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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 180



SEE YOU AROUND, HILLARY
SEE PAGE 5

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

Police nab suspect

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE A Santa Monica man arrested last week in connection with the stabbing of a local woman in April was arraigned here Tuesday on attempted murder and burglary charges.

Santa Monica Police arrested Michael Thomas Gargiulo, 32, on June 6, believed to be an assailant who attacked a Santa Monica woman in her home on April 28.

Gargiulo was charged with attempted willful, deliberate and premeditated murder and burglary. He is being held in lieu of $1.1 million bail.

Investigators believe Gargiulo broke into an apartment complex on the 1200 block of 12th Street, awakening a female victim who was home alone and stabbing her several times during a struggle.

The victim was transported to a local hospital where she was treated for injuries. The suspect fled on foot.

Gargiulo was identified through DNA evidence gathered at the crime scene and processed.

Detectives believe Gargiulo entered the home through a partially opened window.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the SMPD at (310) 458-8451 or (310) 458-8427.

Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may call the WeTip hotline at (800) 78-CRIME.

news@smdp.com



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

ALL CLEAR FOR LANDING: **A passenger jet heads toward the runway at Santa Monica Airport on Tuesday afternoon.**

City files brief in opposition to injunction

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The Federal Aviation Administration acted illegally when it issued an interim cease-and-desist order to stop a jet ban at Santa Monica Airport from taking effect, according to a brief filed by City Hall on Monday.

Submitted to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, the brief was written to bolster the city's request to reverse a preliminary injunction that allows the continued operation of the fastest jets at SMO.

"We reemphasized the fact that we don't believe the FAA has allowed their own procedure and shouldn't have been able to grant the interim cease-and-desist order," Deputy City Attorney Martin Tachiki said.

City Hall argues that the interim cease-and-desist order should've been issued following the completion of the agency's administrative review, not before or during the process. The initial results of the review were released at the end of May, concluding that the ban on categories C and D jets was not lawful. The order was also issued without a hearing, to which City Hall, as the airport's proprietor, is legally entitled to in order to protect public safety, the motion states.

"It usually comes at the end of the administrative process and we're at the beginning," Tachiki said.

The FAA disagreed with City Hall's assessment.

SEE BAN PAGE 12



Photo courtesy City of Santa Monica

TIMBER! **The limb of an aging carob tree located at 614 12th Street failed on May 27. The fallen limb nearly struck a nearby automobile.**

City Hall to select consulting arborist

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL An assessment of more than 200 declining carob trees once slated for removal could come in the coming weeks as city officials prepare to select an independent arborist to head the study.

Walt Warriner, the community forester, said on Tuesday that he is speaking with several consulting arborists to receive quotes and expects to make a decision by the end of the week.

The selected arborist will be responsible for reviewing each of the 202 carob trees previously identified as having an unacceptable risk failure, determining which of the shady specimens can be saved.

The City Council last month approved a $395,000 project that calls for the removal and replacement of approximately 300 carob trees that were deemed in a study by consultant HortScience as being in declining health and posing an imminent risk to the public. The project is split into two phases, starting with the removal of the 98 highest risk trees, followed by the additional 202.

The reevaluation was prompted by a

SEE TREES PAGE 12


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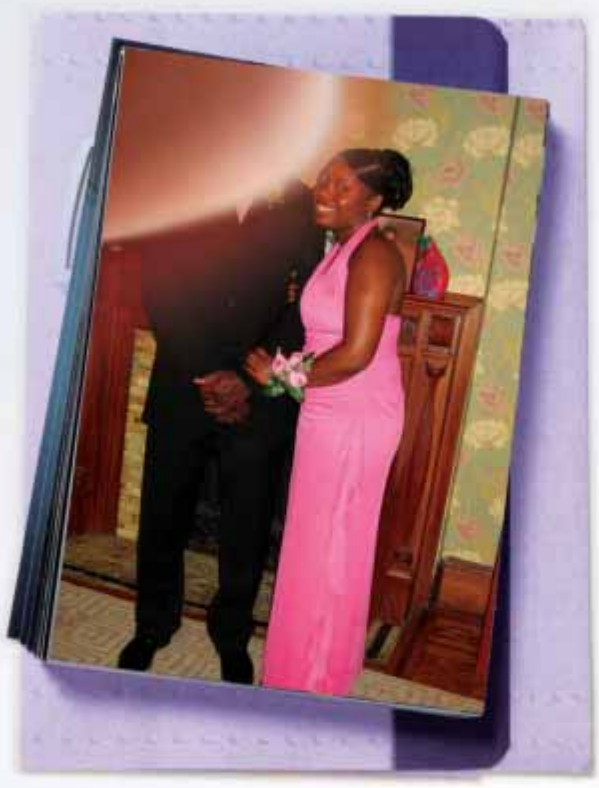
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Best-selling author speaks

601 Santa Monica Blvd. — 7 p.m.

Lauren Weisberger, the author of "The Devil Wears Prada" will visit the Main Library to discuss and sign her new novel, "Chasing Harry Winston." Free program. Limited seating. Tickets available one hour prior to program.

The image of glamor

212 Main St. — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Lights! Camera! Glamour! The Photography of George Hurrell" runs until June 29. As studio photographer for MGM, Warner Brothers and Columbia, Hurrell shot some of the world's most beautiful and intriguing personalities. The exhibition shows more than 80 iconic photographs ranging from Jean Harlow to Clark Gable to Joan Collins to Arnold Schwarzenegger. The exhibition also features a replica of Hurrell's studio, with his camera, boom light and hand-painted screen and a room of nude portraits, many of which are being shown for the first time. A lecture and film series in collaboration with Santa Monica Public Library accompanies this exhibition. For information, call (310) 392-8537.

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Time for yoga

235 Hill St. — 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mixed-level class designed to slowly and carefully work on strength, flexibility and balance. The focus is on unblocking the resistance in joints, muscles and minds, and restoring the weak energy links in our mind/body system. Simple hatha yoga that will definitely challenge you.

'Shopping Without Borders'

1211 4th St. — 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Secrets, houseboats ... credit cards. "Shopping Without Borders" is a screwball comedy set in London as an East (London) meets West (Coast) couple discover that when it comes to debt, marriage is about learning to share. Written and performed by Erin Donovan. Developed and directed by Mark Travis. For ticket information, call (310) 394-9779 ext. 1.

Workouts for teens

3026 Nebraska Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.

02 Max offers two daily classes teaching teens how to exercise and eat properly in a cool and fun environment. They get to hang out afterwards in the wi-fi lounge, play Nintendo Wii, or simply surf the Internet. For information, call (310) 867-1650.

Art on the menu

1701 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Check out the work of artist and photographer Brian Asher at the Sunset Grill. The diverse collection of photographs and artwork are inspired by Asher's travels through five continents including adventures in the Amazon, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Mexico, the Galapagos Islands and China. Over two dozen pieces will hang in the restaurant, for sale by the artist.

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.





Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

BUSTED UP: **Piles of concrete lay on the field at Santa Monica College's Corsair Field on Tuesday. The grass will be replaced with artificial turf.**

SMC to defend new turf

BY MICHAEL MIDDLEHURST-SCHWARTZ
Special to the Daily Press

SMC Renovations to install artificial field turf on Corsair Field will begin this week, according to Santa Monica College athletic director Rhonda Hyatt.

The project will cost $2.7 million, Hyatt said. The renovations will be funded entirely by Measure S, a $135 million bond measure passed in 2004 allowing for upgraded facilities.

SMC officials planned to start the repairs at the beginning of June but had to wait until after Tuesday's graduation ceremony for construction to begin.

The artificial turf will require less caretaking than the current natural field grass, an advantage that Hyatt said was instrumental for the usage of the multi-purpose field. In addition to hosting SMC football and soccer games, Corsair Field is also the site of Santa Monica High School home football games in the fall.

"Natural grass works if you can give it a rest, but we've never been able to give it time off," Hyatt said. "We spend a lot of money resodding it every year and this is zero risk."

The field made it through three weeks last season before a rain-drenched Samohi game against Venice High School tore up the natural grass, leaving the field covered in divots. With SMC hosting a game against Citrus College the following day, SMC football coach Robert Taylor was upset with the condition of the field.

"It was just unbearable," Taylor said. "It's time we moved into the 21st century and we're doing that now."

While the field is under construction.

SEE **TURF** PAGE 13

Gay-marriage ruling could boost state's ailing economy

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

The flowers have been selected, the Veterans' Memorial Center has been booked, and the three-piece band has been chosen. The e-invitations have gone out and relatives are flying in. The brides — and there will be two of them — might not have time to buy something new to wear, but that's OK.

Shelly Bailes and Ellen Pontac, who have been together for 34 years, do not want to wait a day longer than necessary to tie the knot now that California's Supreme Court has legalized gay marriage. They had five weeks to plan a June 21 reception for 250 people.

"We should have been ready, but we weren't," Pontac said with a laugh. "We are taking care of all the details we can, and no matter what happens, we know we will have good company and good music and food

SEE **MARRIAGE** PAGE 11

Photo project lets Africa AIDS victims share their own story

BY LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES In one photograph, a group of boys in possession of a much-used soccer ball mug comically for the camera, arms and legs going every which way.

Another shot, another charmer, depicts a child turning an exuberant handspring for a circle of young admirers. But the picture titled "Children Raising Children" delivers a punch to the gut: It shows a boy of 7, maybe 8, with a baby in a makeshift sling tied firmly to his side.

