

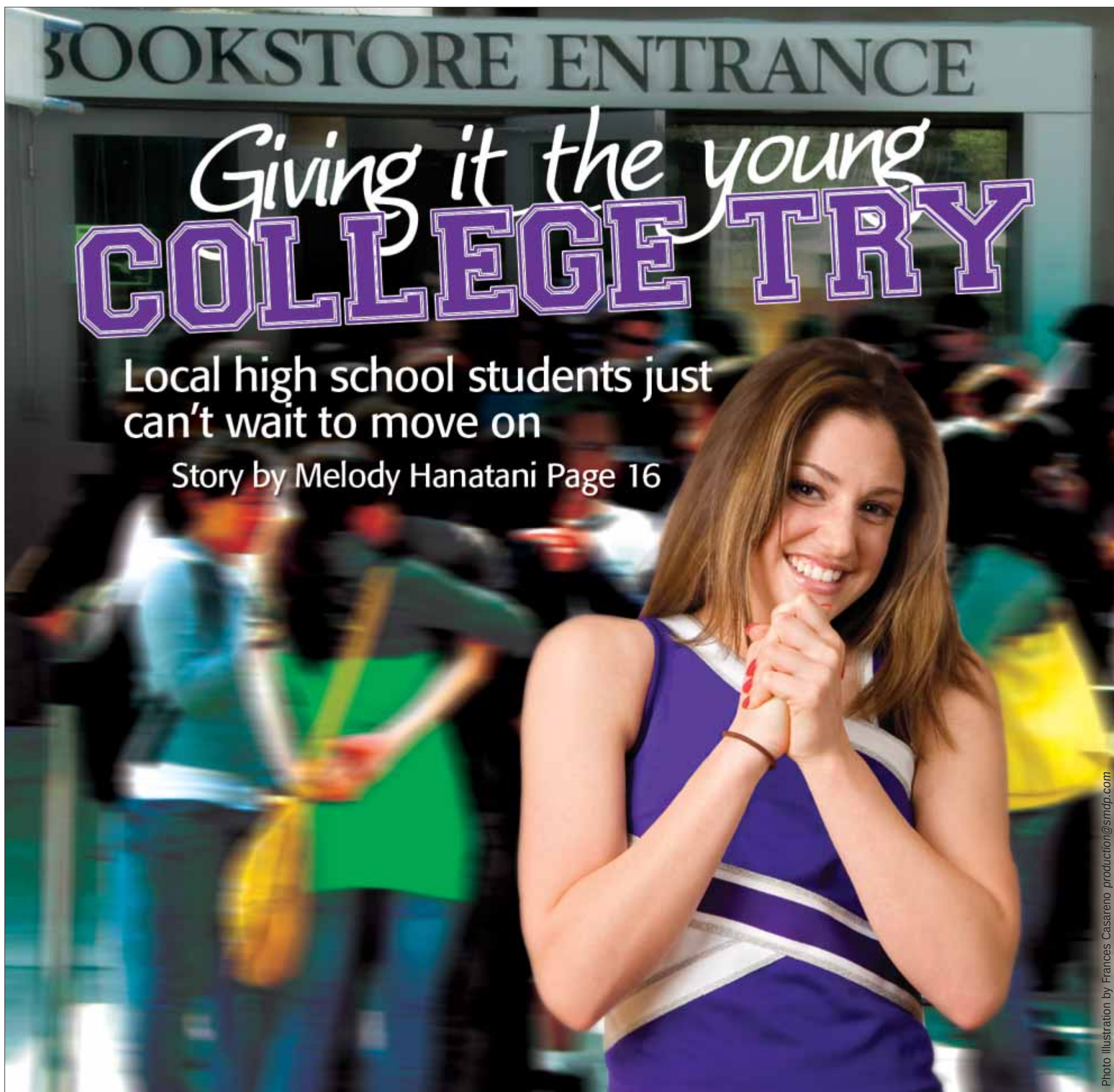


BEWARE OF THIS GUY
SEE PAGE 18

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE GETTIN' OUR MONEY RIGHT ISSUE



Giving it the young COLLEGE TRY

Local high school students just
can't wait to move on

Story by Melody Hanatani Page 16

Photo Illustration by Frances Casareno production@smdp.com



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Calendar

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WEEKEND EDITION, JULY 28-29, 2007

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Fashion Co-Op emerging designer showcase

1855 Main St., 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Browse and purchase the wares of more than 150 up-and-coming global designers. Tickets are \$5 at the door or \$3 with RSVP. For additional information or to RSVP, visit www.fashioncoop.com.

