REAL ESTATE & BUSINESS
THE REAL DEAL | INSIDE SCOOP
RESTAURANT DRAWS CRITICISM PAGE 3 | MARKET MATTERS
OPTIONS FOR LAYOFFS AND RETIREMENT PAGE 7

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 174



HISTORIC NOMINATION
SEE PAGE 13

Santa Monica Daily Press
Since 2001: A news odyssey
THE MAKING HISTORY ISSUE

Cottage case closed

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK When John Heidt first stepped into his future home, a dilapidated cottage that had just jumped through hurdles to remain intact, he was greeted with a nauseating sight, one that would give most homeowners second thoughts.

Before him was a network of cobwebs, hanging over what seemed like hundreds of dead flies, all concentrated in a century-old beach-facing house plagued by a series of problems, its foundation sloping and exterior encrusted in chipped yellow paint.

"I was wondering why there were so many dead flies and cobwebs in the house," Heidt, who purchased the famous cottage at 2219 Ocean Ave. in April, said.

The answer would be found in the basement where the carcass of a possum lay, its removal the first in a long effort to rehabilitate a cottage that sat at the center of controversy last year when its previous owner set out to demolish the aging structure.

Heidt and his wife Donna, who both currently live in Westwood, purchased the property for an unspecified amount just shortly after the City Council in February reaffirmed its landmark status, the historic home known as the last beach-facing cottage in Santa Monica.

The president of Heidt Torres Co., a commercial real estate development company on Wilshire Boulevard, first noticed the home in 2006 after a surfing excursion, the start of a love affair with the cottage that led him to make a bid, only to be told by the realtor that his offer was falling short of the estimated $3.3 million value.

The home sits on a block zoned for multi-family housing, grandfathered in as the only single-family property in the neighborhood. The realtor told Heidt that the home could be demolished and replaced with four dwelling units, something that Heidt said he had no interest in pursuing.

"I said (to the realtor) that my sense is the people in Santa Monica are smart enough to know this is a jewel," Heidt said.

The couple continued to keep their eye on the property as it underwent a more than year-long tug-of-war between the previous owner — the University of Illinois Foundation — and residents, who sought to preserve the early 20th century cottage. Meanwhile another interested party had made an offer on the house.

Shortly after the City Council held a rehearing on the owner's appeal to the cottage's landmark status, a designation ultimately upheld, the Heidts made a counteroffer.

A beach-facing home was something that Heidt had always dreamed of owning, growing up in the seaside community of San Clemente, making his own skimboards,

SEE COTTAGE PAGE 12



Melody Hanatani *melodyh@smdp.com*
NEW PAINT JOB: **The old yellow cottage on Ocean Avenue received a fresh coat of yellow paint, one of the many improvements made on the more than 100-year-old house after it was purchased by a local couple.**



ONE VOICE, ONE VOTE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*
Local voters flocked to City Hall on Tuesday to cast ballots in the state's primary election. Among the more notable contests on the ballot was the race for the state Senate District 23 seat, which will be vacated by a termed-out Sen. Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica).

Degrees of change

Public Works Management Department gets a new leader

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A nearly 20-year-life in Palmdale neatly stacked in boxes, Leon Swain, the new director of environmental and public works, made the more than hour-long drive west to Santa Monica earlier this week, a new home, a new job, and a city almost 30 degrees warmer in the summer.

Swain, the former public works director in the growing Antelope Valley community, was recently hired to oversee the Environmental and Public Works Management Department in City Hall, replacing former director Craig Perkins who left the city after nearly 25 years.

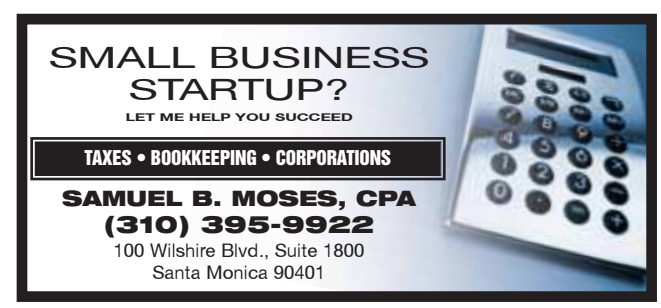
He will assume the role starting Monday.

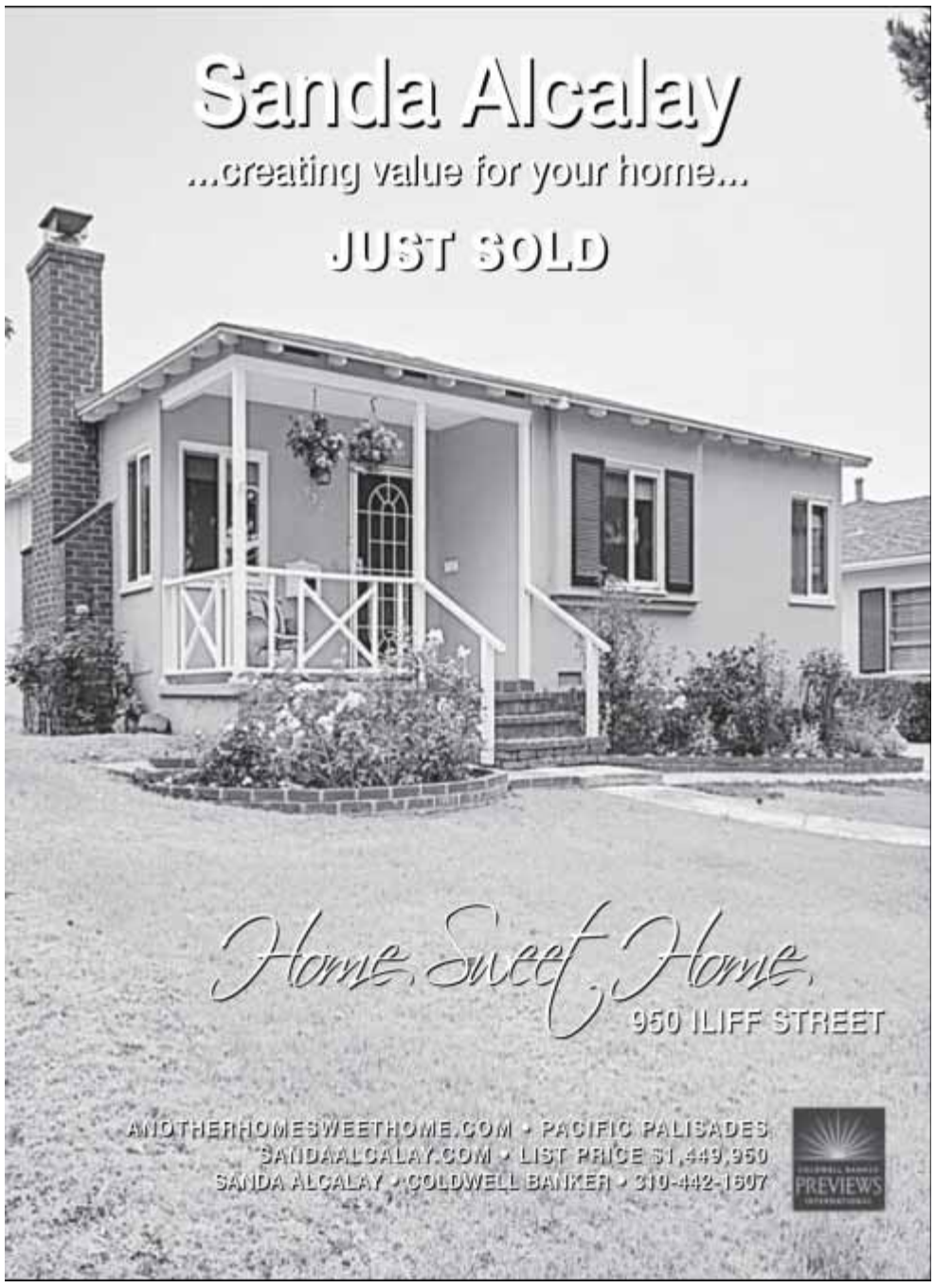
Perkins, who left City Hall to join the Energy Coalition, a non-profit that helps cities reduce their energy demand and greenhouse gas pollution, was credited with

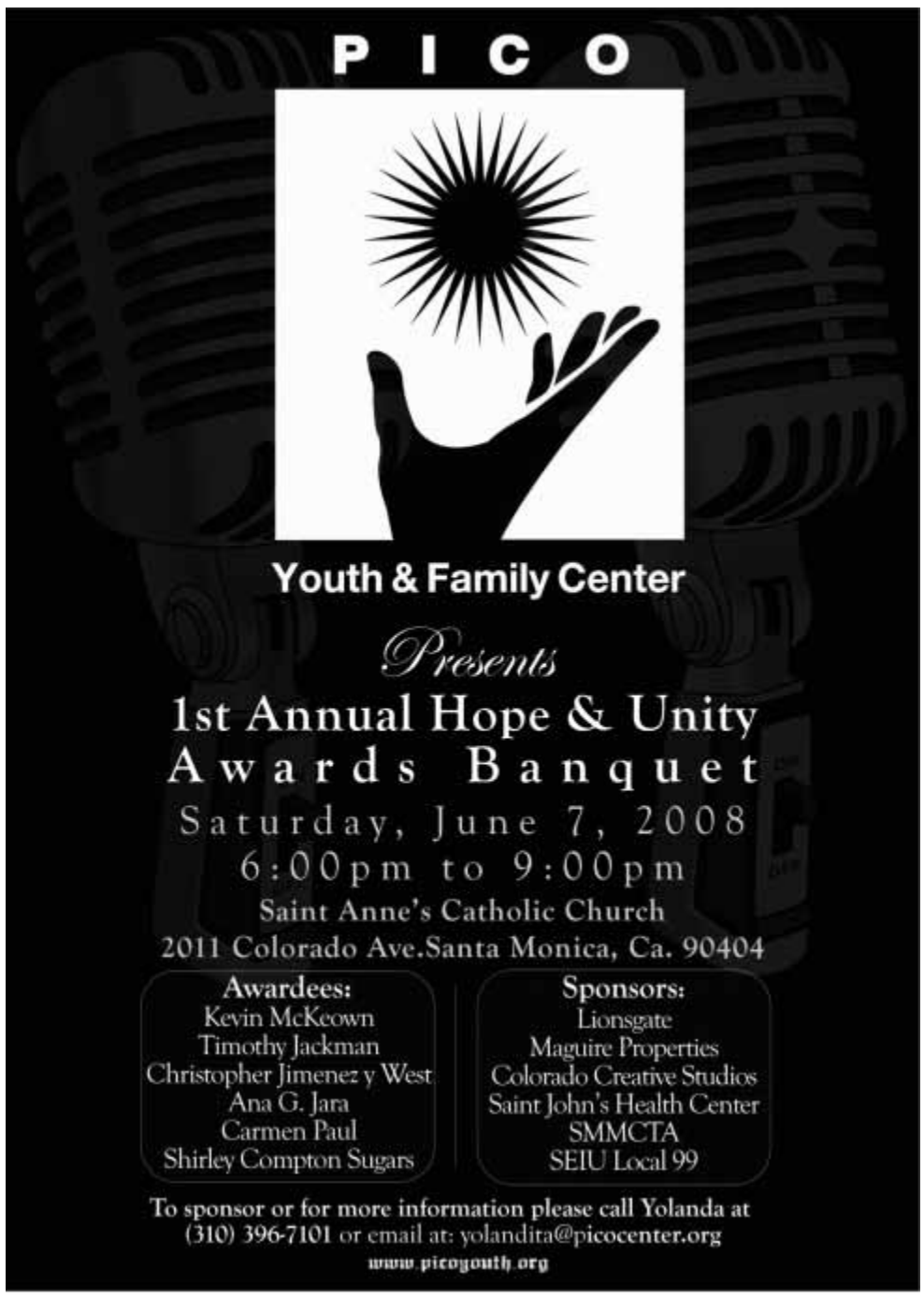
SEE SWAIN PAGE 12













WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Kicking it with Kiwanis

1332 6th St., 12 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.

