INSIDE SCOOP
SAMOHI PROGRAM LOSES FUNDING PAGE 3
COMMENTARY
THINKING OF GOOD OLD DAD PAGE 4
LOCAL
CLINTON CANCELS PAGE 12

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THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 181



RONDO IS HURTING
SEE PAGE 14

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE NBA FINALS ISSUE

City tightens up LUCE document

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Santa Monica's general plan update, molded into its current incarnation during years of public workshops, is getting another once over by city officials.

The City Council on Tuesday kicked off a series of discussions on the strategy framework for the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE), the planning document that will outline the city's future over the next 20 years.

"What we're bringing reflects many thousands of comments and ideas," Planning and Community Development Director Eileen Fogarty said. "We have tried to bring together a whole range of perspectives from both ends of the spectrum."

The introduction of the planning document's general framework, which was recently released by City Hall, will be followed by focused discussions on key elements of the general plan starting next week, topics including the neighborhoods, transportation, boulevards and districts. The council will be asked to endorse the framework following the meetings, expected to wrap-up in mid-July, prompting the environmental review phase.

The Planning Commission is also holding a series of LUCE-related meetings.

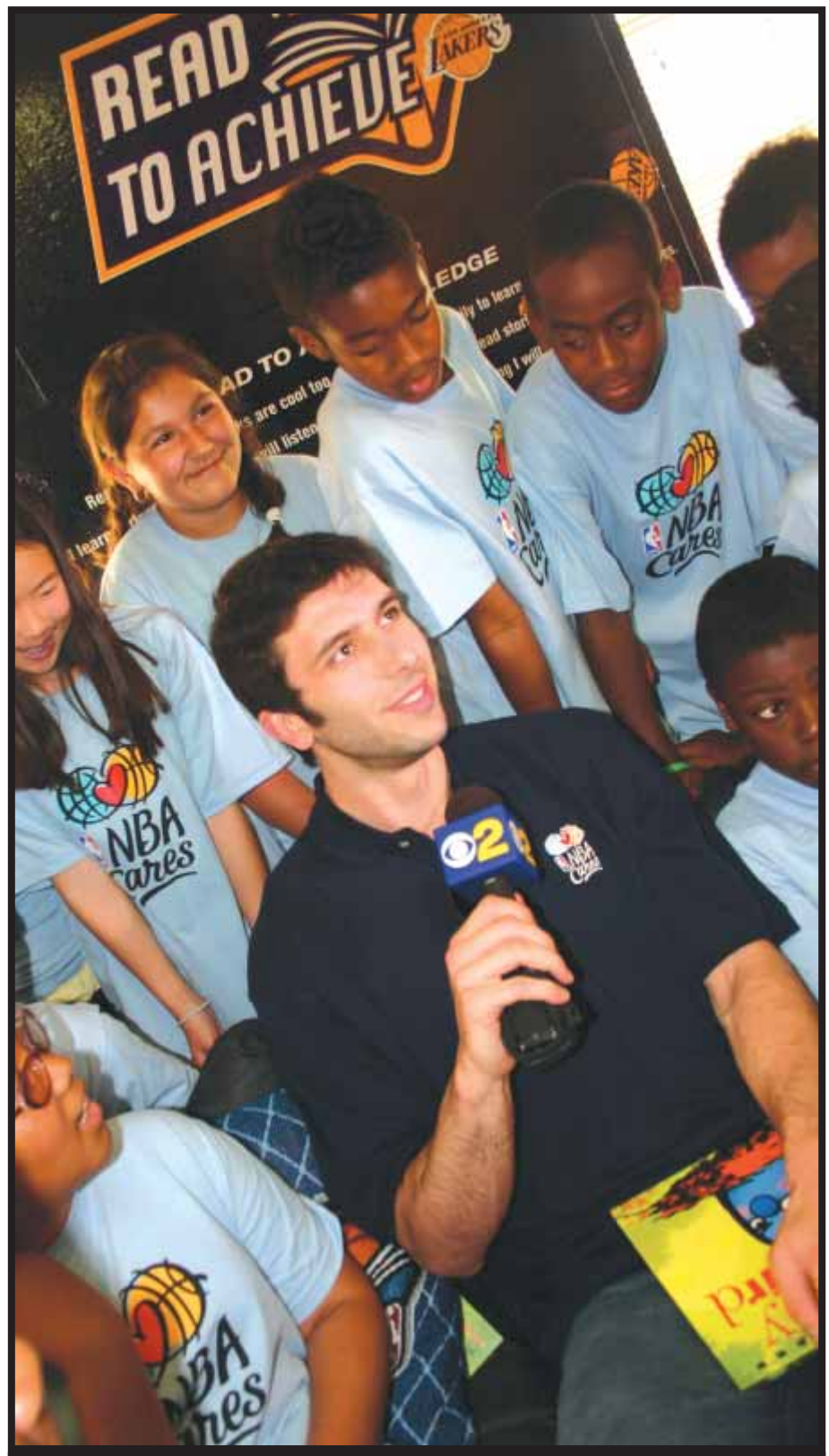
"This is a conservation plan," Fogarty said. "A conservation plan that also will allow the city the opportunity to remain vital and be responsive to change."

The LUCE is a product of 11 workshops held over the past several years, including the input of more than 60 community organizations and hundreds of individuals.

The key difference between the LUCE and its 1984 predecessor is that City Hall will take a proactive approach toward development, strategically locating them in places where they will better communicate with the neighborhood in which they are located. City officials have pointed out the problem with the current general plan is that it allowed development in a piecemeal fashion, projects being put into place irregardless of the landscape around them.

Among the new features of the LUCE will

SEE LUCE PAGE 13



BIG SHOT

Alexandra Bissonnette *news@smdp.com*

Members of the Los Angeles Lakers were present at the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica on Wednesday for the unveiling of a new reading and learning center. The center was renovated by NBA Cares, the Lakers and Toyota, and will provide local children with a safe place to read and learn. It consists of a library stocked with new books, and a technology lab with new laptops. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, the Lakers spent some time playing games with the kids and signing autographs. Lakers forward Vladimir Radmanovic spent his time reading 'Grumpy Bird' to excited young basketball fans.

Gas is a hot item

BY ALEXANDRA BISSONNETTE
Special to the Daily Press

LINCOLN BLVD. With the price of gas inching higher every day, people are searching for ways to get around the fuel crunch. Some are even resorting to theft.

Three crafty thieves went so far as to swipe 200 gallons of diesel gasoline from a Union 76 station on the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Pacific Avenue late last month — the total value estimated at $1,200.

While the station was the first in Santa Monica to be the target of this type of robbery, a string of similar cases has been occurring throughout Los Angeles due in part to the steady rise in gas prices.

As of last week the average price of regular gas in California had reached a staggering $4.43, leaving residents scrambling to make ends meet.

"A friend of mine at a Chevron station in Carson had 4,000 gallons stolen in one weekend," said Bill William, operations manager of the burgled 76 station.

On May 31, 2008 at 5:15 p.m., William received a phone call from the cashier on duty.

The cashier called him to report that a credit card transaction on pump 13 had stopped at $10.70, but the three men who had made the transaction were still filling four empty drums in the back of their pick up truck.

"I told him not to call the cops until I got there," William said. "I didn't know if the meter was broken. I was not one hundred percent sure what was going on, so I just told him to take the license plate number and I was on my way."

By the time William got to the station 15 minutes later, the men and their truck were gone and he could see the broken locks at the base of the pump.

"They used a screw driver to break the meter, so the gas kept pumping," William said. "They stole diesel because it pumps faster than other gas."

William had much praise for the detective assigned to the case.

"Michael Bambrick is a good detective," William said. "He said, 'Bill, I'm going to get them. This is the last time this kind of crime

SEE GAS PAGE 12

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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.

Friday, June 13, 2008

Party time at Temple Bar

1026 Wilshire Blvd., 8:45 p.m.

Come out to the CD release party for Conjunto Jardin, a Los Angeles-based group that specializes in traditional Mexican melodies. The group is releasiing its latest album, "Yerba Buena."

Friday Nights Live at Savoy

214 La Brea Ave. — 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and we feature complimentary buffet and desserts for happy hour. Everyone in free before 9 p.m. and best of all, drinks are $5 all night long (including Patron, Hennessey and Remy Martin). All city, state, county and government employees get in free all night with ID. Dress code is dress to impress with no casual attire. This is a 25 and over professional event with over 500 people every Friday night. The Savoy is located at 214 S La Brea in Inglewood, CA 90301. Call (310) 680 7600 for more info or visit our Web site at: Thesavoyentertainmentcenter.com

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.

Salsa with Isabelle and Reiko

1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7:15 p.m. — 10 p.m.

If you've ever wanted to learn how to Salsa dance then this is your event. Every Friday at Isabelle Pampillo's Dance Academy dancers come together in a fun and relaxed environment to learn sensual and sexy Salsa moves. There are two classes, one for beginners and another for the intermediates. Then after class, enjoy drinks, try out your new moves with others while dancing to great music. The cost is $20, which includes a 90-minute class and free drinks. For more information contact Isabelle at (310) 392-3493.

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.

Bridge faces rough waters

Key Samohi summer program loses funding

BY ALICE OLLSTEIN
Special to the Daily Press

SAMOHI For years now, teachers at Santa Monica High School have noticed that diversity in the school's advanced classes is rare.

"It was impossible to ignore," said English and social studies teacher Randy Denis. "When you looked at your honors and AP classes, students generally looked the same. That didn't feel right. And since students have an equal capacity for intelligence, we knew that something was wrong with the system."

