

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

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Meganumber: 8

Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

7 9 18 36 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 5 9 4

Evening: 7 5 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags

2nd: 06 Whirl Win

3rd: 05 California Classic

RACE TIME: 1:45.85

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

News of the Weird has reported on how single acts of sexual intercourse wound up costing men (e.g., tennis star Boris Becker) staggering amounts of money. In March, Harry C. Stonecipher resigned under pressure as CEO of Boeing for having an affair with a Boeing lobbyist, and the New York Post, examining regulatory filings, concluded that Stonecipher had thus forfeited bonuses and incentives that could have been worth about \$38 million. While more than one act may have been involved, the pair were stationed in different cities, and published reports indicated that the affair had only recently begun.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 172nd day of 2005.
There are 193 days left in the year.

One hundred years ago, on June 21, 1905, French philosopher, author and playwright Jean-Paul Sartre was born in Paris.

In 1932, heavyweight Max Schmeling lost a title fight by decision to Jack Sharkey, prompting Schmeling's manager, Joe Jacobs, to exclaim: "We was robbed!"

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do."

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE
FRENCH PHILOSOPHER (1905-1980)

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Residents feel they're getting raw deal

BY CORTNEY FIELDING

Special to the Daily Press

After decades of juggling the interests of Santa Monica's automobile dealerships with those of area residents, City Hall is gearing up to loosen long-time restrictions on car dealers at the risk of overlooking ongoing resident complaints.

City officials have devised new standards that will grant the city's 18 dealerships the ability to stretch out — allowing them to build parking garages on residential lots for both inventory and customer parking, while also permitting the expansion of their existing buildings and showrooms.

The proposed provisions, which could reach the City Council this fall, are designed to ensure an industry — which brings in more than \$6 million in sales tax revenue for City Hall

See DEALERSHIPS, page 4



Rob Wynne/Special to the Daily Press

A fire truck squeezes past another truck unloading new automobiles near Honda of Santa Monica on 19th Street. Some residents are concerned that trucks loading and unloading new cars on city side streets create traffic hazards.

A bit LAX: New rapid rolling out

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — City officials have given their approval to the opening of a rapid bus line intended to make the trip between Santa Monica and LAX faster and more seamless.

The Big Blue Bus' latest public transportation service, the Rapid 3 line, was celebrated with a ceremony attended by 30 city and county officials on Monday, who said the express bus ride will offer a myriad of features that will make it more appealing to commuters, residents and tourists traveling along the Lincoln corridor.

City Councilman Herb Katz, who spoke at the ceremony, noted Santa Monica recently placed fifth nationwide for its sustainability measures and said he is proud to live in a city which provides high-quality public transportation options.



Ryan Hyatt/Daily Press

RAPID FIRE: City Councilman Herb Katz, Big Blue Bus director of transit services Stephanie Negriff, and Metro CEO Roger Snoble celebrate the new Rapid 3 line's unveiling at a ceremony on Monday.

"I'm excited about the new line because it will be the fastest way to travel between LAX, Santa Monica and downtown," Katz said. "It's great to be part of a community that offers this kind of service."

The Rapid 3 line will run north and south along a 10-mile stretch of Lincoln Boulevard, from Wilshire Boulevard and Fourth Street to Aviation Station, near the

Los Angeles Airport. There will be 13 stops in each direction.

Riders generally will not have to wait more than 15 minutes at a stop, if they use the service between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays.

The cost to ride will be the same as non-rapid buses at 75 cents for a regular adult fare and

See RAPID, page 9

Utility hikes to be decided

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Local business representatives involved in the solid waste industry are questioning the method by which City Hall has called for a broad sweep of utility fee hikes.

A group of refuse professionals said their knowledge of the industry and interests as residents has prompted them to act on the community's behalf to seek answers for the perceived obscure accounting methodology by which they said City Hall is proposing utility rate increases over the next few years in solid-waste, water and wastewater service rates. The increases are intended to shore up the city's declining utility funds.

The group, associated with San Kardashian, owner of the privately-held Southern California Disposal Company located in Santa Monica, argue City Hall

See UTILITIES, page 8

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Enjoy the moment, Aries

Santa Monica Daily Press



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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Plan a mini-happening to celebrate the Summer Solstice at some point in your day. Revive your spirit with the change of seasons. Opt to be a little more experimental — even if it's just for a day. Enjoy the moment. Tonight: A summer ritual.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ A partner demands your attention, which, of course, you will give him or her. Still, you might decide that you want to seize more control over your daily life. Don't worry about expressing yourself. The Sun pushes you forward. Tonight: Listen to someone's opinion, or is it a tirade?



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Others change their tune one more time. You can either flow with their whimsical style or get uptight. What would feel better? Study your finances more carefully. You might want to sock away some extra money. Tonight: Get ready for a talk.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ The Sun enters your sign today, initiating your birthday period and the summer. Why not get as much done as possible so you can celebrate later? Adjust to a different approach that someone else suggests. Tonight: The fun starts late.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Though you love the summer, you still might want to relax a little more with the Sun moving into Cancer today. Use the time and space to allow your imagination to run rampant, even more than usual. Tonight: Meet a pal for an early dinner.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Deal with the basics, keeping your eye on the long term. Sometimes you concentrate on details too much. In the next month, carefully think about what end results you want, be it with work, family or your home life. Listen to a friend. Tonight: Mosey on home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Pressure to produce and perform to the maximum will build in the next few days. You might want to revise your schedule and eliminate the frivolous, for now. Responsibilities will call. Look for shortcuts. Tonight: Discuss time issues with someone who is more efficient than you.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Money matters weigh on your shoulders. Yes, you might have to revise your budget. Before you take any radical actions, consider finding some experts or friends who think much differently from how you do. Tonight: Do your normal thing.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max, when you are all smiles and the Moon's energy is still in your sign. You might completely change your plans because of a dear friend or associate. Make it OK, and flow. Tonight: Slow down. You need some thinking time.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Use the daylight hours to carefully check out a problem. How much of this situation is being created in your head or because of your rigid views? Adapt your thinking, and everything will be easier. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Friends and groups still play a substantial role in your day and in your realizing a long-term goal. Soon you will be called on to make plans that will cause your desire to happen. The practical will follow the theoretical. Tonight: Make it an early night.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Bosses change their minds at the last minute. As a result, your focus could change at the last minute. You need to stay focused and agreeable. At the moment, you might have had enough. Still, don't do anything dramatic. Tonight: Celebrate the summer.

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LOCAL



Best of PALs



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL) distributed its annual Chris Carrey PAL Education Fund scholarships this past Wednesday at the annual PAL recognition luncheon at the Sheraton Delfina. PAL officer Erik Milosevich (left to right), program supervisor Karen Humphrey, PAL officer Matt Rice and PAL director Patty Loggins-Tazi paid tribute to volunteers. Nine high school students were awarded scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$1,500.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Grads return to Art Institute for chili reception

By Daily Press staff

The Art Institute of California earlier this month created a tastebud challenge.

The smell of chili filled the hallways at The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles on June 2, as a group of culinary graduates returned to their alma mater to show off their idea of what makes “the perfect chili.” Culinary alumni competed in the First Annual Alumni Chili Cook Off held in the student-run restaurant, BISTRO 31. Entries included everything from “Cajun kickin’ chicken & sausage chili” to “Jamaican hot mamma chocolate chili,” as well as more traditional recipes such as “Cajun persuasion chili and Texas red bean chili.”

The event brought out a panel of judges ready to satisfy their palates, including Stewart O’Dell from the Santa Monica Daily Press, Stan and Mindy Stewart from Sterling Meats, Danny Harold from of Harold Catering, and Ron Zartman who is the executive chef of Catering by Field. In addition to the judges, the competition attracted students, staff and faculty ready to give their own opinions of who boasts the best recipe.

When the chili tasting was completed, Glenn Smith, a 2003 Culinary Arts graduate who is now the general manager of Coco’s Restaurant in West Covina and owner of his own catering business, Chef “G’s” in Fontana, took top honors with his “meaty meatless chili.” He received a cast iron pot and other gifts from Surfas Restaurant Supply and Gourmet Foods in Culver City. When asked what his secret was, Smith replied, “I wanted to try something different. I wanted to make a meatless dish that would fool meat-eaters. I did some research and found a ‘meatless meat’ by Lightlife, and it turned out to be really good. I added some portobello mushrooms and other spices, and you really couldn’t tell it was a vegetarian chili.”

Smith’s chili will now be featured on the menu of BISTRO 31 during the summer months, which is open to the public beginning July 25. The restaurant is designed so that every graduating student has the opportunity to work with the pub-

See BRIEFS, page 13



Katherine Mitchell is this week’s mystery photo winner. Mitchell accurately described that this photo was taken at Chess Park on the Santa Monica beach. Mitchell has won a gift certificate to Izzy’s Deli. Check out Monday’s edition for the next mystery photo contest.



SURF REPORT

The SW swell is expected to keep some fun going around south-facing breaks with chest- to shoulder-high sets, but less frequent, and with size more chest than shoulder. NW wind swell is looking minimal, knee- to waist-high or so. Note that onshores could pick up a little earlier. It will be mostly clear except patchy night through morning low clouds and fog. Highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s at the beaches. Lows 55 to 60.

Today the water is:

65°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
TUESDAY	3:46	-1.4	2:35	2.3	10:21	3.8	9:02	7.1
WEDNESDAY	4:32	-1.7	3:24	2.4	11:10	3.8	9:49	7.2
THURSDAY	5:19	-1.7	4:17	2.4	12:00	3.9	10:38	7.0
FRIDAY	6:05	-1.2	5:09	2.3	12:52	3.7	11:25	6.7

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The Q Line

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For the first time in a few years, the city’s budget shows a surplus. The majority of the surplus already has been earmarked for programs intended to improve the quality of life in the Pico neighborhood; help better address homelessness; streamline the planning process; better maintain streets, parks and landscaping; increase the focus on the arts; and build the new library.