The youngster's arm is casually and tenderly draped around the infant as he smiles for the photographer; the boy's faded, yellow T-shirt is ripped, but the baby wears a cap with a jaunty pouf of pink yarn on top.

The photo gallery, online and traveling in the United States and overseas, is unlike others about AIDS and Africa: The images are both joyous and wrenching, and they were shot by women and children who are caught in the pandemic that has killed and orphaned so many.

Photographers from the outside often capture only unrelieved tragedy; those inside can tell a fuller story, say the Los Angeles-based founders of "The House Is Small But the Welcome Is Big," created to focus attention on the AIDS crisis and promote action.

The pictures were taken by 18 AIDS-orphaned children from Maputo, Mozambique, and 15 HIV-positive women in Cape Town, South Africa. An exhibit opens this week at a Denver art gallery, Gallery M, and will be seen in New York, Los Angeles and internationally.

Photos and stories about the people behind them are online at www.thehouseissmall.org. The title is drawn from a needlepoint displayed in a tiny Cape Town home featured in the project.

"In the past, documentary photographers went in, photographed people and left them to tell their story," said Dr. Neal Baer, a physician, TV writer and executive producer ("Law & Order: Special Victims Unit") and co-founder of "The House Is Small."

"That can be compelling and important," Baer said. But with the advent of good, cheap

SEE **PROJECT** PAGE 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bring dispatch back

Editor:

Regarding the recently published letter relating to the dispatch arrangement the Santa Monica Fire Department has with the Los Angeles regional dispatch center, I don't think the average citizen realizes that this agreement exists.

I believe this is a bad deal in every way. I have asked several firefighters their opinion and not one of them liked the system.

My question is, after millions of dollars was spent for a state of the art public safety facility that houses both the police and fire department why farm out the fire dispatch to another agency that is probably overworked and understaffed, furthermore has little to no knowledge of our city?

It appears this arrangement is very costly and is providing the residents and visitors a slower response time which could result in the loss of life. In conclusion I say bring the fire dispatch back to our city as soon as possible.

Richard Chace
Santa Monica

Put the tree controversy to rest

Editor:

It seems that most of the folks who write letters to the Daily Press regarding the beautification project downtown are fiercely opposed to the removal and relocation of the ficus trees on Fourth and Second streets.

So, as a long-time Santa Monica resident, reader of this paper, staunch environmentalist and lover of our urban forest, I thought I should go ahead and voice my opinion even if it is in direct opposition to the majority that is writing in.

I am really happy to see the diseased downtown ficus trees already being removed. I look very forward to seeing the many more new trees that are coming into the area and I look forward to seeing the healthy ficus trees of downtown moved to parks were they can do what they do best: grow.

Personally, I love ficus trees. There are six huge ficus on the property I live on where they have all sorts of room to grow.

Ficus are spectacular trees when they can expand their root systems and branches into all their glory. Those poor ficus trees Downtown never had a chance in such a crowded area.

The result has been living with dangerously deformed sidewalks and curbs and trees susceptible to disease from over pruning. Who-knows how much money is spent per year pruning, repaving, fixing sewers, fixing damaged busses and all the other things that come with having ficus trees living where they do not belong.

We deserve a better Downtown and those beloved ficus trees deserve better too, like being moved to parks where they can grow.

There are plenty of species of trees that would better fit our downtown. Ficus trees belong in more open areas where their canopy can actually mature and provide all the wonderful things that come with such a large tree.

The folks who work to manage the trees for our city have been beaten up this year over their very responsible and sound choices to remove and relocate these ficus. I am really happy to see common sense win over misplaced emotion and drama.

I know that most of the good people involved with attempting to stop the city from removing and relocating the trees have very good intentions and I hope that with this issue finally being put to rest they can refocus their energy towards some of the very real and very pressing environmental issues that plague our city.

Here's to a safer, more environmentally efficient, tree-filled and beautiful new downtown for all of us to enjoy.

P.J. Palmer
Ocean Park

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



Going Postal

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

Polar bear politics

THEY'RE CUTE, FUZZY AND WHITE. They've made Coca Cola a fortune in cold cash as it's iconic Yuletide mascot. You just want to go up and hug one of these "threatened" carnivores yet please remember, however, that the 1,300-pound mega-fauna in question eats meat. You are made out of meat. You may be friendly toward the polar bear but a polar bear thinks of you as an entrée. Existentially speaking, I would like to place an environmentalist and a Washington lawyer on a shrinking ice floe with a polar bear for gladiatorial purposes … on pay-per-view. I'll bet the lawyer would come in a close second. The enviro-bozo would be sprinkled with parsley and have an apple stuck in his mouth.

Ursus maritimus is a contemporary of modern Homo sapiens. The evolutionary histories of all 19 sub-species are coincident over the last 200,000 years with our own. Much like man, polar bears have proven an adaptable species over several glacial and deglacial periods from the late-Middle Pleistocene era to the end of the Holocene period up until modern times. My guess is that if Jack and Jill Cave Man made it this far up the evolutionary hill then Mr. and Mrs. Nanuk of the North really don't need a hand out from us unless that hand is coated in an elegantly sublime Bear-naise sauce.

The current craze of faux Enviro-ggedon, spawned by the Chicken Littles of "climate change," means to suggest that our anthropocentric activities are the greatest threat to the polar bear's survivability according to the flatulent voodoo of "global warming." In the 1970's our enviro-malaise was "global cooling" while in the 1890-1900's it was an overabundance of "horse manure." In the 1890's, young Henry Ford was still fooling around with a rickety contraption called a "quadri-cycle."

According to new Luddites of enviro-theology, your liberal use of your "quad" is drowning defenseless polar bears.

Mama Gaia is succinctly more lethal to the survival of all species on her surface than any of the allegedly puny eco-gaffes attributed to our Lilliputian consumer enterprises.

When Mount St. Helens popped her cork in 1980, the resultant airborne materiel blew an estimated 1,040,000,000,000 pounds of ash across the US and caused complete darkness in broad daylight in Spokane, WA. 250 miles away.

The volcanic debris ejected into the atmosphere during the two-week period of Luciferian activity was greater than the total pollution output of the entire era of the Industrial Revolution.

No polar bears were drowned.

When Krakatoa cracked up in 1883, it belched forth with a force, rated on the Volcanic Explosively Index, of an estimated 13,000 times the explosive yield than what was served on a piping hot irradiated platter at Hiroshima. The resultant explosion from Krakatoa was four times the size of Mount St. Helens.

The pollution was incalculable yet in the succeeding five years after the explosion, average worldwide temperatures dropped 2.16 F and sulfurous acid rain fell in worldwide torrential buckets due to the "fallout." It is postulated that another previous eruption from the "Krak" in 583 ACE caused a similar global "nuclear winter" and contributed to global crop failures that were well documented in Europe and China during the period.

No polar bears were mentioned.

YOU MAY BE FRIENDLY TOWARD THE POLAR BEAR BUT A POLAR BEAR THINKS OF YOU AS AN ENTRÉE. EXISTENTIALLY SPEAKING, I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AN ENVIRONMENTALIST AND A WASHINGTON LAWYER ON A SHRINKING ICE FLOE WITH A POLAR BEAR FOR GLADIATORIAL PURPOSES … ON PAY-PER-VIEW.

OK, check one last example.

MSNBC recently reported that Yellowstone Park, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, ranks 21st among 169 "high threats" for volcanic activity in the US. That's in the top 12 percent, ladies and gentlemen.

The inconvenient truth here is that Yellowstone is the largest volcanic vortex in the continental U.S. If you think Mount St. Helens put on a pyroclastic lap dance then an eruption at Yellowstone promises to be a Bob Fosse production of Plinian proportions.

The Yellowstone Caldera is 1575 sq. mi. while Krakatoa was only 25 sq. mi. Yellowstone is starting to bulge; this is not good. The outcome of a Yellowstone eruption would make Krakatoa look like a box of sparklers lit up on the 4th of July. Do the math … pretty grim numbers.

Also according to the same article, five Yellowstone bison simply dropped dead from the inhaling poisonous gases trapped at surface level while grazing. Not a polar bear in sight. While the USGS doesn't feel a cataclysmic event is in the "foreseeable future," the recurrence of such an event is "neither regular nor predictable." Hmmm.

Let me get this straight … if the USGS doesn't think anything is going to happen, why did they move Yellowstone so high up the eyeball list?

I'll take my chances with the bear on the ice floe.

STEVE BREEN is a climate change atheist and still "best looking mailman at the post office." He can be reached dulcamarax@yahoo.com

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

So long, Hillary

I'VE HAD AN INDEPENDENT STREAK MY whole life. My first election was in 1980. I went to the polling place with my father and voted for Independent candidate John Anderson, then we went to Brigham's for Lime Rickeys. Nobody looked at me funny, despite the fact that I was in elementary school at the time.

In my first real election, I voted for Bill Clinton. I was sure President Bush's "New World Order" was going to get me drafted so I ignored the rumors about Clinton's "appetites," though I shouldn't have. I voted for him again in '96, but remained a registered Independent.

The Democratic Party just isn't big enough for me and a president who doesn't have the common sense to know that an intern who would show him her thong is too crazy to be anywhere near the White House.

Thankfully, their 16-year lease on the party is up and the Clinton brand is as dead as Arthur Andersen. This election will not be a referendum on Bill Clinton despite he and his wife's best efforts.

