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JULY 5-6, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 201

Santa Monica Daily Press

STUDYING THE BRAIN
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE AFTER THE FOURTH ISSUE

SM residents next to the freeway live with a roar

BY CHRISTINA YOON
Special to the Daily Press

MICHIGAN AVENUE Andrew Nickel lives in a sunny home just 10 blocks from the famous beaches of Santa Monica. But instead of the calming sound of crashing waves, he lives with another kind of soundtrack, the harsh clamor of cars speeding down the I-10 Freeway.

Nickel said that after living along the freeway for 10 years, the traffic has become "white noise." But many people who have rented from him have quickly moved out, complaining of the disruption created by rumbling motorcycles and trucks. And although he has learned to live with the constant sound of engines, it is hard to ignore at times.

"I hate Harley-Davidsons," he admitted. "I hate it when they're all together in groups. They think the on-ramp is a little race track."

Since purchasing his condominium, Nickel has replaced his metal window frames with vinyl ones in an attempt to block the noise. As the president of his local homeowners' association, Nickel

SEE FREEWAY PAGE 12

Soraya Danesh *news@smdp.com*

SOUNDING OFF: **Mark Mouro stands on his balcony on 10th Street and Michigan Avenue overlooking the I-10 freeway on Thursday.**

AMERICAN SPIRITS

PARADE ON MAIN

Santa Monica comes out to celebrate America's birthday

PHOTO ESSAY BY BRANDON WISE PAGE 13

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

'Summer Adventure' time

Multiple locations, 8:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
Franklin Elementary School, Lincoln Middle School, and Point Dume Marine Science School are offering the "Summer Adventure" program from June 30 through July 25. This program is a fun and educational summertime experience which includes reading, writing, computers, science, math, drama, and sports. For more information, view the online brochure at www.smmpta.org.

'Awaaay' to Wonderland

1211 4th Street, 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m.
Individuals of all ages are invited by the Santa Monica Playhouse to help solve riddles, predict the future, travel through time, experience a mini-language lesson, and ultimately help save the fairytale world, during the musical, "And Awaay We Go To Wonderland." This musical is sure to take its audience on a magical, musical journey to the land of enchantment, as characters try to rescue a host of favorite fairytale superstars. Lots of audience participation makes this captivating Rudie-Carlo Family Theatre event the perfect summer outing for the entire family. Kids 12 and under $10.50, adults $12.50. For more information, call (310) 394-9779 or visit santamonicaplayhouse.com.

Stroll into the past

1436 Second St., 10 a.m. — noon
A walking tour presented by the Santa Monica Conservancy reviews over 100 years of local history in just six blocks. Docents view city landmarks and share the story of Santa Monica's development from a frontier town to bustling metropolis. Tours are given every Saturday, at a cost of $10 for the general public and $5 for conservancy members. Reservations can be made by calling (310) 496-3146.

Sunday, July 6, 2008

Art on the menu

1701 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Check out the work of artist and photographer Brian Asher at the Sunset Grill. The diverse collection of photographs and artwork are inspired by Asher's travels through five continents including adventures in the Amazon, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Mexico, the Galapagos Islands and China. Over two dozen pieces will hang in the restaurant, for sale by the artist.

Workouts for teens

3026 Nebraska Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Max offers two daily classes teaching teens how to exercise and eat properly in a cool and fun environment. They get to hang out afterwards in the wi-fi lounge, play Nintendo Wii, or simply surf the Internet. For information, call (310) 867-1650.

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

Big Blue Bus rolls out plans for the future

BY ALICE OLLSTEIN
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN The Big Blue Bus, tired of the same old "square box on wheels" design, has launched the "Bus of the Future" campaign to solicit new ideas for the buses of tomorrow.

The company has partnered with students and professors from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena to brainstorm innovative, environmentally friendly designs to unveil at the AltCar Expo in Santa Monica on Sept. 26. The top three designs will be judged by a panel of transportation and design experts, and the public will be able to peruse 3-D models, animation of a ride experience from a passenger's point of view and a video chronicling the lifespan of the project.

The project was announced at the Big Blue Bus' 80th anniversary celebration in April.

"As we were examining our history, we thought about how important it is to look ahead for the future," said Stephanie Negriff, director of Transit Services for the BBB.

Now, is the perfect time to reevaluate what and how passengers ride, said BBB Public Information Coordinator Dan Dawson.

"Every year car companies come out with sexy new models with new amenities, but buses still look like they did 50 years ago," Dawson said. "Gas prices are making public transit more and more important, so we want the nature of bus-riding itself to move into the future."

He explained the impetus for the redesign.

"We were trying to buy new buses for our Mini Blue fleet, something more unusual than a square box on wheels, and we couldn't find anything. We thought, maybe it's time we shake up the industry by creating something innovative to take transit into the future."

SEE BBB PAGE 11

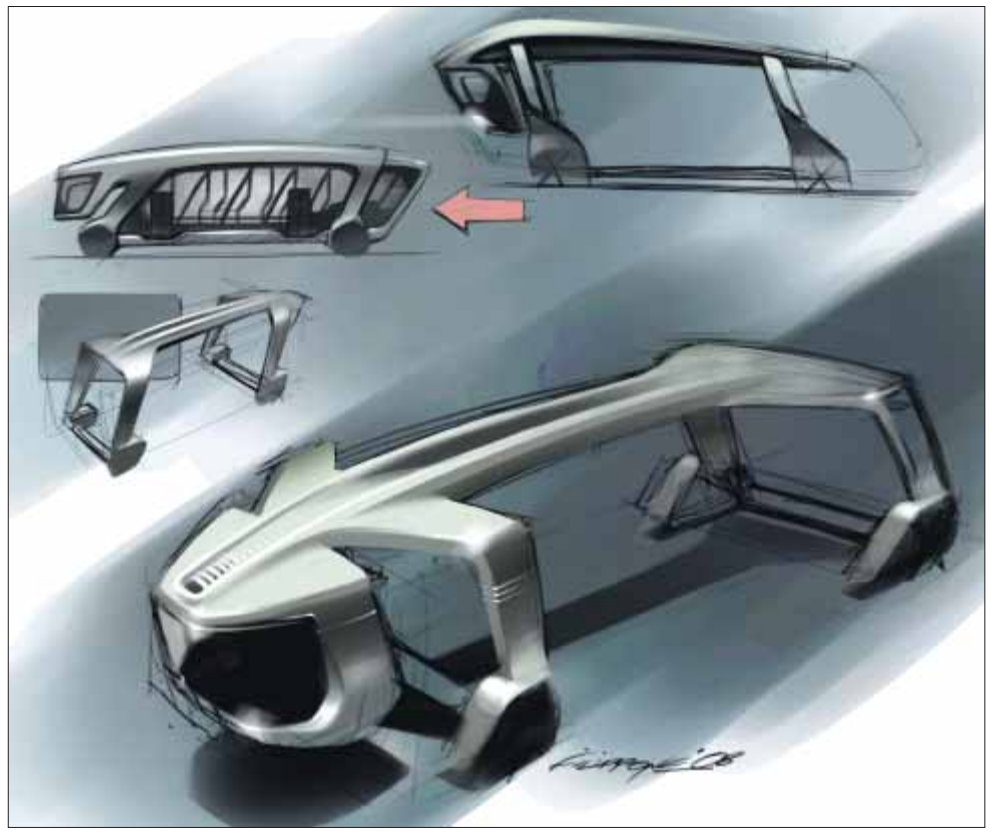

Photo courtesy Art Center College Of Design

STEPPING INTO TOMORROW: **Students from the Art Center College of Design have been asked by Big Blue Bus to design the bus of the future. A number of students have contributed concepts.**

Cancer institute receives grant to study head injuries

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

MID-CITY The John Wayne Cancer Institute at Saint John's Health Center announced Wednesday that it has received a grant to study the possible link between head injuries and pituitary hormonal failure (hypopituitarism) among retired football players.

More than 1.2 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury annually, the majority of which are cerebral concussions. Repeat concussions have been shown to be a risk factor for neurodegenerative dementing disorders, including mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's Disease.

However, little is known about the impact of single or multiple concussions on the pituitary gland, a small bean-shaped gland located at the base of the skull that controls the body's hormone production. Damage to the gland could lead to hypopituaturism, which can seriously impair an individual's quality of life, including increasing the risks of depression, diabetes, obesity and sexual dysfunction.

"The problem of sports-related concussions is increasingly recognized as a major contributor to long-term disability in many retired athletes," said Bob Klein, vice president at Saint John's Health Center and a 10-year NFL veteran with the Los Angeles Rams and San Diego Chargers. "However, the potential long-term impact of concussions is not well understood. This research will fill that gap in our knowledge. I have spoken with many of my former colleagues in the NFL, and they share my belief in the critical importance of this study."

The new research, which will be conducted in collaboration with the University of North Carolina's (UNC) Department of Exercise and Sport Science, and the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, will be directed by Dr. Daniel F. Kelly, director of the Neuro-Endocrine Tumor Center at the John Wayne Cancer Institute, and Kevin M. Guskiewicz, chairman of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science at UNC.

Kelly and Guskiewicz will focus principally on the relationship between the number of concussions sustained in an NFL player's career, their subsequent pituitary hormonal function, and how that function affects their post-retirement quality of life.

Their goal is to determine whether there is a link between multiple concussions and

SEE GRANT PAGE 15

At gay weddings, traditions remain strong pull

BY DERRIK J. LANG
AP Entertainment Writer

WEST HOLLYWOOD Who may now kiss the bride when there are two grooms?

Since the state of California began issuing marriage certificates to same-sex couples earlier this month, questions about wedding rituals and etiquette — not just politics — have grown faster than a wedding reception guest list. With no long-established gay wedding traditions, partners-to-be and the wedding industry are making it up as they go along.

"I generally don't see this type of excitement for weddings," said Los Angeles-based wedding planner Wendy Rhodes, who's coordinated two same-sex ceremonies since the ruling. "They've been dreaming about being able to actually get married for a long time, so these couples know exactly what they want."

And what they want is immersed in tradition.

Rhodes said most wedding conventions — invitations, music, formal attire, cake, champagne — are finding their way into the same-sex ceremonies that her full-service

SEE MARRIAGE PAGE 15

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Holding officials accountable

Editor:

The Growth Monster was unleashed in Santa Monica long ago, but then it was called "Slow Growth." Now it is called "Smart Growth." These are simply terms, like "Wise Use" that reactionaries and venture capitalists use to camouflage and obfuscate what is really going on, e.g. rampant development – Water Garden, Lantana, Macerich, Civic Center Village, etc. All authorized by LUCE.

[SMDP columnist] Bill Bauer refers to the progressives and socialists in City Hall, terms intended to strike fear and loathing into the very souls of reactionaries and conservatives. The real agenda of our City Council has nothing to do with Marxist principles; it is to raise revenues for the coffers of the bureaucrats and administrators to expand their personal power base, using increased taxation from corporate expansion, etc., to fund their civil service fiefdoms. Sit in on a meeting of the Bayside District sometime, if you don't believe me.