The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club is holding its weekly luncheon at the Santa Monica YMCA. There will be a guest speaker at the event. For information, call (310)613-1249

Family fun with Will Wonka

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Looking for a fun activity for the kids this summer? Head out to the Santa Monica Public Library for their summer-long family film series. This week will feature "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" starring Gene Wilder. The event in the MLK Jr. Auditorium is free to all, but get in early because it is first come first seated.

Emptiness: The ultimate reality

6512 Arizona Ave., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

What does emptiness, the Mahayana Buddhist name for ultimate reality, mean and how can understanding it transform our lives? Using a text by one of the greatest philosophers on emptiness — Arya Nagarjuna — Lama Marut returns to present the fourth in his extraordinary series of teachings on the way things do and do not exist, in a manner sure to help believers penetrate this complex material and provoke great discussion. This event will be held at the Mahasukha Center. For more information contact Lauren Benjamin at lauren.benjamin@aci-la.org.

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Installing a new leadership

101 Wilshire Blvd., 5 p.m. — 9 p.m.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce will install its 2008-09 board of directors at its annual gala at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel. The chamber will also honor its new chairman. The gala will include live music, an auction and raffle prize. For more information, call 310.393.9825 ext. 30.

Breathe easier

235 Hill St., 6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Mixed level class designed to slowly and carefully work on strength, flexibility and balance. The focus is on unblocking the resistance in our joints, muscles and minds, and restoring the weak energy links in our mind/body system. This event takes place at the Church in Ocean Park. For more information, call (310) 621-2144.

The Meathands have it

4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m.

The "Magic Meathands" perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity based on audience suggestions and participation. The show is presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers delicious coffee, food, drinks and comfortable couches. What sets this improv group apart is their personal connection with the audience and community, so their best material comes directly from the people around them. For information, call (310) 559-8868.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

CORRECTION

In "Residents to fuel up on biodiesel" (page 1, June 3), it should've stated that City Hall was taking a second look at a biodiesel facility at High Place and Delaware Avenue.

Victim of its own success

BY ALEXANDRA BISSONNETTE
Special to the Daily Press

WILSHIRE BLVD Santa Monica's new hot spot South, a restaurant/bar which attracts large crowds that often spill out onto the sidewalk, is being investigated for code violations following complaints from residents living nearby, city officials said.

"The noise and chaos South has brought to our once quiet 1100 block of Stanford Street has become unbearable," said Steven Fogelman, a resident who lives around the corner from the establishment.

City Hall is investigating South and five other Santa Monica watering holes and eateries, but officials could not yet comment on the details of the investigation. The process is expected to be completed within the next 30 days.

Fogelman argues that South is operating as a nightclub, which is in violation of its C6 zoning code. A C6 designation allows for nightclubs with a conditional permit, which South does not have.

Frank Williams, a code compliance inspector for City Hall, said cover charges and dancing constitute a nightclub by city standards. South does not have a cover charge, nor do they have a dance floor; however, this has not stopped people from dancing in the spacious interior.

Fogelman insists that South "is not being primarily used as a restaurant" and that "its current interior design suggests that South is meant to accommodate large groups of people watching televised commercial sporting events."

The design he is referring to is the lack of tables inside the restaurant. The tables are 10 feet apart which is conducive to a nightclub environment, Fogelman said.

Fogelman's other allegations against South include the late night noise caused by intoxicated patrons, noise from "screaming sports fans," early morning weekend trash pick-up, drug use by patrons on Stanford Street, and the use of street parking, and an increase in vandalism and littering.

Former occupants of 3001 Wilshire — Punch Grill and Ocean Sea Food — did not create such chaos in the community, Fogelman said.

"Santa Monica cares about the people and you can't just bring in a business that destroys the neighborhood," Fogelman said.

South manager Jaime Lyko maintains that South has done everything in its power to maintain a positive relationship with the surrounding neighborhood.

"We have been so open to try and work with people and to run this business the right way," Lyko said.

The owners of the restaurant went door to door prior to the opening to give out their personal contact information should the residents have any complaints, Lyko said. They also have seven security guards to manage the crowd that gathers outside the restaurant on busy nights. The guards patrol the streets until 2:30 a.m. or until the crowd has dissipated.

South is currently engaged in putting up Plexiglas around their patio to help diffuse some of the noise. One of South's four owners, Adam Milstein, has even gone so far as to offer to soundproof a resident's home.

"I feel as though we are doing a great deal," Milstein said, maintaining that he is open to suggestions for further improvements. "I'm up for anything."

Lisa Winick, a mother of six who lives just a few doors down from South, loves the restaurant and what it has brought to the neighborhood.

"I've lived here 10 years and I have seen huge changes," Winick said. "I feel really badly for people put out, but they [the owners] have done everything in their power to be responsive and helpful."

Another resident said that he had not had any trouble with the late night noise coming from South or its patrons.

Fogelman is staunch in his assertion that South isn't good for the neighborhood.

"South and their patrons are imposing on the high quality of life we residents sought in choosing to live in Santa Monica," Fogelman said.

We are a "small mom-and-pop business," Lyko said, "and we don't want anyone to be disturbed."

news@smdp.com



Alexandra Bissonnett *news@smdp.com*

CAUSING A LOCAL UPROAR: **A number of residents say that South, a new a restaurant/bar which attracts large crowds, is destroying the quality of life in the neighborhood surrounding the Wilshire Boulevard location and claim the hot spot is operating as a nightclub without the proper permits.**

Sociologist who helped craft 'don't ask, don't tell' dies

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO Sociologist Charles Moskos, an expert on the attitudes of servicemen and women who helped formulate the "don't ask, don't tell" policy toward gays in the military, has died.

The retired Northwestern University professor died of cancer Saturday at his home in Santa Monica, Calif., his family said. He was 74.

His surveys on military personnel issues, such as morale and recruitment trends, made him widely quoted in the news media. But he was best known for the advice to the Joint Chiefs of Staff that led to "don't ask, don't tell."

Under the policy, passed by Congress in 1993 in the early months of the Clinton administration, gays are allowed to serve in the military, but they are prohibited from engaging in homosexual activity or talking about their sexual orientation.

He acknowledged that the policy, which had critics on both sides of the debate, was imperfect.

"It's like what Churchill said about democracy — it's the worst system possible, except for all the other ones," Moskos said in 2006. But he said allowing gays to serve openly would hurt the morale of the military rank-and-file and make many recruits

SEE MOSKOS PAGE 11

Universal fire could cost tens of millions of dollars

BY RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Universal Studios tried Tuesday to put a good face on the accidental weekend fire that ripped through its back lot.

But a comparison to a previous fire in 1990 suggests the blaze could inflict tens of millions of dollars in short-term damage on corporate parent General Electric Co.

The biggest casualty was the New York streetscape set, a favorite among filmmakers who pay tens of thousands of dollars a day to cast it in blockbusters such as "Spider-Man 2" and "Transformers" along with popular TV shows.

The studio also lost its popular King Kong attraction; an undetermined number of film and music recordings; and a full day of revenue when it didn't open the theme park on Sunday.

An average of 25,000 people visit on weekend days this time of year.

The damage has not yet been tallied but will likely exceed the estimated $25 million caused by a fire in 1990 that also destroyed the streetscape and caused minor water damage to the King Kong attraction.

Authorities initially put the size of

SEE UNIVERSAL PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ringing the alarm

Editor:

Please wake up Main Street merchants.

Once again Main Street merchants are letting landlords and (City Hall) dictate what is good for their businesses.

Any assessment to maintain clean sidewalks and maintain the festoon lighting will immediately be passed on to lessees by landlords under the triple net leases you have signed. This is nothing the small merchant on Main Street should afford; the economy is weak and the potential for a weaker economy is real. This decision should be made by merchants and lessees only.

Merchants have the responsibility to keep their sidewalks and storefronts clean and attractive if they wish to draw customers to their establishments. (City Hall) has the responsibility to maintain a clean street if it wants to realize tax revenue from this district. It is the casual retailer who makes no effort or fails to understand the importance.

Every business on Main Street should be sweeping their sidewalk at least once daily and maintaining an attractive storefront always. This is good retailing. Don't forget you are in a high end tourist oriented business district.

As for the $88,632 in assessment that will be passed directly to you, isn't that similar to the assessment dollars given to the Main Street Merchants Association?

Half of that budget is consumed by administrative cost – demand to see the budget. The administration of this organization should be voluntary and if not the city should seek agreement from merchants to use that assessment to clean the sidewalks regularly and maintain the festoons. Retailers, by far, are more capable of promoting their stores than the Main Street Merchants Association.

As merchants you know that you are already paying an assessment for the Main Street District and your business license depends upon your payment.

Do you believe it should be doubled or increased in any way with the simple wave of the hand of landlords or City Hall?

Do you believe that any new assessment in the future will not be passed directly on to you? Think of the triple net lease you have signed. The taxes you are paying for now are suppose to provide for clean, safe streets.

It is my strong opinion that the purpose of the Main Street Merchants Association is to foster the interests of the assessed and create constructive dialogue with City Hall.

At no point in time should that organization encourage assessments that will be passed directly to merchants and lessees without the full input of those that the new assessment will ultimately be passed to. ... City Hall should not be looking to create new assessments at this time unless their master plan only includes landlords and developers.

Robert Hausenbauer
The Ocean Park Omelette Parlor

Observation on Ocean Park

Editor:

I was struck dumb the other day passing by a construction sign that said, "RAMP CLOSED 5/19 - 5/26," still glowing brightly, huge and electric along a western stretch of Ocean Park Boulevard.

Why, I wondered, is Santa Monica wasting so much electricity? Last I checked it was the first week of June.

Oh well, I mused – slowing to 25 mph because I read this stretch of Ocean Park Boulevard was a speed-trap – I guess it aint easy bein' green.

But how about awake? Or smart; I cringe to imagine tourists driving east at the end of the day thinking we're all a bunch of Rip Van Winkles asleep at the beach.

Henry Rosenfeld
Ocean Park



Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Everything is $5

OK, SO EVERYBODY SEEMS TO BE WORKED up over the state of the economy in these days of mortgage meltdowns, S&P 500 skid marks, investment bank bailouts and tumbling tofu futures.

I was in the 99 Cents Store the other day and every item was $5 bucks. Eh? I'm confused. How could it be the 99 Cents Store if every item now costs half a sawbuck? I only needed a few odds and ends for the house: Some lemon fresh Joy, salmon flavored toothpaste, depleted uranium shave cream, organic chicken milk and some Top Ramen. Just the usual quality stuff that you can get at the 99 Cents Store, ya know?

It seems that everything costs a fiver these days or is at least heading in that direction: A gallon of milk, a gallon of gas or a vente Crappacino at $tarbucks are all edging into the land of Lincolns.

If Democratopian health services are ever enacted then aspirin will be $5 bucks a la carte. Soon it'll be $5 to ride the Big Blue Bus … one way. The only consolation seems to be that premium beer is now cheaper than premium unleaded.

The mysteries of macroeconomics, which most of us slept through in college, were defined in Adam Smith's big bang opus of dollars and sense, "The Wealth of Nations" which can now be found in the marked down section at Costco next to Oprah Winfrey's seasonal weight loss saga, "How I lost 25 pounds of unsightly fat … I cut off my head."

In Smith's roman a clef, the overarching principle that Bears Stearn-ly down on bullish market theory is: "Consumption is the sole end and purpose of production," which is conversely proportional to Oprah's affinity for deep fat fried Haagen Daz waffles with extra butter. Or, more simply put: The more waffles you consume, the more waffles Oprah will mug you for.

If you own a Ford Global Warmer or its equivalent nominatives, then stop whining that the fuel needed to feed your ego-wagon is currently pegging at 4 bucks and change. Shut up and pay already.