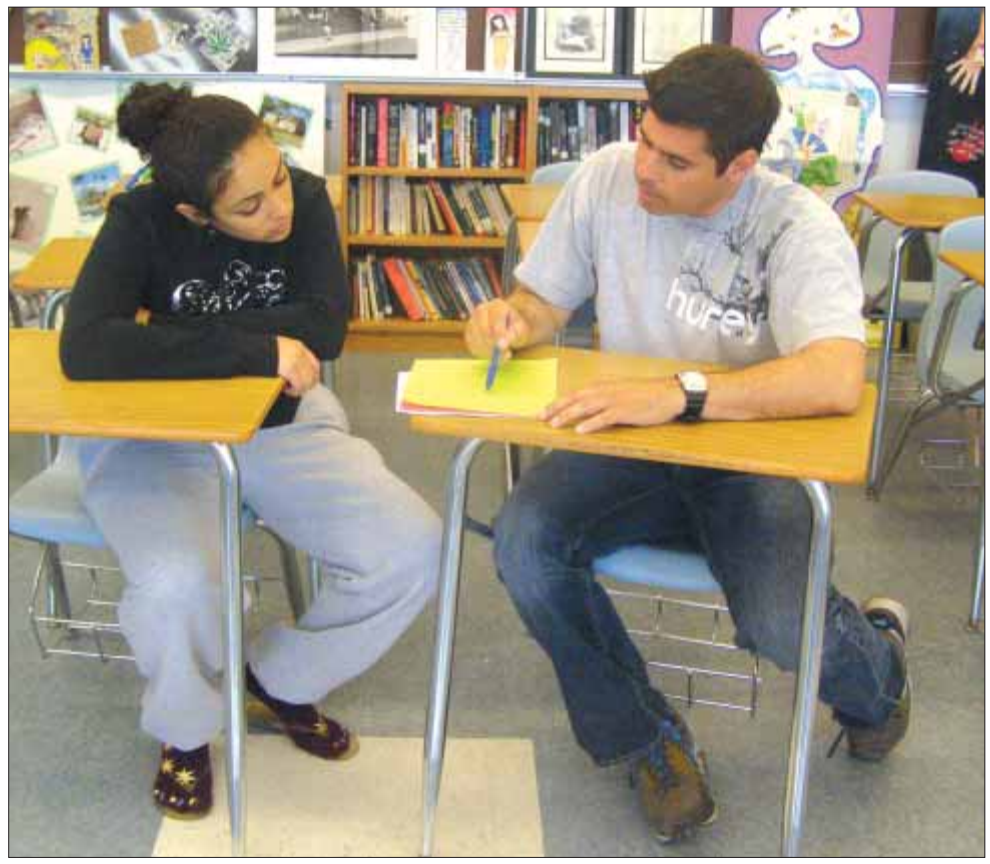
To address this, teachers worked with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to found the Bridge program, formerly called Access, seven years ago. The six-week summer program serves around 75 students, and until this year was taught by one English and one history teacher. The purpose: To help students underrepresented in honors and AP classes bridge in to the advanced track.

Educators recommend students who show potential but lack certain skills or opportunities, knowing that advanced placement classes are needed for success in higher education and the workplace.

"Six weeks is a short time," said Denis. "We don't have any illusions that you can turn someone around completely in six weeks. But it's a recognition of a student's potential and a chance to give them the foot in the door."

This year, the Bridge program had its funding cut in half by the school board, meaning that only one teacher, Denis, could be hired for this coming summer and the program could only accept half the number of students. When several teachers and administrators complained via e-mail to Samohi Principal Hugo Pedroza, he announced that he would "restore" the funding. Pedroza later explained that the money will come from a state fund for "intervention" — usually used for students in danger of failing high school or the California High School Exit Exam.

Since the school only gets 5 percent of enrollment money for all programs outside the school day, including early morning and remedial classes, this money often runs dry before summer. The situation is exacerbated by the school's existing $150,000 deficit and the state's reimbursement rate of only 70 percent, Pedroza said.



Alice Ollstein *news@smdp.com*

EXTRA HELP: **Santa Monica High School Junior Jessica Soltan reviews her essay with AP English teacher Pete Barraza. Soltan's time in the Bridge program helped prepare her for AP classes.**

Summer school principal Leslie Wells explained that the program can now accept the same number of students, but that they won't have the benefit of two teachers working collaboratively.

Pedroza feels that this is a reasonable change.

"You're paying two teachers for what you'd normally pay only one," he said. "I understand that they're Bridge students and deserve special attention, but if the normal student-teacher ratio is 30 to 1, why should they get a 15 to 1 ratio? It's got to be fair across the board."

Students who have taken the Bridge program, disagree citing the importance of a two-teacher team.

"I got two points of view and two different opinions on my papers," said junior AP student Jessica Soltan. "Because of this, my writing became a lot more clear."

Junior AP student Mark Garcia explained that having two teachers with two areas of expertise made it possible to split up the class to focus on students' various needs.

Those at the district level defended their choice, noting this year's statewide budget crisis.

"Unfortunately we don't have the full funding for everything at the level we want, but we are committed to the program," said school board President Oscar de la Torre.

"We are uncertain as to what the state budget will look like, but we do know that our teachers are not planning to strike like in LAUSD and we're not laying off 200 teachers like they did in Inglewood," de la Torre said. "As bad as the state budget looks in terms of education funding, one thing we can say is that Santa Monica is not in the terrible situation that many school districts are in."

Others blamed bureaucracy, high turnover and miscommunication at all levels for the program's rocky condition. Some, however, feel that the issue is not money, but

SEE **BRIDGE** PAGE 13

City Council responds to drought

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the second and final reading of ordinances approved by the City Council. Second readings are held without public comment, although the issues have been discussed, often at length, during prior City Council meetings.

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

CITY HALL The City Council will now have the authority to follow the lead of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger by declaring a water crisis. Following a particularly dry season, the council on Tuesday passed the Water Conservation Ordinance, a law that will permit the governing body to declare a water supply shortage and adopt a response plan.

Schwarzenegger last week declared a drought in California, hinting that the state might have to ration water to cities if the situation does not improve. City Hall imports roughly 86 percent of its water from the Metropolitan Water District, producing the remainder from groundwater wells and the Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility.

Santa Monica has relied on the MWD since five groundwater production wells were shut down as a result of MTBE contamination in 1996, the gasoline additive discovered to be leaking from underground storage tanks and pipes owned by several oil companies and polluting the city's aquifer. City Hall has since settled with the oil companies and is in the process of beginning construction on a treatment plant, which officials hope will be in operation by 2010.

"Santa Monica water customers have been proactive in conserving water since the last severe drought in the early 1990s," according to a staff report, referring to restrictions imposed during that time. "These restrictions have helped the city's water use to remain steady even though the daytime population has significantly increased."

City Hall has adopted several water conservation programs during the past several years, including the "20-Gallon Challenge" in 2007, asking residents to save at least 20 gallons of water every day, translating to roughly a 10 percent reduction in total water demand.

"Since August, water demand has declined each month for a total reduction of 6.7 percent," the staff report states. "This consecutive monthly decrease is unprecedented since the last major drought."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Perfect plan for land

Editor:

The moment I saw last Thursday's (page 3, June 5) article, "Proposed property swap riles participants" by Alice Ollstein, I was struck by the perfect opportunity it presented for the city to keep it and develop it themselves. The property adjacent to Casa del Mar seems to be a perfect site to build some nice units to house doctors, nurses, teachers, police, firefighters and other emergency personnel. The city has expressed some concern about the ability to retain good doctors, nurses and teachers if they can't easily live in Santa Monica. The same concern was brought up in relation to having our emergency personnel close by and easily available in case of a disaster. Developing this site seems the perfect answer. I think the city would be passing up a big opportunity on this one. Who would not want to live in that location? The view alone is "to die for." It might be the perfect incentive to stay and serve our wonderful community.

Phyllis Chavez
Sunset Park

Communication breakdown

Editor:

As Joseph Parda wrote (page 4, Letters to the editor, June 2), Santa Monica cannot afford delayed response time for emergencies. While our fire and police departments are terrific, our current system is inadequate and must be remedied before tragedy strikes.

On April 9, 2008, while out walking my dogs in Sunset Park around 4:20 p.m., I came upon a fire in the alley at 21st Street between Hill and Ashland. There was heavy black smoke and roaring flames four to five feet wide behind the house on Ashland. I signaled a car and asked the driver to call 911. Other neighbors and passersby gathered and said they also called 911. We waited and waited. We were relieved to hear sirens but puzzled to hear them cease with no fire truck in sight. Finally a passerby stopped his truck, grabbed his two fire extinguishers, and started fighting the fire, but the fire persisted. By then at least 15 to 20 minutes had passed. The black smoke was asphyxiating and the flames were growing. Out of desperation I started heading to Fire Station #5 (two blocks from the fire) to tell them about the fire. Just then another passerby stopped his truck, grabbed his fire extinguisher, sprayed the fire and put it out. Thank heavens for good Samaritans. At Ashland near 23rd I encountered a lone firefighter in full gear on foot. It was now at least 4:40-4:45 p.m. When I told him where the fire was, he said they were told it was as 23rd and Ashland. I never saw a fire truck or a police car.

The next day I checked out the location of the fire. It must have been a burning garbage can. The metal fence and nearby vegetation showed signs of the fire. Had the fence been made of wood, it surely would have ignited given the fire's size and intensity.

I contacted the city about the inadequate response time. Chief Hone said the caller reported the fire in the alley off 23rd and Ashland and that the response was within the "expected time standards." Every second does matter. We need to take whatever steps are necessary to have a better communication system in order to shorten that expected response time – even if it means not relying on Los Angeles and spending more money. Our residents, business owners, police officers and firefighters deserve the best.