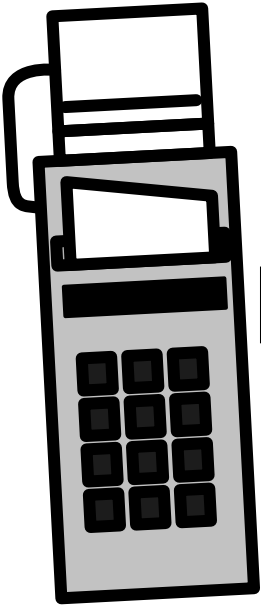
So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “Where do you think the budget surplus should be spent? Are the city’s major needs being covered or has something been overlooked?”

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we’ll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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Car dealership lots a city conundrum

DEALERSHIPS, from page 1

each year — stays put in Santa Monica.

However, by pleasing dealers who have felt the weight of a restrictive zoning policy for decades, nearby residents are likely to have a mixed reaction to the standards, said city associate planner Liz Bar-El. While the new provisions could ease parking shortages in certain neighborhoods, some will not be happy with the increased presence of the expanded dealerships.

Moreover, while focusing on dealer grievances, the new provisions don't address what has become the most common complaint among residents — the loading and unloading of inventory trucks on residential streets. City Hall currently allows dealership trucks to sit idle on side streets with engines running while cars are loaded and unloaded.

The practice is legal during normal business hours, but some residents claim to have seen unloading taking place as late as 2 a.m., waking them up in the process.

The majority of complaints that City Hall has received about car dealerships over the years have been about street inventory loading, said City Hall spokeswoman Judy Rambeau.

Rob Wynne, who has lived across from Honda of Santa Monica for years, said he routinely calls City Hall about an issue he says is not just inconvenient, but also dangerous. He said cars must swerve to avoid the trucks, which are oftentimes parked in



Rob Wynne/Special to the Daily Press

The loading and unloading of new automobiles from inventory trucks on residential streets has been the most common complaint of area residents to City Hall regarding local dealerships.

the middle of the road.

"What's it going to take before the city stops this?" he asked. "It's going to take some little kid getting run over."

Wynne said for the past year he has complained to City Hall about the dealership's unloading of vehicles during all times of the day and night on 19th Street, between and Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard.

The response he has gotten has been form letters, thanking "him for his interest," Wynne said.

The trucks park in the middle of the road, oftentimes blocking traffic in both directions, and sometimes blocking fire trucks from entering and exiting a nearby fire station, Wynne added.

However, Santa Monica Fire Department Chief Jim Hone said the

trucks haven't caused a problem thus far. "This is the first I'm hearing about it, and I'm sure if it was an issue it would have been brought to my attention," he said.

Bar-El said trucks are allowed to unload on side streets between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. directly in front of the dealerships, as long as they aren't blocking driveways. She admitted that dealerships often violate the law by parking in the central lane of the street.

"The City Council knows it's illegal," Wynne said. "It's unethical and the selective enforcement of this is criminal. They should be ashamed of themselves."

Honda of Santa Monica representatives weren't available for comment.

Planning Commissioner Darrell Clarke, who worked on the new dealership standards, agreed that the practice could be a public safety issue, but said it didn't come up in commission discussions with city staff. The emphasis was placed on relieving dealer concerns and trying to ease parking conditions, he said.

Wynne claims City Hall ignores resident concerns because of the economic power dealerships hold in the city. Dealerships were the top generator of sales tax in 2004, bringing in nearly \$2 million in the fourth quarter alone, records show.

But City Hall has exercised strict supervision over dealers for years, and is not known to have given concessions to the industry in the past.

See DEALERSHIPS, page 9



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CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Robber gets canned after early morning hold-up

At 2:37 a.m. on June 5, the Santa Monica Police responded to the 1500 block of Ocean Avenue regarding an attempted robbery investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said the suspect approached them, demanded money and simulated having a weapon, which turned out to be a can opener. The suspect attempted to rob the victim, who fled and notified the police. Genaro Hernandez Martinez, 23, a transient, was arrested within 10 minutes at the corner of Ocean and Colorado avenues. Bail was set at \$50,000.

At 7:10 p.m. on June 4, the Santa Monica Police responded to the Santa Monica Pier Pacific Park regarding a counterfeit suspect in custody. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the employee at Pacific Park who said that the suspect attempted to order food using a counterfeit \$100 bill. The employees checked the currency with a currency authenticator and determined it was in fact a counterfeit bill. The employees were unable to detect the strip on the bill using ultra-violet light, and the picture of Ben Franklin which appears to be a hand-drawn picture under the white light did not appear. The suspect appeared to have several counterfeit bills on him. Andrew Lee Tyars, 27, of Los Angeles was arrested and bail was set at \$27,000.

At 11 p.m. on June 3, the Santa Monica Police responded to the 1200 block of the Third Street Promenade regarding a defrauding an innkeeper investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the employee, who said that the suspect entered the restaurant, ate his meal, and ordered several alcoholic beverages totaling \$43.75. When asked for payment, the suspect said he did not have any money. Thomas Phillip Mitchell, 40, of Lake Arrowhead, who was on parole, was placed under arrest with no bail set.

At 3:51 p.m. on June 4, the Santa Monica Police responded to Fourth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard regarding a vandalism that just occurred. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to a bus employee and a witness who said the suspect exited the bus, and as it was driving off, began pounding on the rear window, causing it to break. Essam Wasfy, 33, a transient, had several outstanding municipal code warrants and was placed under arrest with no bail set.

At 9:20 p.m. on June 4, Santa Monica Police vice officers went to the 2500 block of Wilshire Boulevard to conduct a massage parlor compliance check. When the undercover officers entered the location, they identified themselves as police officers, and while speaking to a person at the front desk, a female walked out of the room who was asked not to say anything. She began yelling loudly in Korean, which prevented officers from conducting their compliance check. Yoo Young Sun, 27 of Los Angeles, was arrested for obstructing an officer on duty. Bail was set at \$10,000.

At 8:03 a.m. on June 5, the Santa Monica Police responded to Berkeley Street and Arizona Avenue regarding a suspicious vehicle. When officers arrived to the scene, they located the vehicle. As they spoke to the driver and the occupant, they recovered a glass pipe and a baggy containing a controlled substance. The driver, Darell David Greenage, 20, of Malibu, and the passenger, Joe Choi, 21 of Santa Monica, were both arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance. Bail was set at \$10,000.

At 4:45 p.m. on June 6, the Santa Monica Police responded to the 600 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a theft investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the employee who said the suspect entered the store, concealed a bikini in her purse and left the store failing to pay for the item. When the employee confronted the suspect, the suspect pushed the employee in an attempt to escape. Kristen seltzer, 21, of Pacific Palisades, was booked for strong arm robbery. Her bail was set at \$50,000.

(This police report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.)

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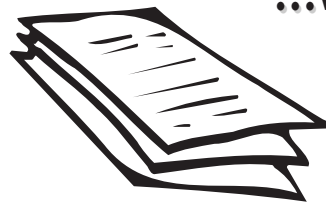
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OPINION



THE MICHAEL JACKSON JURY POSES FOR THE MEDIA...

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Times reporting not fair and balanced

Editor:

TRI-PAC Health and Wellness Advocacy appreciates the opportunity to express our vociferous objection to "Rating doctors: Who benefits," by Daniel Costello, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer, June 13.

This article, content, issues and resources used to support the asserted thesis brings new meaning to the term "fair, balanced and objective reporting." An expose for a Pulitzer Prize this is not.

There is no adequate, verifiable, fair and balanced methodology or mechanism to account for physician outcomes who serve the medically sickest, generally underserved patient populations.

Healthgrades is an over-the-counter bulletin board company based in Golden, Colorado. CEO Kerry Hicks and his team act and speak on behalf of their board, partners, shareholders, and speak out of their own opportunistic and materialistic intentions and certainly can't speak on behalf of the entire health industry, nor do their views and positions reflect views and interests of medical consumers.

Subimo and its president, Ann Johnson, and her management team don't fit the fair and balanced model either. She and her team speak from their own opportunistic and materialistic intentions and motivations. And by the way, who is reporting on these "reporting" agencies?

The quote attributed to the president of California Health Foundation, doctor Mark Smith, is ludicrous and preposterous. I assert this quotation is a glaring example of ambiguity, speaking out of more than one communication pathway with limited results and saying nothing.

The Los Angeles Times, its staff writer, and health editor, along with Healthgrades and Subimo ought to be ashamed of themselves for what was the best of intention to appease and accommodate has resulted in a major disservice to the health, well being, and advocacy of our citizens.

On the other hand, the founder and chairman of TRI-PAC, professor Victor S. Dorodny advocates a number of fair and balanced solutions. One of them is entrusting the task of the physician report card to an independent third party government agency such as the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) which presently collects and reports information on individual physicians, such as medical malpractice lawsuits and adverse disciplinary and licensing actions against the physician. The cost associated with such services should be passed on to the inquiring entity, similar to CarFax, where for \$24.99 the consumer gets the Unlimited Vehicle History, accompanied by a free safety and eligibility report™ for every car checked. It behooves an informed health consumer not to get his doctors' safety and reliability report for under \$25.

Robert Donin, MPA

*President, TRI-PAC Health and Wellness Advocacy
Los Angeles*

Good things happening at Samohi

Editor:

Because of the great public concern about recent student and adult conflict at Santa Monica High School, more people should hear about a vastly more positive event that took place on campus on May 18 — the opening of the art department's annual show of work by graduating seniors and presentation of awards.

Reports of student fighting made me expect to pass through a metal detector to enter the event. Instead, the entrance to a courtyard of refreshment tables was blocked only by an overflow crowd of students, parents, teachers and other visitors. The worst I could report is that the Roberts Art Gallery was so crowded it became warm and humid inside.

See LETTERS, page 7

Little support for Dad when he lands in court



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

Welcome to child support payments.

Now that the Hallmark version of fatherhood has just passed, I thought I'd take a look at what it is like for the not-quite-ready-for-Norman Rockwell version of being a father.