If you're willing to drop $9 bucks for a giant gourmet "confusion burger" at The Counter then stop kvetching that the Post Office just raised the price of a stamp a penny. Have a little perspective here, folks. All the solutions to alleged global warming, stumbling stock options and Brobdingnagian trade deficits rests with your consumer choices. How many crappy selections did you make today?

Let's get this straight. Currently, just over 1 billion people live on $1 a day, the benchmark of absolute poverty; another 1.5 billion live on $2 a day.

Do the math, excruciatingly grim numbers, eh? Why does most of the People's Republic of Soviet Monica squeal about the price of a "fill 'er up" when many of you have more loose change in the ashtray of your Beemer than a greater third of the planet has to feed a family of four for a week?

"But how can I pay for my healthcare and my Beemer?" you supplicate to the Gods of Fashionable Convenience and Conspicuous Consumption. The Gods declare, "Try living on $5 bucks a day, Biscuit Head … and be a little more grateful. Or I might re-incarnate you as a minimum wage waitress slopping hash at some greasy diner in purgatorial Pacoima"

IF DEMOCRATOPIAN HEALTH SERVICES ARE EVER ENACTED THEN ASPIRIN WILL BE $5 BUCKS A LA CARTE. SOON IT'LL BE $5 TO RIDE THE BIG BLUE BUS ... ONE WAY.

Some of the great unwashed and ill-informed out there confabulate that current gas prices are the result of the Exxon Empire machinations of Darth Dubya. Allow me to pose a question with a preface: I will accept the extant argument that Dubya is the most intellectually incurious individual this side of Ryan Seacrest. According to popular culture, Dubya's as dumb as a post and the post is better looking.

OK, how is someone allegedly so macrocosmically moronic be able to manipulate world governments, influence OPEC and international financial markets while fooling the entire American public concerning the price of gas yet pronounces the word related to atomic structure as "nook-you-lar?" There is profound insight for Latte Liberals here provided in Dub's commentary that, "You can't take the high horse and claim the low road."

Finally folks, nobody put a gun to your head and forced you into the lifestyle of "consumerist cool." It's all just window dressing for low self-esteem, anyway. Think of this as retail therapy advice.

That'll be $5 please.

STEVE BREEN is a free trade buccaneer and the "best looking mailman at the US Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
EMAIL TO: EDITOR@SMDP.COM OR FAX TO (310) 576-9913
Santa Monica Daily Press — Visit us online at smdp.com

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Seth Barnes, Taylor van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Maria Rohloff, Merv Hecht, Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp Mariel Howsepian and Cynthia Citron

NEWS INTERNS
Alexandra Bissonnette
news@smdp.com

Alice Ollstein
news@smdp.com

Michael Middlehurst-Schwartz
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Geoffrey Dunn
news@smdp.com

Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Robert Hertel
roberth@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Robert Summa
summa@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

Visit us online at smdp.com

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Celtic pride runs deep

THE NBA FINALS START TOMORROW WITH the Lakers facing my beloved Celtics. I know that ever since the Lakers started four future Hall of Famers and still lost to the Detroit Pistons in 2004, the Finals are a touchy subject in this town. It was after that loss team that owner Dr. Jerry Buss decided to give the franchise to Kobe Bryant and since then, the Lakers have consistently had their season ended by better teams.

Sorry to break it to you Lakers fans, but this year won't be any different. You may have the best player in the league, but the Celtics have the best team.

And despite what Kobe and Jerry Buss think, basketball is a team sport and it takes more than one great player to win a championship.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should say I'm a card-carrying member of the Kobe Hater's Club.

I have been since he was a 17-year-old high school senior and announced before the 1996 NBA draft that he would only play for the Lakers. It was like having a teenager tell his parents he would only get a driver's license if he could take his road test in a Porsche.

Kobe's been trying to hijack the franchise ever since.

After that Finals loss, he forced the organization to choose between himself and Shaq, the most dominant force in the NBA at the time and the reason (along with coach Phil Jackson) the Lakers won three straight championships.

That caused Jackson to realize that his girlfriend's dad was pounding the Kobe-flavored Kool-Aid, and retire to his spread in Montana for a year.

It would take $10 million per year for Buss to get him back with the star player Jackson once called "uncoachable." The Lakers made the playoffs each of the next two years, losing in the first round to the Phoenix Suns and their superior team play both times.

That led to yet another Kobe hijacking of the franchise last summer. Not happy with the power to name his own coach and his teammates, he wanted the power to hire his general manager.

To his credit, Dr. Buss finally said, "it's my team, kid, not yours," and stuck by GM Mitch Kupchack. It's a move that has worked out until now. Despite the fact that the Lakers started this season with only two guys who have hit big shots in big games (Kobe and Derek Fisher), they somehow finished with the best record in the Western Conference.

In the playoffs, Kobe's individual brilliance was enough to beat the Denver Nuggets and Utah Jazz, but it took a little help from the refs to get past the reigning champion San Antonio Spurs. I can't blame the NBA for wanting a Lakers/Celtics Finals and as a member of the KHC, I can't wait to watch Kobe leave the court in defeat at the same time my Celtics return to glory. It will almost make up for the hell that was my Super Bowl week.

Boston's three superstars, Paul Pierce, Ray Allen, and Kevin Garnett are every bit as fun to watch as the Lakers' lone star, but with a healthy dose of gratitude and without Kobe's annoying sense of entitlement (I told you I'm a hater).

Allen is no stranger to Hollywood, having starred opposite Denzel Washington in Spike Lee's "He Got Game," and is such a nice guy that he's impossible to root against even as he rains perfect dagger-in-the-heart jump shots on whichever eastern European player is trying to guard him.

Garnett will mumble motivational obscenities to himself while dominating Pau Gasol and Lamar Odom under the basket.

He doesn't care about his $26 million per year salary, he's still upset with himself if he doesn't play every possession perfectly.

The real star, though, is Pierce. Drafted by Boston ten years ago, he was literally on his deathbed before the 2000 season, having been stabbed 11 times in the face, neck, and back in a nightclub.

He still started every game that season. Like Kobe, he can score from anywhere and defend anyone. Unlike Kobe, he went to college where he learned to be a great teammate and share the ball.

Unlike Kobe, he has played his entire career against defenses designed to stop him. And, as a graduate of Inglewood High, he might be the only person happier than me when the Celtics (once again) beat L.A.

KENNY MACK is a writer, comedian, and social commentator living in Santa Monica who would do just about anything for a press credential to cover the NBA Finals (or just a ticket to a game). He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

The Q Line

The new face of marriage

The California Supreme Court recently ruled and upheld that gay and lesbian couples can now legally tie the knot in the state.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think gays and lesbians should have the right to get married or do you believe that marriage should be limited to unions between a man and a woman?

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.




John McGrail, C.Ht.

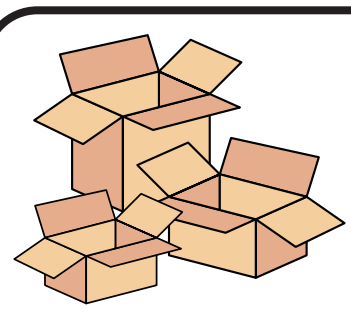
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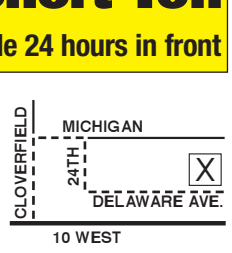
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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Investing should be a second skin

I WAS WORKING OUT THE OTHER DAY and tore the skin off the inside of my hands doing pull-ups because I was grabbing the bar too tightly. When I finished the workout and looked at my shredded hands, it became very clear that there is a right way and a wrong way to do something. If I had not held the bar so tightly I would have saved my skin. The workout got me thinking about risks and the wrong way to invest in real estate.

I remember walking into broker forums and listening to investors talk about the single family homes they purchased and how they were only losing a couple thousand dollars a month, but would make it up in appreciation in a few months. Actually, at the height of the real estate market, those investors — or speculators in my opinion — did make up the money they lost. However, I would not call negative cash flow an investment.

A couple weeks ago, I stated that when purchasing a piece of investment property, you are purchasing an income stream. With few exceptions, one being a complete rehab of an investment property, it would not make sense to purchase a property and hope to make the money back on appreciation. When purchasing an investment property, figure out what return on investment you want. If the property meets your criteria, pursue it, if it does not walk away. As one of my clients always says, "The best deal is the one you can walk away from."

Before you get into a real estate investment, figure out how you are going to get out of it. Do you plan to hold the property for five, 10, 15 years? Do you want to rehab the property, bring the rents up and sell it after a short hold period of two to three years? Know how you are going to get out of a real estate investment before you get in. The next few years will be challenging for investors in Southern California, but that does not mean a real estate investment cannot be profitable.

One problem some investors face is trying something new with little to no knowledge. First, let me say that I am not suggesting that a real estate investor stay in one realm of real estate investing, whether it is commercial, residential, industrial, etc. What I am saying is if a real estate investor is going to try some new type of investing that investor needs to get the proper information. All too often, I have seen real estate investors move from purchasing a type of real estate they know into a type of real estate they do not know.

If you want to invest in a new type of real estate, find someone who is successful and talk to them about how they got started. Listen to them and ask a lot of questions. Remember that you probably would not take medical advice from a plumber and you should not take real estate advice from someone who does not invest.

Remember when investing in real estate to make sure you do not rip the figurative skin off your hands by avoiding common pitfalls. For the most part, negative cash flow is not an investment and should be avoided when purchasing investment property. Before you get into an investment property, know how you are going to get out. Make sure you have a clear exit strategy and stick to it. If you want to try to invest in a new type of real estate learn everything you can and speak to someone who is successful. Avoiding common real estate investment pitfalls will help keep you on the track to real estate investing success.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

ECONOMY

Inflation tops Bernanke's worry list

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has moved inflation up on his list of worries, suggesting more pointedly than ever that the time for cutting interest rates is over in view of soaring oil and commodity prices and a weakened dollar.

Although the country's economic growth — bruised by housing, credit and financial debacles — is still fragile, Bernanke on Tuesday expressed hope for some improvement in the second half of this year.

At the same time, he sounded a notably louder warning against inflation threats. To this end, he raised his biggest public concern to date about the slide in the U.S. dollar, saying it has contributed to an "unwelcome rise" in inflation.

The Fed chief's fresh assessment — delivered via satellite to an international monetary conference in Spain — appeared to mark a subtle shift in Bernanke's views about economic risks.

Despite the rising concerns about inflation, Bernanke signaled the Fed is inclined to leave rates where they are. Boosting them could further weaken the economy's delicate state.

However, some analysts said Bernanke might be taking a baby step toward laying the foundation for an eventual rise in rates — possibly later this year or early next year — if inflation were to flash signs of getting dangerously out of hand.

"Bernanke has inflation on the brain," said Richard Yamarone, an economist at Argus Research.

To help brace the economy, the Fed dropped rates in late April to 2 percent, a nearly four-year low, continuing a rate-cutting campaign that started last September. "For now policy seems well positioned to promote moderate growth and price stability over time," Bernanke said.



Market Matters

Brian Hepp

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Handling a layoff or early retirement

DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES HAVE LED to layoffs, early retirements and more employees who must decide what to do with their retirement plan assets when they leave their company. What's more, recent tax-law changes make the decision-making process even more complex by providing more options than ever before.

Employees leaving their jobs generally have four options with their retirement plan assets: 1) receive them in a lump sum; 2) leave them in the former employer's plan; 3) move them into a new employer's plan; or 4) roll them over into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

A lump-sum distribution likely will be the most costly option because the withdrawal will be subject to income taxes and possible IRS penalties. And keep in mind your employer will be required to withhold 20 percent of the distribution and send it to the IRS as a prepayment of the taxes that will be due. While some special strategies may apply if you choose to receive a lump-sum distribution, these are typically used in cases of retirement, not mid-career job changes.