Now I personally don't take any chances. My cell phone is programmed for the Santa Monica Police Dispatch Center (310 458-8491) and when I walk my dogs, I carry it with me.

Susan Hartley
Santa Monica



Your column here

Christopher Nyerges — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Thinking of my father

I NEVER LIKED THE MANNER IN WHICH some parents continue to treat their "children" long after they've grown up. I remember reading about a 90-year-old father who still chided his 70-year-old son as if he was still a boy.

As I grew older and lived apart from my parents, I wanted an enlightened relationship. Perhaps "friends" was too much to hope for, but I wanted to be treated as an equal, not spoken down to, but listened to. But how to slowly bring about such a change? My mother was always easier to converse with, and she was much more willing to relinquish her reins of parenthood on her 30-something, and then 40-something, child. My father had much greater difficulty. He grew up in the Great Depression and lived his life in that mindset. He never fully trusted banks, didn't communicate much with his children but expected our obedience, and "taught" us what he could via yelling at us.

I have said, jokingly, that I learned everything from my father. His ideas were too often tinged with stubbornness and folklore, and I often took a contrary path to his advice. Mushrooms were messy and dangerous, so I took up mycology. Everything I needed to know about plants was in the grocery store, so I took up botany and ethnobotany.

A computer was absolutely not needed, so I learned how to use a computer along with the rest of the world. Oil, high heat, and a Teflon frying pan was all that you needed to know about cooking, so one of my brothers became a chef.

Still, he was my father. As the years rolled by in our separate adult existences, I made the effort to get to know my father as a person, to talk to him, to be a real friend. So I refused to go to the normal family holiday gatherings where there was too much food, a nonstop blaring TV, and loud simultaneous talking (and yelling) by everyone. Instead, I would visit the next day and sit and talk with my father and mother, sometimes with a pie or other home-made dish.

He regarded it as odd that I'd rather do that holiday meeting the day after everyone else met, and he even once went so far as to call me a "bad son." But as time went on, I could tell he was touched by having us share a reading and small meal the day after. He no longer chided me for non-attendance at family events. Once, when trying to dissolve the parent-child bonds, I called him and began a discussion.

"Can I call you Frank," I asked.

"Is something wrong?," he responded.

"No, nothing is wrong," I told him. "I'm just trying to have a better relationship with you."

"Do you need money? Are you in trouble?" he asked with worry in his voice.

Needless to say, that conversation did not go as planned, but was still a step in the right direction.

When he died (after a long illness), I got the word via an early morning phone call. In a daze, I walked into the moderate rain, crying, talking to Frank. I walked for hours, and I felt that I "reached" him, and he seemed to appreciate our continuing conversation.

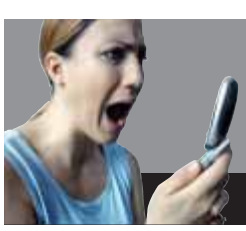
HE GREW UP IN THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND LIVED HIS LIFE IN THAT MINDSET. HE NEVER FULLY TRUSTED BANKS, DIDN'T COMMUNICATE MUCH WITH HIS CHILDREN BUT EXPECTED OUR OBEDIENCE, AND 'TAUGHT' US WHAT HE COULD VIA YELLING AT US.

I'd learned to love and appreciate him in his final years. He was by no means an ideal father. He was full of strengths, and weaknesses, talents, and flaws. He knew quite a bit of stuff that was not so.

But I grew to admire and attempt to emulate his positive attributes, while also attempting to learn from his mistakes and avoid those patterns in my life. In this way, I can say that my father taught me. I chose to no longer hold him in the mental bondage of "flawed father," just as I had demanded that he no longer hold me in the mental bondage of "deferential son."

Rather than see him as a "flawed father," I saw that he was just another individual with his own life's challenges, trying to make sense of this life, flaws and all. By trying to see his life through his experience, I found that I could simply accept who he was, my father, one-half of the formula for bringing me into this world. At long last, I felt at peace with my own father, and felt an unconditional love towards him, years after he died.

CHRISTOPHER NYERGES is the author of seven books, including "Guide to Wild Foods" and "Enter the Forest." He has had thousands of newspaper and magazine articles published since the mid-1970s, and is currently the editor of Wilderness Way magazine. He can be reached at christopher_nyerges@yahoo.com



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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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

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

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

An open letter to Hillary

DEAR SEN. CLINTON,

I figured this week will probably not go down in history as the one you'll remember most fondly, so I thought I'd drop you a line and offer some words of comfort.

Let me start off by saying that losing is never easy. I recently misplaced my favorite nail file and I still feel the pangs of loss (but really only when I chip a nail, which isn't very often). Losing the Democratic presidential nomination? Much tougher, obviously.

While I hold out some hope that my old file will turn up eventually — and even if it doesn't, it's just a nail file — your defeat is something from which you'll likely never recover and even if you manage to put it behind you for one minute, you'll likely remember or be reminded the next. That must smart.

Not that it matters now, but if I were you, I might have admitted defeat before last Saturday. Sure, in some ways I respect that you waited until the primaries officially ended, plus three and a half more days, to put your campaign out of its misery. Hanging in there until the last possible second and then some — even though in the process you might have very possibly destroyed the next four to eight years for the rest of the Democratic Party — was your right.

And, frankly, I say good for you for not letting the polls, pundits, columnists, newspaper editorials, party elders, and pretty much every living, thinking person tell you otherwise.

At the very least, your actions were entirely consistent with the mangling of the last two presidential elections by the Democrats and the Democrats are nothing if not consistent in their dysfunction. Besides, you probably figured another few days couldn't do that much more harm, right?

I'm just thinking out loud here, but do you suppose if you had conceded, say, when everyone else knew that you didn't have a mathematical prayer of being nominated a few months ago, that Barack Obama might not have fist-bumped his wife last week? Their display was about as hip as that moment in April when you knocked back that shot of Canadian whiskey in Bronko's Bar in Crown Point, Ind. In hindsight, that might have been the perfect time for you to bow out gracefully, no?

Moving forward, though, try to hope for the best and focus your efforts on the vice presidency. If you get it, you should have a lot of free time on your hands, and that'll be a nice change. And if you don't, you'll still have a lot of down time. That is, after you earn back your campaign's $30 million debt — including $11 million of your own dough — before the August convention. Ouch, by the way.

But let's assume for whatever reason that you don't get the gig. Maybe you can write another book, "It Takes 2,118 Delegates (Which is 199 More Than I Was Able to Get)." Or if you don't have it in you to write another book, why not spend a little time reading those written by your peers? There's Scott McClellan's new memoir, "What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception," which seems to be making him more reviled amongst Republicans than, well, you.

There's also "Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea." Comedian Chelsea Handler may not be your peer, but you probably feel a little connection to everyone with that name, right?

Or maybe you might consider ghostwriting someone else's book. I bet President Bush will want to record some of his White House memories when he leaves office in January. Since that'll undoubtedly be an emotional month for you, why not distract yourself and help him with the big words? I imagine he'll write about how he sacrificed his golf game out of respect for the Iraq war, but at the same time discovered that miniature golf is way easier and a ton more fun anyway, especially when the courses have those little windmills. It would be a book about spiritual awakenings, n'est-ce pas?

No matter what though, always remember that there's no shame in second place. Look at "American Idol" season two runner-up Clay Aiken.

He had his own television Christmas special in 2004 and last month it was reported that he's donated his sperm to a woman old enough to be his mother. I think his story is an inspiration to losers everywhere. If he can still eke out a headline, imagine the possibilities for you.

Anyway, I really am sorry you're having such a rough time. Maybe you should go see the "Sex and the City" movie. It's all about second, third and 19th chances. A topic close to your heart, now in more ways than one.

Sincerely,
Meredith

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.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?

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



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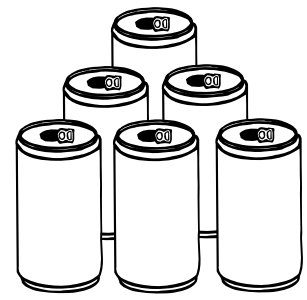
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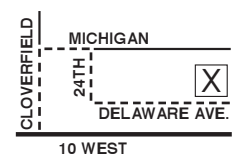
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Is the midsize SUV becoming extinct?

BY TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT Even in northern Wisconsin, where midsize sport utility vehicles are as common as deer, people are starting to abandon them because of high gasoline prices.

It's one of the last places to back away from the class of SUVs, which includes the once-popular Ford Explorer and Chevrolet TrailBlazer. Some industry analysts are already declaring the midsize SUV extinct.

"They're dinosaurs. Put a fork in them," Erich Merkle, vice president of auto industry forecasting for the consulting company IRN Inc. in Grand Rapids, Mich., said in an interview.

It's no secret that drivers are flocking to smaller, more fuel-efficient cars as the cost of gas marches higher.

And midsize SUVs are built on the same frames as trucks, which add extra weight and drink more fuel.

So drivers who want a bigger ride are opting for newer crossover vehicles — such as the Ford Edge or Buick Enclave — that look and perform like SUVs but are lighter because they're built on the same underpinnings as cars.

They're not well-equipped to go off-road, but analysts say few people were using that feature, anyway.

The move away from midsize SUVs is painfully clear to Tonie Mixer of De Pere, Wis., who has been trying for a month to sell her cream-colored 2007 Explorer, which features heated leather seats and a power moon roof.

So far, the only inquires have been from brokers wanting to help with the sale.

"It's the perfect car," she said. "But it just uses the gas because we got the big engine in it."