Friends and their special books

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library, a voluntary organization, are holding a book sale of special items in the Main Library bookstore. Sale items include art and photography books, a few first editions and signed editions, rare and old books and more. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Library.

'His Girl Friday' on a Saturday

6000 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, gates open at 7:30 p.m.

Cinespia presents "His Girl Friday," starring Cary Grant, at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery. \$10 donation tickets available at the gate. For more information, visit www.cemeteryscreenings.com.

Bet Tzedek's 11th Annual Justice Ball

7200 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, 8:30 p.m. — 1 a.m.

Alternative-rock band Violent Femmes ("Blister in the Sun" and "Gone Daddy Gone") will headline the Justice Ball, a fundraiser benefiting Bet Tzedek, at The Lot in West Hollywood. Tickets start at \$75. All net proceeds of the event benefit Bet Tzedek, which provides free legal services to low-income, elderly and disabled Angelenos. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the event Web site at www.thejusticeball.org or call (323) 656-9069.

'Hansel and Gretel'

8301 Hindry Ave., Westchester, 2 p.m.

Kentwood Players presents Maria Pavone's new stage adaptation of the classic Grimm fairy tale, "Hansel and Gretel" at the Westchester Playhouse. Tickets are \$7 with a family four-pack of seats for \$25. Please call (310) 645-5156 for reservations. For more information, visit www.kentwoodplayers.org.

Sunday, July 29, 2007

Social issues seminar

1008 11th St., 11:20 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Philip "Flip" Cuddy, a writer and speaker on Korean and Korean-American history, will talk about genocide denial in Japanese and Korean history.

'Thumbelina'

1900 Pico Blvd., 1 p.m.

This whimsical adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's tale is full of puppet magic and sword fighting adventure. The cast is filled with lively characters that include a forgetful witch, a chorus of cockroaches, and a despicable, penny-pinching mole. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for children (12 and under). Children, 2 and under, are free if seated on parent's lap. For more information, call (310) 434-4393 or visit www.smc.edu/theatre.

Garden Show & Plant Sale

4117 Overland Ave., 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

The Culver City Garden Club will hold its 54th Annual Show & Plant Sale in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. There will be a professionally-judged exhibition of homegrown plants and flowers; a Club Plant Sale booth; raffles of merchandise and gift certificates donated by area merchants; and vendors with garden-related items. Admission is free.

Puppetolio

1255 Second St., 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Puppetolio is a musical revue featuring marionettes and ventriloquism. Shows are always followed by a chance to visit the museum collection and ask questions. All seats are \$7.50. For more information, visit www.PUPPETMAGIC.com or call (310) 656-0483.

'Bunny Tales Episode IV: Bunny Wars'

2437 Main St., 4 p.m.

"Bunny Tales Episode IV: Bunny Wars." is an adaptation of the classic story, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit." This updated re-telling combines traditional theater with active audience participation. For reservations go to www.westofbroadway.com or call (310) 428-3343. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$20 for premium seats.

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.



Second suspect nabbed

SMPD arrests person connected to July 15 shootings in NOMA

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY A second suspect wanted in connection with a shooting north of Montana Avenue was arrested early Friday morning after detectives from the Santa Monica Police Department served several search warrants in the Pacific Palisades and Santa Monica.

Morgan Neidlinger, 20, of the Pacific Palisades, was taken into custody around 5:30 a.m. after officers found evidence that he was staying at a residence in the 900 block of Cloverdale Avenue in Hollywood. Officers found Neidlinger there and he was transported to the Santa Monica Jail where he was booked on four counts of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon. He was being held on \$2 million bail.

During their searches, officers confiscated several handguns, a Mack-10, magazine clips and ammunition after serving two search warrants at residences located in the 17000 block of Posetano Road and in the 17000 block of Porto Marina Way in the Palisades. A third warrant was served in the 900 block of Sixth Street in Santa Monica.

Officers did not say whether or not Neidlinger was the one who pulled the trigger on July 15 when four people were wounded, none life threatening, while attending a house party in the 400 block of 11th Street in Santa Monica.

Another suspect, Justus Sackett-Michel, 21, of Los Angeles, voluntarily turned himself in hours after the shooting. He has been charged with premeditated murder and assault with a firearm, according to the Los Angeles District

SEE SUSPECT PAGE 15



PIER MELODIES

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Junior Marvin, from Tosh Meets Marley, plays lead guitar Thursday night at the Santa Monica Pier as part of the 23rd Annual Twilight Dance Series. A salute to reggae, Tosh Meets Marley' features several band members who played with the late legends Peter Tosh and Bob Marley.