If you are tempted to spend your retirement plan simply because it is not a lot of money, leaving it with your former employer can keep those assets locked away for the future. However, you will continue to be limited by the employer's investment alternatives when you leave assets in that plan, which may limit your flexibility to develop an effective retirement-planning strategy.

Your former employer's plan also will control when and how you access your retirement savings in the future. This may mean that distributions become available at some predetermined age, such as 62 or 65, and that those distributions could possibly be available only in limited amounts over a specified number of years.

Another alternative is to move your retirement savings to the plan of a new employer. In the past, moving retirement plan assets to a new employer was not always easy to accomplish because direct transfers were only permitted between like plans, for example, 401(k) to 401(k). But beginning this year, these barriers will be eliminated and you may be permitted to move assets between different types of retirement plans as long as you have willing employers on both sides.

If you're looking for maximum flexibility with your retirement-plan assets, a rollover IRA can provide the same tax-deferred advantages as leaving those assets with your former employer's plan or moving them to a new employer's plan. The benefit of rolling the assets into an IRA is that you gain access to a wider variety of investments and can take greater control of your income options. You will have access to the money in your IRA when you need it. In addition, IRA withdrawals before age 59 can be structured in a way that the distributions are not subject to the 10 percent IRS early withdrawal penalty.

A rollover IRA also provides opportunities for other planning strategies, such as converting to a Roth IRA if you qualify. Roth IRAs potentially provide tax-free accumulation of earnings on your retirement savings and minimum distributions are not required at age 70, as they are with traditional IRAs.

If you think you may find yourself in one of these situations, it may not be a bad idea to discuss your options with your financial advisor, before you find yourself in a position where you must take action on how to handle your retirement-plan distribution.

BRIAN HEPP is a financial consultant and can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com.

EMPLOYMENT

GM plant towns struggle with job cuts

BY JAMES HANNAH
Associated Press Writer

MORAINE, Ohio The General Motors Corp. plant in this Dayton suburb is a forest of smokestacks that form the nerve center of this industrial community built along the banks of the Great Miami River.

Each day, about 2,500 workers file inside to assemble the GMC Envoy, Chevrolet Trailblazer, Saab 9-7X and Isuzu Ascender sport utility vehicles.

But some time before the summer of 2010, the Moraine plant will be no more: It is one of four that GM announced Tuesday it will close. And there are fears here that the people — and the city's fortunes — will disappear with it.

The loss of the SUV plant will leave behind a bleak landscape for the surrounding community, an area scarred by a dwindling population, high poverty rates and one of the nation's hardest-hit pockets of the housing slump.

"It's going to be a ghost town," said Debbie Miller, 52, who owns The Upper Deck, a restaurant and bar next to the plant. "There are no jobs here. I don't know what they're going to do."

The plant closings are casualties of surging fuel prices that are hastening a dramatic shift to smaller vehicles. The 10,000 jobs at the four plants — here, in Janesville, Wis., and in Canada and Mexico — will be lost.

"There are going to be a lot of houses for sale," said Miller, born and raised in the area. "We'll see people leave this area. This is a dying town."

Once, the Dayton area was dotted with so many auto factories that it came to be likened to a small-scale Detroit.

Delphi Corp., an auto supplier trying to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, has five plants in the area, all already hit by layoffs or buyouts. GM also operates a separate engine plant here that employs about 1,000 people.

But the plant closure nearly marks the end of GM's dominance in a town that once housed five of the auto maker's presidents in the late 1960s, said John Heitmann, a history professor at University of Dayton.

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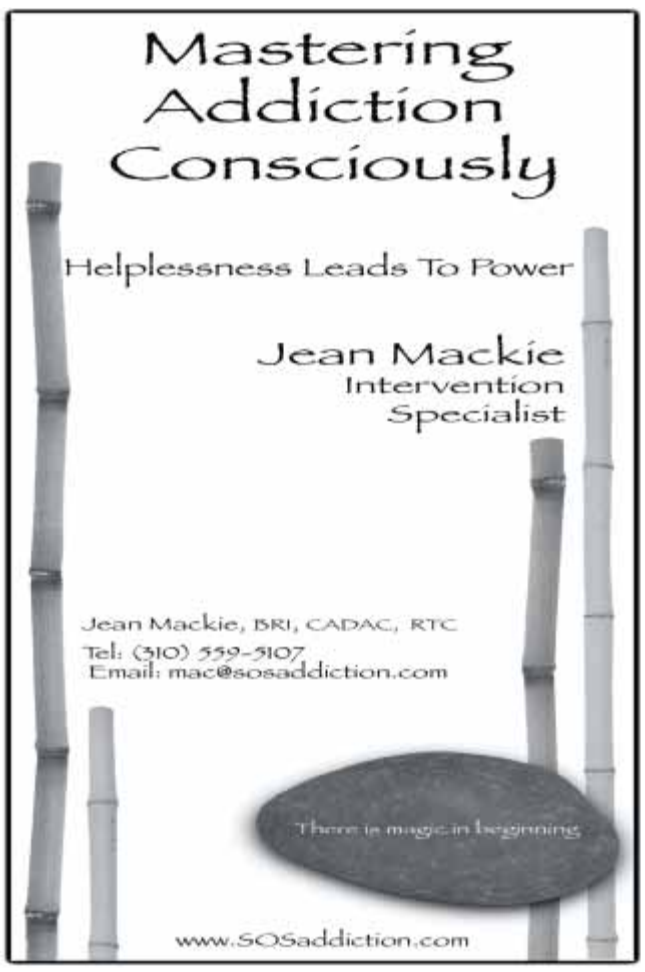
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Icahn more determined to oust Yahoo's board

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Outraged by new details about Yahoo Inc.'s efforts to complicate Microsoft Corp.'s takeover bid, activist investor Carl Icahn says he believes Yahoo's board will have to be fired to lure Microsoft back to the bargaining table.

Icahn asserted in a Tuesday interview with The Wall Street Journal that Microsoft is unlikely to renew its courtship as long as Yahoo Chief Executive Jerry Yang and the company's eight other directors remain on the job.

"I'm very cynical about many of the boards and CEOs in this country, but even I am amazed at the lengths that Jerry Yang and the board went to entrench themselves in this situation," Icahn told the Journal.

Icahn filed plans nearly three weeks ago to lead a shareholder revolt against Yahoo's board, which includes Yang, who co-founded the Internet pioneer 14 years ago.

Until Tuesday, Icahn had been holding out hope that Yahoo's board would avert the mutiny by renewing renew talks to sell the Sunnyvale-based company to Microsoft. The software maker withdrew an oral offer of $47.5 billion, or $33 per share, a month ago after Yang sought $37 per share, or about $52 billion.

But Icahn told the Journal he has concluded that Yang and Yahoo's board have antagonized Microsoft too much to get a deal done. He made his remarks after reviewing internal Yahoo records that were unsealed by a Delaware court judge Monday.

Icahn, who has spent more than $1 billion so far to acquire a 4.3 percent in Yahoo, indicated he would give further details on his campaign to overthrow the board in the next day or so. The Associated Press has left repeated messages with Icahn in recent weeks.

In a statement, Yahoo said its board has been "crystal clear" about its willingness to explore any Microsoft proposal that "was in the best interests of its shareholders. To that end, Yahoo has engaged in extensive discussions with Microsoft over the last several months, culminating in Microsoft's decision not to pursue an acquisition of Yahoo. Mr. Icahn's assertions ignore this clear factual record."

A Microsoft spokesman declined to comment Tuesday.

Since the takeover talks unraveled, Microsoft and Yahoo have acknowledged discussing an online search deal that wouldn't meld the two companies together completely. Redmond, Wash.-based Microsoft still hasn't ruled out reviving an attempt to buy Yahoo in its entirety.

The mudslinging between Icahn and Yahoo will likely get messier in the weeks leading up to Yahoo's annual meeting, which was scheduled Tuesday to be held in San Jose on Aug. 1. Yahoo already has delayed the meeting date twice during the Microsoft drama.

Icahn's latest attack on Yahoo's board came after court documents illuminated Yang's efforts to increase the costs of a potential Microsoft acquisition. The records were obtained as part of a shareholder lawsuit alleging Yahoo's board has improperly resisted Microsoft's overtures dating back to August 2006.

Shrugging off the misgivings of outside consultants, Yang pushed for an employee severance package that guaranteed generous cash and stock payment to all 13,800 of Yahoo's workers if they were fired or quit after being reassigned to another job within two years of a Microsoft takeover.

Yahoo's internal records estimated the severance plan would have cost Microsoft an additional $462 million to $2.1 billion if a deal had been done at the initial bid of $31 per share. The severance costs would have ranged from $514 million to $2.4 billion if Microsoft had raised the bid to $35 per share, according to the estimates.

Yang created the severance plan even after Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer told him the software maker intended to offer Yahoo employees $1.5 billion in retention packages, according to notes from a Jan. 31 phone conversation with the executives.

STATE BRIEFS

LONG BEACH

Mom arrested, accused of bringing kids to drug deals

A mother of eight is in jail, accused by Long Beach police of taking her two youngest children along while she dealt heroin from her sport utility vehicle. Sgt. Paul LeBaron says 35-year-old Enedina Cardona Rodriguez was arrested Monday afternoon after she left four of her children alone for at least 12 hours. LeBaron says officers searched the single mother's two-bedroom apartment while she was gone and found close to $10,000 in cash and $40 worth of black tar heroin. Police were tipped to her alleged drug operation two weeks ago and say they watched as Rodriguez repeatedly made deals with her 3- and 6-year-old boys in tow. Her seven youngest children, ranging in age from 3 to 16, were taken into protective custody. Rodriguez is jailed pending $100,000 bond on suspicion of felony drug dealing and cruelty to a child. ASSOCIATED PRESS

RANCHO CUCAMONGA

Transient accused of torturing cats

A transient with a history of animal abuse is in a San Bernardino County jail, accused of torturing cats. Court documents show 24-year-old Timothy Kooyman was charged last week with six counts of felony animal cruelty and one count of recklessly causing a fire. Sheriff's officials say Kooyman was found May 13 in Rancho Cucamonga with two cats that had broken bones and whose tails had been cut off. He later was linked to an arson where a cat had been doused with gasoline, lit on fire and thrown into a field. Records show Kooyman is on probation from a case last year where he was convicted of abusing cats. He was being held Tuesday without bail. AP

WESTMINSTER

Star skateboarder to be arraigned

Brian Keith Patch, a 36-year-old skateboarder who starred at the X Games, will be arraigned Wednesday on a charge of having sex with a 15-year-old girl. He was charged with one felony count of lewd acts with a child last month, Orange County district attorney spokeswoman Farrah Emami said. Patch posted $45,000 bail on May 15. A message left on a phone listed to Brian Patch was not immediately returned. It was unclear if Patch had retained an attorney because he has not yet had an initial court appearance, Emami said. Prosecutors say Patch had sex with the girl, who slept at his house after she ran away from home in April. The girl, identified only as Jane Doe, was also a skateboarder and had known Patch for three years. Patch set a Guinness world record for longest air on a skateboard of 58 feet in 2001, but it was broken by Danny Way in 2006. He also has five X Games medals in four categories. AP

SAN DIEGO

Border Patrol contract workers allegedly released illegals

A Border Patrol contractor says two of its employees have been arrested for investigation of releasing illegal immigrants from federal custody. Wackenhut Corp. says the employees were arrested Sunday in the San Diego area and are in jail facing felony charges. For about two years, Wackenhut has held a contract to return illegal immigrants to Mexico after they are captured by Border Patrol agents. A senior vice president, Marc Shapiro, told The Associated Press Tuesday that this is the first time Wackenhut employees have been arrested for allegedly releasing immigrants. AP

Layoffs at nuke lab stir fears of brain drain

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO The nation's top nuclear weapons design lab has laid off hundreds of workers, raising concerns about a brain drain and stirring fears that some of these highly specialized scientists will sell their expertise to foreign governments, perhaps hostile ones.