It uses the cash, too. At $4 per gallon, it costs $90 to fill the 22½-gallon tank of a 2007 Explorer. A four-wheel-drive model with a powerful 4.6-liter V8 engine gets just 13 miles per gallon in the city and 18 on the highway.

Mixer has hers on the market, asking $27,995.

"We originally got it to pull our camper, but we're not going to be doing much of that any more," she said.

Midsize SUV sales were down 24 percent for the first five months of this year from the same period in 2007. The decline for May was an especially steep 38 percent, according to Autodata Corp.

People bought about 445,000 Explorers in 2000, at the height of the SUV market, but last year Ford only sold about one-third of that number. And 2008 looks even worse.

For large SUVs, such as the Chevrolet Suburban and for Ford Expedition, sales declines have also been huge. But automakers are betting they will survive — in smaller numbers — because of large families that need the space and people who tow boats and campers.

Ford won't say if the Explorer is headed for the scrap yard, but at the Detroit auto show earlier this year, the company showed off a version built on car underpinnings that it plans to roll out later.

General Motors Corp. and Chrysler won't concede the deaths of their midsize SUVs, either.

But GM announced earlier this month it would close an Ohio factory that its the only maker of its TrailBlazer and GMC Envoy models.

> **"THE REASON THAT CULTURAL STUFF IS BECOMING SO POWERFUL IS THAT EVERYBODY'S CONSCIOUSNESS HAS BEEN RAISED BY THE ECONOMIC ISSUE."**
>
> **Robert Thompson**
> Syracuse University professor

Chrysler already had plans to close the plant that makes the Dodge Durango and Chrysler Aspen.

Once ubiquitous large and midsize SUVs have become symbols of Americans' overuse of oil, said Robert Thompson, a Syracuse University professor who studies pop culture.

Now, many people who bought SUVs when they were trendy are embarrassed by them, he said.

"There are a lot of perfectly normal families who were driving their kids around in these things who now feel the need to show up in your driveway to apologize," he said.

Jack Nerad, executive market analyst for Kelley Blue Book, says he sees the shift in California, where the image of driving to the wide-open spaces was popular.

"The auto industry moves through cycles and moves on," he said. "I think we've probably moved beyond that outdoor imagery."

But make no mistake, Thompson says — it's mostly about expensive gas.

"The reason that cultural stuff is becoming so powerful is that everybody's consciousness has been raised by the economic issue," Thompson says.

GM and Chrysler have been trying to fight the gas-guzzling image of SUVs with a sophisticated gas-electric hybrid that pushes gas mileage in a large SUV to 21 in the city and 22 on the highway.

Still, the shift from trucks to cars this year was so rapid that Ford and GM executives view it as permanent.

Both GM and Ford recently announced huge production cuts and plans to crank out more cars even as U.S. automakers, and even Toyota Motor Corp., continue to see their sales drop.

The shift certainly will cause more red ink in Detroit, where automakers historically have relied on big-ticket trucks for the bulk of their profits.

Nerad says the Detroit Three recognized the shift and have more fuel-efficient models in the works, but they saw it coming in years, not months. The change, he said, was the most rapid he has seen in his 30 years in the industry.

None of this is much help to Mixer, though, who bought her Explorer in March of last year. Gasoline was still around $2.50 per gallon.

"We didn't see this coming at all," she said. "I didn't realize it was ever going to get this bad."

Restaurant Snapshot

Merv Hecht — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lares, as good as it gets

LARES, A CULT MEXICAN RESTAURANT IN an offbeat location, serves excellent food. Forty years ago, this now prosperous family-owned place occupied an unattractive storefront frequented primarily by Spanish speaking people, like my friend Dr. Jorge Quiroz, who took me there. Now renovated and remodeled, Lares features an upstairs bar and dining room which features guitarists, sometimes from McCabe's, a well known nearby guitar shop. Last year a fire upstairs interrupted the bar scene temporarily but hopefully by now things are back to normal. Some would call the neighborhood a restaurant area offering diners choices ranging from McDonalds across the street to the very upscale Valentinos just one block away.

WHERE: 2909 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica CA 90405. tel. (310) 829-4559.

WHEN: Open every day from 8 a.m. to 1a.m.

BEST DISHES: What I eat here depends on which meal I'm having. For breakfast or brunch I like the Machaca. That's eggs fried with shredded beef, onions, and peppers. It also comes in a burrito, but I prefer it on a plate with the flour tortillas on the side, and I stuff them, and myself, by myself. Lunch is a difficult decision.

I'll often have the chili relleno, which I think is the best in town. The breading is not too intrusive and the cheese stuffing is the right texture. The chicken mole is good. And the carnitas is excellent, but sometimes more than I can eat. For dinner the steak is a great value and a hearty serving.

There are some less popular dishes, like the tongue in sauce, which are worth trying from time to time.

BEST FEATURE: This is as good as it gets for Mexican style food. I'm particularly fond of the hot chips and very spicy salsa that comes to the table right away, requiring, for me, an immediate bottle of beer. Ask for the extra hot sauce as well as the regular salsa (which is also pretty spicy). An appetizer of guacamole is a good idea.

WORST FEATURE: Sometimes you have to be a person that likes to be in the middle of a crowd to eat here. When full, it gets to be almost like a big party. And then there's the art.

WHAT TO DRINK: Everyone seems to have a marguerita in hand. I always start with a Dos Equis blond. They have a reasonable house red and white wine. There's a full bar, so take your pick.

Achatz takes the top chef award at food 'Oscars'

BY J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

NEW YORK A Chicago chef known for his ethereal cooking — as well as the tongue cancer that nearly ended his life — was named the nation's top chef Sunday by the James Beard Foundation.

The award marked another victory in a tumultuous year for Grant Achatz, who last July was diagnosed with Stage 4 tongue cancer, underwent aggressive treatment to save his life and sense of taste, and by December was cancer free.

Achatz told the crowd of food world elite gathered for the awards he credits lessons learned when he was 22 and working at The French Laundry in Yountville, Calif., with teaching him not just how to cook, but also how to survive.

Those lessons were going to "make me a good cook and ultimately a great chef. What I didn't know was that it was actually going to save my life," he said.

"That drive, that tenacity, that dedication that I took in at that restaurant ... it became a part of who I am 12 years later and helped me get through a pretty ridiculous battle."

Achatz' cooking at his 3-year-old restaurant, Alinea, has come to define the so-called molecular gastronomy movement, an approach to eating about as similar to home cooking as particle physics is to a junior chemistry set.

His ultramodern style has crafted menus that read like the shopping list of a culinary mad scientist, with items such as "black truffle explosion, romaine, parmesan" and "transparency of raspberry, rose petal, yogurt."

Achatz thanked the many chefs in the crowd for their offers to help during his battle with cancer.

"I didn't let any of them come to the restaurant and cook as they suggested. I couldn't do that to the cooks," he said with a laugh.

Alinea was named the nation's top restaurant by Gourmet magazine in 2006, and Achatz previously won Beard awards for rising star chef in 2002 and 2003, and for best chef in the Great Lakes region last year.

The James Beard awards are known as the Oscars of the food world, and honor those who follow in the footsteps of Beard, considered the dean of American cooking when he died in 1985.

Business partners Mario Batali and Joe Bastianich also were honored at Sunday's ceremony as the nation's top restaurateurs. They oversee a cadre of restaurants, including New York's Babbo Ristorante e Enoteca and Del Posto.

New York's Gramercy Tavern was named the nation's Outstanding Restaurant.

Gramercy Tavern, which since opening in 1994 has been nominated for and received numerous Beard Awards and cemented the careers of culinary luminaries such as Tom Colicchio, is known for its contemporary American cuisine.

"If you can judge a restaurant based on the quality of its alumni, I don't think there's a richer restaurant that I could have dreamed of being a part of," said owner Danny Meyer.

Gavin Kaysen of New York's Cafe Boulud was named Rising Star Chef, while the award for Outstanding New Restaurant went to Michel Richard's Central Michel Richard in Washington. Richard was named Outstanding Chef by the foundation last year.

Frances Moore Lappe, whose nearly 40-year-old book, "Diet for a Small Planet," has been the blueprint for eating with a small carbon footprint since long before the term was coined, was named Humanitarian of the Year.