The proof of the pudding is easy to see by how our City Council is elected. Four or five receive contributions and endorsements from city employees, public agencies, social service providers, and grant recipients. The rest are endorsed and receive contributions from other special interests – developers, realtors, landlords, car dealers, etc. There is some overlap among these political and commercial opportunists.

Bauer is right about LUCE. It is also true that increasing bike and pedestrian pathways, traffic calming, and other so called efforts to reduce congestion, often have the opposite effect. This city is doing everything possible to attract more traffic by encouraging tourism, turning a community college into a university sized business, creating a super mall that will eventually stretch from Main Street all the way to the Montana corridor and proceeding east there, on Colorado, Olympic, and eventually the whole city. Where will it end?

If this council really had a socialist, secular progressive agenda it would heed the priorities of residents who actually vote in local elections. If the council really cared about citizen concerns, it would act to resolve our complaints at community meetings, instead of selling the city agenda. If the council really wanted to reduce congestion it would enact the Residents Initiative to Fight Traffic.

Instead of giving only SMC students free passes on the Big Blue Bus, everyone who lives, or works in Santa Monica should be included. That would reduce traffic far more than simply catering to pedestrians or bicyclists by narrowing streets. If this city can afford to target millions of dollars to pay care providers to foster dependency among the 2,000 plus homeless in this city, it can certainly target some of that wealth to provide free transportation for people who actually work, reside, or attend school in this city.

If this council cared about what residents wanted, it would redesign the city Web site to include an interactive community forum. That one simple action would implement public input on civic matters such as growth, parking, traffic, homelessness, education, exposing conflict of interest, streamlining the bureaucracy and auditing the budget online, in full public view.

In addition, the council should use a portion of this wealthy city's revenues to give something really palpable to the students, workers and residents of Santa Monica. It should provide free Wi-Fi access throughout the city to encourage citizen participation in an electronic town hall that would hold our public officials accountable for what they have done to this city.

Jon Mann
Santa Monica

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Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't read this while you drive

THIS PAST TUESDAY, JULY 1, CALIFORNIA joined Washington, Utah, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia in banning something while driving. Unfortunately, it's not a ban against condescendingly asking your spouse, "Why are you in this lane?" No, people here and in those other places are prohibited from talking on hand-held phones while driving. I'm sure other states will follow soon, just as I'm sure cell phone makers and users will find ways around this law.

There's already a ridiculous loophole built into the California law. For some bizarre reason, people are prohibited from talking on their cells while driving, but they're not prohibited from dialing while driving. I don't know about you, but I have to take my eyes off the road to dial, not necessarily to speak. I'd like to see an amendment to this, and hope that someday soon even celebrities will be pulled over in L.A. and Santa Monica for DWD's — Driving While Dialing.

Here's another one for you. There's nothing in the California law that specifically prohibits people from sending text messages while driving. Punching all those keys to text someone while cruising on the freeway isn't dangerous at all, is it?

I don't know if precise statistics are kept for what percentage of drivers sometimes use their handheld cell phones while at the wheel.

However, I can tell you that my personal survey tells me that in the past, approximately 99 percent of those people making left turns in front of me on Wilshire who don't pull far enough ahead held the wheel in one hand and their phone in the other. Because of the new law, it'll at least be refreshing to have these folks texting some nonsense instead.

As with any law, there are bound to be people who will oppose this new one. Some will claim that it's an infringement on their personal freedom. Obviously, the Founding Fathers intended that every American have the right to use a handheld cell phone while driving.

My major worry about the new law is that it will encourage more and more people to have those ridiculous Bluetooth phones that clip onto the ear or some other body part. You know who I'm talking about. People who have these things walk around and look right at you while they're talking to somebody else.

At least three times a day, I think they're talking to me instead of their lover, stockbroker, or therapist. With the new rule, I'm even more likely to be in an elevator with someone I've never seen before and have that person look right at me and say, "Life's too short to do business with a person like you."

Some people are used to holding their cell phones up to their ears, and they're going to be upset because they feel that what they have to say on their cells is always important. It really can't wait until they finish driving. Who are they kidding?

Most of the things I overhear people say on their cells — and you can't help but overhear this stuff — are things like, "Did I get any calls?" "What's for dinner?" or "Nothing new with me." And then there's the classic that those people on a plane say immediately after it lands. They just can't wait until they get off the plane before making their important call that states, "I'll call you from baggage."

FOR SOME BIZARRE REASON, PEOPLE ARE PROHIBITED FROM TALKING ON THEIR CELLS WHILE DRIVING, BUT THEY'RE NOT PROHIBITED FROM DIALING WHILE DRIVING. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I HAVE TO TAKE MY EYES OFF THE ROAD TO DIAL, NOT NECESSARILY TO SPEAK.

I have a little speaker/microphone thing that clips onto the visor in my car. Will this make me a safer driver than holding up my cell phone to my ear and talking directly into it? I hope so, but I'm not sure.

Some studies have indicated that talking on hands-free phones is really no safer than talking on phones held up to the ear. We're still distracted by the act of talking on the phone.

Similarly, accidents are caused by people who eat while they drive, put makeup on while they drive, or — my personal favorite to see on the freeway — people who read the newspaper while driving. I've even seen people working on the crossword puzzle while they drive. What's a five-letter word for someone who does this? Oh, that's right — Idiot. So, I'm not bothered by those behind these laws who favor hands-free phoning. I'm much more worried about those who like to practice hands-free driving.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his Web site at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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

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

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

"It really makes the word a smaller place. You go somewhere and it's like 'oh my gosh' and you're family already."

— Lina Ruplenas, mother of Andrius Ruplenas, a 13-year-old surfer and Lithuanian folk dancer on how close the Lithuanian community is at the Boy Scout camp her son attends.

"But, isn't there a contradiction in the occasional, environmentally friendly cyclist casually rolling down Santa Monica's major avenues in exclusive, virtually empty bike lanes while exhaust from tens of thousands of gridlocked motor vehicles spew pollution into the atmosphere and accelerate global warming?"

— Columnist Bill Bauer talking about the desire by some to create dedicated bike lanes on major thoroughfares.

"Being on the City Council makes me very happy and I love the work. As long as those elements are there, I want to give it another go."

— Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom on his decision to run for re-election this fall.

"I think the law is a really good idea. The law should be used to set an example for the rest of the country."

— David Morton, a Santa Monica resident on the new law banning hand-held cell phone use while driving.

"People who would once buy an outfit for work are now using their money to get to work,"

— Anita Gore, a representative with the Board of Equalization on the 3.2 percent drop in gasoline consumption over the last year, which has been credited to high gasoline prices.

"I love (SMC) to death, but it was the right move for me. I'm extremely thankful for the opportunity that the school gave me and will forever remember that season."

— Former SMC coach Jesse Teplitzky on his decision to leave SMC basketball to serve as head coach for Cerritos College basketball. In 2008, Teplitzky led the Corsairs to their first winning record in five years.

"It's a moral, ethical and religious issue for me. We shouldn't be treating people differently."

— The Rev. Janet Gollery McKeithen of the Church in Ocean Park, a United Methodist minister, on her decision to preside over gay marriage ceremonies even though she faces disciplinary actions from United Methodist leadership.

"What is so curiously satisfying to me is observing that most of the venom spat from the local liberal fasces in my general environs has been about my writing style yet these self-appointed Lictors of liberalism have yet to challenge any of the facts presented."

— Columnist Steve "The Mailman" Breen on criticisms of his column, "Going Postal."

Quotations captured and compiled with care by **KEVIN HERRERA.**

John McGrail, C.Ht.

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Moderator:
Nat Trives, Former Mayor of Santa Monica

Panelists:
Herb Katz, Mayor of Santa Monica
P. Lamont Ewell, City Manager of Santa Monica
Tom Larmore, Past Chairman, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
Laurel Rosen, President/CEO, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
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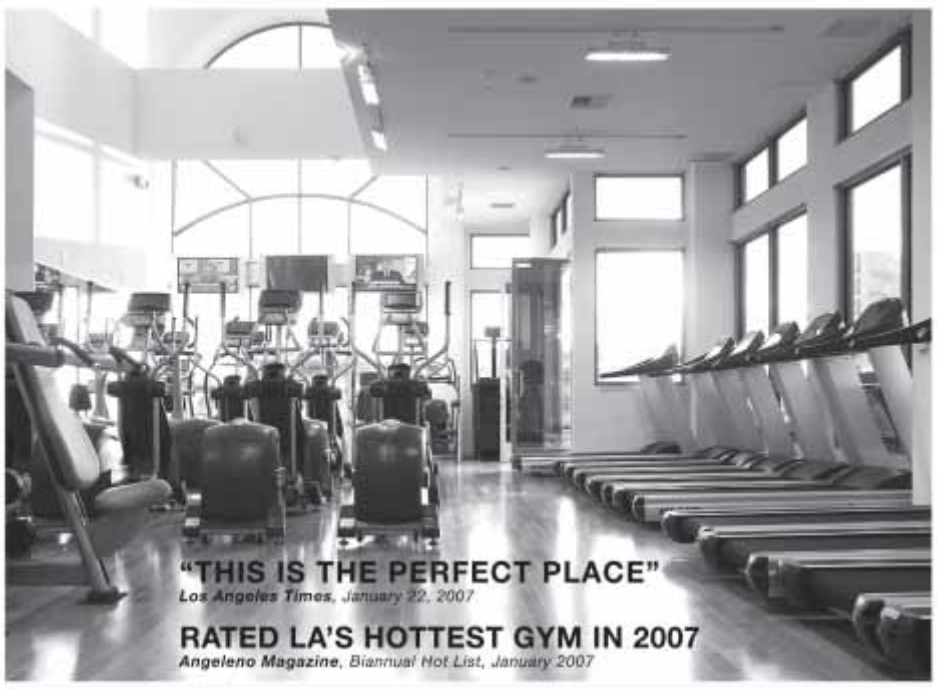

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The Q Line

Sick and Tired

The Daily Press editorial staff was having a story meeting the other day when we began to wonder what are you, our readers, tired of reading about. Is it the school district? Maybe it is the City Council or homelessness. So this week's Q-Line question asked what subjects are you sick and tired of reading about and why?
Here are your responses:

"I AM SICK OF READING ABOUT THE school district and its ongoing problems. However, we do need the coverage you provide about the sneaky, inept, and wacko City Council, as well as the homeless issues. Homelessness isn't getting better. Every one or two homeless men who manage to get off the streets are replaced by dozens more who are moving in. They have turned Santa Monica into a dirty, dangerous, and slum-like atmosphere. I can't wait until I move out of this bum haven."

"I'M SICK AND TIRED OF READING about the tree issue; not because tree-savers aren't doing an excellent job and not because it's one of the most important issues in Santa Monica. This issue never should have gotten to this point in the first place and the City Council should have done the right thing. Then it wouldn't even have been a big press item. "

"I'M MOSTLY TIRED OF READING ABOUT the bums and the problems they cause but I guess you have to continue those stories or else people won't go after the City Council to do something about it – not that they will do anything about it anyway."