They figured there was enough brand loyalty inside the Democratic Party to allow her to coast to victory, but don't get it twisted — most of her supporters were voting for the "Clinton" in her name, not the "Hillary." They either forgot or blocked out the fact that the Lewinsky episode made the Clinton name so toxic that Al Gore couldn't say it out loud during the 2000 campaign.

Hillary's gone back to the bottom of the totem pole in the Senate where she belongs as a carpetbagging second-term junior senator.

She never considered the possibility that she wouldn't be the Democratic nominee and she had no post-February 5th strategy because she assumed the race would be over by then.

She thought Democrats all over the country were sitting around waiting for their chance to vote for her, and she would ride a wave of wins from Iowa to the convention. Imagine her surprise when she not only didn't win Iowa, but came in an embarrassing third place.

She must have been desperate when Barack opened up a ten-point lead in New Hampshire days later. It was supposed to be her "firewall" state, but it took the water of her own tears (and $5 million of her own dollars) for her to squeak out a 7,600-vote win.

She had to know that if Bill Richardson had dropped out of the race before New Hampshire instead of after, Barack would have gotten enough votes to finish her off. If she didn't know it then, she had to know it after he won 23-of-34 contests in February; because there she was on February 21 "absolutely honored" to be on stage with our next president.

Then something changed. She thought a win in Ohio would revive her campaign, so she decided to get tough and throw everything but the kitchen sink at him. She leaked pictures of him in African garb to Drudge and wouldn't unequivocally say he wasn't a Muslim on "60 Minutes."

She praised John McCain's experience and compared Barack's to George W. Bush's. She angrily said "shame on you, Barack Obama" over a healthcare mailer, though in five years she never found the toughness to make the same statement to the president over Iraq. And it almost worked.

She won the battle of Ohio, but lost the war for public opinion. By May, the media was saying out loud what she's known since January: Obama will be the Democratic nominee.

She was forgiven for breaking the first rule of primary politics (don't give the other side anything to use in the general election) and the only question was what is it going to take for her to get out and endorse him? When she said, "I will be making no decisions tonight," in her non-concession speech last Tuesday, that was the last straw. It took the entire New York delegation and a secret meeting with Barack at Dianne Feinstein's house to get one simple message through her thick skull: This isn't about you.

She's gone now and the story has a happy ending for everyone.

When her Senate career is over in 2012, she can retire to Chappaqua with hundreds of millions of dollars to keep her company. Bill can get back on Ron Burkle's jet and fly off into the sunset with Gina Gershon or Eleanor Mondale, and with the party firmly in the hands of President Obama, I can finally register as a Democrat. If only there was a Brigham's in Santa Monica, I'd celebrate with a Lime Rickey.

KENNY MACK is a writer, comedian, and social commentator living in Santa Monica who predicted an Obama presidency last April. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

The Q Line

Picking partners

Now that Barack Obama has wrapped up the Democratic presidential nomination, it is time for he and Republican candidate John McCain to start thinking about running mates.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:
Who should McCain and Obama choose as vice presidential candidates and why?

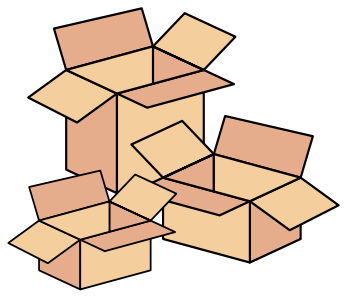
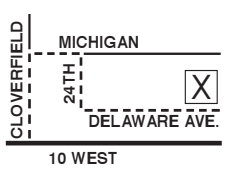
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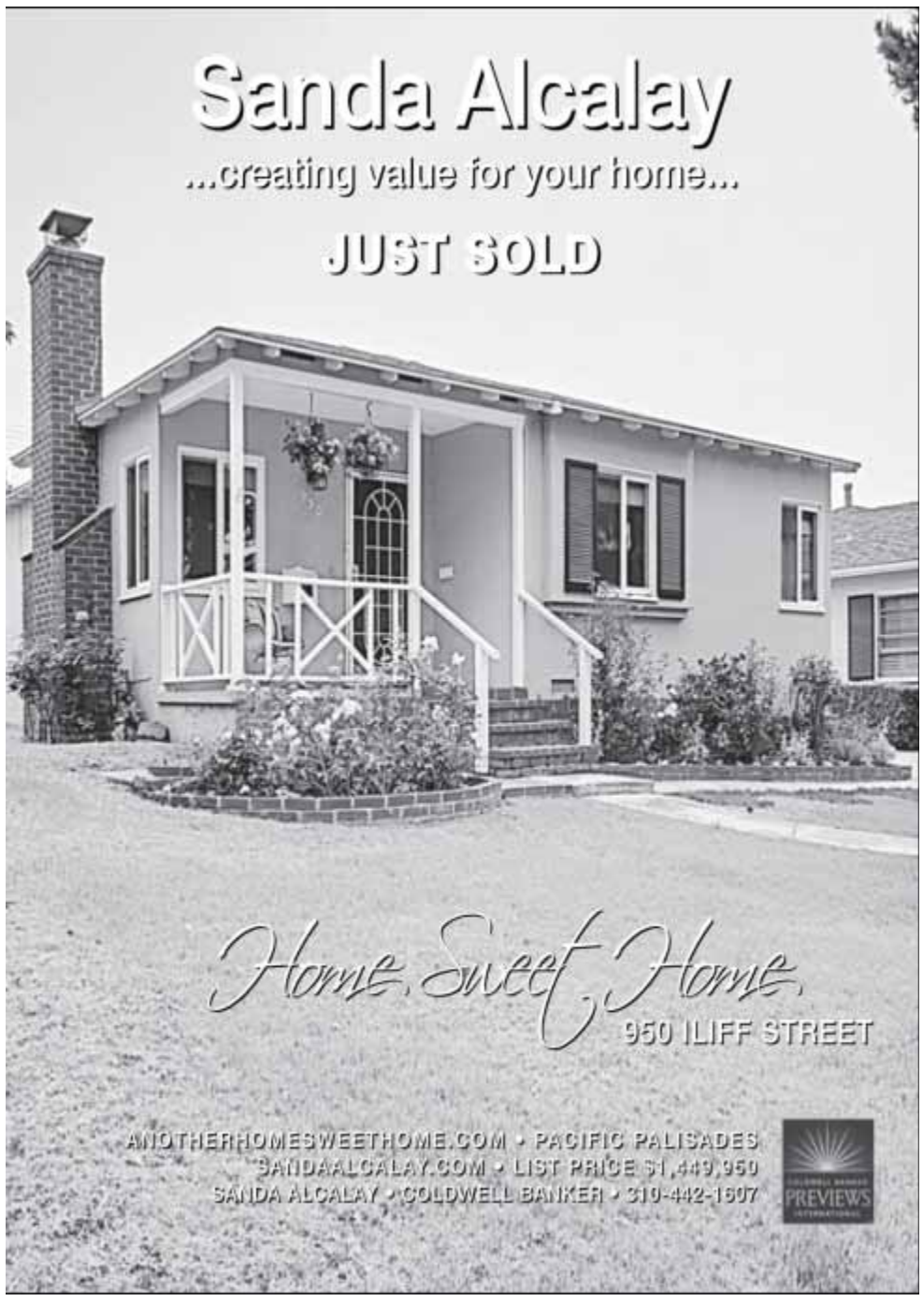


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Market Matters

Brian Hepp
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Choosing the right manager is major

YOU WOULDN'T ENTRUST YOUR HEALTH to someone who didn't have a good track record and the necessary credentials and experience. The same care with which you choose a health professional should also apply to another important area of your life: Your investment portfolio.

If you've worked with a financial advisor, you know how helpful it is to have a professional looking out for your accounts and keeping you on the right track with your investments. Sometimes it's also beneficial to enlist the services of other investment specialists as well. One thing you may decide is to delegate some of the responsibility for actively managing a portion of your portfolio to a professional money manager. But where do you start?

The first step is to define your personal financial goals. Ask yourself: What are my current and future financial needs? What kind of return am I seeking? How much investment risk am I willing to accept to achieve this return?

Once you've established these guidelines, consider the following:

INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY/STYLE

Find out which type of investment style the money manager under consideration uses. Although firms may use several variations of investment styles, there are two general types of money management: Value management and growth management. Value managers prefer to invest in undervalued securities whose fundamentals remain solid, whereas growth-oriented managers focus on the ability of a company to increase its earnings on a long-term and continuing basis.

CREDENTIALS

Start by determining if the manager is a registered investment adviser, because every money manager must register with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Also ask for a copy of the manager's ADV form, which provides details about education, experience, investment style and any regulatory problems with the SEC.

PERFORMANCE

Investment performance can be evaluated in a number of ways, including both short- and long-term. Ask to see quarterly or annual data, which may reveal a different conclusion about a manager's performance than looking only at three- or five-year "average" returns. For example, a five-year average return may appear outstanding relative to other managers and to the market. On the other hand, quarterly data may reveal that much of the return can be attributed to just one or two exceptional quarters.

SERVICE CAPABILITIES

A manager should have a large enough staff to service existing clients and handle new account growth. You should also consider how the manager communicates with your financial advisor, including what types of reports are sent and how available the manager is for conference calls and account reviews.

FEES

Based on the size of your account and the manager's performance, the management fee usually ranges from one to five percent. If your account fee exceeds this range, you should try to negotiate down the fee or receive a discount for exceeding the required minimum account size. For example, a two percent fee from a $1 million account will earn the manager more than a three percent fee on a $100,000 account.