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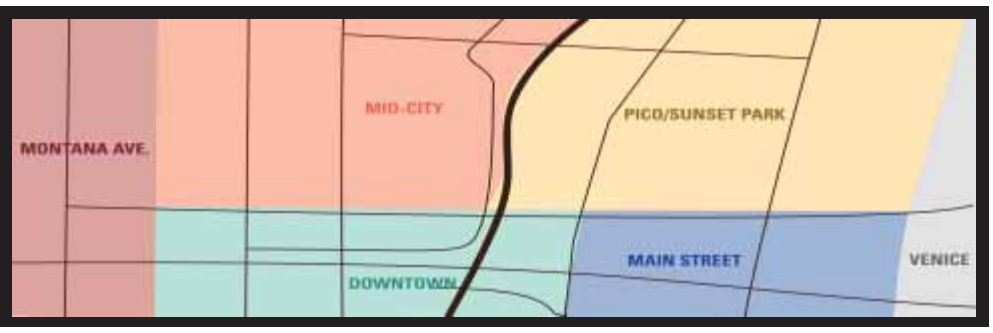
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A DAY IN THE LI

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE





Photos and text by Brandon Wise

MOVING ON: **(top) President of Santa Monica College Dr. Chui L. Tsang speaks to the crowd gathered for the school's 77th commencement ceremony at Corsair Field on Tuesday. (above left) The faces of happy 2008 graduates could be seen up and down every row. (above right) Proud family members cheer on their graduate from the stands. (right) Surrounding the stage, flags from around the world represented the hundreds of graduates who came from abroad to study at SMC.**



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TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2008



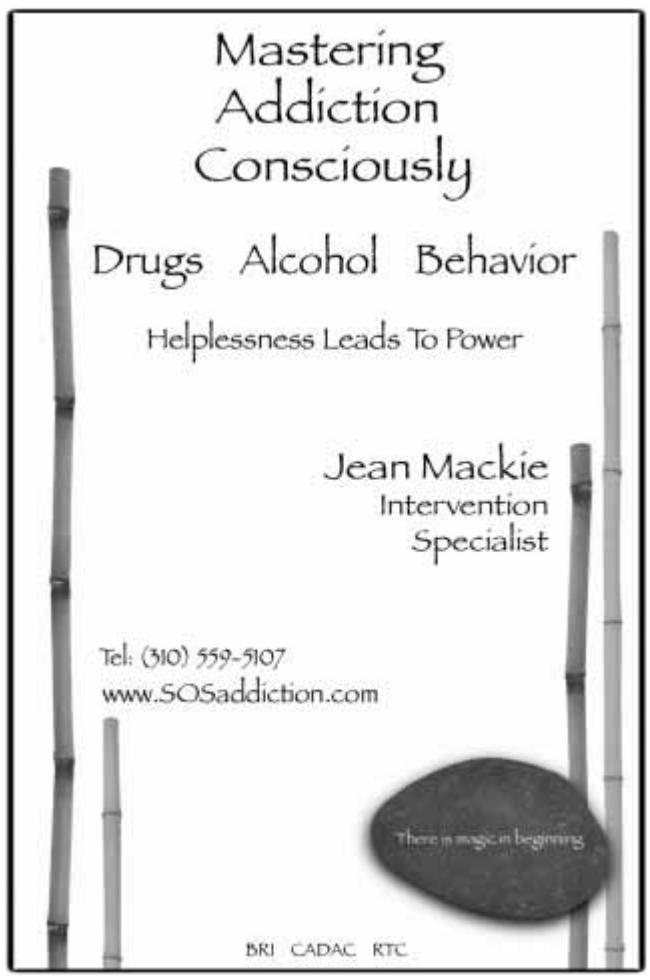






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Alexandra Bissonnette *news@smdp.com*

SCENE OF THE CRIME: **Bill William, operations manager of a Union 76 gas station on the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Pacific Street, stands next to the diesel pump where thieves stole 200 gallons of gasoline late last month.**

Thieves steal 200 gallons of fuel from local station

FROM **GAS** PAGE 1

will happen in Santa Monica.'"

Within 48 hours, Bambrick had arrested the three men who committed the robbery and impounded their truck.

"They were selling diesel gas to truck drivers at the harbor for half price," William said.

Since the robbery, William has taken steps to ensure that his station does not fall victim to this type of crime again.

"I ordered steel tubes for all 14 pumps to keep people from breaking the meter," he said.

The total cost of damages to the gas station came to $6,100, including the $1,200 worth of stolen fuel, $3,500 to replace the broken meter, and $1,400 to protect all the pumps from future theft.

> **"A FRIEND OF MINE AT A CHEVRON STATION IN CARSON HAD 4,000 GALLONS STOLEN IN ONE WEEKEND."**
>
> **Bill William**
> Operations manager of a Santa Monica Union 76 station

William proudly reported that his Union 76 station has been the cheapest in Santa Monica for a long time, but he said that "profits have gone down since gas prices have peaked."

While William is not taking any chances with a repeat incident, a sergeant at the Santa Monica Police Department said that fuel robberies are "not something that has been common as of late."

news@smdp.com

Bill Clinton cancels commencement speech at UCLA

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Bill Clinton on Tuesday canceled a commencement speech at the University of California, Los Angeles, because of a lingering labor dispute.

The former president was scheduled to address 4,000 graduating seniors on Friday, but his office said he would not appear because of the long-running rift between the university and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The 20,000 workers involved in the wage dispute range from technicians at UC medical facilities to janitors and landscapers. Contract talks have sputtered for months.

"Due to the ongoing labor dispute, he regrets that he will be unable to participate in commencement this year and he wishes the UCLA graduates the best of luck," Clinton's office said a statement.

Instead, UCLA Chancellor Gene Block will deliver keynote remarks.

The university and Clinton agreed that because a union contract could not be guaranteed by Friday, it was best to tap a new keynote speaker, UCLA said in a statement.

Judith L. Smith, dean and vice provost of undergraduate education at the UCLA College of Letters and Science, said in a statement it was "unfortunate" that the labor dispute spilled into a day "intended to celebrate student achievement."

Former California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez also canceled a commencement speech at UC Davis scheduled for Wednesday because of the labor dispute, the university said Tuesday.

Councilmembers concerned with how LUCE will pace development

FROM LUCE PAGE 1

be a public benefits requirement for new developments, including extra community incentives for projects that exceed the by-right height of 32 feet.

Growth and its accompanying congestion has long been a concern of residents in Santa Monica. A ballot measure that would place a cap on commercial development recently gathered enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot. Opponents of the measure, which is sponsored by the Coalition for a Livable City, have criticized it as hijacking the lengthy LUCE process.

As was in previous LUCE workshops, the issue of how the new general plan will pace growth was a key concern expressed during the meeting, several councilmembers wondering how to avoid an influx of development.

Proponents of the Residents' Initiative to Fight Traffic have argued that the projections for new commercial growth set forth in the current general plan were exceeded six years after it was adopted.

"Missing in the documents is a mechanism to control the rate of change overall citywide," Councilmember Kevin McKeown said during the meeting.

Projects above the allotted 32 feet would require council, commission and community reviews and it would be incumbent on the developer to devise a transportation demand management plan to offset added congestion.

> **"WHAT WE'RE BRINGING REFLECTS MANY THOUSANDS OF COMMENTS AND IDEAS."**
>
> **Eileen Fogarty**
> Planning and Community Development Director

Fogarty said that more than 90 percent of the city — the residential neighborhoods — would remain roughly unchanged, the majority of structural changes being concentrated on the boulevards and in proposed activity centers, areas where development will encourage residents to get out of their cars.

Councilmember Ken Genser said he feels that the proposed by-right height of 32 feet is still much too large.

"Along the commercial boulevards we need to keep in mind … that they back up into the existing residential neighborhoods," Genser said.

The activity centers are being slated for areas that already have a supermarket or some other large business that can serve as an anchor, among the areas including the intersections of 14th Street and Wilshire Boulevard and Lincoln and Ocean Park boulevards.

Both intersections have a supermarket — Vons on Wilshire and Albertsons on Lincoln.

The activity center at Wilshire and 14th will include a parking district that would be jointly used by residents and shoppers, welcoming news for those residing in the Wilshire-Montana neighborhood where there is a severe shortage of on-street parking.

New development at the Wilshire-14th activity center might use the new Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, which is currently under construction, as a basis for height, a suggestion that concerned several councilmembers.

"I don't think it's appropriate to use it as a (building) we would key our plan off of," Councilmember Bobby Shriver said. "It was an aberration and we should treat it as an aberration."

melodyh@smdp.com

Decision raises questions of access, commitment and transparency

FROM BRIDGE PAGE 3

commitment.

"Every summer up until this one, the district stepped up to fund the program because they saw it as important," Denis said. "There's always a money shortage, and summer is always tight, but up until this year, someone's always found the money to make the class happen in its full capacity."

English teacher Pete Barraza team-taught the Bridge program in previous years but could not be hired for this summer. He too questions the district's commitment.

"If you make it a point to have a school-wide or district-wide philosophy and mission to increase access for equity, then there should never be a question of whether to fund the program or not," he said.

Denis feels that although SMMUSD has good programs in place, it lacks a strong, united effort to address the issue of access.

"It's been very piecemeal," he said. "There are programs over here and over there, but there's been no one at the district level on this, aware of it, pushing it along."

Wells disagreed.

"The fact that we even offer summer classes like this show that we are trying to help students," she said.

Though the summer program helps build academic skills and prepare students for the social challenges of an advanced class, no funding is available to check up on these students once the school year has begun. The lack of data on how many students drop the honors classes, or how many continue on the advanced track, make it difficult to analyze the overall success of the program.

> **"IF YOU MAKE IT A POINT TO HAVE A SCHOOL-WIDE OR DISTRICT-WIDE PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION TO INCREASE ACCESS FOR EQUITY, THEN THERE SHOULD NEVER BE A QUESTION OF WHETHER TO FUND THE PROGRAM OR NOT."**
>
> **Pete Barraza**
> English teacher

Denis joked that he would "love a graduate student with lots of free time" to collect and process such information.

"It's hard to carry out support after the summer with nothing in place," said Barraza. "We have supportive teachers doing what they can, but that's where it ends."

To help the Bridge students feel more secure in staying in an honors class, I House Principal Eva Mayoral annually schedules them in "cohorts" so they have a support group of friends from the program. Other ideas include incorporating a chemistry course into the Bridge program, as minorities are even more noticeably underrepresented in the sciences.