"I THINK YOU SHOULD CONTINUE active coverage of the City Council, school district, and local issues such as the homeless. You perform a very valuable and much appreciated public service. Unfortunately, those people of Santa Monica who don't really want to know and whose minds are set in stone, seem to vote time and again to maintain the status quo."

"I AM SICK OF READING ABOUT THE anti-smoke laws that we have in Santa Monica when not one thing is done about it. When you walk by the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf on Main Street it's hard to even breathe between the cigars and the cigarettes, so why bother reading or having a law that nobody enforces?"

"I LIVE IN SANTA MONICA AND I HAVE been living here for four years. Honestly, I am sick of reading about the Ficus trees and all the other small things that people cry and complain about. What about crying over the war, or something more important? I understand that trees are a part of nature, but it's such small stuff. I love the paper, and the information about the school stuff and sports things ... ."

"I'M REALLY TIRED OF SEEING ALL THE stuff about the trees and the Ficus. It is a done deal, and I've had enough. One other thing is that there should be less national news. There are millions of opinions on the Internet and TV stations about national things, so some local Santa Monica person talking about an Obama speech isn't really relevant. I really enjoy the local stories, and all the stuff that's happening in the Westside, particularly Santa Monica."

"I DON'T LIKE THE PAPER'S LIBERAL biased manner when reporting on Santa Monica events. It is so evident by the way the reporters gush over the school district spending hundreds of millions of dollars to educate us on child molestation, or the City Council's half a billion dollar a year socialistic, nanny government. As defenders of the fourth estate, paid in blood to preserve, your paper has the responsibility to present the news as dispassionately as possible. Instead of drooling over the endless nonprofits in this town, such as Steal the Bay, Pico Youth and Gang Family, Taxpayers' Spending Defense Council , etc., write about dealing with the declining value of life in this town. The opinion columns suck, too. Wise up or you will be just another L.A. Times."

"I AM SICK AND TIRED OF READING about homosexuals and same sex marriages – as if it is a good thing. Well, it's not. I'm also sick and tired of people calling themselves Americans when they continue to bash our president. We live in the best country in the world. Then there are the homeless, or the leeches. When are people going to understand that we are the servants? Most of the homeless are ungrateful bums. Wake up Santa Monica and smell the stench."

"THE NUMBER ONE PERSON TO GET RID of in your column is Steve Breen. He is no credit to the paper and I am sure that he is an embarrassment to the federal government. You also need to get rid of all these homeless people and the people who are writing the columns. Your paper is getting bad. I read it four years ago when it first started out and it was very good. Now, all you have are columns, including columns by misfits and people who are ranting and raving about how Santa Monica doesn't cater to the homeless people. But why should they when there are 2,000 people? You ultimately need to get rid of Steve Breen."

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The culture of eating well has blossomed in China

BY AUDRA ANG
Associated Press Writer

BEIJING My last houseguest had 13 restaurants on his to-try list, including three renowned for succulent versions of crisp-skinned Peking duck, one popular for its tongue-tingling Sichuan cuisine and a Uighur joint, known as much for the ethnic minority's cumin-spiced lamb skewers as its exuberant floor show.

"I never thought Beijing would have so many things!" he said hungrily after hours of online research.

Gone are the days when the traditional Chinese greeting "Have you eaten yet?" seemed like a bad joke in the dour capital where, as recently as the 1980s, staples were rationed, state-run canteens dished out the slop of the day in chipped enamel bowls and restaurants were few and far between.

Today's Beijing is packed with eateries at every corner, open at all hours and offering regional cuisines of all kinds — a reflection of China's stunning economic success after almost three decades of convulsive growth.

And the run-up to the Aug. 8 Beijing Olympics has underscored the quantum leap in the quality and variety of fare on offer, with menus and manners being polished in anticipation of the crowd of 500,000 visitors during the games.

From al dente hand-pulled noodles splashed with bracing black vinegar from Shanxi province in the north, to fingernail-sized chicken pieces buried in a mountain of dried chilies from Sichuan in the southwest, to the rich, sweet braises of the east, there is something to pique every palate. Don't forget the street food — handmade pork buns, candied fruit and egg, lettuce and crisp fried dough rolled in a freshly made flour crepe, a Chinese burrito of sorts.

And that's just from within the country.

Sushi and sashimi? Ocean fresh. Persian grilled meats and stews? In the heart of the city. Fish and chips? Beer-batter or bread-crumbs, take your pick. Greek, Vietnamese, Italian, German, French, Ethiopian, Spanish, Singaporean, even kosher ... the list goes on.

"Simply put, we've gone from eating just to fill our stomachs to the stage where we are open to the complete pleasures of the dining experience," says Chitty Chung, editor-in-chief of Beijing's Food & Wine magazine.

That includes not only an awareness of a restaurant's environment, the chef's concepts, quality of service, the pairing of food and wine, and nutritional balance, but also a willingness try new things, says Chung, who recommends Dadong Roast Duck Restaurant not only for the namesake fowl, but also for its light modern twist on traditionally heavy Shandong fare.

"People's eyes are opening up and they are becoming more international. They are ready to accept and taste food from other parts of the world," she says. "The choices are far beyond your imagination."

So are the numbers. There are more than 40,000 restaurants in Beijing, 90 percent of which are privately run.

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City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica Notice Inviting Bids

Pursuant to Section 609 of the City Charter, newspapers adjudicated to be newspapers of general circulation published in the City of Santa Monica are hereby invited to submit bids to publish legal notices, and other matter required to be published, for the City for the 2008-09 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008. The City shall consider the following criteria when selecting the official newspaper for the publication of such notices:

- Proof of adjudication
- Amount of bid (ad rate)
- Circulation (including copies per issue, documented readership and trends)
- Delivery methods (newsracks, home delivery, on-line, other)
- Publication schedule (weekly, daily)
- Percentage of local news carried
- Fiscal integrity
- Reputation of publication

In no case shall the contract prices for such publication exceed the customary rates charged by such newspaper for the publication of other comparable legal notices. The City reserves the right to reject all bids.

Bids should be submitted in writing to **Maria Stewart, City Clerk, City of Santa Monica, Records and Election Services, 1685 Main St, # 102, PO Box 2200, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2200** and received no later than **Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.**

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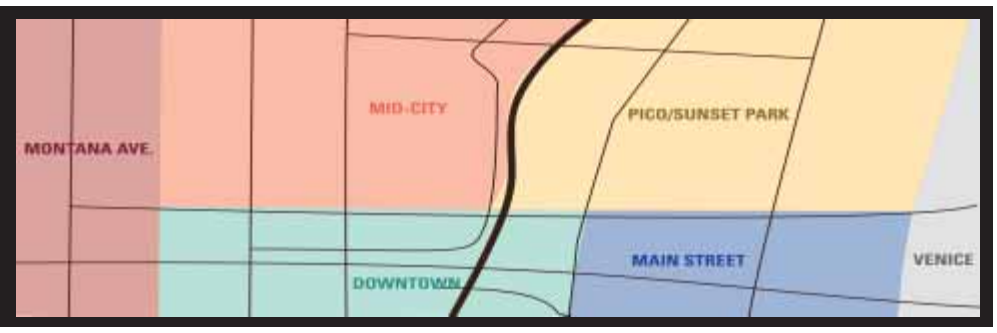

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Young designer joins couture pantheon

BY JOELLE DIDERICH
Associated Press Writer

PARIS Designer Alessandra Facchinetti on Wednesday dispelled any doubts about her ability to fill legendary designer Valentino's shoes, drawing warm applause for her first-ever haute couture collection for the Italian label.

Models paraded under crystal chandeliers in the gilded salons of Valentino's headquarters on the tony Place Vendome, wrapped in powdery pastel chiffon gowns and blinding white cocoon coats.

A gray chiffon day dress with a pleated bib front and ruffled jabot was dusted with silver sequins, while a duck blue pod-shaped coat was embroidered with organza flowers.

Facchinetti, who had previously designed only ready-to-wear collections, said that working with the seamstresses who produce the made-to-measure couture outfits was an entirely new experience.

"Working with the 'atelier' is much more like working with a family. They really create things with me. I'm not alone and they are not alone doing their job," the slender 35-year-old told reporters after the show.

Though many of those "little hands" had been with Valentino for decades, they appeared to have adapted to their new boss seamlessly.

Haute luxe details remained faithful to Valentino's heritage, but the flawless perfection that characterized the maestro's work had given way to a charmingly light touch.

Earlier, French designer Jean Paul Gaultier conjured neon birds of paradise heading to a high-class rave in his feathered-and-caged collection.

Models paraded in flamboyant fur coats and sumptuous evening gowns topped with crinolines and corset cages in fluorescent yellow, orange and pink.

"Women feel so free nowadays that they are wearing cages again," the irreverent designer said. "It's the ultimate stage in women's liberation."

> **"THE COHABITATION BETWEEN FAMOUS BRANDS WITH ARTISTIC DIRECTORS FROM THE NEW GENERATION, AND NEW BRANDS WHICH HAVE THEIR OWN REPERTORY, IS WHAT MAKES THE STRENGTH OF COUTURE WEEK."**
>
> Didier Grumbach
> Head of French fashion's governing body

Gaultier said he was inspired by the "fluo kids" of the electro music scene and by the 1980s film "Tron," about a hacker who is trapped inside a computer game. The Day-Glo colors only served to highlight the luxurious fabrics which are the hallmark of couture.

A cocoon cage lined in silver fox fur split open to reveal a skintight sheath dress with pearl-embroidered flowers — perfect for dancing the night away.

The vibrant displays confirmed that couture is thriving, despite a gloomy economic environment, as discerning customers seek out one-off creations.

Gaultier said he was surprised by the success of his couture division, launched 11 years ago.

"I think it does have a future, because I am living that future, in a way," he said.

"I don't know how long it will last, but in this period where you have a choice between either very cheap clothes or high luxury, couture is clearly undergoing a revival."

Only 11 fashion houses qualify for the haute couture designation, which is delivered by the French Industry Ministry and carries a strict set of requirements.

Many houses have discontinued the loss-making activity in recent years, among them Emanuel Ungaro, Balmain, Yves Saint Laurent, Jean-Louis Scherrer and Hanae Mori.

But smaller, lesser known designers have been greeted into the couture pantheon, most recently Maurizio Galante and Anne Valerie Hash.

"The cohabitation between famous brands with artistic directors from the new generation, and new brands which have their own repertory, is what makes the strength of couture week," Didier Grumbach, head of French fashion's governing body, told The Associated Press.

Sea lovers say coral is too precious to wear

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK Sea coral is blessed with wonderful colors, an intricate design and memories of the lapping ocean. It's no wonder that the worlds of fashion and home decor are in the midst of a love affair with it.

Some argue, though, that coral is too precious to wear.

"We want to discourage consumers from purchasing coral," says scientist Andrew Baker. "It's like ivory. It's a product of a living animal and the harvest of this item is unsustainable."