There are literally thousands of money managers you can choose from, but a manager that fits your goals and objectives can be a valuable piece of your overall investment puzzle. Your financial advisor can even help you in the selection process and find one that is most compatible with you.

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

ENERGY

Oil consumption forecasts take a cut as prices surge

BY JOHN WILEN
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The U.S. Energy Department and the International Energy Agency both lowered their global oil consumption forecasts for this year because of surging prices, but said demand continues to accelerate in developing nations.

The downward revision follows a reduction this month in fuel subsidies by several developing countries that have succumbed to record oil prices. However, the Energy Department and IEA also said demand for oil and fuel continues growing in those regions, particularly in China. Reconstruction work in the aftermath of this year's devastating earthquake will boost Chinese oil demand by 5.5 percent this year, a slightly higher forecast than in previous reports, the IEA said.

The reports raise even more questions about whether the world has inched closer to a tipping point at which high energy prices would force changes in behavior or economic policy.

Protests are erupting simultaneously from the U.S. and Asia to Europe, as fuel prices cut deeper into the money people need for food and other essentials.

Oil consumption is falling more than expected in the industrialized world.



Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A little knowledge can go a long way

HAVE YOU EVER WOKEN UP AND DECIDED that you are going to do something you wanted to do for a long time?

That happened to me the other day. I decided I was going to learn a new sport — kiteboarding. Kiteboarding is where you are strapped to a harness around your waist/back, which is attached to a kite which looks like a miniature parachute. You stand on a board and the wind pushes you along the water. I am only in the preliminary stages of learning and see why people say there is a steep learning curve.

First, you have to understand the wind and how the kite works against it. Next, you have to balance yourself on a board in the ocean. Lastly, you have to make sure you do not hit anyone while you are out. I was practicing the other day and kept crashing my kite into the ground, until someone came over and explained that I was launching the kite from a bad location.

I realized that that little piece of information hours earlier would have saved me time and effort, which got me thinking about real estate and how a little bit of knowledge can go a long way.

Before you can become a real estate investor you need to learn about real estate. There should be no excuse if you want to gain knowledge on real estate in today's day and age of electronic information. However, you will need more than the Internet to gain a solid foundation in real estate knowledge.

One of the best ways to learn is to find a mentor. A mentor will guide and teach you. The benefit of a mentor is that he or she will be able to tell you what not to do, which in real estate is as valuable as knowing what to do. Most real estate mentors will charge you since their time is valuable and they are giving you information that has taken years of experience to gain.

If you do not have the money, be resourceful and ask a potential mentor out to lunch. You will have to pay for the lunch, but ask them if you can work for them for nothing. That may sound stupid because you will have to work another job to make money, but in six months to a year you could find yourself on your way to becoming a real estate investor with the knowledge learned from your mentor.

If the idea of a mentor intimidates you, you cannot figure out a way to pay for one and/or cannot work a second job — go to school. Now, going back to school to get a degree is never a waste of money in my book, but be prepared. If you are going back to school for a graduate degree, be prepared to spend anywhere from $50,000 to $100,000 or more. Depending on your income, you maybe able to qualify for student loans. A cheaper alternative to getting a degree is taking real estate classes.

You may not want to jump in and get a degree in real estate until you figure out if it is right for you. One alternative is to take classes at your local community college. Santa Monica College is a great resource with amazing prices per unit. Classes are college level and some may even transfer to other institutions, but you will have to check with the college. However, if even taking a class or two is too expensive, there is one great resource free to all.

The library is one of the best resources available to anyone. The city of Santa Monica finished a complete teardown renovation of the library and it is an amazing resource. If you do not have the money, but have the time, go to the library and read real estate books. They have loads of them — you will not be disappointed.

If you think you want to be a real estate investor, attain the knowledge any legal ethical way you can.

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

Trade deficit at highest level in 13 months

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The trade deficit soared to the highest level in more than a year as an improvement in exports was swamped by record-high levels of imported crude oil. The deficit with China also rose sharply.

The gap between what the nation imports and what it sells abroad rose by 7.8 percent in April to $60.9 billion, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. It was the largest imbalance since March 2007.

The higher deficit was driven by a $4.3 billion increase in crude oil imports, which jumped to a record $29.3 billion in April, as the average per-barrel price rose to an all-time high of $96.81.

If the price of crude had instead been at $60 per barrel, about where it was a year ago, the trade deficit would have been $11 billion lower in April. Analysts cautioned the deficit will widen further in coming months, given that oil is now trading above $130 per barrel.

U.S. export sales totaled $155.5 billion in April, up 3.3 percent to an all-time high, reflecting big gains in sales of commercial aircraft, farm machinery, medical equipment and computers. But this increase was swamped by a 4.5 percent rise in imports, which also set a record at $216.4 billion. In addition to oil, there were huge gains in imports of autos and consumer goods.

The deficit through the first four months of this year is running at an annual rate of $707.5 billion, up slightly from last year's deficit of $700.3 billion, which was a 7 percent drop from 2006. The improvement last year came after the trade imbalance set records for five consecutive years.

Many economists are looking for the deficit to shrink again this year, reflecting a significant economic slowdown in the United States.

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Hope & Unity Awardees

AWARDEES PICTURED TO THE RIGHT
-Educator,
Carmen Paul
-Santa Monica Police Chief,
Tim Jackman
-Community Activist,
Sanford "Sandy" Berlin
-Educator,
Shirley Compton Sugars
-Youth Advocate,
Ana G. Jara
-Community Leader,
Christopher Jimenez y West
-Santa Monica Councilmember,
Kevin McKeown



Pictures of the Awardees by Alejandro Rodriguez

And special thanks to: PYFC Volunteers, staff and board, Keynote Speaker Danny Trejo and Saint Anne's Catholic Church for providing the venue or our 1st Annual Hope & Unity Banquet.

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Arts school brings prestige at high cost

BY JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A steel tower wrapped in a spiraling ribbon is one of the most striking features of a new arts high school set to open next year.

Its $230 million price tag is another.

The Los Angeles High School for the Visual and Performing Arts, with space for some 1,600 students, most from surrounding low-income neighborhoods, is the architectural crown jewel of the district's ambitious $20 billion building campaign.

Its spacious studios and 995-seat theater encased in austere concrete are enough to make anybody wish they were a young clarinetist in the district.

Supporters call the five-acre campus a beacon for a reformed educational system, a magnet for good teachers, and a means of raising dismal student performance in the nation's second-largest school district.

"Do these kids deserve this school? Absolutely," said Monica Garcia, board president of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Critics, however, see the school as a wasteful extravagance for a district where more than a quarter of the 700,000 students remain in temporary classrooms and many existing buildings are in dire need of renovations and repairs.

"It's ludicrous to be spending that much money on one school," said parent Diana Chapman, who helps organize after-school programs at her son's middle school in the city's San Pedro area, about 25 miles from the new campus. "About every school I know needs help."

The arts school isn't the only new district campus to come under intense scrutiny over cost.

> **"IT'S LUDICROUS TO BE SPENDING THAT MUCH MONEY ON ONE SCHOOL. ABOUT EVERY SCHOOL I KNOW NEEDS HELP."**
>
> **Diana Chapman**
> Parent who helps organize after-school programs at her son's middle school in the San Pedro area

The price tag of the much-maligned Belmont Learning Center is approaching $400 million as it prepares to open in September as the renamed Vista Hermosa Learning Center.

Construction was stymied several times over the past 15 years by revelations that officials had approved building the school atop explosive pockets of methane gas and the discovery of an active earthquake fault beneath the site.

Two years ago, the school board was thinking far outside the traditional box-shape design of school buildings when it gave final approval to the seven-structure arts high school.

The sharp, clean lines of the architecture contrast with the mess the district is trying to build its way out of.

Public school funding in the state took a hit in 1978 with a voter-approved measure that limited property tax rate increases. Several districts are hard-pressed to attract and retain quality teachers and maintain academic performance standards.

In the Los Angeles district, fewer than 70 percent of students graduated in 2006, the last year for which data are available.

In addition, severe overcrowding at many of its 1,190 schools have forced about 200,000 students to attend classes in temporary structures and compelled many campuses to operate on schedules that shave weeks off the school year.

The problems led to an unsuccessful takeover attempt last year by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa that would have given him more control over the district's budget and curriculum.

The district began a school-building push in 2001 using $20.3 billion from four separate bond measures approved by voters. Seventy-two schools have been built so far, with another 60 planned by 2012, district facilities chief Guy Mehula said.

The rising cost of building materials and labor are to blame for the increased cost, Mehula said.

Officials initially budgeted about $70 million to build a conventional high school with a more basic design. Its makeover into an art school — originally expected to cost around $120 million — was promoted by billionaire philanthropist Eli Broad.

Former school board member David Tokofsky said he voted for the redesign because he thought Broad, a longtime financial supporter of school programs and area cultural institutions, would contribute more to construction costs.

"I'm all for an arts school as part of the cultural spinal cord of downtown, but right now it's a spinal tap on the construction fund because we expected to get outside monies," Tokofsky said.

Broad declined an interview request through his foundation's spokeswoman, Karen Denne.

She said the philanthropist promised no more money to the arts school than the $3.1 million he has already contributed for construction and the $1.9 million he has pledged toward the salary of a full-time fundraiser and other operating expenses.

She said Broad is open to giving more money once the school has a principal and curriculum is in place.