Hopefully, most fathers want to be a part of their children's lives. For some this comes naturally, for others it comes a little slower.

Those fathers who are lucky enough to be married to the mother of their children are hopefully happy and enjoying the picture perfect life. For those who don't quite fit the mold, life and fatherhood can be quite different.

If you are an unmarried male parent, you are in a dangerous place when it comes to your rights, and more so when it comes to your responsibilities. The law recognizes mothers immediately for the obvious reason that a child was brought forth from her, but not so with fathers. A man must take some action to secure his place in a child's life. He must make sure that the mother puts his name down as the father.

Depending on your relationship with the mother of your child, you may find that co-parenting is the greatest pleasure in the world, or an excruciating traumatic battle that resembles war. Some couples work really well together as co-parents who are not married. They have no problems with money or visitation, no disagreements about medical care or schooling, and some get along great in dealing with religious issues. Other couples might not have an easy a time.

There are five main areas that people fight over: money, visitation, medical care, schooling and religion.

MONEY AND CHILD SUPPORT

This is the area where most men protect themselves the least, get into the most trouble and yet it is probably the easiest to handle.

If the mother of your children goes to court to get a child support order, and you do not have a custody arrangement with her in writing, she can tell the judge that you make however much money she wants, and the judge will decide how much child support you must pay, and not listen to your side of the story. Period. She wins, and gets a judgment against you.

Then she takes that judgment and goes to the district attorney's office, they take the judgment, and garnish your wages, tax refund, suspend your drivers license and take your lottery winnings. Additionally, if she has said there is back child support owed, they will charge you for that.

All of this will accrue interest, meaning you are paying interest on a child support award that you did not agree to, and there is nothing that can be done to stop it unless you go back into court, get an agreement with her for child custody,

show how much you really make and then hopefully get her to reduce the amount of money she claims was owed her.

WELFARE: THE ULTIMATE NIGHTMARE

If at any time she should go on welfare and collect relief for herself and your child, you will be forced to repay that money. The district attorney will open a child support case and come after your paycheck, tax refund, suspend your driver's license, and lottery winnings.

This money must be repaid, and no one can waive the repayment, or the interest on it.

The best way to avoid all of this is to be a responsible dad, have a written custody agreement with a realistic child support payment that you can make, and be sure to keep a payment history with supporting documents. That means keep hard copies of the checks that have been cashed, never give cash unless you get a handwritten receipt from her, and if you pay in money orders you must keep a copy of it.

The reason for keeping records is that at any time the mother can come back into your life to demand payment.

For example, I spent Monday morning going through the microfiche records of Los Angeles County to find a 23-year-old divorce case. The reason is that the father never paid the \$200 a month child support he was supposed. Now he has money, and property, and we are going after him for the \$100,000 he owes his ex-wife, 23 years after their divorce was finalized. How angry do you think he will be?

VISITATION, MEDICAL CARE, SCHOOLING AND RELIGION

The remaining four areas people fight over are decided for the most part by a negotiation between the parties. Only in extreme cases, does the court get forced to make decisions in these areas. Most people are able to work out a program in the best interests of the child.

In the case of visitation and custody, a child custody evaluation can be ordered by the court. This is a person who meets state-mandated criteria for qualifications to make an evaluation and recommendation as to where the child should live based on the living conditions, quality of home life, stability of the parties, emotional maturity and best interests of the child.

Medical care is likewise determined by going to outside sources only in the rarest of cases. When one parent refuses to acknowledge or treat a known condition, or perhaps the treating physician isn't doing a good job, the court may order independent evaluations by new doctors.

Schooling and religion are two areas the court avoids getting involved in as much as possible. The parties should try to work out a reasonable solution, otherwise the court is likely to make a decision that no one wants.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist specializing in business development. He can be reached at (310)664-9969 or by e-mail at dpizarra@pizarra.com.)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

And the crowd stayed pretty tightly packed through an extended series of presentations as awards were handed out by alumni, teachers and others. There was excitement at announcement of many winners' names, and acknowledgment that right choices had been made when a few students received more than one award. At least 40 DVDs of the proceedings were sold, so the excitement and pleasure probably didn't just flare up and flame out.

The art studios are sizable and well-equipped, and the Roberts Gallery is big for a school exhibition space. This is part of a Samohi tradition: We told the campus art gallery opened at least 60 years ago, so it is the oldest school gallery in all of LA County.

The artwork spanned many media — drawing, electronic media, painting, photography, pottery and sculpture — and the students' work is very good, both in the seniors' exhibit and in the studios.

But I was most impressed by the presentation comments from several of the teachers. They spoke — sometimes briefly and sometimes not so briefly — about almost every winner and about many non-winners, too. What they said was clearly sincere and seriously considered, and once could hear that the best of adult mentoring takes place here.

Before I left, I spoke with some students and parents who told me that reports of daytime conflict and menace are accurate. But, despite that, the essence of teaching, learning and growing up is continuing in the healthiest possible way, at least, in this department.

Departing families were talking together in good spirits and with pride, and the whole city should know and share their feelings.

Art Harris
Santa Monica

Let's keep the parking to ourselves

Editor:

I don't like the idea of allowing businesses to buy or otherwise obtain preferential parking permits for use in residential neighborhoods. It goes against the very reasons that preferential parking zones were created in the first place. It goes against our Sustainable City Plan and it goes against common sense. It also goes against the wishes of many of the residents of this town, many of whom have suffered through years of scarce parking in their own neighborhoods.

Are we to believe that a lack of city-provided employee parking is causing hardship for businesses along Wilshire, Santa Monica, and Ocean Park boulevards in Santa Monica? That's pretty hard to swallow, given recent reports that show Santa Monica's businesses along those streets have enjoyed 22 percent gains in taxable sales, far exceeding the state and county averages of 7.7 and 5 percent respectively (Santa Monica Daily Press, Oct. 13, 2004). I haven't noticed any vacant store fronts along those streets — looks like business is pretty good here.

Even if businesses don't have enough parking for their employees, whose problem is it, and how should it be solved? I'm a business owner, but I don't think it's the city's responsibility to solve problems that are mine — and providing parking for my employees is my problem. Maybe it's "good business" for the city to try to make things better for businesses, but it shouldn't be done at the residents' expense. Putting non-resident cars into residential neighborhoods on a regular basis hurts residents, and that's exactly the situation that our existing preferential parking program attempts to prevent. Santa Monica's municipal code cites a desire to protect residential streets from non-resident parkers five times in six paragraphs (3.08.040 designation criteria). Not a lot of room for interpretation there.

Whether it's a business owner's problem or the city's problem, I'm disappointed that the city's "solution" is contrary to our Sustainable City Plan's transportation goals — which include reducing automobile dependency, and reducing pollution and motor vehicle congestion. Our east-west corridors (Montana Avenue; Wilshire, Santa Monica, Pico, and Ocean Park boulevards) are already choked with traffic. Why would we want to encourage more people to drive to jobs at businesses on those streets by making it easier for them to park nearby? Santa Monica's own Big Blue Bus company serves these east-west corridor streets extremely well, with routes along each from east of the 405 Freeway almost to the ocean. Why aren't we suggesting that business people get with the program and ask their employees to hop on the bus?

It's time we put considerable city resources into solving Santa Monica's parking problem — a 365-days-a-year problem that negatively affects businesses, renters, homeowners, students, tourists, and everyone else who's tried to park a car here. It's a city-wide problem that needs significant attention. I understand City Hall's desire to balance the parking needs of businesses and residents, and while I think the council's collective heart is in the right place, mere nipping and tucking at the existing municipal code is not the way to provide a significantly improved situation. Rather than tinkering here and adjusting there, let's start over, and let's do it right. Santa Monica doesn't need to fine-tune its existing preferential parking program — it needs a carefully considered, comprehensive city-wide parking plan. Let's make one that works, one that we can stick to — and let's get started now.

Christian Boyce
Santa Monica

Roses are red, all of your dreams are dead

ANY DAY
IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

Outsiders mistake Hollywood to be a bastion of glitz and glamour, but I can tell you what it really is — a bad session of poetry readings. I know. I was there.

Last Wednesday was basically on par with a reject taping for "American Idol", with poems and lyrical turrets shouting thrown in the mix.

"Degradation, deprecation, CONstipation in this world we have. SALve cannot smooth the pain away, so let's use a little BenGay." I wish it was that good.

I know this guy who used to host the poetry readings at the UnUrban Coffeehouse. I went once, only once, and ever since then, he's been trying to get me to go to another one.

Was it my poetry, or the fact that I'm a girl in my early 20s? I will never know.

Two years later, I finally gave in and decided to come. Only by this time the location of the reading had changed from Santa Monica to Hollywood's Karma Coffeehouse. UnUrban's was pretty all right for poetry, but I had no idea what to expect with the change in venue.

I dragged my friend Heidi along as she had been in a poetry/prose writing mood as of late, and the only mood I was in was to get this guy off my back. She brought three pages of condense, crafted lyricism she had been laboring over for the past two weeks. I brought a page I scribbled on just before I drove over.

The best part of the night had to be the chai tea, but that only got me through the first five of many a tooth-pulling act.

You think I'm exaggerating? Let me paraphrase the words a 20-something girl sang about her family:

"When you're poor and at the supermarket asking me for money, I won't give you any. You're all gonna be sorry when I'm famous. Because I'm gonna be rich, and I'm gonna be a star." Imagine that off key with no melody — the kind of thing

you did when you were 7 and signing into your hand-held Snoopy tape player.

I felt like I was at a never-ending recital for the delusional. One guy blatantly ignored the other poems as he rummaged through his immense file folder of poems he sadly had printed out in cursive computer font. I felt a documentary coming on in my head, only it'd be too painful for me to come back another Wednesday to tape it.

It's a shame he was so in the zone too, because he missed the poem a girl did about her period: "Flow, why does everyone bag on you, and act as if they don't want you around? I love you, Flow. Period."

That rendition is actually pretty close to the original words. I know because she kept repeating them.