Because of budget cuts and higher costs, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory laid off 440 employees May 22 and 23. Over the past 2½ years, attrition and layoffs have reduced the work force of 8,000 by about 1,800 altogether.

According to a list obtained by The Associated Press, about 60 of the recently laid-off workers were engineers, around 30 were physicists and about 15 were chemists. Some, but not all, were involved in nuclear weapons work or nonproliferation efforts, and all had put in at least 20 years at the lab.

Some lawmakers and others said they fear the loss of important institutional knowledge about designing warheads and detecting whether other countries are going nuclear.

Also, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said the layoffs at Lawrence Livermore and two other big U.S. weapons labs represent "a national security danger point." These unemployed experts might take their skills overseas, Feinstein said.

"The fact is, these are all people who are human — they have homes, they have families, they have educations to pay for," she said. "And I very much worry where they go for their next job."

> **"THE FACT IS, THESE ARE ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE HUMAN – THEY HAVE HOMES, THEY HAVE FAMILIES, THEY HAVE EDUCATIONS TO PAY FOR. AND I VERY MUCH WORRY WHERE THEY GO FOR THEIR NEXT JOB."**
>
> Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

The possibility is also on the mind of the nation's top nuclear weapons official, said National Nuclear Security Administration chief Tom D'Agostino.

"Always in a situation where people leave under less-than-ideal circumstances, we worry about that, and it's something I assure you we're looking at closely," D'Agostino said. "I'm always concerned about the counterintelligence part of our mission, and we have an active program to go make sure we understand where we're vulnerable and where we're not."

Asked to elaborate, NNSA spokesman Bryan Wilkes said the agency is "always on guard for foreign entities approaching our employees, active or retired, but it's their responsibility to alert us to those circumstances."

The NNSA is aware of no instance in which a U.S. nuclear weapons scientist had gone to work overseas, he said.

He said the agency regards the possibility of a hostile government picking up laid-off workers as "highly unlikely," in part because these are American citizens who have responsibly held high-level clearances for many years, and because federal law provide stiff penalties — which range as high as life in prison — for divulging nuclear secrets.

In an e-mail message, Wilkes said the very notion that these scientists would sell their country out is "an insult to their personal integrity and their patriotism."

Ken Sale, a physicist laid off from Lawrence Livermore on May 23, said that taking his knowledge of nuclear weapons overseas would be unthinkable, and that he knows of no laid-off colleague who would even consider it.

But "the recent history of spying has all been money-based," Sale said. "Being concerned about expertise you wouldn't want rattling around in the whole world, and workers being desperate for a job, is a reasonable concern."

Sale worked on nuclear weapons testing, nonproliferation and nuclear-detection projects.

"The specific experience you get doing that stuff doesn't have applications outside that narrow world," he said. "It's not obvious that I will be able to be fully employed."

Sale, 51, will receive one week's pay for each of his 23 years at the lab, which is in Livermore, about 50 miles from San Francisco.

For security reasons, laid-off workers like Sale immediately lost their access badges, had their top-secret "Q" clearances suspended, and were promptly escorted off the grounds. Some, including Sale, may stay on for a few months doing unclassified work via telecommuting.

Lawmakers and others have expressed concern that wave after wave of work force reductions will diminish the lab's expertise. D'Agostino said he could not guarantee that national security would not be harmed.

With a self-imposed nuclear test ban in place since 1992, maintenance of the warhead stockpile — Lawrence Livermore's top responsibility — is performed on supercomputers. So is the task of designing a new generation of warhead, which Lawrence Livermore won the right to do last year.

The layoffs have reduced the lab's roster of experts with invaluable experience they had gleaned from taking part in actual nuclear tests, Sale and others said. "Designing, building and seeing a device go off is very different from designing a device and handing it to a computer jockey," Sale said.

Democratic Rep. Jerry McNerney, whose district includes part of the lab, said the stakes are especially high as the United States tries to divine through science what other countries are doing inside their weapons programs.

"We need to be able to understand what the clues are about other countries such as Iran and North Korea and other countries that are potential nuclear weapons developers," he said. "Without those scientists that have been involved in that field for years, for decades, it's going to be a lot more difficult to know what's going on elsewhere in the world."

Los Alamos, the New Mexico laboratory that built the atom bomb during World War II, cut its work force last year by about 550 through retirements and attrition, and Sandia, also largely in New Mexico, plans to shed dozens of workers.

Congress cut $100 million from Lawrence Livermore's budget in the fiscal 2008 budget, and the lab has been hit with an additional $180 million in unexpected costs from its transfer last year to a new management company, lab spokeswoman Susan Houghton said.

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Moskos dies at 74

FROM MOSKOS PAGE 3

uncomfortable.

To critics who called for the Pentagon to be more flexible about gays, he noted that "don't ask, don't tell" is the law.

"Any change in the status of homosexuals in the military requires congressional action," he wrote in a letter to the editor of The New York Times in 2005. "Your editorial implies that the military should disobey the law. Who is hiding from reality?"

He also was a strong advocate of military service for young people from all segments of society. He argued it would increase public support for the military.

"Imagine if Jenna Bush were in Iraq today," he said in 2004. "We would be much more committed."

In a 2005 Associated Press interview, he said of the 750 men in his Princeton University graduating class in 1956, more than 400 went on to serve in the military. Of the 1,100 men and women in the 2004 Princeton class, eight joined, he said.

"That's the difference," he said.

Moskos himself was drafted after graduation and served two years in the Army. He earned graduate degrees at UCLA and joined the Northwestern faculty in 1966 after working at the University of Michigan.

Moskos' work earned his several awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest honor the Army awards civilians.

"He truly had an impact on the military," retired Gen. Wesley Clark said in a statement. He said Moskos "gave many of us the reassurance that someone out there knew us, cared about us and could help see our best interests as a nation and a military were looked after."

Moskos retired from Northwestern in 2003 and moved to Santa Monica. However, he returned to the university each fall to teach an introductory sociology course.

Universal vows to rebuild sets

FROM UNIVERSAL PAGE 3

Sunday's fire at 3.5 acres. NBC Universal spokeswoman Cindy Gardner said Tuesday the blaze approached five acres. The 1990 fire charred about three acres.

Universal has said the studio and theme park were already back to business as usual.

"We're very grateful there was no loss of life, and no serious injury," Gardner said. "It was tragic and iconic, but it can be replaced and it can be rebuilt."

Theme park spokesman Eliot Sekuler said attendance Monday was slightly over projections, as the new, $40 million Simpsons ride continued to draw visitors.

In addition, none of the studio's 30 sound stages were damaged, and all 10 film and TV productions scheduled for the lot proceeded as planned, he said.

Gardner said the company has insurance for the damage and lost business. She had no further details on the extent of the coverage or when it might be paid.

General Electric referred questions to NBC Universal.

In such cases, corporations often take short-term writedowns on losses as they await reimbursement.

Paul Ruben, North American editor of Park World magazine, which covers the theme park industry, said Universal could actually benefit from the fire.

"I think in a perverse way it will increase interest in visiting the park," he said. "If Universal is smart, they will add an additional charge to see the ruins."

The studio plans to rebuild the New York City streetscape to compete with similar sets at Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros. Some production companies were already scrambling to book alternative sets at Warner Bros. and elsewhere.

"The last time this happened in 1990, they ended up rebuilding it better," said art director Francois Audouy, who helped shoot the final battle scene in "Transformers" on the Universal set.

With the King Kong attraction destroyed, back lot trams were redirected to skirt the fire damage, with guides encouraging international tourists to take photographs.

One guide told tourists the scenes of Atlanta burning in "Gone With the Wind" was created when moviemakers deliberately set fire to old Universal sets in 1938.

Sekuler said some of the back lot landmarks had not been destroyed.

The town hall from such movies as "Back to the Future" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" was only half-burned, and the nearby courthouse was intact.

In addition, the famous clock tower at the center of the electrifying climax to "Back to the Future" had been safely tucked away in storage, he said.

The video vault, housing 40,000 to 50,000 videos and film reels, was destroyed, but Gardner said the contents were digital or film copies, not the master negatives kept elsewhere.

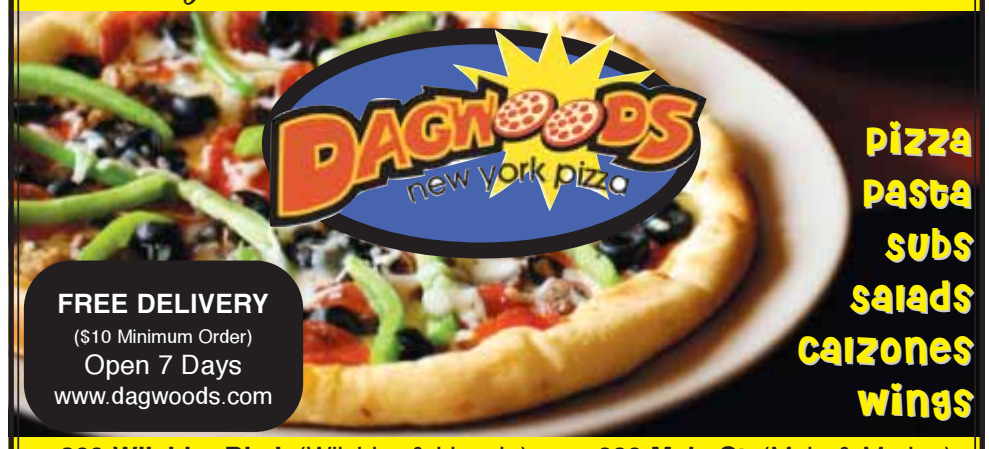
Music stored in the vault also had backup copies, said Peter LoFrumento, a spokesman for Universal Music Group, now a subsidiary of Vivendi SA.

However, it was unclear if the recordings were originals, he said.

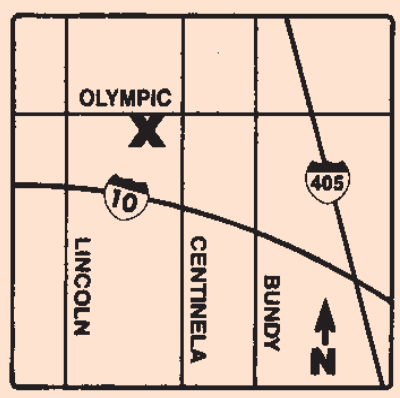
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Local business owners buy historic cottage

FROM **COTTAGE** PAGE 1

surfboards and eventually, catamarans.

"I love the ocean," Heidt said. "Being in real estate, a house in bad shape didn't scare me."

The couple spent more than a month cleaning out the cottage and refurbishing it, refinishing the hardwood floors and giving both the interior and exterior a new paint job. While the house is markedly in better condition, the Heidts say there is still more work to be done.

That work includes fixing a slumping foundation and replacing the front steps.

"We are cleaning and cleaning and still cleaning," Donna Heidt said. "We are trying to save the cottage."

The cottage's history still speaks today, from the pulley window to the stained glass illustration that hangs above the fireplace, depicting the Santa Monica Bay at sunset.

"We're on a mission to save the cottage and that's what we did," Donna Heidt said.

The couple's purchase came as good news to neighbors who had lobbied to preserve the cottage after the University of Illinois Foundation, the college's fundraising arm, filed for a demolition permit in 2006, spurring "Save the Cottage" efforts.

"This is exactly what we were hoping for — a family who would make the cottage a home again while preserving its place in Santa Monica history," Erin Maynes, one of the founders of "Save the Cottage," said.

The building was deeded to the university following former owner William Hobson's death in 2005, among the many things that the late Santa Monican donated to institutions of higher learning, including a $1.5 million gift to UCLA.

The Landmarks Commission designated the cottage as a historic home in August 2006, a status that was subsequently appealed by the university.