Lawrence O. Picus, who directs the University of Southern California's Center for Research in Education Finance, said well-appointed schools like the arts campus are attractive to good teachers who could help boost academic performance.

But he said districts in Seattle and Jacksonville, Fla., have shown significant improvement by recruiting and retaining better teachers and revising curriculums, not through construction drives.

The arts school sits on the highest point of downtown's Bunker Hill on the edge of a cultural district that includes other architectural gems like the Museum of Contemporary Art and Walt Disney Concert Hall.

The district plans to work with those venues to offer students internships and recruit performers and artists to teach.

Francisco Torrero, who has three daughters in public schools, praised the district for building the campus for working-class families who live in nearby neighborhoods.

"The arts in Los Angeles are viewed as only for the elite class," said Torrero, whose daughters include a violin-playing fifth-grader who may want to attend the arts school. "This is not for the elite class: this is for the whole community."

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Sunday, June 15

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There will also be fun for the kids at the Family Fun Day event, in the North Park from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.



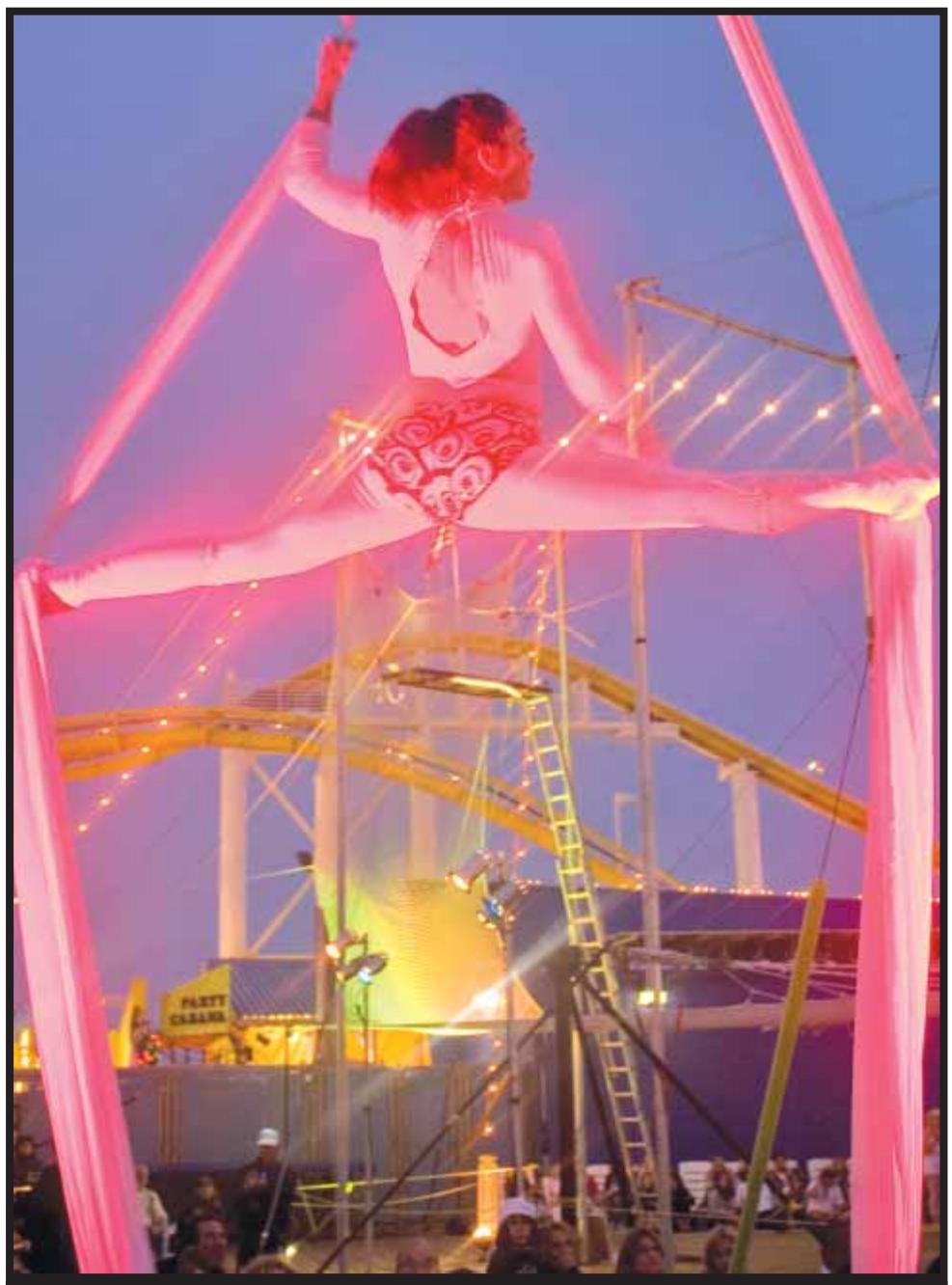
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LIGHT AS AIR

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

A crowd of revelers watches as a member of the Trapeze School New York defies gravity with the help of silk ropes. The professionals of the trapeze school dubbed Angeles de la Orquesta performed during the school's launch party on Sunday at the Santa Monica Pier with live music conducted by Los Angeles Philharmonic violinist, Guido Lamell.

Weddings could be a boon

FROM **MARRIAGE** PAGE 3

and drink."

The gay marriage ruling could give a big, sudden boost to California's sputtering economy, with thousands of same-sex couples from across the nation expected to converge on the state when the decision takes effect June 16. Hotels, restaurants, florists and other wedding services are reporting a flurry of business.

"The good news for California is that in the face of probably the worst budget problems the state has ever faced, the LGBT wedding industry is going to be a financial shot in the arm," Jeffrey Pang, mayor of West Hollywood, a popular destination for gay travelers in Southern California.

A study issued this week by UCLA's Williams Institute for Sexual Orientation and the Law projected that gay men and lesbians will spend $684 million on cakes, photographers and other services over the next three years unless voters reverse the high court's ruling in the fall.

The researchers found that about half of the state's more than 100,000 same-sex couples will get married during the next three years, and an additional 68,000 out-of-state couples will travel to California to exchange vows. The study estimated that over that period, gay weddings will generate $64 million in tax revenue for the state, $9 million in marriage-license fees for counties, and some 2,200 jobs.

Rena Puebla, who makes wedding-cake figures that can be customized to come in bride-bride and groom-groom pairs, said she has gone from selling 50 a day to 150 since the May 15 ruling.

"It's unbelievable," said Puebla, whose Costa Mesa company, Renellie International, sells the cake toppers online. "People are just so excited that there's something like this out there for them."

Puebla's company designs a variety of single figurines and then pairs them according to the customer's wishes. Some bride figurines come in a tailored skirt and tuxedo jacket instead of a big gown. "People can do whatever they want because it's not already stuck together," Puebla said.

The possibility that the window for weddings could close after the November election — when a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage will appear on the ballot — has added to the rush to wed. Also, the prospect of getting hitched became even more inviting when New York state announced recently that it would recognize gay marriages performed in California and other jurisdictions.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for the:

City Hall Jail Tenant Improvement Project
Procurement of a New Elevator System - SP2072

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, not later than 2:30 p.m. on July 14, 2008, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents.

Recommended Site Visit - Monday, June 23, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
In front of City Hall – located at 1685 Main Street

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: $100,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 9 Months
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,200 PER DAY
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500 PER DAY

Contract Documents may be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer or by mail for an additional mailing charge (check or money order payable to the City of Santa Monica). Cost of the documents shall be **$25.00**. Additional mailing charge shall be **$10.00**. Contract Documents may also be examined in City Hall, at the Civil Engineering and Architecture counter, phone number (310) 458-8721. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.santa-Monica.org/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a Class **C-11** license at the time of bid submission.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.









Photo courtesy City of Santa Monica

NEAR MISS: **A car was nearly struck by the falling limb of a carob tree located at 614 12th Street on May 27.**

High-risk carob trees to be removed this month

FROM **TREES** PAGE 1

community meeting on urban forestry in May when several residents, many of whom residing in the north of Montana Avenue area, asked for a second opinion on the carob trees.

Each of the 202 trees will be evaluated by a team of two consulting arborists, the study estimated to take roughly two weeks, according to Warriner.

The HortScience study rated the carob trees on a scale of one to 12, the latter posing the highest threat.

The 98 trees in the first phase are ones that have a rating of higher than 10, with the remaining 202 ranked eight and above.

"They're going to take the current ratings and take into consideration whether a phased removal is possible or whether to continue with the original plan which is to remove the eight and nine (rated) trees after the 10 and 11s," Warriner said.

City Hall has posted removal noticed on the carob trees rated as 11, planning to remove them starting the week of June 23. The notices for the trees rated 10 will be posted next week, Warriner said.

More than 60 carob limbs and trees have failed throughout the city since the 2001-02 fiscal year, more than half of which have fallen since the beginning of 2005.

The most recent failures occurred at the end of May, involving fallen limbs from two trees in the north of Montana area — one on the 600 block of Lincoln Boulevard and the other on the 600 block of 12th Street. The fallen branch on 12th Street grazed a car parked in the residential driveway. The tree was ranked as having a failure potential of 10.

"We're trying to work fast to assess as quickly as possible," Warriner said. "Since the end of March, we've had six or eight limb failures."

Brian Varnum, a board member of the North of Montana Association, was among the residents who requested the independent study, a proponent for preserving the urban forest in the neighborhood if possible. He recently took a closer look at several of the trees slated for removal with Warriner and Randy Little, both with the Public Landscape Division at City Hall.