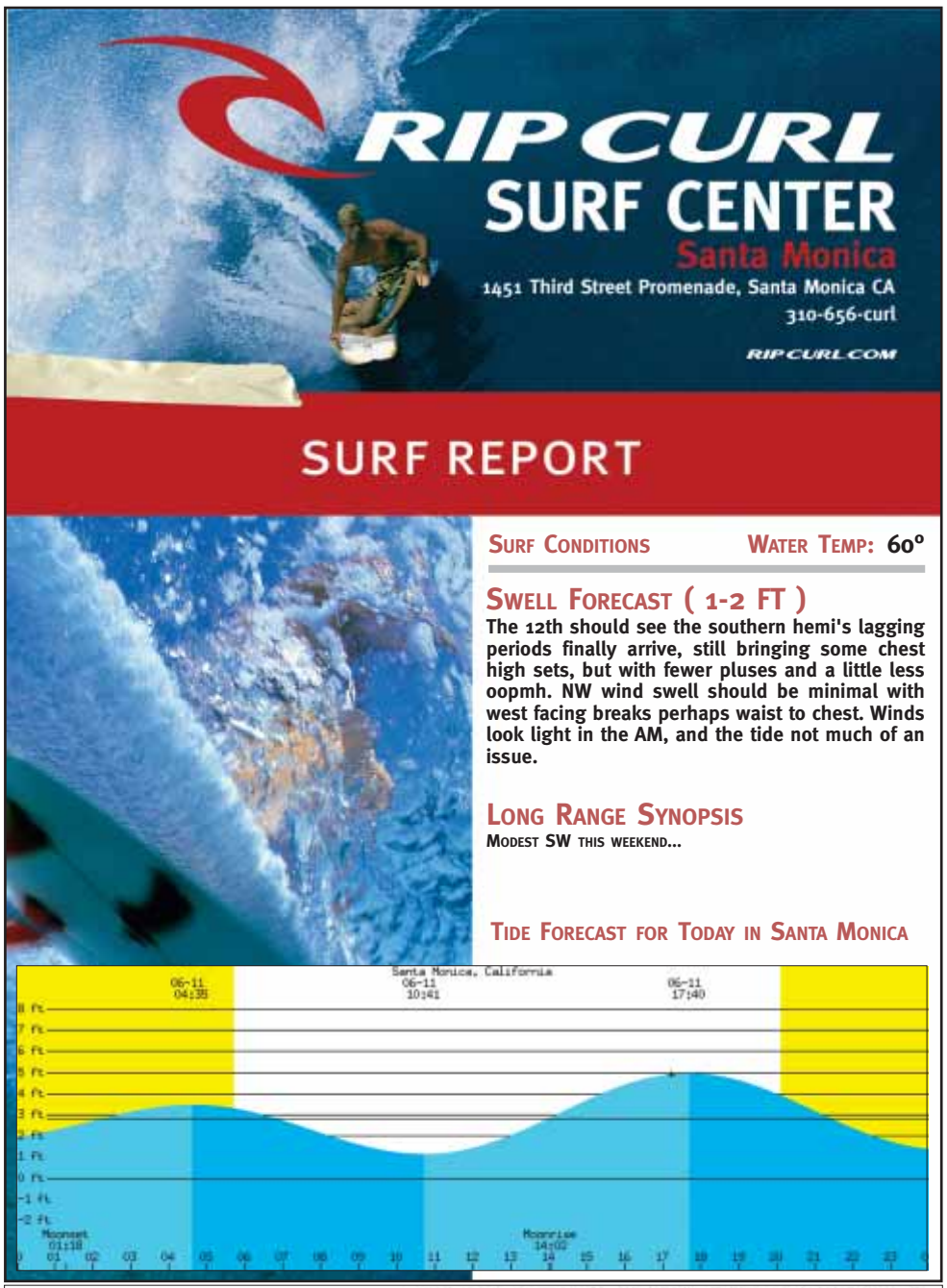
All plans, however, will depend on the murky financial future, regardless of near unanimous recognition of the program's importance.

"People think of this program as just a way of helping the underrepresented students, but all students benefit when you diversify an honors class," Denis said. "When a class is strictly one group, it's not a complete class."

news@smdp.com







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
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.

NBA

Rondo skips practice with twisted ankle

BY JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Rajon Rondo side-shuffled down the floor during the Boston Celtics' off-day stretching drills Wednesday, lagging behind the teammates he usually sprints right past.

When the time came to jump, Rondo stood in place, unable to participate because of the ankle injury that left him on the bench for most of the second half during Game 3 of the NBA finals.

The speedy point guard said he has no intention of missing Game 4 against the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night, but he left open the possibility that he wouldn't be effective enough to help his team.

"Nobody in this league is 100 percent, but I'm sure I'll play," he said during the media availability period before practice at Staples Center. "There's no way I'm going to miss the game, probably. I don't want to hurt the team and go out there and not give it my all, but I think I'm sure I'll be playing tomorrow night."

Wearing a hard plastic brace on his left ankle — and, when talking to reporters, no shoes — Rondo described the injury as a bone bruise. He felt less pain after treatment with ice and a night of rest, and he expects to feel even better with another 24 hours to heal.

"I can walk on it," Rondo said, adding that he wouldn't be able to wear that brace during the game. "I made a walk around the hotel and I was limping a little bit, but the farther I walked the better it got."

On Wednesday, Rondo was on the floor for the stretching drills, but he took part in about half of them and appeared to be going at about half-speed. The rest of practice was closed to the media, and the Celtics were not planning a shootaround on Thursday morning.

"He's very important to this team. He's a big reason why we win," forward Kevin Garnett said. "He's the anchor of our defense. He's totally matured over the course of the year."

Rondo rolled his ankle early in the third quarter on Tuesday night, when the Lakers won 78-71 to trim their deficit in the best-of-seven series to 2-1. He returned in the fourth quarter for 3 1/2 minutes and made a basket to give him eight points in the game.

"It felt pretty good, but I was just running off adrenaline," he said. "After the game it swelled up a little bit, it got a little tight. But other than that, like I said, it's just time. It's going to be all right."

In Game 3, the Celtics made up for Rondo's absence with backups Eddie House and Sam Cassell. Coach Doc Rivers said he would also consider using Tony Allen at point guard because of his success covering Kobe Bryant during the regular season.

"It's the finals. I don't want to hold anything back," Rondo said. "If I'm going out there at 50 percent, I don't want to hurt the team. Eddie and Sam do a great job of running the team, so I'll let them have it."

All of the possibilities offer something.

Cassell is a fearless shooter who has won championships before. House had the long-range shooting touch that would keep the Lakers from double-teaming Garnett in the lane. Allen is a tough defender.

"Everybody brings something different to the table," Garnett said. "We shouldn't miss a beat."

But none of them have Rondo's speed.

"And he's the one pure point guard on our team that has the ability to make plays, and that's what we would lose," Rivers said. "I'm concerned because if Rondo can play but he doesn't have speed, then that's a concern."

NBA

The stars come out for Lakers

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Actor Jack Nicholson was in his familiar courtside seat wearing his traditional sunglasses Tuesday night, cheering on the Lakers in Game 3 of the NBA finals.

It was a scene reminiscent of the 1980s, when Nicholson supported the Lakers at The Forum in Inglewood in their three finals matchups with the Celtics.

Actress Dyan Cannon, another fan dating to the Magic Johnson-led "Showtime" Lakers, was also on hand as was soccer star David Beckham, a Staples Center regular since joining the Los Angeles Galaxy last summer.

Actors Denzel Washington, Dustin Hoffman, Timothy Hutton, Kristin Davis, Hilary Duff, Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Eddie Murphy, Sylvester Stallone and Tobey Maguire were others who showed up along with directors Spike Lee, Steven Spielberg and Penny Marshall, along with Playboy boss Hugh Hefner and his girlfriends, the stars of the reality show "The Girls Next Door." Kanye West, too, made an appearance.

Former Lakers standouts Rick Fox and A.C. Green, ex-Celtics Jo Jo White and Bill Walton, and European soccer players Didier Drogba and Darren Bent were in attendance. Boston's Kevin Garnett got the tickets for Drogba and Bent.

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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
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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.
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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

The Incredible Hulk (PG-13) 1hr 54min
12:01

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

Call a friend, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Refuse to take things/people/comments too personally. Weigh your reactions to others. If you hit a lot of flak, consider deferring to others. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ If you splurge on luxury items, try to play Ralph Nader. Clear out your to-do list one by one. Your effectiveness will clear the path to more good times. Nurture those who seem to be in an uproar. Tonight: Share feelings with a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Entertaining might come more easily than working. Your laughter and an easygoing attitude will be appreciated. Everyone wants to be your best friend. Tonight: Try a brand-new venue, club or neighborhood.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Fatten your wallet today with a new decision about finances. Real estate might be involved ... finally, a long-term plan for security! Consider a "look" change, perhaps a diet or a new hair color? Tonight: Buy a favorite treat on the way home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Opposing opinions add variety. Remember that. Listen. Later, you'll be able to make revisions. You're sharp as a tack, eager to move ahead with new ideas. Tonight: When catching up on news, you won't believe what you hear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Your wallet is on fire! Curb moody, impulsive spending. Keep all receipts; you might change your mind tomorrow! You need a break from helping others. Tonight: Share a passionate interest with a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Love makes your world go round. You will spot a kindred soul across a crowded room. Trust your instincts. All work and no play makes you very cranky. Seize the opportunity for play, for all our sakes! Tonight: The more the merrier. Somewhere noisy and energetic will prod you out of the doldrums.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Searching for the meaning of life? Visit a psychic, hypnotist or life coach, and focus on the big picture. You like to plan ahead. Find a way to leave your worries behind. An outside opinion helps. Tonight: Call a long lost friend and reconnect. Share a secret with confidence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You'd rather not face reality today. Wings on your feet? Use up some vacation time soon to visit a different country or at least take up a foreign language. You need a challenge and a change of scenery. Tonight: Dine in an ethnic restaurant, or learn to belly dance!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You make a difference and delight in the recognition. Put projects in front of powerful people today. In relationships, you need someone with the opposite personality of yours today to get you out of a rut! Tonight: Be open to adventure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Rely on your hunches. The boss might need a logical explanation. Your eccentric ideas actually inspire and entertain others, so don't hold back! You need a job that encourages creativity. Tonight: Why not surprise that special someone?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Global issues weigh heavy on your mind. You worry about the future. You can't save the world all by yourself, so join an outdoors club or a social-activist organization that encourages peaceful change. You'll make some new friends too. Tonight: Don't stay home!