Coffeehouses aren't supposed to be an outlet to plug your career. They're an extracurricular you go to share what's been on your mind in the form of semi well-written poesy. But no, wannabes like this white afro son was using it to plug his upcoming gig at the Pig'n Whistle, which after his "set" there was no way in Hollywood I was going to come.

Yes, I just used Hollywood as a profanity word. After hearing a beat poem about a period, I feel as if I'm entitled, too.

Sometimes I just want to shake these people and say, "You're never going to be a star. There are millions of people in Los Angeles doing the same thing and you are just not going to make it."

But of course I smile politely and I clap perfunctory. Come on, who is ever that mean in person? And more importantly, why would I demolish their dreams? If they really wanted to know their success rate, they'd do some research, or at least get some good feedback on their singing ability. I might as well let them stay in limbo reading at coffeehouses, and let some other passerby be stuck at their recital.

I'm done with this week's column. Period.

(Heidi can be reached at anydayin-la@gmail.com.)



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Utility increases can be authorized tonight

UTILITIES, from page 1

may be doing a disservice to the public by not fully disclosing information associated with disposal costs, which could be used to improve service.

Staff members are asking the new utility rates be approved for next year's budget, which is expected to be approved tonight. Some fees would go into effect by July.

Officials said the increases in water and solid-waste fees are needed because expenditures are exceeding revenues for those services. A recent City Hall report details how solid-waste, water and wastewater fund balances have been decreasing to varying degrees over the last four years and need to be corrected in order to keep the bonds that support the funds in legal compliance.

In order to restore the funds to a healthy level, staff has proposed to the City Council a rate schedule that would allow a "timely," "intermediate" or "extended" recovery of the revenue

stream over the next few years, depending on the rate increase.

Meanwhile, representatives from City Hall's environmental and public works management department, which oversees Santa Monica's residential and commercial solid waste disposal, has attempted to clarify some of the issues associated with the proposed rate changes.

Sam Chandler, a consultant based in Tucson, Ariz., said he has more than 17 years of experience in solid waste disposal with clients along the West Coast. Chandler, who used to work at the SCD site, said his interest in the utility rate issue is to help ensure City Hall is doing all it can to provide an efficient service to utility users.

"Our position has everything to do with the process," Chandler said, who acknowledged SCD and City Hall have had disputes in the past over Santa Monica's disposal policies and operations. "Staff needs to be forthright in order to let the council make good decisions

about these rate increase proposals.

"They can't just blackmail the council and say, 'pass this tonight, or we're broke.'"

Chandler said Santa Monica would be better off adopting a rate review process in which expenditures and revenues could be compared line by line, perhaps by a committee allotted the necessary time to do so.

"This is either an accidentally obscure budget, or something else," Chandler said. "How do we know which services are in the red and which are in the black? That's why a rate review process is needed, so the public can better understand what is going on."

Craig Perkins, director of Santa Monica's environmental and public works management, said City Hall has accounted for the expenditures that are eating into the utility funds in its reports.

According to Perkins, over three-quarters of the expenditures in the solid waste operation are tied to the cost of employees, landfill disposal and recycling processing, and vehicle repairs and replacements.

"These expense categories, as well as other expense categories, have been increasing at greater than the rate of inflation," Perkins said. "The refuse rates have not been increased more than the rate of inflation since 2001."

In the water fund, Perkins said the majority of expenditures are related to employee costs, the expense of purchasing outside water, and the money that's needed to repair, maintain and replace the city's water supply and distribution infrastructure.

"These costs have increased at greater than the rate of inflation since 1986,"

Perkins said.

In the wastewater fund, Perkins said the major burden is related to payments to Los Angeles for the regional wastewater collection and treatment system with which Santa Monica contracts, called the Hyperion Treatment system.

"These costs are increasing greater than the rate of inflation, whereas the wastewater rates have not been increased greater than the rate of inflation since 1996," Perkins said.

Staff is proposing the wastewater rates be changed in a year.

As far as a rate review process is concerned, Perkins said City Hall has complied with the city's rules for proposing any increases.

He said the city charter and municipal code empower the City Council to make enterprise rate and fee decisions after holding a public hearing. He said there have been two public hearings held on the issue, with a third to be held today before the budget is adopted.

"This is pretty much the standard approach to rate adjustments in Santa Monica over the past 25 years," Perkins said. "Sometimes there has been more process, sometimes less."

"Each city in the region follows a process that fits its unique circumstances and needs."

City Councilman Ken Genser, who has expressed concerns about the rate increases, said he has not been entirely sold on the information staff has yet provided.

"I still have questions I have not had time to pursue with staff," Genser said. "I am not sure I have enough information to commit to the increase at this point."

Sex researchers meet for titillating talks

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Researchers here want to talk about sex, and not just the naughty bits.

Academics, social scientists and policy makers from around the world are gathering this week at San Francisco State University for a conference on human sexuality and the "moral panics" caused by such charged topics as homosexuality, abortion and sex education.

And while there's plenty of talk about Hollywood, masturbation and all topics titillating, the premise is that ignorance and intolerance about sex have disastrous consequences — whether it's an inadequate response to AIDS, the stigma suffered by rape survivors or teenagers having unsafe sex.

"Better sexuality education will raise public knowledge and lead to positive public policy," said Gilbert Herdt, director of the National Sexuality Resource Center based at San Francisco State.

These are ticklish times for sexuality specialists — even as some scoff at the theory that Americans fed on "Sex and the City" and "Elim-a-Date" are undereducated on X-rated matters.

Herdt says he is on a mission to free Americans from the "packaged sex" Hollywood serves up and what he regards as Washington's prudish sensibilities.

"The question isn't is there enough sex

around, it's what kind of sex is around," he said. "It's meant to titillate, not educate."

This is the first year the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society has convened in the United States, and Herdt said the timing is right. While some Europeans get sex education in kindergarten, he notes, the subject is still controversial in American high schools.

Earlier this year, Herdt's center launched a "Sexual Literacy Campaign" that uses the Internet to foster an open discussion about sexually charged topics.

On its Web site, SexLiteracy.org, a quiz asks such provocative questions are "Is there such a thing as having too much sex?" and "Is masturbation a healthy way to relieve stress?"

The papers to be presented at the conference, which runs from Tuesday through Saturday, all deal in some way with society's squeamishness about sex. They cover such topics as abortion, transsexualism — and runaway brides.

Saskia Wieringa, the international association's president, studies sexual politics in Indonesia and likens some strict Muslim traditions, such as forcing women to cover their faces in public, to many of President Bush's conservative policies.

"They are both fighting against each other, but upholding the same kind of system," Wieringa said.



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LOCAL



Rapid bus expected to cut LAX trip in half

RAPID, from page 1

25 cents for seniors, the disabled and students.

Travel time from the city to the airport is expected to be cut in half with the new service, reducing it from nearly one hour to one-half hour. To do this, the Rapid 3 will utilize "signal-priority" technology, which enables buses to move quickly through oncoming stoplights.

Stephanie Negriff, Big Blue Bus director of transit services, said City Hall hopes the introduction of the signal-priority technology will hopefully have a positive effect on Lincoln traffic flows.

She didn't comment as to what effect the new service will have on ridership,

noting city officials will evaluate the program in a year. Information provided by the city indicated ridership on the Big Blue Bus system has increased 17 percent between 1990 and 2000.

In addition to decreased travel times, the Rapid 3 line is intended to appeal to users through some of its amenities and branding. It will feature on-board luggage racks, reading lights and a "distinctive new dark blue color for easy recognition."

The Rapid 3 will operate on liquefied natural gas — like 89, or nearly half — of the city's Big Blue buses, which city officials said is equivalent to eliminating the smog and soot from 17 to 33 cars.

Ten buses have been purchased for the Rapid 3 line, costing \$372,000 each. Five

of the buses were purchased as part of a development agreement with Playa Vista, a large development that is located along the bus route. Santa Monica is covering the capital cost for the other five buses, for a total of \$1,860,000.

Big Blue Bus serves 51 square miles of service area in greater Los Angeles, from Palisades to LAX and from Santa Monica to downtown Los Angeles, for its 80,000 daily riders.

Roger Snoble, Metro chief executive officer, said the completion of the Rapid 3 line has marked the halfway point to create a grid of express bus routes county-wide. So far, 28 rapid services have been put into place, with double that number, or 56, expected to go into operation in

coming years, Snoble said.

"No one would have imagined looking forward to a faster travel time on Lincoln, but we'll see a transformation of that with the rapid bus routes," he said. "We're offering more competition with the automobile."

Snoble said that although the metropolitan Los Angeles area was still considered the worst nationwide for automobile congestion and related air pollution, the county is taking some of the furthest steps to address the issue.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown is looking forward to riding the Rapid 3 line.

"I take the Big Blue 3 to LAX whenever I travel, and I've never missed a flight," McKeown said. "The Rapid 3 will make that even easier."

Space odyssey: Dealerships continue to grapple for room

DEALERSHIPS, from page 4

"I don't think Santa Monica has ever given any special favors to dealers," said Fred Robbins, who owned a Santa Monica BMW dealership through the early '90s.

There is just no practical solution to the problem, Bar-El said. Forcing dealers to unload on-site would leave them with even less lot space for inventory, possibly crippling business. Many dealerships don't have the space for trucks that are at least three times longer than the average SUV.

Plans to move inventory to a central location on the eastern end of Olympic Boulevard have been batted around for years, but the reality is impractical, Bar-El said. Dealers would have to drive each individual car to the lot, inconveniencing employees and customers alike.

City Councilman Herb Katz, whose wife manages the Santa Monica Mercedes Benz dealership and whose architectural firm works with dealerships in the city, said the side streets off of Santa Monica Boulevard are wide enough to easily accommodate both residents and trucks without any conflict. While they may be annoyed, the situation poses no real threat to residents.

"I'm sure there are some people who wish the car dealers would just leave town," Katz said. "But where do they think all the money comes from for all the social programs they want?"

The push to revise auto dealership standards began in 2001, when the Santa Monica Auto Dealers Association (SMADA), which represents many of the city's dealers through the chamber of commerce, confronted City Hall with its grievances.