It's unsustainable not because new coral won't grow, he says, but because there are no limits on the use or sale of coral and it's being harvested at a rate that nature can't keep up with.

"Dredging deep-sea coral forests is like clear-cutting the rainforest for sparrows: You're doing so much damage for something so small," says Baker, who is also an assistant professor at the at the University of Miami and the Pew Institute for Ocean Science.

Baker and a team from the Too Precious to Wear campaign, helmed by the nonprofit group SeaWeb that also took on the caviar and restaurant seafood causes, is lobbying to add pink and red corals, also known as Corallium, to the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species, the global group that has put limits on rhinoceros horns, tiger feet and ivory. The coral had made it to the last round of negotiations in 2007, according to Baker, but failed to make it to the final list.

Next week, the pressures corals are facing will be discussed at the International Coral Reef Symposium, which will be attended by more than 2,500 scientists, economists, conservationists and educators. The theme of the meeting is reefs for the future.

Baker doesn't want the world to wait. SeaWeb had noticed in the past couple of years that coral — real, faux and artistic interpretations — was all over the fashion runways and home-decorating magazines, explains Julia Robertson, program manager for Too Precious to Wear.

Around the same time, though, global warming, for which coral is considered a key indicator, had become a buzz topic, so marine-science groups saw an opportunity to raise public awareness, she says.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON STORMWATER PARCEL REPORT

On **TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008, at 5:45 p.m.** the Santa Monica City Council will hold a public hearing regarding the approval of the Stormwater Parcel Reports, describing each parcel within the City and the amount of each parcel's Stormwater Management Fee for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Stormwater Management Fees are a funding source for urban runoff management activities, including periodic upgrades and construction of drainage facilities, maintenance of the storm drain system, catch basin cleaning, public education, runoff pollution control enforcement and other programs that protect the economic, recreational and biological resources of Santa Monica Bay from urban runoff pollution. Each Fee is billed through the L.A. County Tax Assessor on one's 2008-2009 property tax bill. The hearing will be held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 213, CITY HALL, 1685 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, at which time the City Council will hear and consider all objections or protests, if any, to the Reports. A copy of the Reports has been filed with the City Clerk's Office and is available for review. Further information may be obtained by calling the Urban Runoff Management Program Coordinator, (310) 458-8223.

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Students sketch out the Big Blue Bus of tomorrow

FROM **BBB** PAGE 3

The decision to use design students over industry professionals was an easy one, Dawson said.

"We felt that young people would be more creative than someone staid and tried and true," he said. "We also knew they'd have a more green perspective."

The design team from Art Center College of Design includes Geoff Wardle, director of Advanced Mobility Research and associate of Graduate Industrial Design, and design students Mike Peterson (eighth term, Environmental Design), Gabriel Wartofsky (sixth term, Transportation Design) and Giuseppe Filippone (sixth term, Transportation Design).

The Art Center is one of only two schools in the nation with a mobility department. It was also the first design school to receive the United Nations' Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status, and remains committed to environmentally conscious design.

Wardle said that the BBB has been "a delight to work with" and that the project's vision should be "a reflection of everything that's great about Santa Monica."

He and his students spent the first phase of the project riding the various city bus lines, taking note of the different roles played by the different routes and times of day and interacting with passengers. The design team will also be in contact through the open Busofthefuture.com blog, where residents can post their concerns and suggestions and receive feedback from the students themselves. This is crucial to the design process, Wardle said.

"Sometimes we designers make assumptions about what we think is right, and we're surprised when members of the public don't agree with us," he said. "The best designs are made collaboratively, and the blog allows for an easy-going dialogue."

Dawson, who is working hard to publicize the blog through online advertising, also believes in the site's importance.

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

STATUS QUO: **A current Big Blue Bus drives down Pico Boulevard on Wednesday afternoon picking up commuters along its way.**

"We don't want the new bus to be created in a vacuum," he said. "We want feedback from both bus riders and people who've never ridden a bus."

Negriff believes that this dialogue is the most vital aspect of "Bus of the Future."

"The process is what's important," she said. "We're understanding what the needs of the community are for public transit, and the response has been overwhelming."

Posted ideas have included on-board entertainment, plug-ins for iPods and dividers between the seats. And every aspect from the design team has the health of the planet in mind.

"Absolutely everything we do has to be accountable to ecological responsibility," Wardle said. "We have to come up with solutions that look several decades in the future. Maybe by then there will be new materials available that are fully biodegradable or natural and renewable, so they don't get fed back into the toxic waste stream."

As evidenced by the futuristic designs going onto the blog, this project could revolutionize the way Santa Monicans ride.

"We're looking forward to delivering the final project," Wardle said.

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Residents are cynical that soundwall gaps will be filled

FROM **FREEWAY** PAGE 1

and his neighbors have also considered hiring engineers and architects to build noise-blocking additions to their homes.

"I have definitely spent money on keeping out the noise, and I'm going to spend more," he said. "Noise is an issue that's really understated — noise is a stresser."

Nickel lives in one of the seven areas along I-10 that are not protected by a soundwall. The gaps are spread along the freeway from Ninth Street to 34th Street. Many of these gaps fall in residential areas, where apartment buildings are separated from the freeway by nothing more than a wire fence.

Residents living within these seven soundwall gaps may have a while to wait for any respite from the racket. On June 17, the City Council received a budget study session report prepared by Director of Finance Carol Swindell estimating that it would cost $2.7 million to fill the gaps in the soundwall. The project is not in the proposed city budget for 2008-2009.

"Residents have requested in the past that walls be installed," said Tony Antich, city engineer.

Sound studies have been conducted in these areas and all of the gaps qualify to have soundwalls built in them, but it is simply a matter of funding the large project.

Mark Mouro, who also lives on 10th Street, said that his homeowners' association has discussed approaching the City Council to try to have a wall built.

"We want to see if it's a possibility and see if we have a right to ask," he said.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, or MTA, is responsible for funding freeway soundwall projects. Metro spokesman Dave Sotero said the Santa Monica soundwall gaps are currently on the unfunded list of transportation projects. Projects on this list will not be funded by Metro until at least 2012.

Alexandra Bissonnette *news@smdp.com*

CARS THAT GO BOOM: **Residential buildings that are situated along stretches of the I-10 Freeway that do not have the benefit of soundwalls endure a substantial amount of noise pollution.**

"We don't have enough transportation funding to do everything that's necessary," Sotero said. "Especially because these types of projects are not funded at the state or federal level."

As a result, MTA must prioritize the projects that will make the most difference in the county's overall transportation system. Sotero said an important factor is whether a new transportation project would improve mobility on Los Angeles roads.

Residents who live in the gaps can often look out their windows to see homes that are protected by soundwalls.

"It doesn't make any sense why the wall stopped right across the street," Mauro said.

Francisco Lopez has lived along I-10 on 17th street for 14 years and has two small children. Lopez thinks that a soundwall behind his building might solve problems beyond the annoying sound of traffic. Lopez's biggest complaint is the congregation of homeless people in the space between the freeway and his apartment building.

"Now there's a wire fence, but they just jump it," he said.

Hilda Ramirez, who has lived along one of the soundwall gaps on Cloverfield Boulevard and Delaware Avenue for 26 years, said that homeless people often gather just outside her second-story window. She recalled an accident that occurred on the freeway in which a car crashed into the fence in the area where homeless people often sat, crushing their belongings.

"I think the city should approach this with more urgency," she said.

MTA has given the council two options to get the soundwall project underway more quickly, Antich said. In the first option, the council can provide one-third of the total cost of the project, but MTA gave no guarantee when the other two-thirds would become available. In the second option, the city would pay the entire cost of the project, and MTA would provide reimbursements if and when funds become available. Again, there is no guarantee of when this would occur.

"I think there are many top priorities in this city," Antich said. He called the soundwall project a "formidable chore."

None of the residents, however, seemed to have plans to move because of the freeway noise. Instead, many have chosen to look on the bright side of living so close to the freeway, such as easy access for their morning commutes and more reasonable rent prices.

Nickel, for one, has found a serendipitous result of freeway living.

"They had to dig to make the freeway, so I get some great city views."

While most residents say that they would be happy to see a soundwall go up by their homes, some expressed concerns that it might change the atmosphere that they have grown accustomed to. George Naryan, 22, has lived by the freeway on 21st Street with his family for his whole life and has never had a problem with the location of his house.

"To be honest, I really like the way it is," he said. "We're outdoorsy people and we like the gusts of wind that come up by our house. We wouldn't want anything to block that."

news@smdp.com

SANTA MONICA CELEBRATES THE FOURTH

Photos by Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

LIFE IS A PARADE: **Hundreds of Santa Monicans lined Main Street on Friday for the Second Annual Santa Monica Fourth of July Parade presented by the Ocean Park Assocation. Police Chief Tim Jackman served as the honorary grand marshall. The parade kicked off at 9:30 a.m. at the Civic Center and ended at Ocean Park Boulevard at Barnard Way. Participants included the Santa Monica High School band, the Santa Monica NEV club, former mayors and City Council members.**

Suggest a Book for Citywide Reads 2009

The mission of Citywide Reads is to encourage a culture of reading and to promote book-centered dialogue in Santa Monica.

Book selection criteria include

- **Fiction**
- **Amenable to good group discussion**
- **Broad appeal**
- **Challenging, but not exclusive**
- **Currently in print, available in paperback and a variety of other formats**

Past selections

2003: *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie
2004: *The Berlin Stories* by Christopher Isherwood
2005: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
2006: *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer
2007: *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger
2008: *The Highest Tide* by Jim Lynch

Suggest a title by July 31

- complete an online form at www.smpl.org,
- visit our blog at www.santamonicacitywidereads.blogspot.com,
- email citywidereads@smgov.net, or
- call 310-458-8600.

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Tuesday • July 8 • 7pm
EARLIMART
Their new album *Hymn and Her* is out July 1st on Majordomo Records. Aaron Espinoza and Ariana Murray have pared Earlimart down to a duo and deliver their most organic and diverse offering yet.
Playing live at Spaceland, July 18th.

Wednesday • July 9 • 7pm
KING KHAN AND THE SHRINES
The psychedelic-soul big band revue will be raving up the Amoeba stage,celebrating their new CD *What Is?!* and leaving behind them a colorful spell of amazement and wonder.
Playing live at The Echo, July 10th!

Friday • July 11 • 7pm
SUPERGRASS
The band will be signing copies of their new CD *Diamond Hoo Ha!* Purchase the new CD and receive a special download card with exclusive content (day of in-store only – while they last!)
Also appearing at The Avalon on July 12th!

Sunday • July 13 • 2pm
DAVID PILTCH
Bassist, songwriter and producer David Piltch plays songs from his first solo release, *Minister of the Interior*. He's collaborated & played with artists including k.d. lang, Lizz Wright, India.Arie and Solomon Burke (among others) and on his new CD he stitches together jazz, Americana, art pop & experimental elements to create a cohesive whole.
Performing live at Largo, July 1st, 8th and 15th.