Happy birthday

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

You have the gift of gab and can brighten the energy of a room just by walking into it. This year you will enjoy an assortment of colorful friends and opportunities for travel and learning. Many obstacles from last year are history now, and you feel you can get ahead with important life goals. Remember to live in the present. Pressure to make an important job decision or a move might force you to think ahead. If you are single, romance will knock on your door this year. If you are attached, a new addition is possible. Some couples will take up a mutual hobby. LIBRA has a way of enticing you into naughtiness.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

Pico Area Resurfacing, a CDBG (Federally) Funded Project SP2097

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 **Monday, June 30, 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.

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: $400,000 – $500,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 90
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,500 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 **$50.00**. Additional mailing charge shall be **$10.00**. Contract Docu-ments 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 **A** license at the time the Construction Contract is awarded.

Bidders should be aware that the project is funded with grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Therefore, the City shall require the successful bidder to comply with all applicable Federal Law and regulations, including, without limitation, the Federal Requirements, Federal Labor Standards and Federal Wage Determinations attached to the Bid Documents and incorporated as part of the Construction Contract. You are urged to review copies of these laws and regulations prior to submitting a bid.

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.

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Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
BRONZE

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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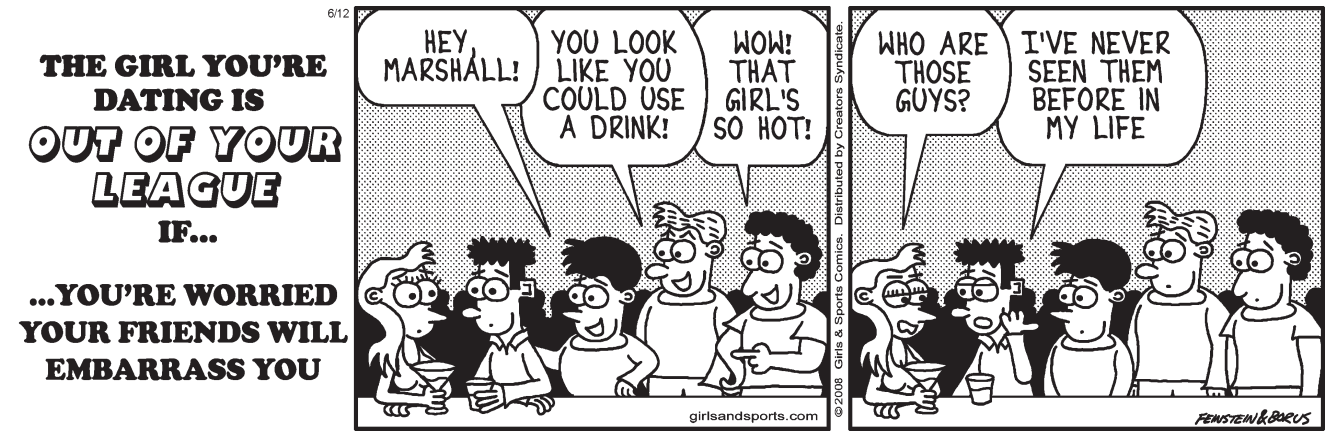
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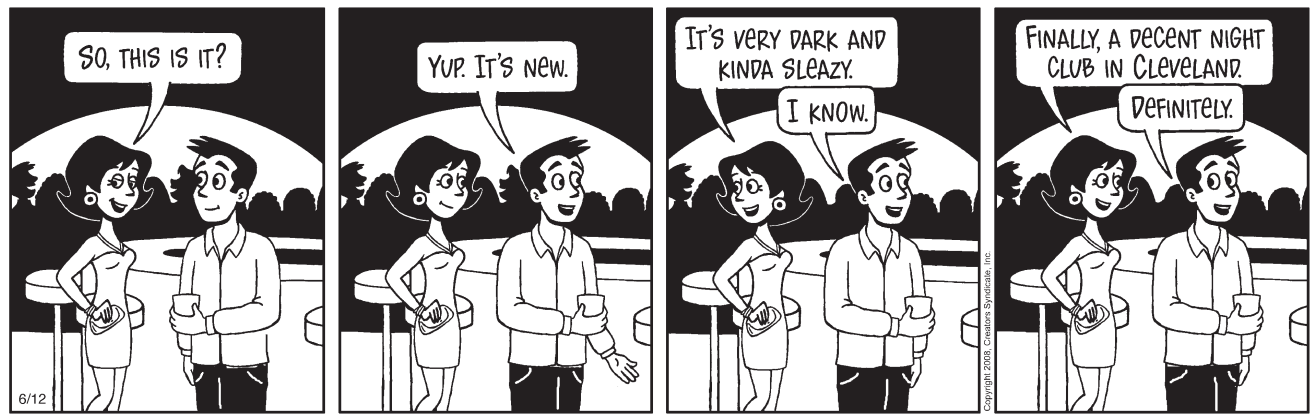
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



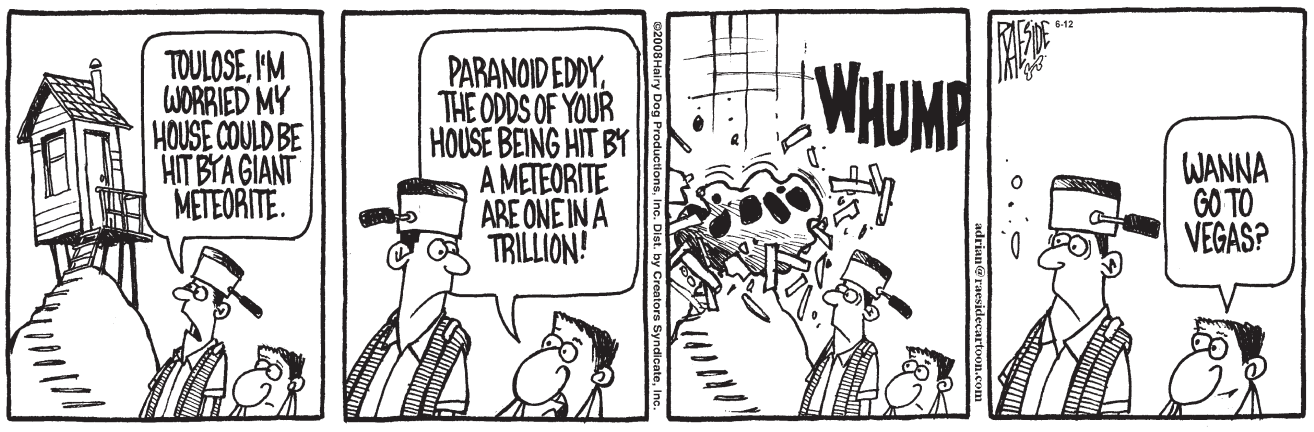
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



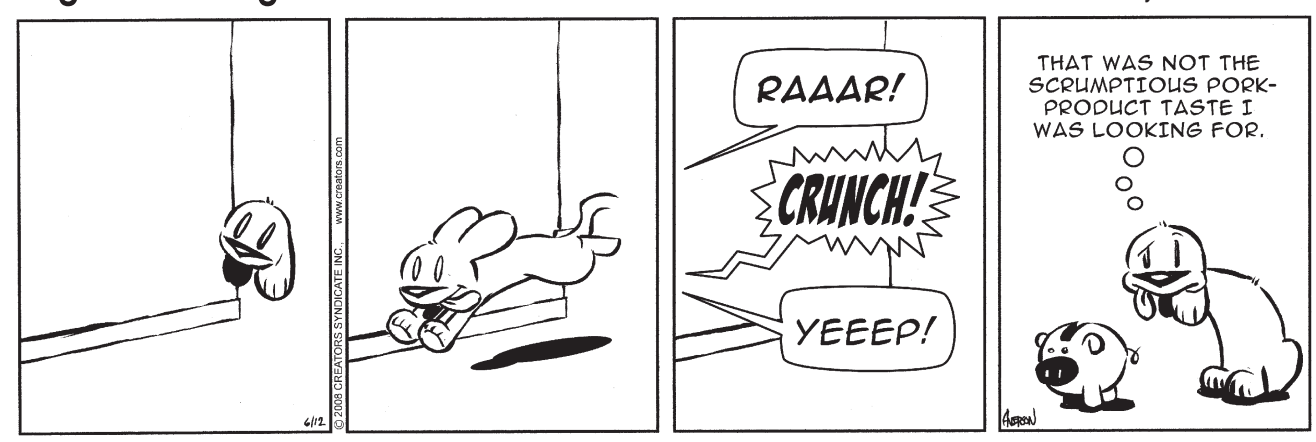
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