They argue that the rules governing

dealerships are so restrictive they make competition with dealerships outside of Santa Monica impossible. If dealers were to continue to invest in the city, according to the SMADA, some revisions had to be made.

Four years later, most car dealers are now pleased with City Hall's "good faith efforts" to work with them after years of struggle, said Chris Harding, a lawyer representing SMADA.

But tensions between dealers and their neighboring residents continue. Cramped conditions have caused the two groups to scuffle over everything from noise control to parking.

Car dealerships started setting up shop on the strip of Santa Monica Boulevard between Ninth Street and the city's eastern edge during the 1950s. Half a century later, the surrounding areas have become intensely developed with homes, apartments and businesses — turning a once sprawling area into an overcrowded corridor where residents and businesses must compete for space and parking.

When combined with the increased pressure car dealers must face to make a profit, the situation is ripe for conflict, according to officials within City Hall.

Both sides have accused officials of ignoring their needs in the past. Dealers have long complained that restrictive zoning laws do not give them space to store inventory, or even allow for their employees to park.

Meanwhile, residents in the Mid-City neighborhood have complained about everything from test drivers who speed down residential streets to a perceived general disrespect from car dealerships towards their neighbors, said Joan Charles, former president of the now-defunct Mid-City Neighbors neighbor-



Rob Wynne/Special to the Daily Press

Revised city standards aimed at curing the parking crunch for city dealerships tying up side street traffic include multi-story garages in residentially zoned lots.

hood group.

And parking shortages have been a major cause of conflict for years.

The revised standards address the parking deficit with multi-story garages in residentially zoned lots, which would be built and paid for by the individual dealers. The provisions would only allow dealerships to build on lots they already own but have been largely unable to use because of city zoning laws restricting commercial activity. All garages would have to comply with zoning standards, so a dealer couldn't build an obtrusively large structure.

But some residents are expected to be opposed to new development in the area, Bar-El said, fearing the structures will ruin the residential feel of the neighborhood or increase traffic down side streets.

"It's a mixed reaction," she said.

The new standards also will give deal-

ers the option to increase the size of their showrooms and build underground parking, although few dealers likely will, Harding said.

"It's all about flexibility," he said. "It is important to have the options."

While the new provisions will go a long way towards repairing dealer-City Hall relations, they will not solve all problems dealers face in Santa Monica. The city's dealers will still operate on lots much smaller than those in competing Orange County, where sprawling auto malls shape the landscape, said Robbins, who now has a dealership in Encino.

Still, Harding said the provisions will grant some relief to dealers. He said he hopes the provisions also will reduce hostility with residents.

"Dealers do not want to be at odds with their neighbors," he said. "Their neighbors are their customers."

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DEAR DORIE

No taming for the shrewd

Dear Dorie,

My 20-month-old son is extremely active. He loves to climb, touch and explore. I hate to admit it, but he has a hard time sitting down and staying still. Many people (mostly relatives and friends) have said this isn't normal or that I should exert more control. What do you think?

— Active Observer

Dear Observer:

You've hit one of my hot-button issues. My oldest daughter didn't "sit still" either and I remember being asked to leave activities, as well as feeling totally humiliated in group scenarios that demanded quiet and calm children. I thought I was doing something wrong or, at least, not parenting the way she needed.

Here's the reality: Count your blessings and enjoy the ride with your active baby boy. Sitting down and staying put are adult wishes when it comes to toddler behavior and these same adults are the ones who are not normal. The days of "children should be seen and not heard" are long gone. A healthy toddler should love to touch, smell, see, hear and taste anything and everything that piques his curiosity. Your job is to make sure he's safe and then stay out of the way. Keep any adult who wants to "tame" him out of the way as well. Good luck.

— Dorie

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Meek answers questions concerning children ages birth to 5 years old. Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132; fax (310) 452-6392).

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Lessons in responsibility can only last a lifetime



How Much Is Enough?

By Connie Dawson

Sometimes, no matter how well we teach our children the self-management skills needed to live a successful life, the train leaves the track ... to which it can return. Here follows a case in point.

THE CONSULTANT MOTHER

A mother, we'll call her Geri, got a call from her mid-twenties son last week. He was seeking advice. "Mom, I'm so mad! I wanted to buy this motorcycle and they wouldn't finance it! They said my credit wasn't good enough."

Mom's reply? "Well, that's sad. What's up with your credit, Jake?" Jake is a married, usually responsible Marine who has served two tours in Iraq.

Jake went on to recite his indictments against his wife and her shopping buddy. "Stop," said Mom. "What did the bank tell you?"

Jake calmed down a bit. "The bank said I owed a balance on the car that was totaled when Sara was involved in that accident the last time I was gone."

"I thought the insurance company sent a check to the bank for all but \$500 of the balance you owed on the car?" Mom asked.

"They told me they did," said Jake. "But the bank had something else to say. They didn't like the balances we owe on two credit cards."

"Well," said Geri, "You have to stay ahead of the bank."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean you keep your act clean. Don't give the bank a reason to not lend you money when you need it." This mother is not known for mincing words.

What would Mom do?

"Tell me what you'd do," he asked.

"I'd start by calling the insurance company and work through whatever glitch happened about the bank's not receiving the check. Then I'd pay off the remaining \$500 right away. How much can you and your wife squeeze out of your next pay checks?"

"Probably \$1,000."

"OK. First, pay off the bank. Then start on the credit

cards. How long do you think it would take you to clear them?"

"Probably three months," Jake replied. "But I want to buy it now!"

Mom recognized this as a vague suggestion she might lend him the money to get the bike now. She deftly avoided his "vague suggestion." All she said was, "Honey, I raised you to be responsible with your money. I'm confident you'll handle this situation just fine."

Heavy sigh on the other end of the line.

"Yeah, we'll do it. Thanks, Mom." Mom reports that the thanks sounded genuine.

THE BACKGROUND STORY

As her two boys were growing up, Geri was determined to teach them how to manage their funds because of her own hard learning experiences with spending money. This Mom believes that actions speak louder than words. She says, "I didn't just tell my boys something. I told them the basics. When they were little, I set a structure of how much of their allowance and earnings they could put where. As they got older, we negotiated more and they became more in charge of their own money. I'm surprised Jake let himself get into debt in the first place."

She thought for a moment. "I can see what might have happened. Jake and his wife probably need to have a heart-to-heart talk and agree on their way of spending and saving."

"Then too, I can imagine that because he knows I am so grateful he is safe and well, he could be thinking I might give him some special dispensation and loan him the money," Geri said. "I think something else happened. He got carried away with wanting to have the kind of bike his friends have. I don't blame him, but I won't rescue him either. I told him three months isn't such a long time to wait. He'll manage."

THE MORAL OF THE STORY

Young children who learn the skills of responsible living early on in their lives can pull those skills out for use whenever they're needed.

(Connie Dawson, Jean Illsley Clarke and David Bredehoft are co-authors of "How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible, and Respectful Children." Dawson can be reached at cdawson@whidbey.com. To read more about overindulgence, go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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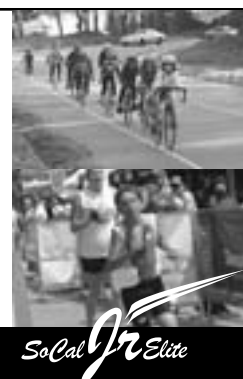
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SANTA MONICA PARENTING

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SPECIAL EVENTS

TODAY! TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 10:00 a.m. – Alpha Mom TV (the first-ever 24/7 parenting channel) has partnered with the Loews' Reel Moms program to present their programming live in front of the Reel Moms audience. Karen Ballou, a certified infant massage instructor, will present techniques of infant massage followed by a Q&A session. At 11:00 a.m. the movie *The Perfect Man* will be shown. Loews Cineplex Broadway Cinema, 1441 3rd St. Promenade.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25th

FAMILY DAY at the SANTA MONICA PIER presented by the LA FILM FESTIVAL. 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. This free event features activities for all ages including celebrity storytelling; a Playhouse Disney booth with JoJo's Circus arts, crafts and more; live penguins from the *March of the Penguins* movie; and a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory activity booth. Also live music and martial arts demo. Activities go until 5:00 p.m. At 8:30 p.m. enjoy the 10th Anniversary Screening of the movie *BABE*. For more info visit www.lafilmfest.com. or call Katie Raddon at 463-6306.

NEXT! LIVING the LIE – 7:30 p.m. (also Sunday, June 26)

A musical exploration of auditions, real and imaginary, that shape everyday lives from school rooms, living rooms to community rooms. Performed by young actors. Ages 7 and up, \$20, 394-9779, ext. 1. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St.

CARNEVALE! VENICE BEACH – noon – 10:00 p.m.
Celebration of the arts and artisans of Venetians, featuring costume contests, arts, live music, fire-spinners, dancers and vendors. FREE! Windward Circle, 396-2803.

PETER ALSOP – 11:00 a.m.

Songwriter performs insightful and fun-filled sing-alongs with kids and parents. Ages 3 and up, \$10 adults, \$5 children, 208-6500. Geffen Playhouse at the Brentwood Theatre, Bldg. 221, 11301 Wilshire Blvd., Brentwood.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

FAMILY FUNDAY at the WILL GEER THE-ATRICUM BOTANICUM
Aesop's Fables – presentation of several of his famous tales.
All ages, \$8. 1419 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723.

BRASIL, BRAZIL – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Kick off the summer and enjoy this family picnic and concert blending Latin and African rhythms. FREE! 440-4636, Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., LA

COMING UP – JULY 9 – AUG. 27

SUMMER YOUTH TRIATHLON PROGRAM – Saturdays, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
SoCal Jr. Elite presents this program to introduce more youths to the sport of triathlon. Designed for ages 9 – 18, no previous triathlon experience is required. For info and application visit www.socaljrelite.com or email questions to socaljrelite@adelphia.net. Space is limited. Crossroads School Pool, 1715 Olympic Blvd. (not affiliated with Crossroads Summer Camps – do not call the school)

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! June 21 –*The Perfect Man* – starring Hilary Duff, Heather Locklear and Aria Wallace. Romance-Comedy, Rated “PG.” Special presentation on Infant Massage at 10:00 a.m. brought to you by Alpha Mom – the first 24/7 parenting channel. See Special Events above for more info.
11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Tell Santa Monica what you think!