"It's to get a better understanding of the plans so I can communicate with local residents about the fate of their trees and the potential of bringing in additional trees where there are currently no trees," he said.

Shade has long been a major concern in the north of Montana Avenue neighborhood, several residents mentioning during the community meeting last month that they wanted to preserve the trees shielding the sun on their block. Several members of NOMA said they were pleased that City Hall was willing to take another look at the trees.

"We're not saying we should ignore all the risk factors of trees," Mark Armour, a member of the NOMA board of directors, said. "What we're saying is to go back and look at those 200 again and see which can be saved by pruning or any other sort of amelioration."

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City Hall plans to request hearing on ban

FROM **BAN** PAGE 1

"From the start we've been constant in our legal position," Ian Gregor, the agency's spokesman said.

The City Council adopted the ban on categories C and D jets — aircraft that approach the runway at 121-140 knots and 141-165 knots, respectively — in March after discussions with the FAA over runway safety measures fell through.

Runway safety has long been a concern for residents around the airport, SMO geographically unique in that there are homes within 300 feet of both ends of the runway.

The FAA has presented several proposals in the past, including an option to install a 70 knot Emergency Material Arresting System that would be designed to stop roughly 97 percent of operations at the airport, including 90 percent of categories C and D.

The enhanced safety measures would consume more runway than the 40-knot EMAS, which the FAA previously proposed. Both options were rejected by the council as insufficient.

It was long believed the issue would head to court if a ban was to go into effect, the FAA having previously expressed opposition.

The FAA initially began the administrative review process in 2002 when the Airport Commission recommended that the City Council should adopt a ban on the fastest jets, the investigation placed on hold soon after as both city and federal officials began negotiating several runway safety enhancement options.

The ban was set to go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on April 24 but was suspended later that day after the FAA filed a temporary restraining order, which was granted. The order continued when a U.S. District Court judge issued a preliminary injunction until the final results of the FAA review.

City Hall plans to request an administrative hearing for the FAA determination. The FAA will have 10 days from the request to issue and serve a hearing order.

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SMC joins movement toward synthetic turf

FROM **TURF** PAGE 3

Samohi will allow SMC's football team to use its facilities for practice over the summer. The project is expected to be completed on Sept. 1.

SMC scheduled away games for the first three football games of the season to compensate for any delays in the field's preparation. The Corsairs will play their first game on the new surface against Los Angeles Valley College on Sept. 27.

The move will also allow the SMC women's soccer team to practice and play home games on Corsair Field. The team had previously used the fields at John Adams Middle School and Santa Monica Airport Park.

"It's a good move for the school and the team deserves it," Hyatt said.

SMC is one of the last schools in the newly-formed American Pacific Conference to move to artificial turf.

Construction crews will also install new lights and resurface the track over the summer.

news@smdp.com

Venice Arts' director aids project

FROM **PROJECT** PAGE 3

cameras, "we've been able to go into these countries and give people who were traditionally disenfranchised the opportunity to tell their own stories and show their own lives."

Baer, whose credits include the TV series "ER," has long been interested in using storytelling to illuminate social and health issues. (Last weekend, he attended a United Nations meeting of entertainment leaders and U.N. officials, including Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, that coincided with the Jackson Hole film festival in Wyoming.)

It was Baer's discovery of the pioneering work of Pulitzer Prize-nominated photojournalist Jim Hubbard that eventually gave birth to "The House Is Small" project.

In the 1980s, Hubbard was a news photographer in Washington, D.C., with a passion on the side: He gave cameras to homeless kids so they could capture their world; their photos and others were collected in a book, "Shooting Back." Hubbard also formed an organization of the same name that has inspired a growing number of such projects worldwide.

A child can live in the most dire situation, Hubbard said, lacking running water or shelter or enough food, and "yet, you come along with a camera and they almost unanimously fall in love with it."

Last year, Hubbard's quest to give children in hardship "a voice for their despair" was recognized by the National Child Labor Committee, which bestowed its Distinguished Service Award for his "lifelong pursuit of the truth with his camera."

Hubbard, now a director of Los Angeles-based Venice Arts, a nonprofit arts organization that teaches photography and moviemaking to low-income children, was contacted by Baer about bringing his approach to AIDS-stricken Africa. Baer drew on his entertainment industry contacts to help with funding, including some close to home: "Special Victims Unit" stars Mariska Hargitay and Christopher Meloni and series creator Dick Wolf were among the contributors.

"Every nonprofit in the United States wants an angel to appear," Hubbard said. That's the role Baer is playing, he said, turning worthy ideas into reality with his dedication and Hollywood connections.

The first trip, to Cape Town in 2006, was in collaboration with the HIV-AIDS education and support group Mothers2Mothers. Participants included new moms, some of whom were fighting the stigma of HIV by acknowledging their infection and counseling expectant women on how to prevent transmission to their baby.

The next year was to Mozambique, home to an estimated 500,000 AIDS orphans. By 2010, the number of children orphaned by AIDS will almost double worldwide to 25 million, if trends continue, according to a 2002 report from agencies including UNICEF. An estimated 20 million of them will be in hardest-hit Africa.

The children of Maputo were eager to make sure their story was told right.

Lynn Warshafsky, co-founder of Venice Arts and founder with Baer and Hubbard of "The House Is Small," recalls editing photos on her laptop midway through the visit. Assisting her was 16-year-old Innocencia, who had lost her parents to AIDS. She and her older brother were struggling together after relatives abandoned them.

Warshafsky recalls the teenager's critique of the photos: "We're 70 percent there, but I don't see enough joy."

"She had this extraordinary spirit," Warshafsky said of the teenager.

One photo shows two boys gleefully displaying a toy mobile phone they recovered from the trash dump that looms behind them. Behind the camera was Jeremias, 12, who was taken in by a family after losing both parents to AIDS and who dreams of becoming a pilot.

"This photo shows children who are friends," Jeremias says in a quote posted next to the photo on the project's Web site. "It's what we should all be."

"The House is Small" is aiming for results on an individual and global basis.

For the children involved, the instruction they get in photography may open the door to unimagined job possibilities, Hubbard said.

A Mozambique group, Reencontro, is working to build on what "The House is Small" started by pairing youngsters with local photographers to improve their skills and perhaps ready them for work in the field or a related one, he said.

(One American youngster drew inspiration from the project: Baer's 17-year-old son, Caleb, accompanied him to Africa with camera in hand, and his work has been shown in Los Angeles-area museums and galleries.)

ON THE NET

- **www.thehouseissmall.org**
- **www.venicearts.org**
- **Institute for Photographic Empowerment: www.joinipe.org**
- **Caleb Baer photos: www.calebbaer.com**

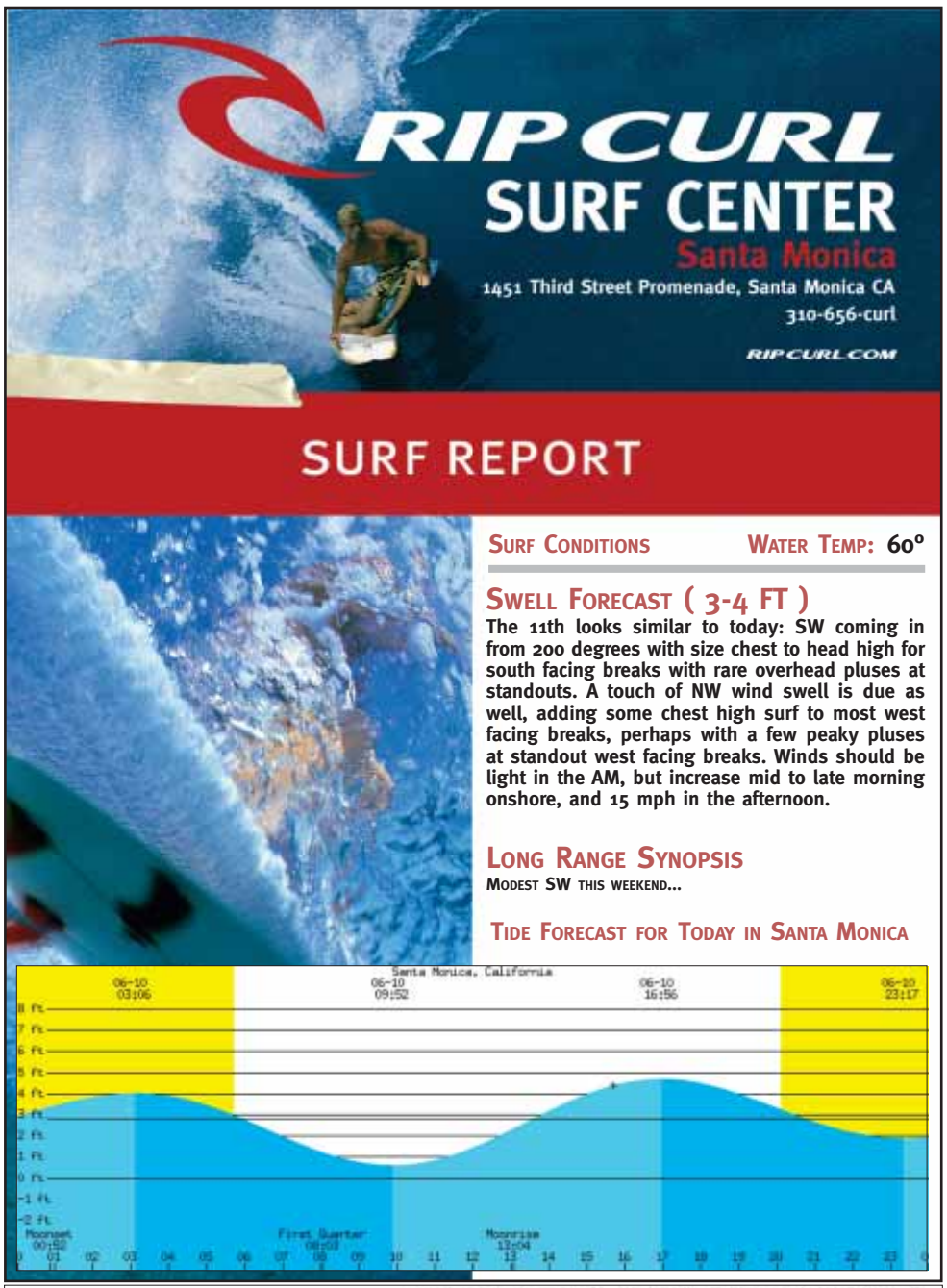
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BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of: June 3, 2008

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 2
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 6

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, The 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 Alisos 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	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	D	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	D	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	B	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	C	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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
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	F	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 D&W 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 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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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.