Tuesday • July 15 • 6pm
MELVINS
Celebrating the release of their brand new album *Nude With Boots* — out July 8th from your friends at Ipecac Recordings.

Sunday • July 27 • noon
ANDY VOTEL
Amoeba's Sunday World Wide Underground DJ series welcomes a very special guest: The vinyl-vulture, recording artist and record producer Andy Votel (Twisted Nerve/B-Music/Finders Keepers). His new Turkish-psych compilation, *Ersen* is out July 8th.

WEEKLY DJ SETS!

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MANDALA

FRIDAYS • 8-9:30PM
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Gay couples put twist on practices

FROM MARRIAGE PAGE 3

wedding and events planning company has been hired to coordinate since the California Supreme Court's ruling in May.

"I think same-sex couples have waited so long for this, they want the same things they've seen in the weddings of their friends," said Rhodes. "They want a white wedding cake. They want flowers. They want good food. They want everything they can possibly have in their wedding. People all dream of the same things when they think of a wedding."

Rhodes most recently organized a small wedding ceremony at the home of a lesbian couple who had been engaged for 24 years. Because many same-sex ceremonies are celebrating years of commitment rather the beginning of a new life together, their weddings are more personalized affairs, according to Kathryn Hamm, president of GayWeddings.com.

Out for most are wedding traditions like spending the night before apart or registering for new china.

> **SAME-SEX COUPLES DON'T TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR GRANTED."**
>
> **Kathryn Hamm**
> President of GayWeddings.com

Instead, same-sex couples are choosing rituals like writing their own vows and including family and friends in highly customized festivities — recent wedding trends that extend beyond sex and state lines.

"Same-sex couples don't take this opportunity for granted," said Hamm. "Generally speaking, same-sex couples don't hide behind a basic ritual. It's not a ceremony that's read from the book. Obviously, lots of same-sex couples are amending tradition."

Companies catering to same-sex couples are on the rise. Since the ruling in California, Hamm said she's noticed a significant spike in gay-friendly vendors submitting their companies to be listed on GayWeddings.com, which provides information and resources for same-sex couples.

But figuring out who pays for the party, who walks who down the aisle and who gets the first dance is being left to the couple. Because same-sex weddings are still uncommon affairs, significant traditions haven't emerged. Hamm said that requires same-sex couples to be more original, even when they chose to have a traditional ceremony.

Hamm said she attended a same-sex ceremony where the lesbian couple planned a comical take on a traditional wedding seating arrangement: There were two bride sections. Other same-sex spins on wedding traditions include walking each other down the aisle and both partners-to-be donning gowns or tuxedos.

"The more mainstream same-sex weddings become, the more routine they'll become when it's not this interesting, sensational new thing," said Hamm. "The thing I'm curious about is what happens to all wedding ceremonies once there's marriage equality. How will same-sex marriages change the landscape for heterosexual couples?"

In California, many same-sex couples are opting for smaller ceremonies now and bigger celebrations later. California voters could approve a proposition in November changing the state constitution so that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid.

If the ruling is overturned, it's unclear what would happen to same-sex couples married before November.

The Rev. Neil Thomas, the senior pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in West Hollywood, has officiated 15 same-sex wedding ceremonies in the two weeks since the ruling went into effect. What does he say when it comes to kissing the brides or grooms?

"I just say, 'You may now kiss,"' said Thomas. "I don't want to get into all that patriarchal stuff."

Money will be used to study former NFL players' injuries

FROM GRANT PAGE 3

hypopituitarism, to define the effect of hypopituitarism on quality of life, and to determine the impact of hormone replacement therapy. The study will be conducted with the cooperation of the National Football League Players Association.

"This research is long overdue," Kelly said. "Millions of young people and professional athletes participate in sports that put them at risk of concussion; not just football, but also hockey, rugby, soccer, baseball and basketball. We need to know more about how these so-called 'minor head injuries' impact their lives in later years, and in particular, whether multiple concussions can lead to pituitary hormonal failure and poor quality of life."

The Neuro-Endocrine Tumor Center (www.neuro-endo.org) is housed at Saint John's Health Center and the John Wayne Cancer Institute. The center's focus is the treatment of pituitary tumors, brain tumors, and other neuro-endocrine disorders including pituitary hormonal deficiencies.

The Center for the Study of Retired Athletes at the University of North Carolina works in close affiliation with the National Football League Players Association. Since 2001, the Center has been investigating a spectrum of physical and mental disabilities common to retired athletes. The research team will begin work in July 2008, with initial research results expected in 2010.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS
CITY OF SANTA MONICA

AIRPORT COMMISSION
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Airport Commission:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2011.
Applicants shall be residents of Santa Monica.

Commission on the Status of Women:
Two seats available for terms ending June 30, 2011.
Applicants shall be residents of Santa Monica.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, August 5, 2008.
Appointments to be made by City Council, Tuesday, August 12, 2008.

No City employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission listed above.

The State Political Reform Act requires commission members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at http://www.smgov.net. All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

City of Santa Monica

ELECTION NEWS FOR SANTA MONICA RESIDENTS!

NOVEMBER 4, 2008, MUNICIPAL ELECTION

SANTA MONICA ELECTION INFORMATION:

Offices to be voted upon:

City Council	Four Seats
Rent Control Board	Two Seats
Board of Education	Three Seats - full 4-year terms One Seat - partial 2-year term
College Board of Trustees	Three Seats

Eligibility Requirements: Candidate must be a registered voter in the jurisdiction at the time nomination papers are issued to him/her. All vacancies are for four-year terms, except for one partial two year term for the Board of Education.

Filing Period: July 14, 2008 to August 8, 2008. Nomination papers will be issued by the City Clerk starting on July 14, 2008, and throughout the nomination period. In order to qualify, a candidate must obtain at least 100 valid signatures, from voters registered in the jurisdiction, on his/her petition.

Candidate Workshops: Candidate Workshops will be held on July 14, 2008, at 8:30 a.m., and 4:30 p.m., at Council Chambers, City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica. Candidates not able to attend the workshops will be issued nomination papers throughout the filing period at the City Clerk's Office upon request. There is no filing fee.

Last day to Register to Vote: October 20, 2008

For information on the following related topics, please call the City Clerk's Office at 458-8211:

Elected Official Duties
Campaign Fundraising
Establishing Campaign Committees
Related Election Regulations
Initiative Process

Gas, food prices pinch elderly meal programs

BY P.J. DICKERSCHEID
Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, W.Va. Ruth M. Jones doesn't know what she'd do without hot meals delivered daily to her home. The 81-year-old Charleston widow can't walk or drive since a car wreck nine years ago left her stricken by arthritis.

"A lot of times I can't even get into the kitchen," said Jones, who relies on her Social Security check to cover the soaring costs of food and utilities.

Those same costs are squeezing the estimated 20,000 senior nutrition programs across the country that serve Jones and millions of elderly and frail Americans.

While most needs are still being met, advocates from California to New York worry that seniors will go hungry. They blame a nearly 20 percent increase in fuel and food prices over the past year, flat or reduced government funding, and an ailing economy that yields fewer donations.

"All of that is generating a lot of anxiety," said Bob Anderson, associate director of the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Across the country, nearly 60 percent of the estimated 5,000 programs that belong to the Meals on Wheels Association of America have lost volunteers who can't afford gas, said Enid A. Borden, president and CEO of the program that has been providing meals to Americans in need since 1954.

Nearly half the programs have eliminated routes or consolidated meal services. Some 38 percent have switched to delivering frozen rather than hot meals, while about 30 percent are cutting personal visits from five days a week to one.

"We're in a crisis and it's just getting worse and worse," said Borden, who is urging Congress to increase money for senior nutrition programs by at least 10 percent.

Two pending bills don't come close to that amount, said Peggy Ingraham, the association's senior vice president for public policy.

A House subcommittee is considering a 6.5 percent increase for senior nutrition programs for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, while a Senate subcommittee is considering a 5.7 percent increase. The federal earmark for the current fiscal year is $758 million.

Cuts are already inevitable in New York City, said Marcia Stein, executive director of Citymeals on Wheels, where meetings are under way this week to work out details such as who will no longer receive meals.

"We have no choice," she said. "It's like trying to take a size 10 foot and putting it into a size 7 shoe."

In California, senior programs face a proposed 10 percent cut in state funding, said Donna Anderson, adult services division chief for San Joaquin County Department of Aging in Stockton.

In West Virginia, where about 15 percent of the population is over 60 and more than two-thirds live in rural areas, lawmakers last week provided an additional $1 million to help county agencies pay for food and gas.

Without it, the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services would have had to cut 113,000 meals and make 100,000 fewer trips to and from doctor's appointments, the pharmacy and other places seniors need to go to remain independent, officials said. The bureau provided 848,000 round trips and 2.5 million meals last year.

"We're the only transportation they've got," said Sandra K. Vanin, the agency's commissioner.

In South Carolina, lawmakers added $2.9 million to next year's budget for a home-delivered meals program, sparing 5,400 of more than 29,000 clients from being cut off, said Frank Adams, spokesman for Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer, who oversees the state's Office on Aging.

Preparing meals and visiting the doctor are especially difficult for 91-year-old Mary Elliott of Charleston since she returned from the hospital last fall.

"I couldn't do nothing when I came home," said Elliott, who has lived alone since her husband died 15 years ago.

Her sons live in New York and Cleveland. The retired caterer has a fairly new stove, but hasn't learned how to use it. She said she doesn't trust herself to ride the bus because she might fall. And while her appetite isn't always what it should be, she said having meals delivered to her door is a blessing.

It's people like her who worry retired firefighter Matt Jackson. He travels 50 miles every day as he distributes 93 meals to some of the most vulnerable residents of West Virginia's capital city.

"Sometimes I'm the only person these people see," Jackson said. "Without this food program, a lot of people would suffer immensely."

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Guns made by hand are only for serious hunters

BY BEN NEARY
Associated Press Writer

FREEDOM, Wyo. Western Wyoming remains a raw, sparsely settled place where guns are a way of life. Wildlife is thick, and people hunt to eat.

Gaunt peaks rise sharply on both sides of the Salt River as it coils through silent fields that surround the town of Freedom (pop. 100). A sign along a two-lane road makes a bold statement: "Freedom Arms, World's Finest Firearms."

Inside a plain metal building, a dozen workers at the Freedom Arms factory carve revolvers from blocks of stainless steel. They say they're proud to make what many experts regard as the world's best revolvers. And they're proud to do it here — in a place where not so long ago, frontiersmen relied on guns to survive.

Freedom Arms is one of just a handful of companies in the world where workers meticulously fit and finish guns by hand, the old-fashioned way. Larger revolver manufacturers use modern manufacturing techniques that reduce the need for costly hand work.

The joints between the fitted metal parts on a Freedom Arms revolver are all but invisible.

The metal surfaces immaculately polished. Working the action of a Freedom Arms' revolver reveals the feeling of tight, hand-honed precision that can only be imparted by master craftspeople.

"They are absolutely the finest factory-produced revolvers made at any time, anywhere," said John Taffin, one of the country's pre-eminent gunwriters and author of several books on handguns. "Their accuracy is unbelievable."