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Santa Monica Daily Press



Storytelling

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime: 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult. (on break until July)
Preschool Story Time: 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5. (on break until July)

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Current session June 21 – Aug. 9 for both.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Current session June 7 – July 12.

Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis

For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Infant/Toddler & Me Classes –

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – Walkers to 3 years; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – ages 0 to 1 year; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881 for details and prices.

YWCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200. BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials. Also Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:00 – noon. With Khfri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khfri.net or call 323-549-5383.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 4 -7, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (Students may be dropped off at 3:30 for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Next session June 22 – Aug. 10 for both.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Current session June 1 – July 6.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythm-child.net for more info and session dates.

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Infant /Toddler and Me (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Mommy and Me Yoga (ages 4- 6), 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 – 3:00 p.m Includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. \$165 for an 8 week session, \$75 for additional sibling.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 p.m., 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime: 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult. (on break until July)

Preschool Story Time: 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5. (on break until July)

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds. Current session June 2 – July 7 for both.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.

Lap Time, 9:20 and 10:20. Ages 0 – 2. Next session June 23 – Aug 11.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me Classes, Walkers to 3 years – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Also Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials; Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 6 - 10, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. (students may be dropped off at 3:30 for indoor play, song and snacks). \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required.

Family Yoga, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song. 8-week series for parents and 1 child, \$250, \$100 each additional child. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call Cassandra at 451-1827 for time, location and more info.

Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.child-splayonline.net

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.(childcare provided). 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details

and prices.

Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4. 6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 8 - 11, 4:30 – 5:45 p.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song, \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Other

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.

Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.

Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.

826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santa-monicayoga.com

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Kids' Yoga Circle – Yoga for ages 6-10, 9:45 – 10:55 a.m., includes 15 minutes of indoor play and song; Yoga Girls (ages 12 and up), 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. \$18 drop-in, discounted multiple week passes available, reservations required. 1814 14th St., #208, 260-2736

Other

Emerging Artists Family Workshop - 10:00 a.m. – noon.

Program varies, ages 6 and up, \$12. Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2419 Michigan Ave, 586-6488, ext. 32.

Barnyard Madness with the Three Little Pigs at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru June 26; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magiopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magiopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St, Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Barnyard Madness with the Three Little Pigs at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru June 26; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com. 1211 4th St.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - Call 826-5774 for more info.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old, June 6 – July 25. (“Family Connections” is on summer break.)

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.

“Spanish for Little Ones”, 11:15 a.m. Current session thru June 20th.

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support and Play Group (6 months -3 years) – 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (partial childcare provided). 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.



STATE

Computer jobs lose luster for young techies

BY RACHEL KONRAD

AP Technology Writer

STANFORD, Calif. — As an eager freshman in the fall of 2001, Andrew Mo's career trajectory seemed preordained: He'd learn C++ and Java languages while earning a computer science degree at Stanford University, then land a Silicon Valley technology job.

The 22-year-old Shanghai native graduated this month with a major in computer science and a minor in economics. But he no longer plans to write code for a living, or even work at a tech company.

Mo begins work in the fall as a management consultant with The Boston Consulting Group, helping to lead projects at multinational companies. Consulting, he says, will insulate him from the offshore outsourcing that's sending thousands of once-desirable computer programming jobs overseas.

More important, Mo believes his consulting gig is more lucrative, rewarding and imaginative than a traditional tech job. He characterized his summer programming internships as "too focused or localized, even meaningless."

"A consulting job injects you into companies at a higher level," he said. "You don't feel like you're doing basic stuff."

Mo's decision to reboot his nascent career reflects a subtle but potentially significant industry shift. As tens of thousands of engineering jobs migrate to developing countries, many new entrants into the U.S. work force see info tech jobs as monotonous, uncreative and easily farmed out — the equivalent of 1980s manufacturing jobs.

The research firm Gartner Inc. predicts that up to 15 percent of tech workers will drop out of the profession by 2010, not including those who retire or die. Most will leave because they can't get jobs or can get more money or job satisfaction elsewhere. Within the same period, worldwide demand for technology developers — a job category ranging from programmers people who maintain everything from mainframes to employee laptops — is forecast to shrink by 30 percent.

Gartner researchers say most people affiliated with corporate information technology departments will assume "business-facing" roles, focused not so much on gadgets and algorithms but corporate strategy, personnel and financial analysis.

"If you're only interested in deep coding and you want to remain in your cubicle all day, there are a shrinking number of jobs for you," said Diane Morello, Gartner vice president of research. "Employers are starting to want versatilis — people who have deep experience

with enterprise-wide applications and can parlay it into some larger cross-company projects out there."

Career experts say the decline of traditional tech jobs for U.S. workers isn't likely to reverse anytime soon.

The U.S. software industry lost 16 percent of its jobs from March 2001 to March 2004, the Washington-based Economic Policy Institute found. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that information technology industries laid off more than 7,000 American workers in the first quarter of 2005.

"Obviously the past four or five years have been really rough for tech job seekers, and that's not going to change — there are absolutely no signs that there's a huge boom about to happen where techies will get big salary hikes or there will be lots of new positions opening for them," said Allan Hoffman, the tech job expert at career site Monster.com.

Not everyone from the class of 2005 thinks programming is passe, and companies are always eager to hire Americans who can write great code — the type of work that, in recent years, produced innovations including file-sharing software at Napster and search engine tech at Google.

But even the most dedicated techies are entering the profession with less zeal than their predecessors.

The erosion of "deep code" and other technology jobs in the next decade is creating a high-stakes game of musical chairs for geeks, Silicon Valley recruiters say.

Dimming career prospects have been particularly ego-bruising for people who entered the profession during the late '90s, when employers doled out multiple job offers, generous starting salaries, and starting bonuses including stock options and Porsches.

"The current situation is getting back to the '70s and '80s, where IT workers were the basement cubicle geeks and they weren't very well off," said Matthew Moran, author of the six-month-old book "Information Technology Career Builder's Toolkit: A Complete Guide to Building Your Information Technology Career in Any Economy."

"They were making an honest living but weren't anything more than middle-class people just getting by," Moran said.

Thousands of U.S. companies have opened branches or hired contractors in India, China and Russia, transforming a cost-saving trick into a long-term business strategy. Offshoring may be a main factor in eroding enthusiasm for engineering careers among American students, creating a vast supply of low-wage labor in eastern Europe and Asia and driving down worldwide wages.

The average computer programmer in India costs roughly \$20 per hour in wages and benefits, compared to \$65 per hour for an American with a comparable degree and experience, according to the consulting firm Cap Gemini Ernst & Young.

According to the most recent data from the National Science Foundation, 1.2 million of the world's 2.8 million university degrees in science and engineering in 2000 were earned by Asian students in Asian universities, with only 400,000 granted in the United States.

U.S. graduates probably shouldn't think of computer programming or chemical engineering as long-term careers but it's "not all gloom and doom," said Albert C. Gray, executive director of the National Society of Professional Engineers.

He says prospects are good for aeronautic, civil and biomedical engineers, the people who design and build artificial organs, life support devices and machines to nurture premature infants.

"In this country, we need to train our engineers to be at the leading edge," Gray said. "That's the only place there's still going to be engineering work here."

At Stanford, career experts are urging engineering and science majors to get internships and jobs outside of their comfort zones — in marketing, finance, sales and even consulting.

They suggest students develop foreign language skills to land jobs as cross-cultural project managers — the person who coordinates software development between work teams in Silicon Valley and the emerging tech hub of Bangalore, India, for example.

Stanford listed 268 job postings in its computer science jobs database in the spring quarter — roughly double the number from last year.

THANKS!

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

lic before graduation.

"When you know what you are doing in the kitchen, you can apply what you've learned and create extraordinary dishes, while not always following a traditional recipe," said chef Christophe Bernard, culinary academic director for The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles after he announced the winners. "Glenn set a great example of this by making an award-winning chili, without one of the conventional ingredients."

Other winners included Duddana Watt, a 2003 graduate who is a chef at Catalina Island Resort and owner of Catering by Duddana who took second place; and Anthony Williams, a 2000 graduate who is an operations manager and chef at UCLA and took third place. Both of whom also received cast iron pots and other gifts from Surfas in Culver City.



KATHY LEONARDO

A little northern exposure for concerned residents

By Daily Press staff

Care to know what is going on north of Wilshire?

The Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition (WILMONT) will host its annual meeting on Saturday, June 25, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Reed Park Auditorium at Seventh Street and Wilshire Boulevard.

This year's annual meeting will feature refreshments, door prizes, presentations and discussions among residents. The scheduled speakers are Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr.; Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent John E. Deasy; and Santa Monica Planning Department staff to update Wilmont on the General Plan. Other agenda items include the election of board members and discussions of resident concerns.

The meeting will be attended by City Council members and other local officials, in an effort to give attendees a chance to present his or her views directly to local representatives.

"Wilmont gives everyone the opportunity to be heard," said Rob Rader, chair of the Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition. "This past year, Wilmont has taken positions on affordable housing, the proposed fluoridation plant, the Garden of Angels school at 18th and Washington, outdoor dining on Montana Avenue and extending preferential parking for businesses. We've continued adding new board members to ensure that Wilmont retains its vital connection to the community."

"Neighborhood organizations are the lifeblood of the city and participating in the Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition is the best way for a Wilshire/Montana resident to get involved," he added.

There will be door prizes for attendees provided by local merchants, including from Bagel Nosh, Fromin's, Izzy's, Panera, Three Bags Full, Starbucks, Jafra Skin Care, Merle Norman Cosmetics, Number One Beauty Supply, Pavilions, Ron Teegarden's Dragon Herbs and Staples.