AUTO RACING

Former female official sues NASCAR over claims of harassment

BY JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

As an aspiring racing official, Mauricia Grant had grown used to working in a man's world. When she finally made it into NASCAR, Grant was appalled at the way she says she was treated beginning from her first day on the job until her firing last October.

Now she's suing NASCAR for $225 million, alleging racial and sexual discrimination, sexual harassment and wrongful termination.

"I loved it. It was a great, exciting, adrenaline-filled job where I worked with fast cars and the best drivers in the world," Grant told The Associated Press. "But there was an ongoing daily pattern (of harassment). It was the nature of the people I worked with, the people who ran it, it trickled down from the top.

"It's just the way things are in the garage."

The 32-year-old Grant, who is black, worked as a technical inspector responsible for certifying cars in NASCAR's second-tier Nationwide Series from January 2005 until her termination. In the lawsuit, she alleged she was referred to as "Nappy Headed Mo" and "Queen Sheba," by co-workers, was often told she worked on "colored people time," and was frightened by one official who routinely made references to the Ku Klux Klan.

In addition, Grant said she was subjected to sexual advances from male co-workers, two of whom allegedly exposed themselves to her, and graphic and lewd jokes.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, lists 23 specific incidents of alleged sexual harassment and 34 specific incidents of alleged racial and gender discrimination beginning when she was hired in January 2005 thru her October 2007 firing. NASCAR spokesman Ramsey Poston said the organization had not yet reviewed the suit.

"As an equal opportunity employer, NASCAR is fully committed to the spirit and letter of affirmative action law," Poston said, adding NASCAR has a zero tolerance policy for harassment.

In the lawsuit, Grant said she complained numerous times to her supervisors about how she was treated, to no avail. On one occasion, Grant said Nationwide Series director Joe Balash, her immediate supervisor, was dismissive of her complaints, explaining her co-workers were "former military guys" with a rough sense of humor. "You just have to deal with it," she says Balash told her.

On another occasion, she alleged Balash participated in the harassment.

"Does your workout include an urban obstacle course with a flat-screen TV on your back?" she claimed Balash asked her during the week of July 28, 2007 while working in Indianapolis.

Grant told the AP her two younger sisters witnessed racial discrimination against the official while visiting her at Daytona International Speedway in 2006 and encouraged her to document every incident going forward.

The lawsuit details a series of those alleged incidents:

— Grant was forced to work outside more often than the white male officials because her supervisors believed she couldn't sunburn because she was black.

— While riding in the backseat of her car pool at Talladega Superspeedway, co-workers told her to duck as they passed race fans. "I don't want to start a riot when these fans see a black woman in my car," she claims one official said.

— When packing up a dark garage at Texas Motor Speedway an official told Grant: "Keep smiling and pop your eyes out 'cause we can't see you."

— When she ignored advances from co-workers, Grant was accused of being gay. She also claimed co-workers questioned the sexual orientation of two other female officials.

After her termination, Grant said she went over her notes and recognized "a pattern of retaliation and discrimination."

"It didn't diminish my love for the sport of auto racing, but the job wasn't always the easiest thing to go to every day," she said.

Grant said she routinely complained to her supervisors. Two weeks after her final complaint, Grant said she was warned during the week of August 18, 2007 at Michigan International Speedway that she had engaged in "conduct unbecoming of a NASCAR representative" and would be fired unless she changed her behavior. She said the warning stemmed from a confrontation with a track official who stopped her as she passed through a gate to use the restroom.

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MOVIETIMES

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

Unforgiven (NR) 2hrs 11min
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, 3:40, 6:40, 9:35

Made of Honor (PG-13) 1hr 41min
4:15, 9:25

Baby Mama 1 hr 36 min (PG-13)
1:45, 7:00

Kung Fu Panda (PG) 1hr 31min
1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

Speed Racer (PG) 2hr 15min
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:45

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, 1:45, 3:00, 4:40, 6:00, 7:35, 9:00, 10:20

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) 2 hrs 20 min
1:00, 4:15, 7:20, 10:30

The Strangers (R) 1hr 47min
12:50, 3:20, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15

Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min
1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50

Kung Fu Panda (PG) 1hr 31min
12:45, 2:15, 3:15, 4:45, 5:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 10:30

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Young@Heart (PG) 1hr 47min
1:20, 7:10

The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min
1:30 p.m., 4:20, 7:20, 10

In Bruges (R) 1hr 41min
4:00, 9:50

War, Inc. (R) 1hr 46min
1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00

The Go-Getter (R) 1hr 33min
1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

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

Iron Man (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
1:10, 4:30, 7:10, 10:10

Sex and the City (R) 2hrs 15min
12:20, 1:00, 3:40, 4:20, 7:00, 7:50, 10:20, 11:00

What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:50am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00

You Don't Mess With the Zohan (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:00 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 1:30, 2:20, 4:10, 5:00, 6:50, 7:40, 9:30, 10:30, 12:10 a.m.

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

Break old habits, Capricorn

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Compliments and admiration swim in the same stream as you. Challenges and nervous energy are best handled with exercise. Think about hiring a personal trainer or a life coach. Tonight: Feeling emotional, some serious pampering is in order.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Chatty encounters and ringing telephones might interrupt your work. Do you really care? Try the role of social butterfly. Tonight: Dancing with the stars? Or at least with your friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Follow your hunches. Female friends and co-workers pay more attention to your words. If you are interested, consider upgrading your computer or phone. You are in high gear, and sitting might be close to impossible. Tonight: Ask for what you want!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Are you busy or preoccupied choosing colors, patterns and furniture? (Maybe even a new house?) A sensual, comfortable home environment soothes your sensitive soul. Friends love giving feedback. Tonight: Follow the music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Bathe in the white-hot spotlight of success. Everyone seems to be watching and listening! You know you love it. Speak forcefully and get what you need. Tonight: A little relaxation is in order.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Your mind is like a lightning bolt. Volunteer for a pet cause or drum up friends and co-workers for a fundraiser. You'll be helping someone in trouble. Tonight: Physical activity will quiet an overactive mind. What are you going to choose?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You're such a charmer, my dear Libra! Everyone seems ready to please you, especially women and children. Why not call in some favors, if need be? Don't forget to say thank you. Consider purchasing a new wardrobe. Tonight: Romance is in the air!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Curb impulsiveness. Stick with the original plan. Irritability can trip you up if you don't process frustration and nervousness. Try some herbal tea and a good mystery novel. Tonight: Chill out by a lake, garden or out in nature for an hour.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ A lucky break heads your way at work today, but your head might be in the clouds! You're busy planning your next vacation! If you are feeling a little misunderstood, try another perspective. Tonight: You go first, and others will follow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Could you be unusually moody? What do you really want? Might you change your daily routine to make it happen? Start with small changes for now. Tonight: Take a chance on a new person or place. Break old habits.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★ Feeling a little rough around the edges today? It's easy to annoy or insult someone by mistake! Musical events and artistic pursuits will bring out the talented and creative Aquarian. Tonight: Let a fantasy play out, especially if it involves a trip.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ A chance meeting with a blast from your past inspires one and all! In your mind, events carry a sense of destiny. All your senses are in high gear. Tonight: Sprinkle some magic and romance around.

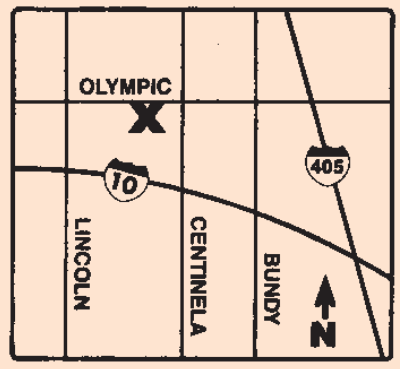
Happy birthday

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

This year you could enjoy improved finances because of increased investment savvy. New opportunities for travel might appear this fall. Some of you might be considering some further education or specializing in your chosen field. Your bright ideas, bubbling creativity and sharp wit could cut daily stresses. If you are single, you've got the right stuff for settling down now! If you are attached, romance could bubble forth once more if you add more sensitivity to the blend. LIBRA challenges you.