Melody Hanatani *melodyh@smdp.com*

PRESERVING HISTORY: **The last beach-facing cottage in Santa Monica, which at one time was threatened with demolition, was recently purchased and refurbished by local couple John and Donna Heidt. The more than 100-year-old cottage, deeded to the University of Illinois Foundation after former owner William Hobson died, was in bad shape, with a crumbling foundation and termite problem. The couple bought the home earlier this year.**

The council heard the appeal last summer despite objections from several councilmembers and the university that the matter should be postponed because there were only five councilmembers present.

When one councilmember abstained and another left the meeting in objection, the appeal lacked a quorum and the landmark status was upheld by default.

Facing the threat of a lawsuit by the university, the council held another hearing in February.

The foundation reportedly had a difficult time selling the cottage before the historic designation because potential buyers were uncertain as to whether the home would be landmarked and whether such a status would prevent them from remodeling or demolishing the home in the future.

The more than 1,500 square foot home was at one point listed on the market for $3.3 million. That value slumped about 50 percent following the landmark designation, according to Brad Hatfield, the senior vice president for administration with the foundation.

"It was because of the decision that it was worth substantially less than we think it would've been," Hatfield said. "It lost significant dollars that would've been used for scholarships."

melodyh@smdp.com

Swain helped with development of Palmdale

FROM **SWAIN** PAGE 1

launching much of the environmental initiatives in Santa Monica, including the Sustainable City Plan.

For Swain, a Maine native who moved to Southern California in the early 1980s, uprooting to a beach town was a long-time dream, the change made possible by the fact that his two daughters are now in college and independent.

"It is good to be here," Swain said, taking a break from the move on Tuesday. "It's my official first day here, tonight will be my first night living in Santa Monica and I'm thrilled."

A graduate of the University of Maine, Swain, 47, was hired as a civil engineer with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works in 1983, moving to Palmdale six years later where he was hired as an associate engineer for the city.

He would move up the ladder over the next 19 years, going on to become the senior engineer and then director of public works in 2003.

Swain oversaw the completion of more than 500 projects during his tenure in Palmdale, a community that has grown from about 60,000 to 148,000 residents today, one of the fastest growing cities in the country.

"There was a tremendous amount of infrastructure that needed to be provided for new residents and businesses," Swain said.

Among the projects that Swain managed was the development of City Hall, public libraries and an amphitheater that accommodates 12,000 people.

The high desert community is considered to be one of the last areas for potential development in the county, attractive and affordable for young families.

The growth experienced in the community, most of which took place in the 1990s, demanded the development of several master plans, including ones for sewer and water management, all of which were crafted under the watchful eye of Swain.

His management skills were a main reason why City Manager Lamont Ewell hired Swain, whose more than 500 capital projects were all completed on time and within budget.

"That signaled for me a person who is very organized and who can manage multiple projects simultaneously and can get things done," Ewell said.

Swain is expected to have his hands full with capital projects ranging from the development of the water treatment facility to the storm drain replacement project at the Santa Monica Pier.

It was in 1996 when five groundwater production wells were shut down in the Charnock Well Field after a leak of MTBE, a gasoline additive, was discovered from underground storage tanks and pipes owned by several oil companies. City Hall settled with the oil companies and is in the process of starting the construction of the treatment plant, lowering the city's dependency on the Metropolitan Water District, which supplies roughly 80 percent of the water supply.



SWAIN

City Hall hopes to have the facility up and running by 2010.

"I think he would be perfect at making sure we stay on track," Ewell said.

The two communities stand in contrast to one another — Palmdale is still a community growing with large-scale residential developments popping up; Santa Monica, where development is often objected, is near capacity.

"I'm going from a very high growth community with all this infrastructure planning and development to a more mature community that has a lot of amenities," Swain said.

The size of the department that Swain will oversee is also much larger — 250 people as opposed to 184 in Palmdale.

There will be at least one division that will be taken off Swain's hand — the Environmental Programs Division will move to the City Manager's Office in an effort to coordinate green initiatives better with the rest of City Hall.

Among Swain's goals is to improve department efficiency and project delivery, providing the amenities the public wants as quickly as possible.

"I will be looking closely at the organization to see what we can do to provide better customer service and delivery of these various public works type services," Swain said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Obama clinches historic nomination

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **WE CAME TOGETHER AS DEMOCRATS, AS REPUBLICANS AND INDEPENDENTS, TO STAND UP AND SAY WE ARE ONE NATION, WE ARE ONE PEOPLE AND OUR TIME FOR CHANGE HAS COME."**
>
> **Sen. Barack Obama,**
> Democratic presidential nominee

WASHINGTON Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois sealed the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday, a historic step toward his once-improbable goal of becoming the nation's first black president. A defeated Hillary Rodham Clinton maneuvered for the vice presidential spot on his fall ticket.

Obama's victory set up a five-month campaign with Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a race between a 46-year-old opponent of the Iraq War and a 71-year-old former Vietnam prisoner of war and staunch supporter of the current U.S. military mission.

Obama, a first-term Illinois senator who was virtually unknown on the national stage four years ago, defeated Clinton, the former first lady and one-time campaign front-runner, in a 17-month marathon for the Democratic nomination.

His victory had been widely assumed for weeks. But Clinton's declaration of interest in becoming his ticketmate was wholly unexpected.

She expressed it in a conference call with her state's congressional delegation after Rep. Nydia Velazquez, predicted Obama would have great difficulty winning the support of Hispanics and other voting blocs unless the former first lady was on the ticket.

"I am open to it" if it would help the party's prospects in November, Clinton replied, according to a participant who spoke on condition of anonymity because the call was private.

Obama's campaign had no reaction to Clinton's comments, which raised anew the prospect of what many Democrats have called a "Dream Ticket" that would put a black man and a woman on the same ballot.

The fast-paced developments unfolded as the long Democratic nominating struggle ended with primaries in Montana and South Dakota.

Only 31 delegates were at stake, the final few among the thousands that once drew Obama, Clinton and six other Democratic candidates into the campaign to replace President Bush and become the nation's 44th president.

Obama arranged an evening appearance in St. Paul, Minn., sending McCain an unmistakable message by claiming his victory in the very hall where the Arizonan will accept his party's nomination in early September.

Clinton was in New York for an appearance before home-state supporters. Officials said she would concede Obama had the delegates to secure the Democratic nomination, effectively ending her bid to be the nation's first female president.

McCain, who wrapped up the Republican nomination months ago, campaigned in Memphis.

Obama sealed his nomination based on primary elections, state Democratic caucuses and delegates' public declarations as well as support from 22 delegates and "superdelegates" who privately confirmed their intentions to The Associated Press. It takes 2,118 delegates to clinch the nomination at the convention in Denver this summer.

The young senator's success amounted to a victory of hope over experience, earned across an enervating 56 primaries and caucuses that tested the political skills and human endurance of all involved.

Obama stood for hope, and change. Clinton was the candidate of experience, ready, she said, to serve in the Oval Office from Day One.

Together, they drew record turnouts in primary after primary — more than 34 million voters in all, independents and Republicans as well as Democrats.

Yet the race between a black man and a woman exposed deep racial and gender divisions within the party.

Obama drew strength from blacks, and from the younger, more liberal and wealthier voters in many states. Clinton was preferred by older, more downscale voters, and women, of course.

Obama's triumph was fashioned on prodigious fundraising, meticulous organizing and his theme of change aimed at an electorate opposed to the Iraq war and worried about the economy — all harnessed to his own gifts as an inspirational speaker.

With her husband's two White House terms as a backdrop, Clinton campaigned for months as the candidate of experience, a former first lady and second-term senator ready to be commander in chief.

But after a year on the campaign trail, Obama won the kickoff Iowa caucuses on Jan. 3, and the freshman senator became a political phenomenon.

"We came together as Democrats, as Republicans and independents, to stand up and say we are one nation, we are one people and our time for change has come," he said that night of victory in Des Moines.

As the strongest female presidential candidate in history, Clinton drew large, enthusiastic audiences. Yet Obama's were bigger. One audience, in Dallas, famously cheered when he blew his nose on stage; a crowd of 75,000 turned out in Portland, Ore., the weekend before the state's May 20 primary.

The former first lady countered Obama's Iowa victory with an upset five days later in New Hampshire that set the stage for a campaign marathon as competitive as any in the past generation.

"Over the last week I listened to you, and in the process I found my own voice," she told supporters who had saved her candidacy from an early demise.

In defeat, Obama's aides concluded they had committed a cardinal sin of New Hampshire politics, forsaking small, intimate events in favor of speeches to large audiences inviting them to ratify Iowa's choice.

It was not a mistake they made again — which helped explain Obama's later outings to bowling alleys, backyard basketball courts and American Legion halls in the heartland.

Clinton conceded nothing, memorably knocking back a shot of Crown Royal whiskey at a bar in Indiana, recalling that her grandfather had taught her to use a shotgun, and driving in a pickup to a gas station in South Bend, Ind., to emphasize her support for a summertime suspension of the federal gasoline tax.

As other rivals fell away in winter, Obama and Clinton traded victories on Super Tuesday, the Feb. 5 series of primaries and caucuses across 21 states and American Samoa that once seemed likely to settle the nomination.

But Clinton had a problem that Obama exploited, and he scored a coup she could not answer.

Pressed for cash, the former first lady ran noncompetitive campaigns in several Super Tuesday caucus states, allowing her rival to run up his delegate totals.

Kennedy walking hospital halls as recovery begins

BY MIKE BAKER
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy emerged from the most precarious period following surgery to treat a brain tumor without any complications, spending Tuesday walking hospital hallways, spending time with his family and "keeping up with the news of the day," his office said.

Kennedy had a restful night's sleep after Monday's operation, a statement said, and the 76-year-old Democrat is expected to stay at the hospital in Durham for about a week before returning home to Massachusetts for further treatment.

All of that is good news. Dr. John Sampson, the associate deputy director of the brain tumor center at Duke University Medical Center, isn't involved in Kennedy's care, but the neurosurgeon said that generally, patients who make it through the first day following surgery without any complications have the strongest prospects for recovery.

"Most of the major complications — the disastrous complications — typically occur within the first six hours or at least the first 24 hours after surgery," Sampson said.

Kennedy's office issued a statement updating his condition a day after he underwent a risky, aggressive 3½-hour surgery experts say is designed to remove as much of the tumor as possible before he receives chemotherapy and radiation treatments. His doctor has not said how much of the tumor was removed, but described the surgery as a success.

"He is experiencing no complications, and has been walking the hallways, spending time with family and actively keeping up with the news of the day," Kennedy's office said in a statement. "He looks forward to returning home to Cape Cod soon, and is thankful for all the prayers and well wishes."

Kennedy, who has served in the Senate since 1962, was diagnosed with a malignant glioma in the left parietal lobe of his brain after suffering a seizure on May 17 at his home in Hyannis Port, Mass.

Sampson and other doctors familiar with such surgery said other, less serious complications may present themselves later. Brain swelling can begin days after the surgery, causing loss of speech and movement, but that's usually only a temporary problem that doctors don't worry too much about, Sampson said.

Gas prices lead to mass transit surge

BY SARAH KARUSH
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON It's standing-room-only on many commuter buses from Washington's suburbs. Rail systems from Boston to Los Angeles are begging passengers to shift their travel to non-peak hours. And some seats have been removed from San Francisco's subway cars to allow more people to cram in.

Around the country, high gas prices are pushing more people to leave their cars at home and crowd onto trains, buses and subways.

And while that's usually good news for transit agencies, some are struggling to accommodate new riders at a time when tight budgets are making local and state governments reluctant to put more money toward public transportation.

"I began last month taking the public bus to work because of the gas prices," said Tammy Vega of Austin, Texas, who also takes mass transit when she is on business trips. "Whether I'm in town or out of town, public transportation is going to be the way to go for now."

In the first three months of 2008, 2.6 billion trips were taken on public transportation in the U.S., a 3 percent increase over the first quarter of 2007, according to the American Public Transportation Association.