The next regular Wilmont board meeting is July 18 at 7 p.m. at the Ken Edwards Center on Fourth Street. Board meetings are every third Monday and are open to the public.

For more than a decade, the Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition has addressed the concerns of its members by organizing neighbors to work with the city and local businesses to ensure that residents' voices are heard. The Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition is a non-profit 501 corporation and has the largest population within its boundaries of any neighborhood organization in the city. The boundaries are: Montana Boulevard to the north (both sides); Ocean Avenue to the west; 21st Street to the east; and Wilshire Boulevard to the south (north side only). Annual membership dues are \$10 per person, \$15 per family. For more information, contact Wilmont at: Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition, P.O. Box 607, Santa Monica, CA 90406, or (310) 840-2257. www.wilmont.org

Carnevale! time on Venice Beach

By Daily Press staff

Venice is turning 100.

The fourth Annual Carnevale! Venice Beach, presented by the Bank of America, will kick off the community celebration of the Venice Centennial this weekend.

At noon, the Venice Drum Circle will launch the Carnevale! as 100 booths featuring arts and crafts will open and then performances will continue throughout the day on three stages and in the surrounding streets. Deborah Greene of Venice's new epOxybOx Gallery will be hosting an art show of Venice talent near the post office, where there also will be a food court including local Venice restaurants.

For the first time this year, an antique car show sponsored by Santa Monica Saab has been added to the Carnevale on Grand Avenue, south of Windward Circle. The Concorso Venezia has been organized by Pierre Vuilleumier and Richard Feibush, an automotive expert who writes for several car magazines.

The costumed Masquerade will feature two stages, DJ's, dancing, a cabaret show, bars, and a special performance by Trey Knight and his 10-foot tall dancers in his acclaimed choreographed performance: Stilt World.

The Carnevale! will take place on Saturday, June 25 starting at noon and ending at 10 p.m. at Windward Circle where Windward Avenue and Main Street intersect, just east of the Venice Beach Boardwalk. There will be a party to follow at 10 p.m. at Actor's Challenge Training, 3224 Thatcher Ave., Marina Del Rey. Admission is \$10 in costume and \$15 in street clothes.

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NATIONAL

Forest Service dropping fees at picnic areas

BY MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Forest Service is eliminating \$5 and \$10 recreation fees it charges at about 500 picnic areas and trailheads after outdoor enthusiasts and Western lawmakers complained.

The fees also could disappear at other recreation areas among thousands operated by the government but will remain at those with parking lots, restrooms and other amenities under a law Congress passed last year.

The new law “raises the bar for sites to qualify for charging fees so the public can enjoy more amenities,” said Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth.

Nationwide, 61 percent of more than 16,000 sites operated by the Forest Service will be free of charge, officials said. That is an increase from 58 percent that are already free.

A law pushed by the Bush administration and signed by the president in December granted longterm authority for

the once-temporary fees at recreation sites, but set standards under which they could be collected. It immediately set off a storm of protest, particularly in the West where much of the land is controlled by the government.

The fees generate about \$170 million a year for the Forest Service and three Interior Department agencies: the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Officials use the money to maintain restrooms, collect trash and provide other amenities.

The most dramatic change in the initial round of fee cuts made this week is in the Pacific Northwest. Visitors to about a quarter of the sites in Oregon and Washington where fees were charged no longer have to pay them.

In Oregon’s popular Willamette National Forest, 43 day-use sites will charge fees, down from 69 last year. In some remote forests, such as the Umatilla National Forest in eastern Oregon and Washington, fees at all 20 day-use sites

are being dropped.

In California, fees are being dropped at 88 of 591 sites. Nearly half of all Forest Service sites in the state will be free.

“Recreation on federal lands has grown tremendously over the past several years, and the rec-fee program has been a valuable tool for allowing forest managers to meet visitor demands for enhanced visitor facilities and services,” Bosworth said in a statement.

Activists hailed the return to free access at more recreation areas but said the new law still gives federal managers too much leeway to determine what sites are eligible for fees. For instance, in some cases old and poorly maintained portable toilets are considered permanent, they said.

Ken Fischman of Sandpoint, Idaho, said the government shouldn’t charge fees for visiting any national forest since people pay taxes to maintain them.

“These fees discriminate against low-income workers and families,” said Fischman, who belongs to a coalition of outdoor enthusiasts, environmentalists

and sportsmen circulating a petition urging Congress to repeal the fees. Legislatures in at least three states — Oregon, Montana and Colorado — have passed similar resolutions.

Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., a long-time critic of the fee program, said he was “vehemently opposed to the Forest Service charging citizens to park at undeveloped trailheads with a dirt pullout, one battered picnic table and a decrepit outhouse.”

Interior and Forest Service officials acknowledged that the fees — instituted on a trial basis in 1996 and renewed every two years since — are unpopular. But they say the charges allow cash-strapped agencies to provide security and comfort for visitors.

The Forest Service is the first agency to eliminate some recreation fees. Price policies at national parks, wildlife refuges and other recreation areas are also being reviewed, but no decisions have been made, said Interior Department spokesman Dan DuBray.

Glory Hole shelter to stop acceptance of bear meat

By The Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska — A Juneau homeless shelter has stopped serving donated bear meat after learning the state prohibits non-profit groups from accepting wild game meats such as bear, fox and walrus.

“We didn’t know that it is illegal,” said Jetta Whittaker, executive director of the Glory Hole.

For years, the shelter accepted bear meat to supplement its meals for the homeless. The meat went into many recipes, including burgers, casseroles and spaghetti.

But last year, Whittaker learned that serving it was contrary to rules set by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. This year, it has meant turning down five offers of bear meat.

“That was 250 pounds of ground meat I could use for spaghetti sauce,” said Bob Thompson, operations manager of the shelter. “We are protein-poor.”

The Glory Hole rarely gets offers of deer because venison is more palatable to most people while bear meat has a stronger, wild smell, Whittaker said.

Some of the people served by the Glory Hole said they miss meat of any kind. David Kelley, who is staying at the shelter, said he appreciates the three meals a day but he is tired of eating starchy vegetables.

“I will eat whatever you put in front of me,” Kelley said. “But you cannot live by starches alone.”

Organizations such as the Food Bank of Alaska cannot accept bear meat because of the same regulation.

State food safety officials said even if the organizations could get bear meat from hunters for free, eating it could make people sick.

Domestic pigs and certain carnivorous animals, including bears, might be infested with the larvae of a species of worm called trichinella. That can cause trichinosis, which can result in diarrhea, vomiting, breathing problems and even death in severe cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People may question why the state allows the distribution of pork but not of bear meat, but state officials said there are differences in how pork and bear meat are processed.

“Pork is raised commercially, slaughtered, inspected and processed under the regulatory guidelines of the U.S. Department of Agriculture,” said Ronald

Klein, program manager of the DEC’s food safety and sanitation program. “Wild game and bear meat are not.”

Whittaker would like to see the agency create a method to test for trichinosis or relax the regulations.

“We serve a lot of guys who need protein to get their days going,” Whittaker said.

A nonprofit with a yearly budget of \$193,000, the Glory Hole has only \$4,500 to churn out 54,000 meals a year for the homeless.

Dan Rasmussen, who cooks at the shelter five days a week, said meat is the most popular item on the menu.

“When you serve oatmeal, probably six people show up,” Rasmussen said. “The day I mixed 6 pounds of bacon with 10 dozen eggs, it was gone in 10 minutes.”

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Qwest Communications to open contract talks

BY SANDY SHORE

AP Business Writer

DENVER — With an accounting scandal behind it and significant revenue challenges ahead, Qwest Communications International Inc. this week begins talks on a new contract for nearly 25,000 employees.

Two Qwest unions say they want an increase in base pay — their first in nearly five years — and a continuation of health-care benefits, among other things. A Qwest spokesman declined to discuss what will be on the table.

The talks, scheduled to begin Tuesday, come at a critical time for Denver-based Qwest, which is burdened with \$17 billion in debt and diminishing revenue as competition increases from mobile and Internet phone services. In addition, Qwest last month lost a \$9.85 billion bid for MCI Inc.

LeRoy Christensen of the Communications Workers of America, one of two unions involved, expects the talks to be difficult.

"When you negotiate with any compa-

ny that's not doing so good economically, you have to recognize that," he said.

The talks will involve the CWA's District 7, representing about 24,300 workers, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, representing about 350 employees in Montana. The current two-year pact is set to expire at midnight Aug. 13.

In addition to wages and benefits, the six-member union bargaining team plans to discuss outsourcing and worker productivity issues, Christensen said.

"There are concerns particularly around productivity," he said. "The company has been trying to increase productivity, get more work in the same amount of time. There's always an ongoing issue of mandatory overtime."

Jeff Miller of CWA's national office expects both wages and benefits to be key issues since businesses across the country are seeking ways to control rising health-care costs.

In 2003, Qwest workers approved a contract with two bonuses instead of a salary hike in part because of the company's problems at the time — \$20 billion in

debt, stagnant revenue and government probes of financial statements.

Analyst Donna Jaegers, who tracks Qwest for Denver-based Janco Partners, does not expect a strike. She said Qwest needs to retain the support of its work force because of the competitiveness of the industry.

"I think you'll get a lot of rhetoric beforehand but at the end of the day they'll work together," she said. "The union understands Qwest's situation."

Qwest spokesman Steve Hammack declined comment other than to say, "We have a strong and positive working relationship with our unions."

"We're all committed to the same goal and that's delivering outstanding service," he said.

Qwest became a major telecom player by acquiring former Baby Bell U S West Inc. in 1999 in a \$38 billion merger that brought its total capitalization to about \$85 billion. Today, its market cap has dwindled to less than \$7 billion.

The Securities and Exchange Commission began investigating Qwest

two years after the merger, alleging the company inflated revenue through fraudulent transactions.

Qwest restated financial results for 2001 and 2002 to lower revenue by about \$2.5 billion and agreed to pay \$250 million to settle the allegations without admitting wrongdoing. SEC suits are pending against several former executives.