Freedom Arms revolvers carry price-tags that start at roughly $2,000 each, about two to three times more than mass-produced guns. The people willing to pay the price for these specialty handguns range from devoted gun-fanciers of modest means to jet-setting big game hunters who use them to kill animals such as cape buffalo in distant corners of the world.

Freedom Arms doesn't offer public tours, opting instead to keep details of its production techniques secret. Behind those closed doors, however, its manufacturing and assembly rooms reveal a combination of state-of-the-art computer technology and old-time, hand craftsmanship.

The rooms are organized for work, not show. Shelves and work surfaces are packed with drill bits, cutting tools and gun parts. Proprietary blueprints depicting gun dimensions line the walls. No matter how the raw parts are produced, the guns are all finished by hand.

Tool room machinist Mark Weeks, a 20-year Freedom Arms employee, handles much of the company's research and development.

"I think it's a pride thing in what we do. A certain amount. Pride in quality and workmanship," said Weeks, sitting at his desk in the machine shop, the floor littered with spiral metal shavings. "I think most of us around here were raised around or on a ranch or a farm, or that kind of stuff. So we don't take anything for granted."

Freedom Arms makes single-action revolvers, meaning the hammer must be cocked before each shot. They're chambered for cartridges ranging from tiny rimfire rounds, used mainly for target shooting, up to the company's own recent creation, the .500 Wyoming Express — a huge cartridge designed for killing big game.

Although Freedom Arms declined to release production figures, a report by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives says the company made just 509 revolvers in 2006. Industry giant Smith & Wesson, the nation's largest producer of revolvers that year, made more than 185,000.

Most Freedom Arms customers specify exactly what options such as caliber, barrel-length and grip material they want. Then they wait a few months for the company to build their individual gun. The company lists just a few dozen guns available for immediate purchase on its Web site.

The Freedom Arms employees who produce these extraordinary revolvers are fiercely proud of their work.

On a recent day, John Carey, a 14-year Freedom Arms employee, sat at a scarred work bench stoning the internal parts of a revolver. Expertly screwing the pieces together again, he repeatedly pulled the trigger with a special gauge to meet a customer's specifications.

When Carey's done, it will take 3 pounds of pressure on the trigger to fire the gun — less than the company's usual 4 to 4 1/4-pound trigger-pull.

"They let us take our time and make sure it's right, rather than rush through it," Carey said. "That's the best thing about this place."

Nancy Berry will mark 10 years at Freedom Arms this summer. She was at her bench fitting wooden grips to a pistol frame. The company's standards demand the grips be fitted so tightly that a .002-inch feeler gauge — less than the thickness of a human hair — can't be forced between the grips and metal grip frame.

"That's what I'm trying to do, is to make it as best as I can for a customer to shoot a gun, and feel comfortable shooting it," Berry said. "And so that's my satisfaction."

Social networks for those who must love dogs

BY CRISTIAN SALAZAR
Associated Press Writer

BEAR MOUNTAIN, N.Y. For Melissa Hotchkiss, going on a hike with her Shar-Pei mix, Jesse, took the bite out of meeting new people.

The two were among a pack of 13 humans and 6 dogs brought together for a hike at Harriman State Park, 45 miles north of New York City, by Leashes & Lovers, a social networking group, and its partner, Outdoor Bound, to meet new people. If love or friendship was in the air, their dogs would sniff it out.

Hotchkiss said she was not a social person, but that having her four-legged friend along made meeting new people less stressful because the emphasis was on sharing an activity both she and Jesse could enjoy. "I'm coming for her to be outdoors, and I'm just tagging along," she explained.

Leashes & Lovers is among a handful of social networking Web sites catering to dog-centric lifestyles, hoping to help the similarly minded connect for fun, friendship or romance. Similar groups include datemypet.com, doglover.biz and dogup.com.

Rather than simply give dog lovers the virtual tools to meet online, Leashes & Lovers works to bring them together in the flesh — and the fur. The New York-based group has held swim meets, pub crawls and cocktail parties at some of Manhattan's poshest nightclubs. It partnered with Outdoor Bound to bring these hikers and hounds together.

Best of all, dogs are always invited on these outings, though not required. Some people with shy dogs bring photographs of them to share.

The point is to be with people who won't snicker when they tell you, for instance, that you grieved for weeks when your puppy died, said Sheryl Matthys, a former TV reporter who founded the company.

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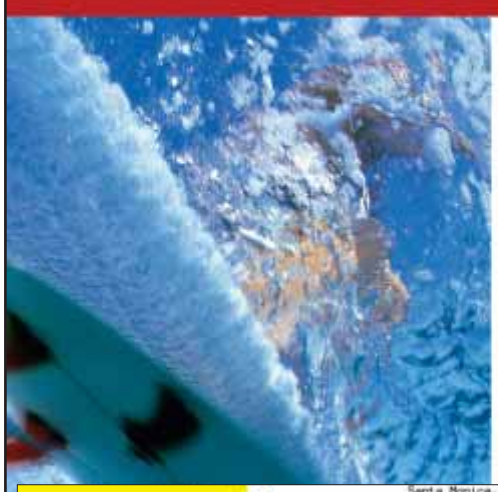
SURF REPORT



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 59-71°

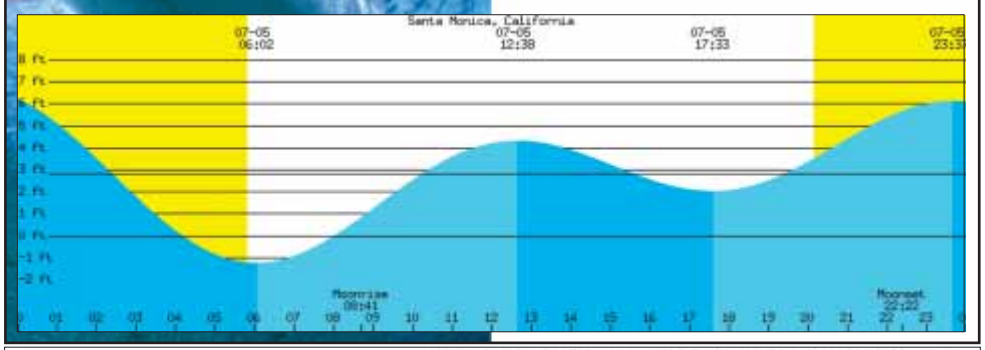
Swell Forecast (3-5 FT)

The 5th the NW wind swell should persist with at least chest high waves for west facing breaks. South facing breaks working the wrap and pulling in remnant southwesterly swell are looking at waist high surf. The 6th some SW is due from recent Tasman Sea activity and NW wind swell should back off. South facing breaks are looking at sporadic waist to chest high sets from 220.

Long Range Synopsis

SW early next week...

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of: **July 1, 2008**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 1
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	C	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	ns	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	D	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	C	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

Your ad could run here!
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theatre for information.

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
10:25am, 1:10, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30

Hancock (PG-13) 1hr 32min
11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

Get Smart (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:10am, 2:00, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20

Wanted (R) 1hr 48min
10:30am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

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

WALL-E (G) 1hr 37min
11:00am, 12:00pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 9:05pm, 10:05pm

Get Smart (PG-13) 1 hr 50 min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:25pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Kung Fu Panda (PG) 1hr 31min
2:00, 4:30, 6:50, 9:20

Wanted (R) 1hr 48min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:55pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Hancock (PG-13) 1hr 32min
11:15am, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3:00pm, 4:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:30pm, 10:30pm

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

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

You Don't Mess With The Zohan (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:00 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20

Iron Man (PG-13) 2 hrs 6 min
1:20pm, 4:40pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Kit Kittredge: An American Girl (G) 1 hr 31 min
11:10am, 1:40pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

The Love Guru (PG-13) 1hr 28 min
12:30pm, 2:50pm, 5:10pm, 7:30pm, 9:50pm

Sex and the City (R) 2hrs 15min
12:10pm, 3:20pm, 6:50pm, 10:10pm

The Incredible Hulk (PG-13) 1hr 54min
10:50am, 1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

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

Show up, Scoropio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ How you deal with someone could define your relationship. This person might appear carefree, but the reality is otherwise. Communication gets lost in a maze. For now, honor intentions. Tonight: In the game of life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your ability to step up to the plate and do something differently needs to emerge. You might not always do everything perfectly, but there is hope. You care, and that fact comes out no matter what you touch, no matter what you are doing. Tonight: Happy close to home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Be willing to explore your options, especially if a situation starts crumbling. Though you might not have all the answers, you are close to finding the right ones, because you ask questions. Confusion surrounds someone at a distance. Tonight: Step up to the plate.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Ask yourself to go that extra mile or head in a new direction. Your ability to move forward and understand someone needs to emerge. You could be a bit overindulgent, but people love that quality in you. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Still in high gear, you could be close to unstoppable. Be willing to break precedent and head in a new direction. Others might be confused by your reversal. Truth be told, they don't want to get it. Tonight: Know that you are the ringmaster.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You could be considering the pros and cons of a personal matter. What is for sure is that you don't have the whole story. Use time as your ally, or to create what would make a difference. You might need some private time to think. Tonight: Easy does it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Friends surround you, and as far as you can tell, the theme is living. You might want to rethink a personal matter before you say yes or no. Laugh and relax with others. What has been confusing easily could resolve itself by the day's end, if you let it! Tonight: Easy does it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by all that you have to do. Others make demands that might not be easy to meet. What is consistent is the effort you always make to meet a request. Your effort alone makes someone step back and be appreciative. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Foreigners and travel play an enormous role in your thoughts. Reach out for someone at a distance. A phone call could mean much more than you might realize. If you are feeling a bit crazy, look at the long term and where you are heading. Tonight: Follow the music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Relate more openly to someone you care about. You can be uptight and worried, yet you will be able to relax if you just accept someone and the present moment. It could be difficult at first, but it might not be in the long run. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Others run the show. This just might work out positively if you are willing to let others display their true intentions. The unexpected occurs if you let go and relax. Tonight: Sort through possibilities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Help others relax and follow through. Your nurturing ways make a difference beyond what you suspect. Meanwhile, get into a relaxing sport or pastime. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.

Happy birthday

You need to proceed first with thought, especially if you're considering a major expenditure. What might seem doable right now might not be in a few months. A bit of cynicism goes far in helping you figure out what needs to happen. Double-check financial agreements, even if they are with the IRS. You could be surprised how money slips out of your pocket. If you are single, you could meet someone who becomes quite important to your life's history. If you are attached, you'll discover the importance of listening well to each other. LEO brings out your need to be possessive!

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

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City of Santa Monica

INFORMACION PARA RESIDENTES DE SANTA MONICA!

ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES - 4 DE NOVIEMBRE 2008

INFORMACION SOBRE LAS ELECCIONES LOCALES:

Puestos vacantes:

Concejal Municipal	Cuatro Puestos
Junta de Control de Alquileres	Dos Puestos
Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar	Tres Puestos completos de 4 años Une Puesto parcial de 2 años
Junta de Administración del Colegio Comunitario	Tres Puestos

Requisitos de elegibilidad: Los candidatos deberán estar registrados para votar en la jurisdicción del puesto elegido cuando obtengan los documentos de nominación.
Excepto por un puesto parcial de la Junta de Educación que es por dos años, el resto de los puestos son de 4 años.

Periodo para aplicar: Desde el 14 de julio al 8 de agosto, 2008. Documentos de nominación serán distribuidos por la Secretaria Municipal empezando al 14 de julio. Candidatos tendrán que obtener un mínimo de 100 firmas de votantes registrados en la jurisdicción del puesto para poder calificar.

Clases de Candidatura: Habrá dos clases para candidatos el 14 de julio, 2008, a las 8:30 a.m., y a las 4:30 p.m., en la Cámara Concejal, Ayuntamiento, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica. Personas que no puedan atender las clases pueden pedir documentos durante las horas de oficina entre las fechas del 14 de julio y el 8 de agosto. No hay cobro por la aplicación de candidatura.

Ultimo día para registrarse para votar: 20 de octubre, 2008

Para más información sobre los temas siguientes favor de llamar a la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al (30) 458-8211:

Responsabilidades de Funcionarios Elegidos
Recaudando Fondos para Campañas
Comités Políticos para Campañas
Reglamentos de Elecciones
El Proceso para Iniciativas

Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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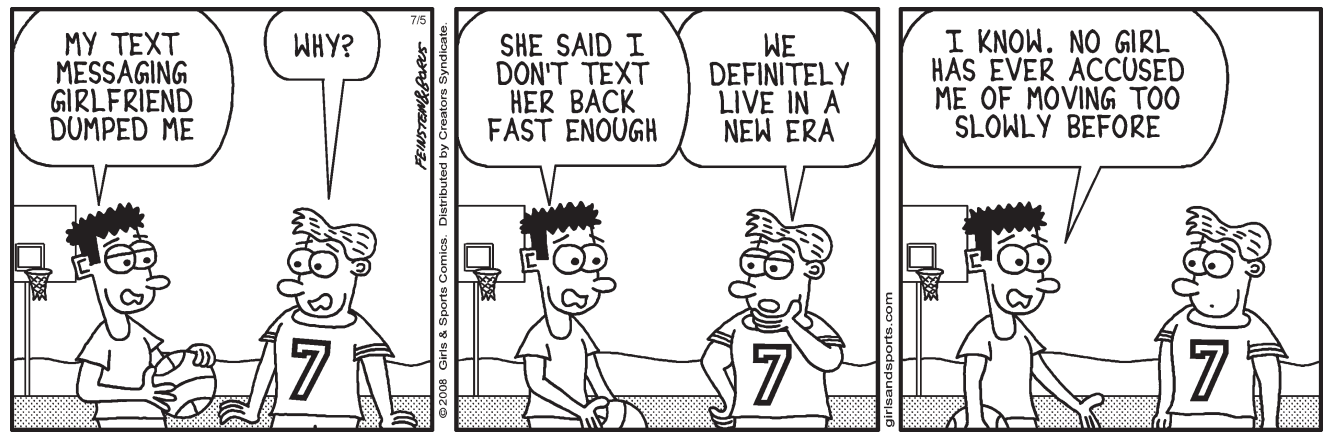
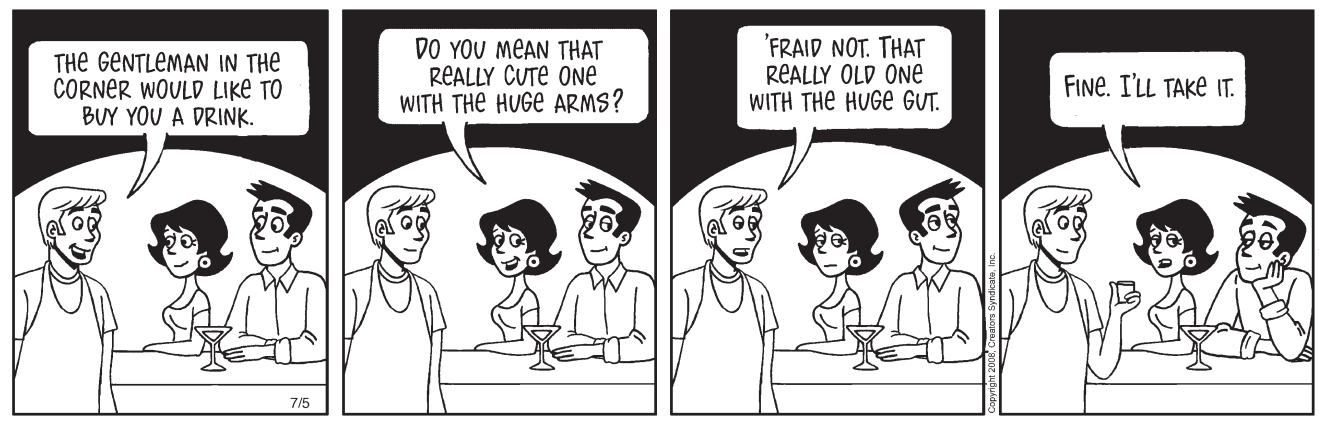
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

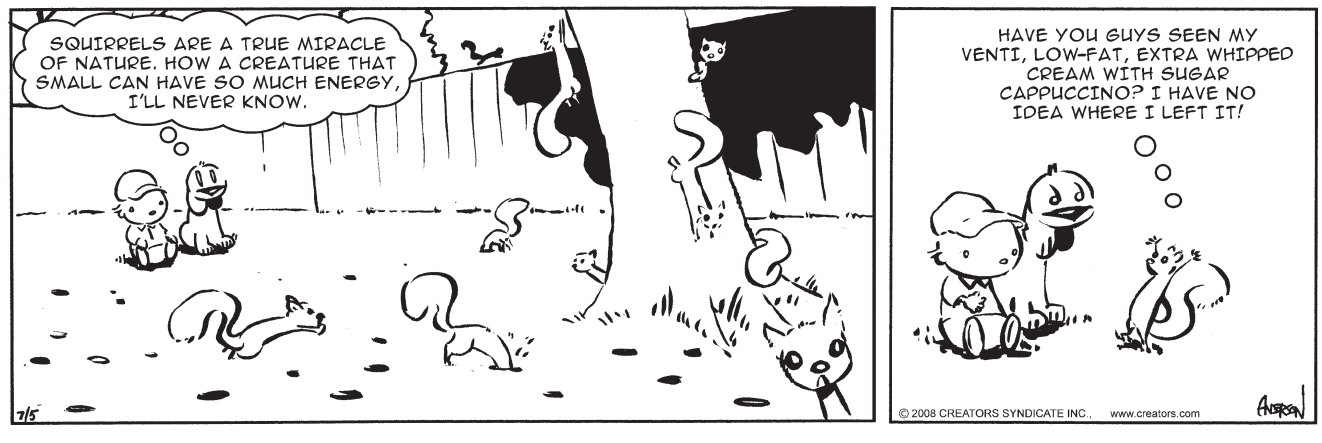
By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

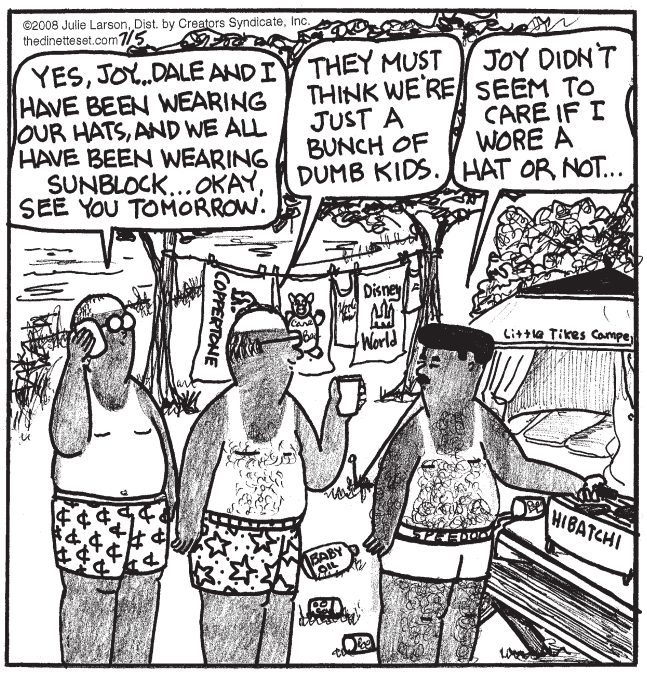
By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

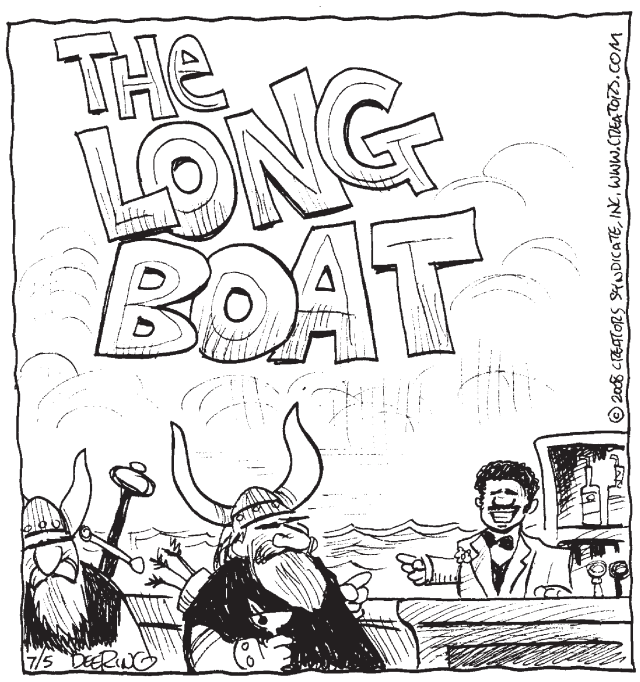


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



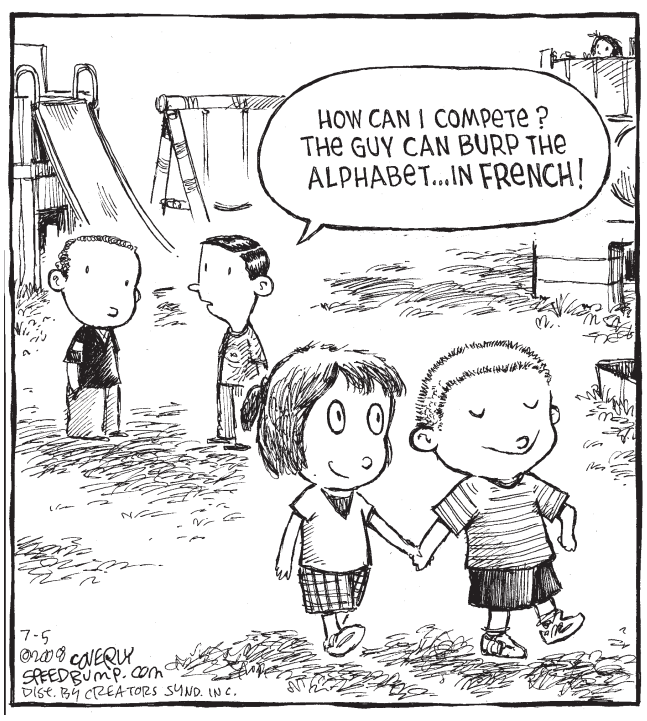
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Soraya Danesh *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 — rod (spiky plant)
7 Silver and Glass
11 Pole feature
12 Track
13 Layers
14 Test version
15 Inclines
16 Eel variety
17 Writer Buchanan
18 Femme —
19 Costly
21 Chapeau
22 First name of a famed center
25 Fidel's pal
26 Radius partner
27 Ventilate
29 Fools
33 Respect, in slang
34 "Cheers" role
35 Tennis's Nastase
36 Money collector
37 Ala. neighbor
38 Famed
39 Ensign's OKs
40 Check recipient