Among the cities registering big increases in the first quarter were Baltimore, where light rail ridership was up 17 percent from the same period a year ago; Seattle, which saw a 28 percent jump in commuter rail passengers; Boston, where subway ridership rose 9 percent; and San Antonio, where the number of bus riders climbed 11 percent.

Meanwhile, the number of miles driven on American roads fell slightly last year — from 3.014 trillion to 3.003 trillion, according to the Federal Highway Administration. It was the first time since 1980 that the figure had not increased. The drop has continued this year.

"We were always clearly a bargain, but we're becoming even more starkly, clearly the wise economic choice," said Daniel Grabauskas, general manager of Boston's Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Many big transit systems already have expansion plans that were in the works long before the run-up in gas prices. In New York City, for example, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is in the middle of a $21.2 billion capital program that includes the biggest subway expansion since the system was completed in the early 1940s.

In Washington, Metro has been receiving additional subway cars, ordered long ago. The new cars have enabled the subway to lengthen many of its rush-hour trains from six to eight cars — the longest that will fit in the stations.



SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 57°-63°

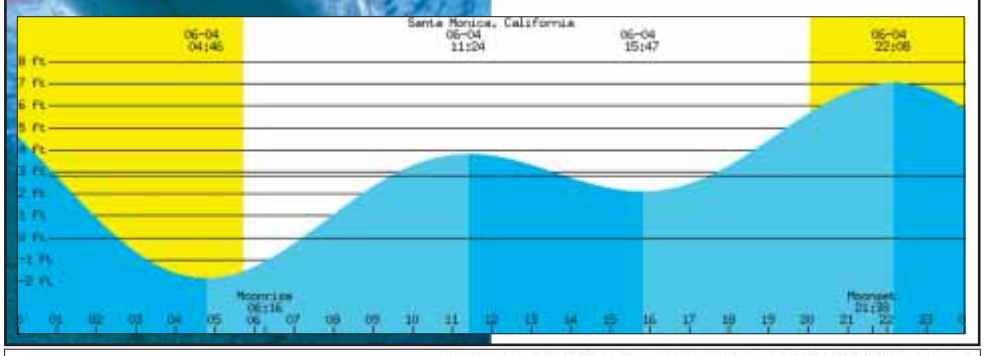
SWELL FORECAST (4-7 FT)

The NW wind swell should increase as a strong low dips southward tonight, bringing with it a strong NW'erly flow. This should increase wind swell to chest to head high at west facing breaks able to work a steep 310-degree angle, but conditions are not looking pretty. Winds should be problematic, starting out lightly onshore, and then increasing throughout the day, reaching 30 mph in the afternoon. Tide will be quite shallow for the early AM sessions.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WIND AND TIDE ISSUES THIS WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of: **May 27, 2008**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 2
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 6

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	F	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	B	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	D	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A+	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	D	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET – grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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NBA

Bryant is in a league of his own

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO Jerry West has had a front-row seat to watch the evolution of Kobe Bryant: precocious teenager, three-time NBA champion, angry superstar and beloved MVP. One of the game's all-time greats himself, West can relate to some of what Bryant has experienced. And the man known as Mr. Clutch understands what separates Bryant from the rest.

"He's a Picasso in basketball shoes, absolutely — one of those once-in-a-lifetime players," West said. "Kobe is the ultimate closer in the game. In all sports you seem to have people who play at a high level when it's important. You don't see anyone do it like him today, you really don't."

Bryant was the ultimate closer last week when the Los Angeles Lakers beat San Antonio 100-92 to advance to their first NBA finals berth since 2004.

The Spurs scored five straight points to draw within two, prompting a Los Angeles timeout. Bryant then scored 10 of his 39 points in the final 3:32.

"I haven't seen anyone better than him in that context, as a finisher," said Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the NBA's career scoring leader and a Lakers assistant.

Bryant recalled some advice West once gave him.

"He said when the game is on the line, he feels like the shots are actually easier to make," Bryant said. "It was interesting to hear him say that and try to understand how he views those clutch situations and how I can learn from that and try to be that way."

West spent more than 40 years with the Lakers as a player, coach and executive. He knew when he watched the 17-year-old Bryant in a pre-draft workout in 1996 that he was in the presence of future greatness.

Bryant is now in the exclusive company of players who dominated their generations: Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, West, Elgin Baylor, Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Michael Jordan.

"Kobe had all the intangibles, this spirited way about him, unbelievably sure of himself, that he was the best, even at that age," West said.

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MOVIETIMES

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

A Shot in the Dark (1964) (NR) 1hr 42min

What Did You do in the War, Daddy? (1966) (NR) 1hr 59min
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull 2 hrs (PG-13)
12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45, 8:15, 9:45
Made of Honor (PG-13) 1hr 41min
1:15, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15
Baby Mama 1 hr 36 min (PG-13)
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) 2 hrs.
12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) 2 hrs 20 min
12:50, 4:00, 7:05, 10:15
The Strangers (R) 1hr 47min
12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35
Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min
1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Speed Racer (PG) 2hrs 15min
10:40 a.m., 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 Second St.
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Up the Yangtze (NR) 1hr 33min
1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35
The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min
1:30 p.m., 4:20, 7:20, 10
Wonders are Many (NR) 1hr 34min
4:40, 9:55
Son of Rambow (PG13) 1hr 38min
1:50, 7:30
Bloodline(NR) 1hr 53min
1:20 p.m., 4:10, 7, 9:50
The Cool School (NR) 1hr 26min
11:00 a.m.

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Iron Man (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
12:10, 1:10, 3:10, 4:10, 6:10, 7:10, 9:10, 10:10
Sex and the City (R) 2hrs 15min
10:40 a.m., 11:20am, 12:20, 1:50, 2:40, 3:40, 5:10, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:20, 10:20
What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) 1hr 39min
12:00, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:30

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

Join friends, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might feel as if you have your hands full, and you do! Your high energy helps you clear out many tasks. Others pull away to watch rather than trip you up. Tonight: Full speed ahead for home!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ You could be more confused than you realize as you attempt to deal with a certain amount of chaos. Admit to yourself that you cannot handle a situation and need help. Tonight: Chat with pals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Still at your peak, you will clear out a lot. Remember to call and save time rather than walk. Efficiency marks your success. Someone might have a lot of anger or frustration. Tonight: Dinner out, or buy a favorite munchie on the way home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Much that goes on might not be taking place in an obvious spot. Keeping another person's confidence could be more important than you realize. Investigate an option a partner tosses on your plate. It just might work! Tonight: Please yourself right now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Friends have very clear ideas, yet they can prove to be quite supportive even if they don't see eye to eye with you. Allow a greater diversity of opinions. You encourage more openness and gain as well. Tonight: Get some extra sleep. You will need it soon enough.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might want to try something very different with a boss. Be aware, though, that you visualize the long-term benefits, and others simply cannot. Understanding reaches a new level later in the day, especially at a meeting. Tonight: Join friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Take an overview. What might be just a good hunch easily could prove to be logically right-on. Your follow-through makes an enormous difference. Stay in the lead position. Tonight: Zoom along.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to revise your options and get to the bottom of a problem rather than allow it to bubble up again. You discover that an associate can help you work through a maze of options. Tonight: Try out a new idea or place.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Investigate your options, especially if writing, law or travel is involved. Start heading into new types of thinking. Be willing to leave the old behind. A partner demands more attention than in the past. Tonight: With a favorite person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ What appears as an impossible dream on the horizon could indeed be a mirage. Do what you are known for -- efficiency. Clear your desk, run errands and get your to-do list done. Tonight: Many choices could start appearing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your imagination is at full throttle, and you are likely to fill in the gaps when there are questions. But the question remains: Have you found the right answer? Tonight: Start cleaning out a mess or dive into a project.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Coming out of your cocoon might be difficult, but a partner certainly pushes you. Once you realize what must be done -- as opposed to what can be left to the wayside -- it becomes much easier. Could you have a secret admirer? Tonight: Midweek break.

Happy birthday

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

You have much more going for you than you realize. Often you discount your abilities, talents and assets. Look around this year. See how many people would like to be walking in your shoes. Use your innate skills and add a touch of whimsy, and you might enjoy what occurs. Spontaneous results will be best. If you are single, you will want a deep, meaningful relationship. The person you meet right now might look right, but he or she might not be given time. Go for a slow romance. If you are attached, let both of you have an equal say, even if you are on a roll this year. Neither one nor the other is more important. CANCER understands you a little too well!

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Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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

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

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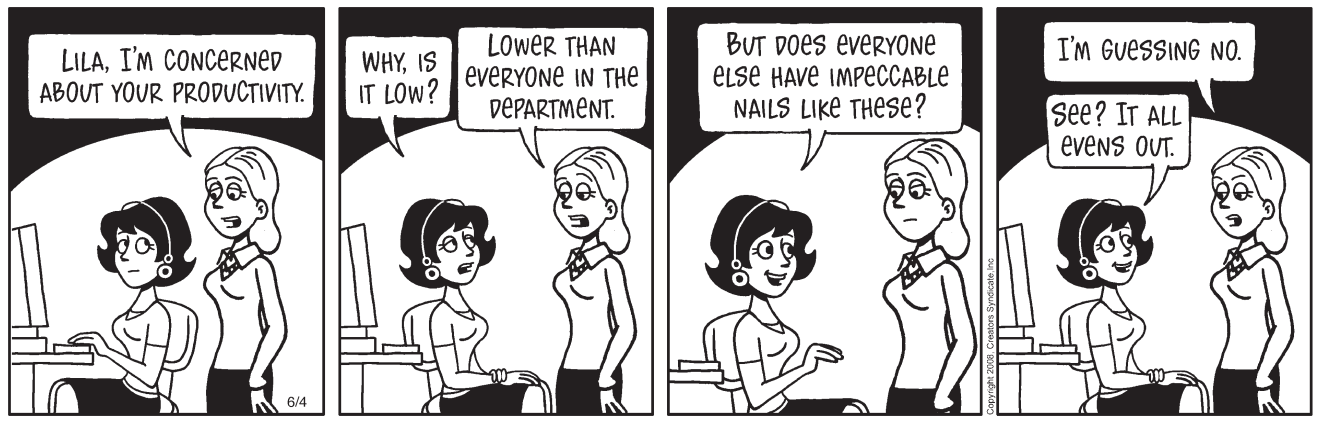
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



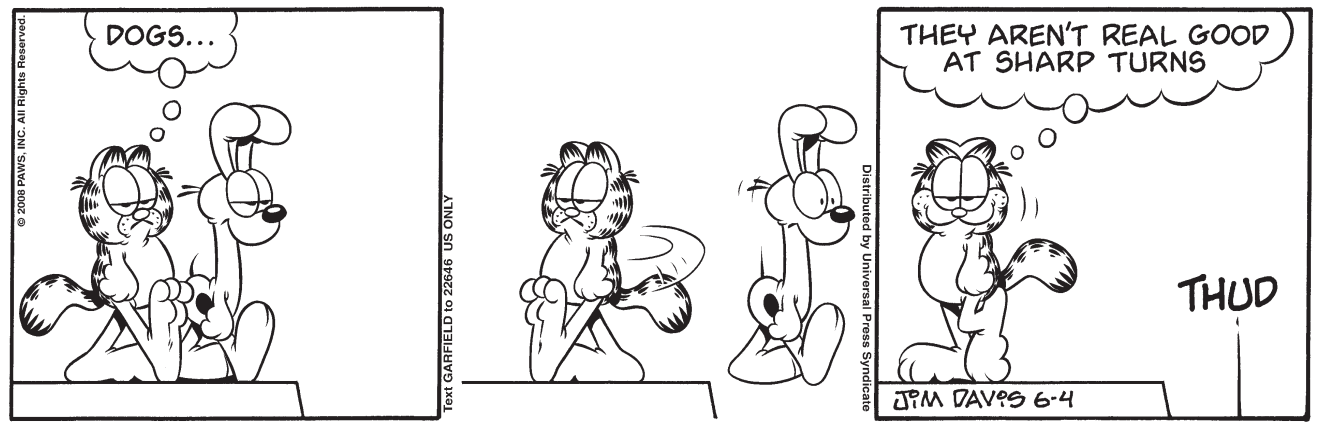
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