Earlier this year, Qwest and Verizon Communications Inc. engaged in a highly public battle for Ashburn, Va.-based MCI, hoping to land its nationwide fiber-optic network with a lucrative roster of government and corporate clients.

MCI's board rebuffed Qwest's offer four times, saying it was concerned about Qwest's financial health and the long-term value of the shares it planned to use as partial payment for the deal.

Since then, Qwest has said it is looking for other acquisitions or partnerships. It also has begun rolling out Voice Over Internet Protocol — VOIP — services and is persuading regulators and lawmakers across its 14-state region to lift some price controls on services.

Negative publicity from missing teen case a big concern for tourism-focused Aruba

BY PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press Writer

ORANJESTAD, Aruba — As the mystery of a missing Alabama teenager drags into a fourth week, Arubans complain their peaceful little island is getting a bad rap.

And they worry that if the disappearance of 18-year-old Natalee Holloway isn't solved soon, Americans might get scared away, depriving the island of a prime source of revenue.

"We were just one happy island with one happy people and it seems everything has changed," said Marcus Wiggins, the boss of Steve Gregory Croes, a tourist boat disc jockey who was arrested Friday in the case. "We just want the old Aruba back."

Tourism accounts for 70 percent of the gross domestic product of Aruba, a Dutch protectorate of 97,000. The island welcomes 728,000 visitors each year and an additional 550,000 cruise ship passengers. More than 70 percent are from the United States.

Aruba's sweet ocean breeze and its luxurious hotels aren't the only reason Americans come to the island. Many also have found this is one of the safest spots in the Caribbean.

With street lights even along most ocean roads, the island feels like paradise in a protective bubble. Young Americans enjoying the 18-year-old drinking age go from bars to nightclubs late into the night, with taxi drivers parked outside waiting to shuttle them to hotels.

But now the island has become a victim of its reputation as virtually free of violent crime.

"The reason you are seeing so much negative publicity is that these things don't happen in Aruba," said Myrna Jansen-Feliciano of the Aruba Tourist Authority. "Our blessing has been a curse."

The last time a tourist was killed was in 1996, when two robbers shot and killed an American woman. They were arrested and convicted, police said. In 2005, only one person has been murdered, an Aruban man.

Arubans take comfort in the knowledge that about half their annual visitors have been to the island before so they

know what it is like and won't be swayed.

Besides, the islanders say, how many countries have the solidarity to mobilize a nationwide search for one person? After Holloway vanished, thousands of Arubans took off work to comb the island.

Authorities previously detained 17-year-old Joran van der Sloot, the son of a Dutch justice official on Aruba, and his two friends, Surinamese brothers Deepak Kalpoe, 21, and Satish Kalpoe, 18. The three men have said they took Holloway to a northern beach before dropping her off at her hotel in the early hours of May 30, the day she disappeared.

Natalee's disappearance "shows people need to be more careful on vacation, but we feel safe here," said Kim Falk, who was visiting from Janesville, Wis., with her husband and daughter Hannah, 14.

Does Hannah, a blonde who resembles Holloway, feel safe?

"Of course," she said. "And it's not like I'll be going to the bar or anything."

Since Natalee's disappearance, none of the 20 international airlines with up to 85 daily flights have reported cancellations, said Sharissa Arends, spokeswoman for Aruba Airport Authority.

Tour package operators have had no cancellations and hotel occupancy is slightly higher than this time last year, said Jansen-Feliciano.

Still, Arubans are worried. Local newspapers have interviewed business owners to see if they fear a slowdown, and Prime Minister Nelson Oduber has expressed concern.

"We've been working 50 years, day and night, to build up tourism," Oduber said last week.

Natalee's mother, Beth Holloway Twitty, has said if she doesn't get answers soon, she may believe authorities are trying to protect the detained young men.

Aruban authorities say police work takes time and no one is above the law.

But in Birmingham, Ala., talk show hosts Russ and Dee Fine of Radio 101.1 FM have called for a boycott of Aruba. And some Americans have sent letters to the Web site caribbeanetnews.com.

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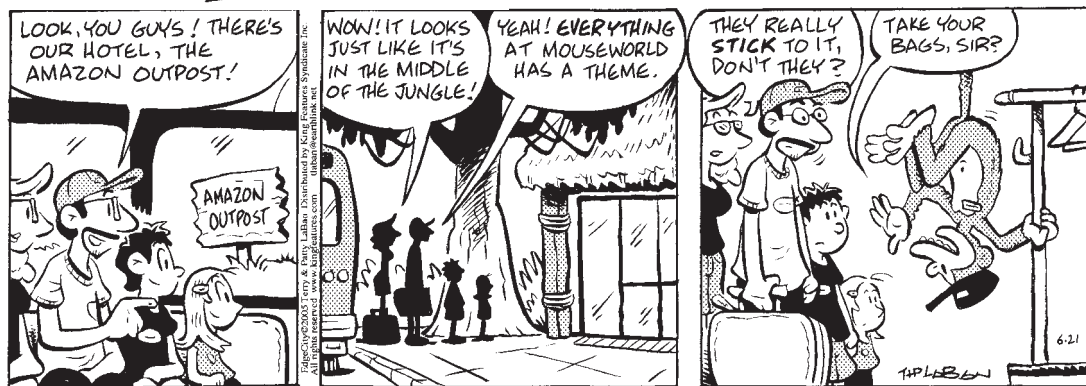
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1225560 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Classique Design, 12353 Garber Street, Pacoima, CA 91331. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Armand S. Sablad, 12353 Garber Street, Pacoima, CA 91331, Josephine S. Clark, 4915 West Berteau Ave., Chicago, IL 60641, Paulino C. Pagtalunan, 11150 Glen Oaks Blvd., Unit 3, Pacoima, CA 91331 This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/ Armand S. Sablad, Josephine S. Clark, Paulino C. Pagtalunan

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 5/25/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 6/21/2005, 6/28/2005, 7/5/2005, 7/12/2005

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

War of the words: Cruise balks at squirt stunt

By The Associated Press

LONDON — The London premiere of Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds" turned into a war of words after Tom Cruise was squirted in the face by a man posing as a reporter.

Four men were released on bail and were ordered to return to a police station Monday, when they may be charged with assault, a police spokesman said.

The 42-year-old actor was outside a movie theater in central London's Leicester Square doing press interviews Sunday when a man squirted Cruise with a water pistol disguised as a microphone, London's Metropolitan Police said.

Cruise appeared to laugh but then asked the prankster: "Why would you do that?"

As the man gave a barely audible excuse, Cruise said: "Do you like thinking less of people, is that it?" The prankster tried to walk away but Cruise reached across the metal barrier, held his arm and said: "Don't run away. That's incredibly rude. I'm here giving you an interview and you do that ... it's incredibly rude."

The actor grew increasingly irritated and told the man: "You're a jerk."

Police detained the man who squirted Cruise and arrested three other men who filmed the incident. The four were working on a new comedy show for British TV station Channel 4 in which celebrities are the targets of practical jokes. They were released on bail several hours later.

Katie Holmes, who became engaged to Cruise last week, was at the premiere but not by Cruise's side when the incident occurred.

In an interview with Newsweek magazine, on newsstands Monday, Spielberg denies that media attention on Cruise and Holmes forced a change in the publicity campaign for "War of the Worlds." The couple went

public with their romance in April.

"People say, 'Oh, you didn't put Tom on the poster because of what happened. No. The poster was designed in January ... and my decision with all my films has been to use iconography on the posters,'" Spielberg says. "Tom was fine with that. It's the first time Tom has not been on a poster in his career, by the way."

As for Cruise's exuberant appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" last month, Spielberg tells the magazine: "What Tom did on 'Oprah' was exactly what Tom did with me when he first told me about Katie Holmes. But the press didn't like the way Tom bared his soul to Oprah."

LONDON — A major collection of John Lennon memorabilia, including an oil painting from his student days and a handwritten "All You Need Is Love" manuscript, will go on sale next month.

The July 28 auction also will include a table from the home Lennon shared with his first wife, Cynthia; a tunic thought to have inspired the costumes on the "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album cover; and a bedspread from Lennon's "bed-in" for peace in Montreal with Yoko Ono, Cooper Owen auction house announced Monday.

Cooper Owen, which specializes in auctions of music and film memorabilia, said it expects to raise \$2 million from the auction, to be held at The Hippodrome nightclub in central London.

RENO, Nev. — LeAnn Rimes is on the road with her summer tour, after recovering from an injury to one of her vocal cords and an unspecified dental procedure.

"I look at it in a positive way — I got some good vocal rest," the 22-year-old singer told The Associated Press by phone from her tour bus as it headed for Saturday night's concert in Santa Fe, N.M.

In April, Rimes was ordered not to speak for two weeks after a coughing fit during a bout with bronchitis burst a blood vessel in one of her vocal cords. Last month, her periodontist told Rimes it was time to undergo some dental surgery she'd put off, which forced her to cancel an appearance at the CMA Music Festival in Nashville, Tenn.

"When your passion's almost stripped from you, at least for a couple of weeks, you realize how much you do love what you do. I guess I have a little more drive now than I ever have," Rimes said.

Scheduled stops on her tour include Chicago, New Orleans, Detroit, Salt Lake City and Atlanta.

Her latest album, "This Woman," was released in January.

NEW YORK — For years, Bob Geldof balked at recreating the 1985 Live Aid event because he thought he couldn't top himself.

"Not to be immodest, but the first one was perfect in almost every sense," Geldof told the latest edition of Time magazine. "Artistically, people seemed to up the ante, and the performances were pretty great across the board. Huge amounts of money were raised, not a penny lost, and politically it elevated the issue onto the global table. The whole thing just worked, unbelievably."

But Geldof gave in to pressure from U2's Bono and screenwriter Richard Curtis, and the three friends are organizing Live 8, a series of free concerts scheduled July 2 worldwide to raise awareness of poverty in Africa.

The concerts are intended to influence the leaders of the world's richest nations meeting in Britain for the G8 summit.

Bono said the focus has changed in the 20 years since Live Aid.

"It's the journey from charity to justice," he said.

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