAND
in the Superior Court of California,
County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE re-
quests that BARBARA GARLAND be
appointed as personal representative
to administer the estate of the de-
cent.

THE PETITION requests the de-
cent's WILL and codicils, if any, be
admitted to probate. The WILL and
any codicils are available for exami-
nation in the file kept by the court.
A HEARING on the petition will be
held on 06/15/07 at 9:15AM in
Dept. R located at 1725 Main St.,
Santa Monica, CA 90401

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of
the petition, you should appear at
the hearing and state your objections
or file written objections with the
court before the hearing. Your ap-
pearance may be in person or by
your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a con-
tingent creditor of the deceased, you
must file your claim with the court
and mail a copy to the personal rep-
resentative appointed by the court
within four months from the date of
first issuance of letters as provided
in Probate Code section 9100. The
time for filing claims will not expire
before four months from the hearing
date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by
the court. If you are a person inter-
ested in the estate, you may file with
the court a Request for Special No-
tice (form DE-154) of the filing of
an inventory and appraisal of estate
assets or of any petition or account
as provided in Probate Code Section

Notices

1250. A Request for Special Notice
form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner
JEFFREY L. CONDON
CONDON & CONDON
632 ARIZONA AVENUE
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
5/30, 5/31, 6/6/07
CNS-1141024#
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

SUMMONS

(Citation Judicial)

CASE NUMBER 06C03659

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (Aviso Al Demandado): KIM-
BERLY PERRY, CAROLA GONZALEZ and DOES 1
through 100, inclusively

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (Lo Está De-
mandando El Demandante): TOMER TZADOK
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons
and legal papers are served on you to file a writ-
ten response at this court and have a copy served
on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not pro-
tect you. Your written response must be in proper
legal form if you want the court to hear your case.
There may be a court form that you can use for
your response. You can find these court forms
and more information at the California Courts
Online Self-Help Center
(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law
library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you can-
not pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee
waiver form. If you do not file your response on
time, you may lose the case by default, and your
wages, money, and property may be taken with-
out further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. If you may want
to call an attorney right away. If you do not know
an attorney, you may want to call an attorney re-
ferral service. If you cannot afford an attorney,
you may be eligible for free legal services from a
nonprofit legal services program. You can locate
these nonprofit groups at the California Legal
Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)
the California Courts Online self-help Center
(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting
your local court or county bar association.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le
entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales pare
presentar una respuesta per escrito en esta code
y hacar que se entregue una copia al de-
mandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica
no lo protegen. Su respuesta per escrito tiene que
estar en formato legal correcto si desea que pro-
cesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un
formulario que usted pueda usar pare su re-
suesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la
corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de
las Cortes de California
(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la
biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte
que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la
cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la
corte que le de un formulario de exencion de bago
de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo,
puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y corte
le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas
advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales Es recomendable que
llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no
conoce a un abogado, pueda llamar a un servicio
de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un
abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisi-
tos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un
programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro.
Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucre
en el sitio web de California Legal Services,
(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de
Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.court-
info.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/](http://www.court-
info.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/)) o poniendose en
contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados lo-
cales.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre
y direccion de la corte es):
LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT
1725 MAIN ST.

SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401
The name, address, and telephone number of
plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attor-
ney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el número de
telefono del abogado del demandante, o del de-
mandante que no tiene abogado, es):
ROB R. NICHOLS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, 8306 WIL-
SHIRE BLVD, SUITE 7029, BEVERLY HILLS, CA.
90211

Telephone: (323)951-1946
Date (Fecha): OCTOBER 18, 2006
JOHN A. CLARKE, Clerk (Secretario) by GERARDO
SANCHEZ, Deputy (Adjunto)

SEAL
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served
as an individual defendant
Published SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS
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'02 4Runner SR5 .. \$16,700

Immaculate! Auto, Air, Alloys & Much More! (20053928)

Toyota Santa Monica (800) 579-6047

'04 Tundra LTD \$21,995

Auto, V8, Quad Cab, Lthr, Lots, Lots More! (4S448597)

Toyota Santa Monica (800) 579-6047

'07 Camry LE \$17,995

Automatic, Full Power, & More! (7U565241)

Toyota Santa Monica (800) 579-6047

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Vehicles for sale

'01 Civic EX \$11,700

Automatic, Moonroof, Full Power, A/C (1H582476)

Toyota Santa Monica (800) 579-6047

'04 Element ... \$14,995

Automatic, AC, PW, PL, Tilt Cruise (46012290)

Toyota Santa Monica (800) 579-6047

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Vehicles for sale

'04 Nissan Maxima SL

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Dark Blue, V6 3.5L, Auto, Bose Prem. Sound, Leather (I6793A) \$21,991

Infiniti Santa Monica (866) 507-7253

'05 Infiniti G35 Coupe

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) White, V6 3.5L, Automatic, Air Bags, Leather (I6896A) \$27,495

Infiniti Santa Monica (866) 507-7253

'02 Oldsmobile Alero GL

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Silver, V6 3.4L, Auto, Pwr pkg, Multi CD, Air Bags, Leather (I6942A) \$7,995

Infiniti Santa Monica (866) 507-7253

'04 Infiniti I35 Sedan

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, A/C, Bose premium sound, ABS (P1563) \$19,993

Infiniti Santa Monica (866) 507-7253

'05 Infiniti FX35

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) White, V6 3.5L, Sport Pkg, Touring Pkg, LOADED! (I6516A) \$30,493

Infiniti Santa Monica (866) 507-7253

Your ad could run here!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Vehicles for sale

'00 Nissan Maxima GLE

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Gold, V6 3.0L, Auto, FWD, AC, Sun Roof, Alloy Wheels (I6923A) \$12,995

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'05 Infiniti G35 Coupe

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Red, V6 3.5L, 6 sp. Manual, Bose Premium Sound (P1570) \$31,991

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'04 Nissan Altima

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, AC Tilt Wheel, Cruise, CD (P1571) \$17,991

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'04 Volvo S60 Sedan 4d

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Black, 5-Cyl. 2.4L, Auto, FWD, AC, CD, Air Bags, Leather (I8007A) \$20,990

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'05 Ford Mustang 2Dr LX

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) V6, 5 speed, A/C, P/W, P/L, Alloys, CD, RWD (I7069A) \$16,991

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'03 Infiniti FX45 SUV

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Silver, V8 4.5L, Auto, AWD, Multi CD, Rear Spoiler (P1547) \$27,694

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Vehicles for sale

'06 Honda CRV SE

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) AC, P/W, P/L, Alloys, CD, Moon Roof, Leather, ABS, Tilt (P1556A) \$26,991

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'06 Mercedes-Benz E350

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Black, V6 3.5L, Auto, Stability, Air Bags, Traction, Moon Roof (P1539A) \$39,994

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'02 Yukon XL \$19,995

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Denali, Black, Leather, Chrome Wheels, Moon. (2J265395)

Toyota Santa Monica (800) 579-6047

'01 LS 430 \$25,991

White/Tan (10047522)

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

'04 Prius \$22,991

(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN) Slvr/Gry, Go Green (IS71209A)

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B. Blk/Fireglow (7C044162)

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'04 545i \$39,991

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

'04 ES330 \$23,995

Black/Black, Loaded, Certified (G71002A)

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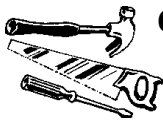
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Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Late May 2007

		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 1,912,000	No Listings
North of Montana	=	\$ 3,971,357	\$ 2,417,567
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,053,000	\$ 994,064
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 995,900	\$ 597,660
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,512,611	\$ 622,060
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,492,500	\$ 864,000

Statistics updated weekly

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