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Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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

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

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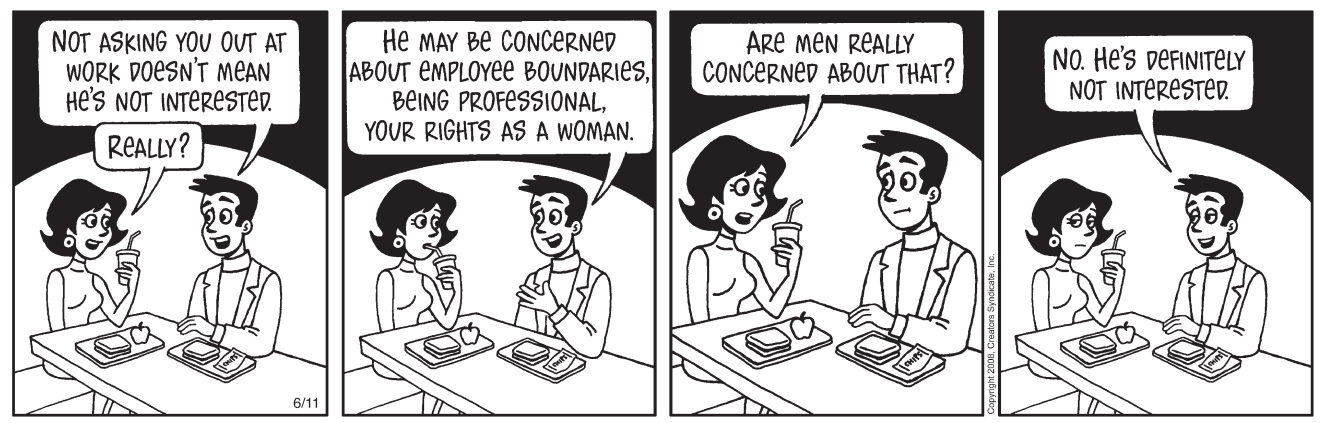
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



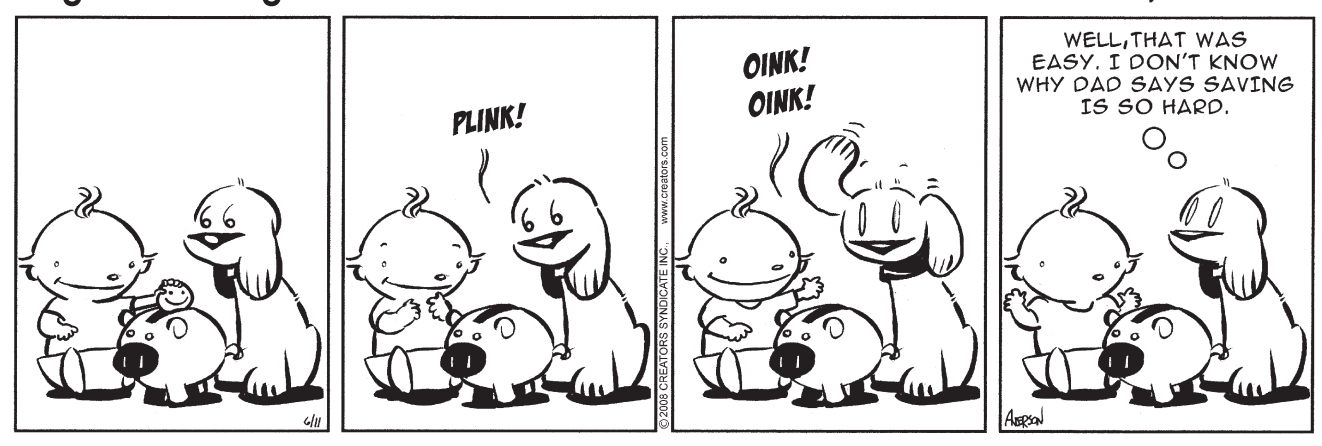
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

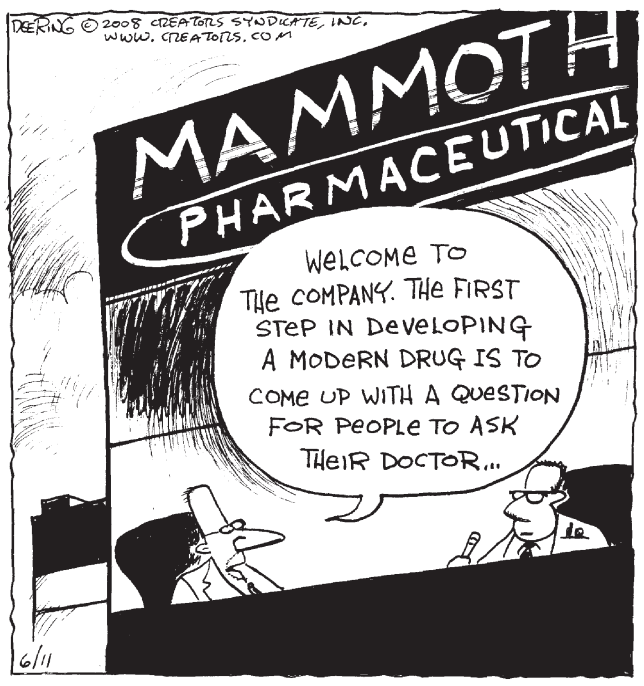


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Food in a shell
5 Treat for Tabby
11 File stand-in
12 For each
13 High digit
14 Lease signer
15 Adj. modifier
16 Hot
17 Piano piece
19 Fare carrier
22 Disrobe
24 Peach center
26 Loathe
27 Pay to play
28 Bring to bear
30 "Viva Las Vegas" star
31 Pulled off
32 Therefore
34 Buddy, in Westerns
35 "Far out, man!"
38 Broadway's "— Game"
41 Shrek, for one
42 Weds in secret
43 Horse halter
44 Make happy
45 Whirlpool

DOWN

1 Fey of "30 Rock"
2 Corrosive stuff
3 Transformed
4 Binary digit
5 Gave a hoot
6 High points
7 Wee
8 Tennis court sight
9 Top a torte
10 By the unit
16 Have dinner
18 Stratum
19 Came together
20 Nay voter
21 Honey bunch?
22 Storage site
23 Fare carrier
25 Soft mineral
29 London river
30 Finale
33 Make blank
34 Hemingway moniker
36 Parched
37 Disavow
38 Get-up-and-go
39 Everything
40 Coffee, in slang
41 Mine material

L	O	S	S	■	■	R	A	B	I	D
A	U	T	O	S	■	I	R	E	N	E
S	T	R	I	P	S	T	E	A	K	S
E	L	I	■	I	C	E	■	R	I	O
R	E	V	E	R	E	■	L	E	N	T
■	T	E	X	A	N	■	A	R	G	O
■	■	■	A	L	A	R	M	■	■	■
O	P	E	C	■	R	U	B	L	E	■
D	R	A	T	■	I	N	S	O	L	E
E	O	S	■	S	O	S	■	C	D	S
S	W	E	E	P	S	T	A	K	E	S
S	A	L	S	A	■	O	B	E	S	E
A	R	S	O	N	■	■	C	R	T	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						■	43			
44						■	45			

6-11

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 8 9 43 44 54 Meganumber: 27 Jackpot: $45M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 23 29 33 44 Meganumber: 5 Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5: 14 15 18 27 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 2 6 EVENING: 1 9 7

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 12 Lucky Charms 3rd: 01 Gold Rush RACE TIME: 1.42.70

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A 31-year-old man was hospitalized in critical condition in Salt Lake City, hit by cars after running into traffic to avoid paying for a taxi ride he had just taken (March). (2) A 25-year-old man, pursued by police after he tried to run down his girlfriend with his car, fled on foot across Interstate 45 near Houston, but was struck and killed by cars (February). (3) Two men who stole a kayak and went joyriding on Moon Lake near New Port Richey, Fla., drowned when the boat capsized (March).

■ The Fates of Three Class of '08 Students in Durham, N.C.: Two men did not graduate from Duke University in May because they were two of the three lacrosse players accused of rape in March 2006 and were forced to suspend their academic pursuits in order to defend themselves against the charges that were later dismissed. Another '08 student did graduate in May in Durham, from North Carolina Central University: Crystal Mangum, the drug-abusing, part-time stripper who had relentlessly accused the three of raping her but whose story was later found to be completely unsupported. Mangum's degree is in police psychology.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1509 England's King Henry VIII married Catherine of Aragon.

1770 Capt. James Cook, commander of the British ship Endeavour, discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.

1919 Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner.

1947 the government announced the end of household and institutional sugar rationing, to take effect the next day.

1963 Buddhist monk Thich Quang Duc set himself afire on a Saigon street to protest the government of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.

WORD UP!

surfeit \SUR-fit\, *noun*:
1. An excessive amount or supply.
2. Overindulgence, as in food or drink.
3. Disgust caused by overindulgence or excess.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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VOLUNTEER TO Assist Travelers from all over the World at LAX! Travelers Aid Society of Los Angeles is recruiting for information booth volunteers at LAX. Assist travelers negotiating the airport; securing accommodations, transportation, & sightseeing info; directing people to professional social workers. Must be 18+ years old. Training/workshops begin September 16 & 17, 2008. Parking provided. 310-646-2270 or volunteering@tasla.org.

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Call for an Appointment
1533 Princeton Ave # 3
$518,000
Remodeled, Bright
2 + 1.75 Condo
w/ Sunny Patio

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Mid 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

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

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.