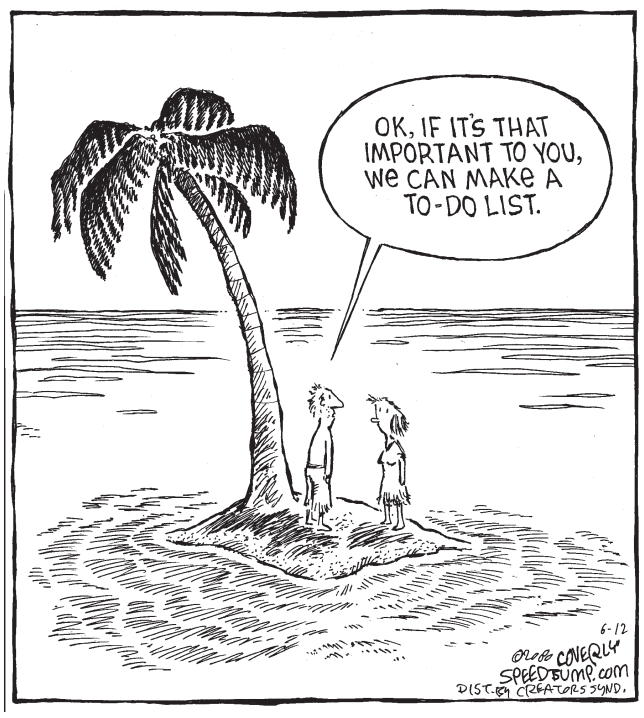
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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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 Confront
5 Rub the wrong way
11 Goes astray
12 Impulse relayer
13 One of the Baldwins
14 Tried the soup
15 Aid for one with many tasks
17 Lyricist Gershwin
18 Check marks
22 Run-down
24 Tea cake
25 Hitherto
26 Snaky fish
27 — Haute
30 Alpine sound
32 Car of the '50s
33 Boxing great
34 House munchers
38 Local resident
41 Battery unit
42 Makes amends
43 "— La Douce"
44 Lease signer
45 Aide: Abbr.

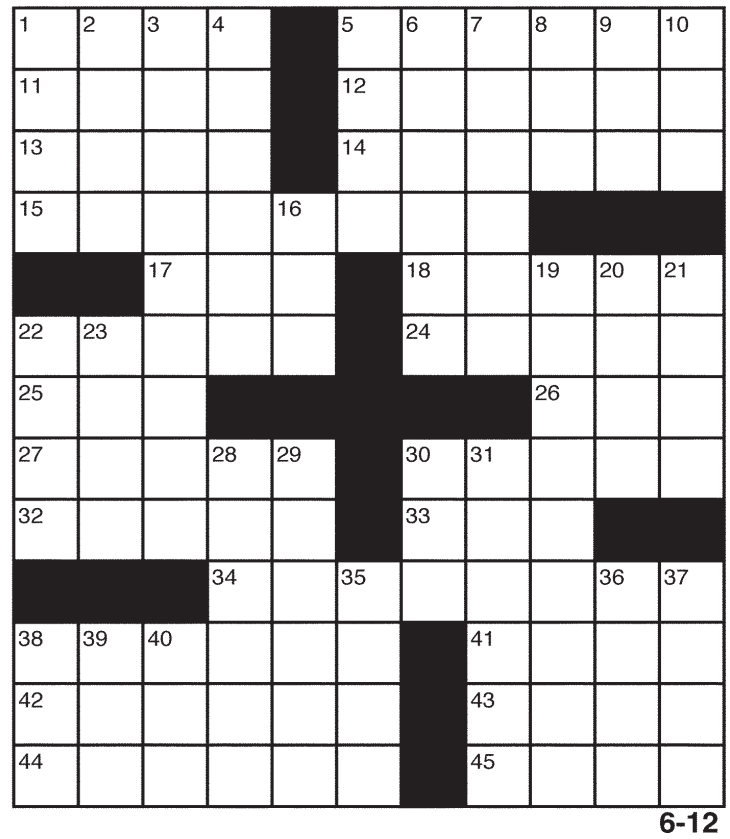
DOWN

1 Accomplishment
2 Singer Guthrie
3 People who are owed
4 Chaperone
5 Con
6 Wild ones
7 Countrified
8 Museum stuff
9 Buck's partner
10 Cut off
16 Place down
19 Fellow magazine workers
20 Dandling spot
21 Broker's advice
22 Assess
23 Like some cheese
28 Eye part
29 Football squad
30 Orange tuber
31 "Twelfth Night" countess
35 Take 10
36 Avenue liners
37 ASAP, in the ER
38 Singer Cole
39 Had dinner
40 Hauler's unit

T	A	C	O	■	C	A	T	N	I	P
I	C	O	N	■	A	P	I	E	C	E
N	I	N	E	■	R	E	N	T	E	R
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E	X	E	R	T	■	E	L	V	I	S
D	I	D	■	H	E	N	C	E	■	■
■	■	■	P	A	R	D	■	R	A	D
P	A	J	A	M	A	■	O	G	R	E
E	L	O	P	E	S	■	R	E	I	N
P	L	E	A	S	E	■	E	D	D	Y

Yesterday's answer

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



6-12

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 3 5 15 43 51 Meganumber: 11 Jackpot: $56M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 14 30 31 39 42 Meganumber: 16 Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5: 13 17 19 34 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 9 9 EVENING: 6 4 1

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 06 Whirl Win 2nd: 03 Hot Shot 3rd: 12 Lucky Charms RACE TIME: 1.47.19

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

■ In what would be a new modern record for the lapse of time between a death and its notice, neighbors found the mummified body of a Croatian woman in her Zagreb apartment in May, and police said no one remembered seeing her alive after 1973. (A Croatian news organization said the last sighting was in 1967.) She missed no maintenance payments because her building, which was state-owned when she was last seen, has since become a cooperative, and aggregate charges were paid for collectively by the other residents.

■ News of the Weird informed you in 2007 of camel beauty pageants in Saudi Arabia, but the obsession with the animal runs deeper, based in part on nostalgia for the days when camels were important for transportation. Breeders cuddle and nuzzle them, and at the country's largest camel market near Riyadh in March 2008, they bought and sold based, one breeder told The New York Times, on the standards of "judging a beautiful girl. You look for big eyes, long lashes and a long neck." Said another, "See this one? She isn't married yet, this one. She's still a virgin. Look at the black eyes, the soft fur. ... Just like a girl going to a party." He added (after kissing the camel on the mouth), "My camels are like my children, my family." (In January, a prominent cleric issued a decree condemning the pride people take in their camels.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1665 England installed a municipal government in New York, formerly the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam.

1776 Virginia's colonial legislature became the first to adopt a Bill of Rights.

1898 Philippine nationalists declared independence from Spain.

1939 the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was dedicated in Cooperstown, N.Y.

WORD UP!

patrician \puh-TRISH-un\, *noun*:
1. A member of one of the original citizen families of ancient Rome.
2. A person of high birth; a nobleman.

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Parking provided. 310-646-2270 or volunteering@tasla.org.

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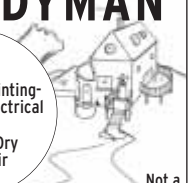
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Notices

June 5, 2008

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR COMMERCIAL REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL SERVICES

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors requests proposals from qualified commercial real estate appraisers to contract for appraisal services required in the Department's management of the County's Marina del Rey leaseholds. The Department wishes to engage appraisers on an as-needed basis to appraise approximately 10 leaseholds per year over the next three years. In addition, the selected appraiser(s) may be required to testify at rental adjustment arbitration proceedings, may be chosen by the Department to participate in a three-member board of appraisers, and may be required to present his or her appraisal findings before various public bodies in relation to leasehold renovation or redevelopment proposals related to the County's Asset Management Strategy.

THOSE WHO SUBMIT PROPOSALS MUST HAVE (1) MEMBERSHIP IN THE APPRAISAL INSTITUTE (MAI) DESIGNATION OR RELATED COMPARABLE PROFESSIONAL DESIG-NATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE; (2) A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS OF SUBSTANTIAL EXPERIENCE IN VALUING GROUND LEASES, SQUARE FOOT (MINIMUM) RENTS, AND PERCENTAGE RENTS; (3) FIVE YEARS OF SUBSTANTIAL EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS REGARDING THE VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY; AND (4) A CALIFORNIA CERTIFIED GENERAL REAL ESTATE APPRAISER'S LICENSE.

An informational meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 in the Boathouse Meeting Room, 13640 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. The deadline for submitting proposals is 5:00 p.m., July 9, 2008.

To request a copy of the Request for Proposals and required forms, either telephone (310) 577-5736, send an e-mail with APPRAISAL SERVICES in the subject line to hharris@bh.lacounty.gov or write Department of Beaches and Harbors, Contract Section, 13837 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292.

The County reserves the right to cancel the RFP and to modify any and all terms and conditions of the RFP, including minimum requirements. For further information, call Harold Harris at (310) 577-5736.

Santa Monica Daily Press
CN798791 08-01095 Jun 12, 2008

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Advertise your used car for sale in the only **LOCAL DAILY** newspaper in town.
FOR ONLY **$45**
Run it until it sells!*



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■ Large format photograph.
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Call us today at (310) 458-7737
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Santa Monica Daily Press

***Terms and conditions.** Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to anniek@smdp.com. Photographs only appear on print edition. 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.



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Open Sunday, June 15th
2:00 - 5:00 pm



1135 Berkeley Street
$1,995,000
Two Story Traditional 5 + 3 Home
w/ Large Backyard

Open Sunday, June 15th
2:00 - 5:00 pm



2470 Hill Street
$2,288,000
'Contemporary Mediterranean'
4 + 3 Home

Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment



785 Linda Flora Drive
$1,599,000
3 + 1.75 Home w/ Canyon,
Ocean and Getty Views



Open Sunday, June 15th
2:00 - 5:00 pm

1506 Corinth Ave # 201
$509,000
Contemporary
2 + 2.5 Condo
In the Heart of West LA



Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment

1049 16th Street # 5
$838,000
North of Wilshire
3 + 2.5 Townhome
w/ New Lighting



Easy to Show
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