DOWN

1 Usher's milieu
2 Performed
3 Showed over
4 Pre-hockey game anthem
5 D.C. team, familiarly
6 Hotel amenity
7 Android's cousin
8 General
9 Merchant of music
10 Did in
16 California county
18 Culpability
20 Horse play?
22 Temple of film
23 Emma, for one
24 Trattoria dish
25 Per —
28 Starts the bidding
30 Knight wear
31 China item
32 More rational
34 Bistro's kin
36 Short cut

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11						■	12			
13						■	14			
15					■	16				
17				■	18					
■	■	■	19	20			■	21		
■	22	23					24			■
25			■	26				■	■	■
27			28			■	29	30	31	32
33					■	34				
35				■	36					
37				■	38					
39				■	40					

7-5

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 1 22 33 43 52 Meganumber: 36 Jackpot: $53M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 20 21 33 40 44 Meganumber: 2 Jackpot: $23M

Fantasy 5: 6 11 24 29 33

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 1 1 EVENING: 8 3 7

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 04 California Classic
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1.49.75

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Faced with its Alzheimer's residents' tendency to wander away, the Benrath Senior Centre in Dusseldorf, Germany, came up with a novel approach: a fake bus stop (an exact replica of a real one) out front. Straying residents might be attracted to the familiar colors and design of the kiosk (because long-term memory is typically still robust) and wait there for a bus instead of trying to "go home" on foot. But short-term, the resident is typically unaware of how long he has been waiting and will remain until a Centre employee sees him and can guide him back into the home (which often is easy because the resident has by then forgotten why he is sitting there, according to a June dispatch from Berlin in London's Daily Telegraph).

■ Minor league pitcher John Odom was traded in May by the Calgary Vipers of the independent Golden Baseball League to the Laredo Broncos of the independent United League, but his exchanged counterpart balked at leaving the U.S. for the Canadian team. The clubs huddled and announced that Odom would still report to Laredo, which would send Calgary not a player in return, but 10 bats.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1811 Venezuela became the first South American country to declare independence from Spain.

1830 the French occupied the North African city of Algiers.

1865 William Booth founded the Salvation Army in London.

1935 President Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act, which provided for a National Labor Relations Board, and authorized labor to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining.

1940 during World War II, Britain and the Vichy government in France broke off diplomatic relations.

1947 Larry Doby became the first black player in the American League.

WORD UP!

propitious \pruh-PISH-uhs\, *adjective*:

1. Presenting favorable circumstances or conditions.
2. Favorably inclined; gracious; benevolent.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Announcements

WE ARE NOT ALONE! Maitreya, the World Teacher, is here to show us how to solve our most intractable problems.The future is bright! www.emergencenetwork.info/sca click: Upcoming events 818-785-6300

Employment

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade 215 Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings. Apply afternoons in person. (310) 396-9898.

BARRETS APPLIANCES
General office work heavy phones, light bookkeeping, computer skills, $12/hour + benefits call Pat or Carla, (310)392-4108

GIVE OF YOURSELF volunteers wanted at the discovery shop. Help us contribute to the American cancer society by spending 4 hours per week assisting in our resale shop in Santa Monica. Contact Terry or Shaunna at (310)458-4490

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community is looking for evening receptionists, FT and PT. The shift is from 4p-12a and must be available weekends and holidays. Must have great customer service skills and previous experience is a plus. Also responsible for computer data entry. If interested please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for a Dining Room Supervisor, to oversee and manage our dining room server staff. The shift is 11a-8p Wed-Sun, must be available on holidays. Benefits eligible after 90 days. Must have previous restaurant and supervison experience and great customer service skills. If interested, please fax resumes to (310) 314-7356 or come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405 or email crodezno@brookdaleliving.com EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for dining room servers to help serve our senior residents. Prior serving experience is preferred, but will train. Shifts available are 11a-8p and 4-8p, PT & FT. Must be available on weekends and holidays. Benefits eligible for all FT. If interested, please fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405. EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for caregivers and medication technicians for a variety of shifts 6a-2:30p and 2p-10:30p. FT and PT available. Must have previous experience with seniors and a great attitude. Must also be available on weekends and holidays. If interested, please fax a resume to (310) 314-7356 or come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

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Employment

SALES ASSOCIATE needed for family owned sunglass shop in Santa Monica.
*30-35 hours a week
*Weekends a must. No nights.

Qualifications: Energetic, enthusiastic and driven to sell, strong self-motivation and a true talent for negotiating, communicating and relating with customers. A strong interest in branded fashion. Previous fashion retail experience. Must have excellent communication and people skills, enjoy working with public.
You will assist customers one-on-one, providing frame and band adjustments, warranty and manufacturer information and style advice.
Please call me....Sharon at 310.210.3372, email: sunglassgirl@verizon.net

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For Rent

MAR VISTA, 11621 Braddock Dr. unit 16, 2bdrm. 1.5 bath, $1350, townhouse style, stove, carpt, w/d hookup, patio, gated parking, carpet, intercom entry, no pets.$500 off move-in (310)967-4471 www.jkwproperties.com

3626 KEYSTONE Ave.unit 6, $775 bachelor, upper, fridge, microwave, carpet, blinds, utilities included laundry, street parking, no pets $200 off move in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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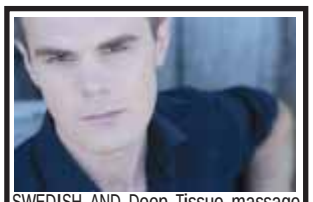
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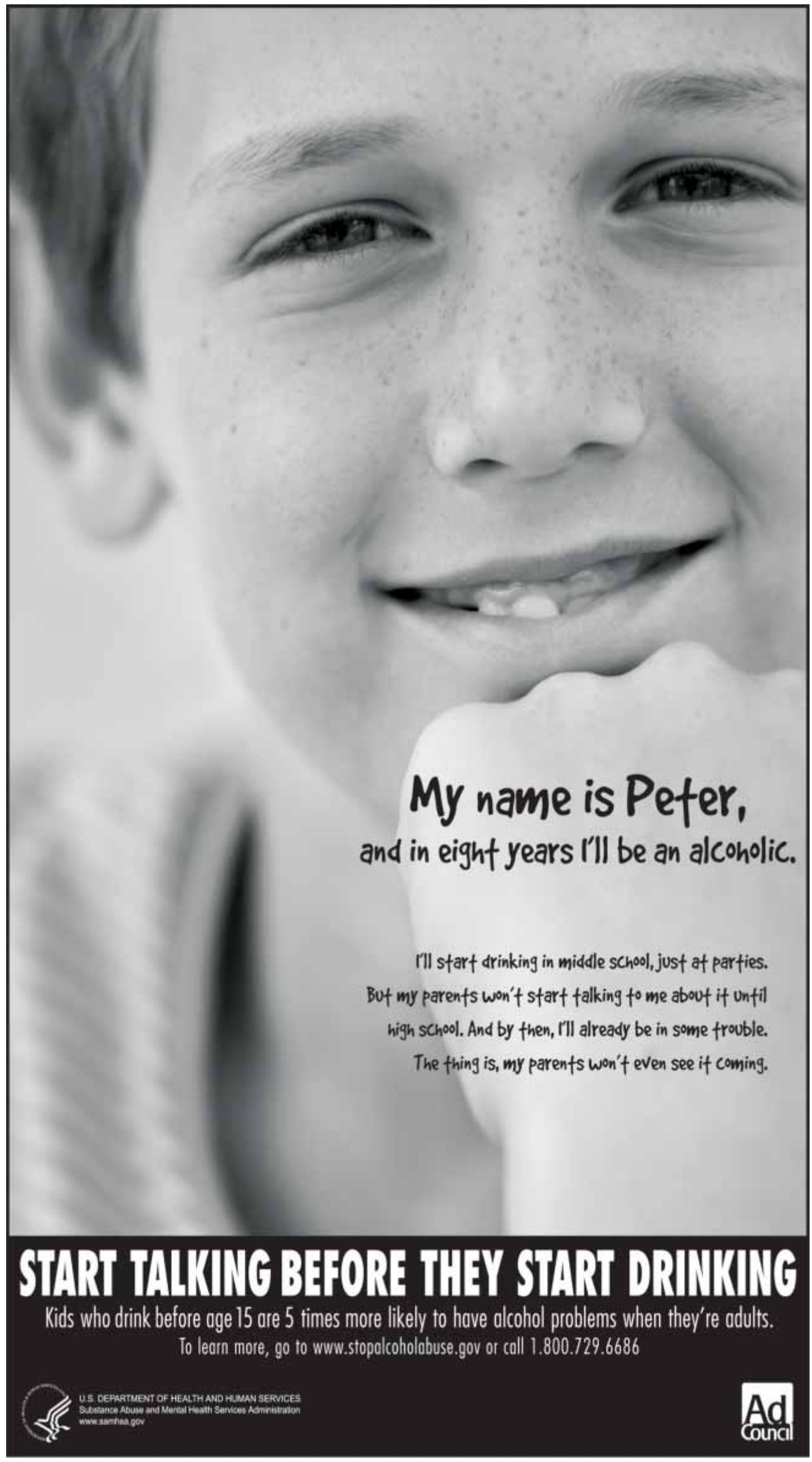

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John Adams' famous letter of July 3, 1776, in which he wrote to his wife Abigail what his thoughts were about celebrating the Fourth of July is found on various web sites but is usually incorrectly quoted. Following is the exact text from his letter with his original spellings:

"The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more. You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will tryumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not."

(The Book of Abigail and John: Selected Letters of the Adams Family, 1762-1784, Harvard University Press, 1975, 142).

Average Price of All Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Early July 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 2,774,769	$ 6,695,000
North of Montana	=	$ 3,874,375	$ 2,292,667
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,846,692	$ 997,995
South of Wilshire	=	$ 878,385	$ 697,573
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,449,096	$ 730,848
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,874,308	$ 1,404,571
Statistics Updated Every Monday			

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