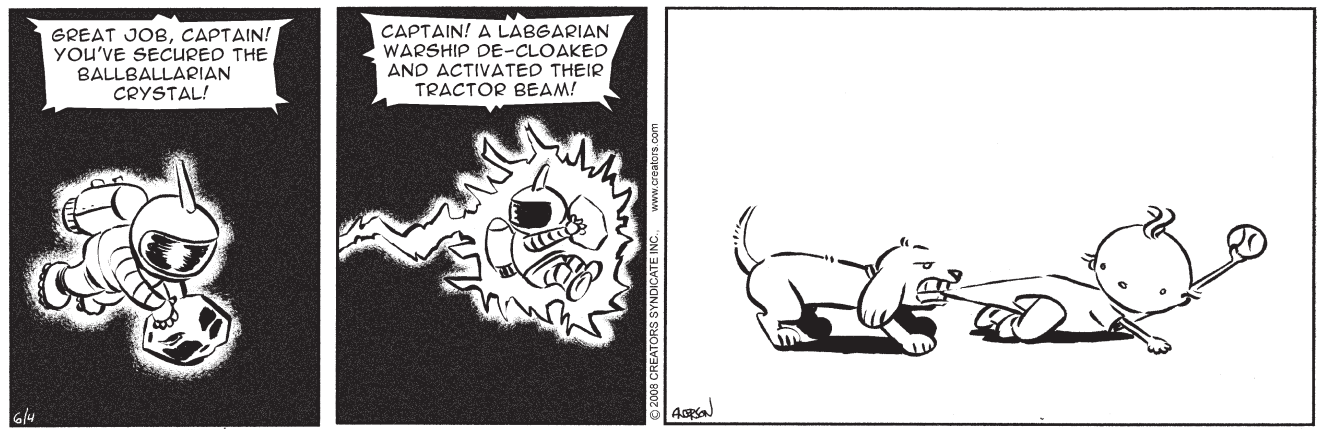
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

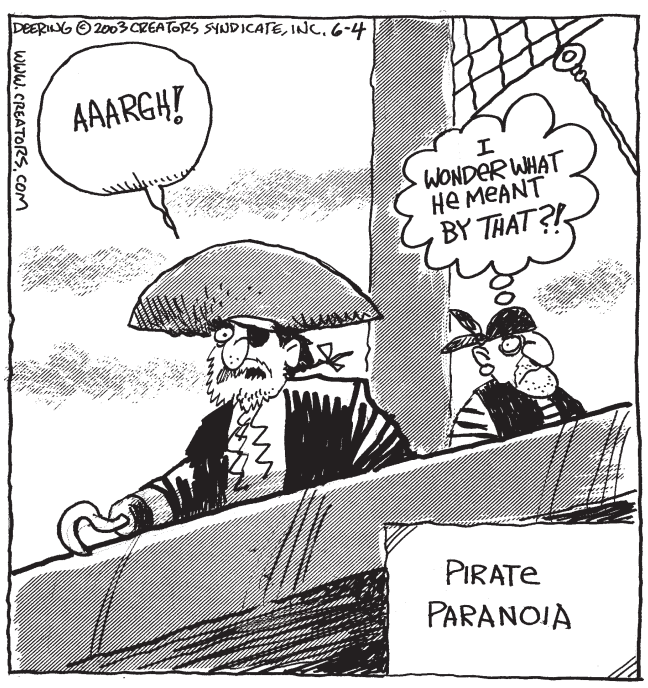


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



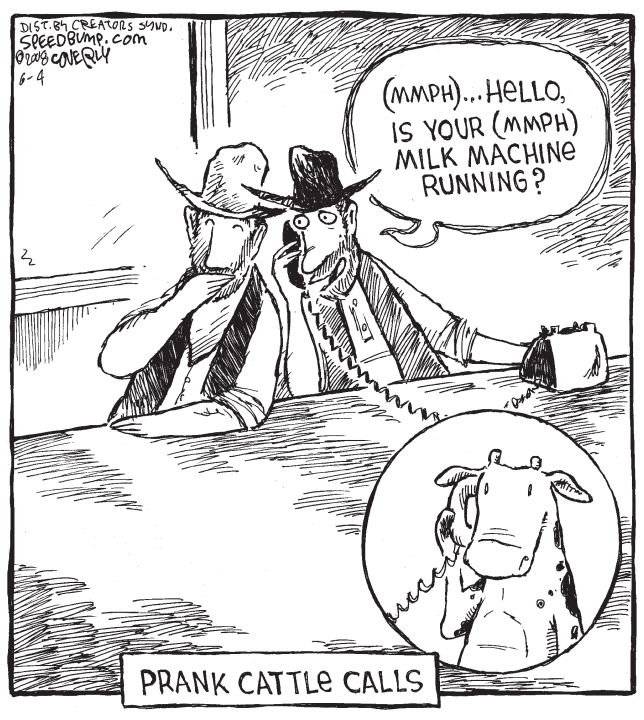
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Alexandra Bissonnette *news@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 More angry
6 Scratching post users
10 Liqueur type
11 Russia's Vladimir
12 Make sense
13 Make speeches
14 "Why not!"
15 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role
16 Geologic period
17 Truck part
18 Was a pioneer
19 Utilized
22 Agreement
23 Galoots
26 Took a dim view of
29 Scrooge cry
32 Tofu base
33 Bruin Bobby
34 Fit for farming
36 Pigeon's cousin
37 Columbus' home
38 Met stars
39 Fund
40 Portents
41 Endure
42 Choleric

DOWN

1 Climbed
2 Chose from the menu
3 Bureaucratic annoyance
4 Aussie birds
5 Agent, briefly
6 Make sound
7 Even a little
8 Owner's paper
9 Golfer Sam
11 Ample midsection
15 Pronounce
17 Deli side
20 Young man
21 Couple
24 Furrows
25 Butler, for one
27 "Tamerlane" writer
28 Formal
29 Bread ring
30 Site of action
31 Ranch staff
35 Italy's shape
36 Thin coin
38 Speck

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, 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			35			■	36			
37					■	38				
39					■	40				
41				■	■	42				

6-4

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Fantasy 5: 2 4 13 24 26

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 9 7 EVENING: 3 6 0

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1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1.49.66

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The U.S. military operates a beachfront vacation site for its personnel worldwide and their families at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, with $42-a-night air-conditioned suites, surfing, boat rides, golf course, bowling alley and even a gift shop. One T-shirt for sale reads, "The Taliban Towers at Guantanamo Bay, the Caribbean's Newest 5-star Resort." News of the facility was not widely reported until a British lawyer who represents 28 of the nearly 300 detainees housed there described it to London's Daily Mail in May.

■ Another Criterion for Teacher Certification: Police in Fort Myers, Fla., were called to Royal Palm Exceptional School in April and wound up arresting an 8-year-old boy named Deshawn for punching his female teacher in the face, leaving several bruises. Said Deshawn's grandmother, Dorothy Williams, when interviewed by WBBH-TV: "He gets very upset, and he loves to hit," but "If he was overpowering her that much, I feel like she shouldn't be in that line of work."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1783 the Montgolfier brothers first publicly demonstrated their hot-air balloon, which did not carry any passengers, over Annonay, France.

1784 opera singer Elizabeth Thible became the first woman to fly aboard a Montgolfier hot-air balloon, over Lyon, France.

1878 the Ottoman Empire turned over control of Cyprus to the British.

1892 the Sierra Club was incorporated in San Francisco.

1896 Henry Ford made a successful pre-dawn test run of his horseless carriage, called a "quadricycle," through the streets of Detroit.

1939 the German ocean liner St. Louis, carrying more than 900 Jewish refugees from Germany, was turned away from the Florida coast by U.S. officials.

1940 the Allied military evacuation from Dunkirk, France, ended.

1954 French Premier Joseph Laniel and Vietnamese Premier Buu Loc signed treaties in Paris according "complete independence" to Vietnam.

WORD UP!

bagatelle \bag-uh-TEL\, *noun*:
1. A trifle; a thing of little or no importance.
2. A short, light musical or literary piece.
3. A game played with a cue and balls on an oblong table having cups or arches at one end.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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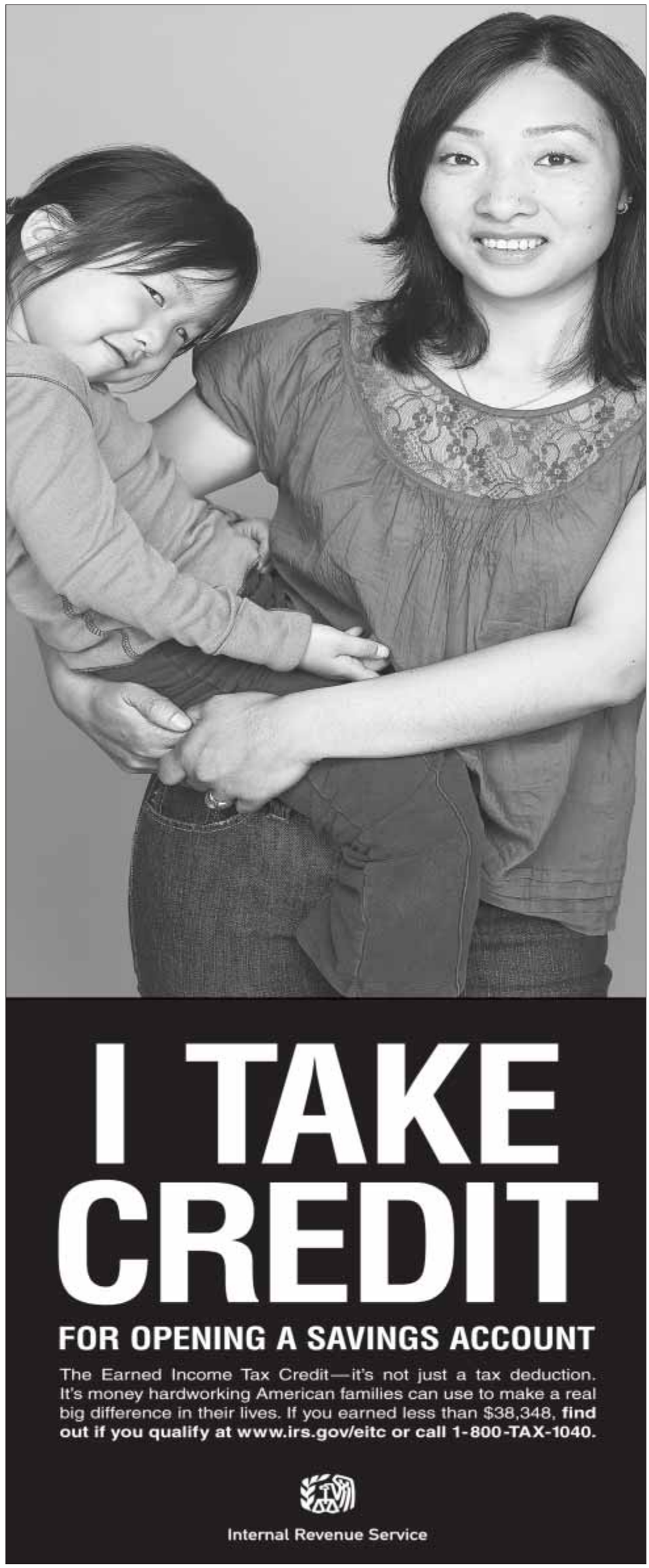
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~ Marian & Bill

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Early June 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 2,123,100	No Listings
North of Montana	=	$ 4,032,200	$ 1,673,111
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 3,278,200	$ 1,001,156
South of Wilshire	=	$ 1,059,539	$ 737,325
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,497,045	$ 667,778
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,936,667	$ 1,526,263

Statistics updated every Wednesday

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This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.