Reassessing Los Angeles' traffic ills

RAND discussion focuses on ever-present gridlock

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Nearly every driver in Southern California gripes about bottleneck traffic, mumbling and sometimes even cursing behind the wheel as pedestrians seem to be making better time.

Along the same lines, seemingly every

driver holds an opinion about how to alleviate the logjams, throwing out suggestions such as adding more carpool lanes, building more freeways and encouraging alternative forms of transportation.

While such actions could have an effect, the answers may lie more in the hands of politicians than technicians.

"The question of what we do with traffic is a political question," said Martin Wachs, a transportation expert with the RAND Corp., a non-partisan think tank based on Main Street in Santa Monica.

His words came during a panel discus-

sion on Los Angeles County gridlock at RAND Corporation on Thursday, identifying the causes behind the problem and possible solutions to relieve congestion on freeways and streets.

The talk featured expert opinion from Wachs, who heads the Transportation, Space and Technology program at RAND, county Board of Supervisors Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky and former state assemblyman Richard Katz. The event was one in a series of RAND policy forums on major issues;

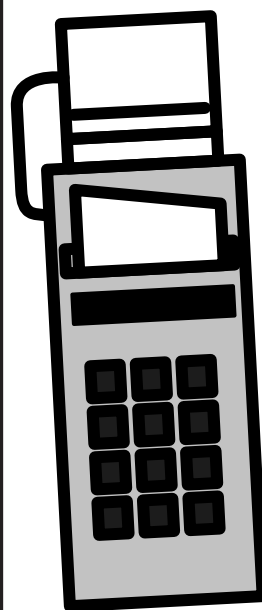
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let the bikers be

Editor:

I wish I could have read Helen McRoskey's childish response ("Hit the road, Critical Mass," July 25) to Alex Thompson's letter regarding police action against Critical Mass ("The wheels of injustice turn," July 21-22) and simply laugh it off. In fact, I wish I could simply laugh off every threat motorists throw at me on my daily bicycle commute. (McRoskey's) response to the heavy-handed police action against Santa Monica's Critical Mass embodies the opinion of every motorist who cannot display common courtesy and respect to their fellow citizens, especially those of us who seek alternative means of travel in hopes of making life better for everyone.

No participant of Critical Mass is out to "terrorize" anyone, and we are not a "gang," as Helen claims. It saddens me to see anyone slandering their community with such hateful buzz words, especially those who are not the minority, those whose rights are being thoroughly protected by our police force. Just last week, on my recommendation, my girlfriend decided to try biking to work to save time and frustration. When we spoke at the end of the day, she was in tears, swearing she would never ride her bike to work again due to the number of blatant verbal and physical threats to her life made by motorists. This is the reality bike commuters face daily in this city, and all for our collective benefit.

If the city of Santa Monica – named after the patron saint of patience and abuse victims – wishes to support this illegal, immoral and highly depraved behavior on the part of citizens like Helen McRoskey, and continue to bully Critical Mass riders, then I am afraid the ethical and liberal standpoint this city is so famous for has been transformed into nothing more than fascism in favor of the upper class, or "the valued citizens of Santa Monica."

I challenge McRoskey and all of those who share her viewpoint to try riding a bike through this city just for one day. I guarantee their opinion will change drastically. That is, of course, if they survive.

Thomas Bosch
Santa Monica

It's a dangerous path to take

Editor:

If the city wants to make the streets more pedestrian-friendly ("The Green Mile," July 21-22), if they want to "entice" us to walk the streets, they first must be secure for passage.

So long as the city supports the homeless-industrial complex (OPCC, Step Up, Chrysalis, Clare) that invites and promotes the homeless, bums, vagrants and drunks to reside, drink, fornicate and poop in our streets and alleys, the average citizen will prefer to drive.

So long as the city allows gang members, drug dealers and felons to live in public housing, prevents landlords from evicting them, and their allies at SMMUSD overcrowd the schools with out-of-district students, the good citizens of this city will not feel safe to walk the streets.

Rob Martin
Santa Monica

Celebs aren't breaking news

Editor:

I have enjoyed and learned a lot from reading your fine newspaper ever since it was first published. However, (on July 25) you devoted most of the front page, as well as half of both pages 10-11, to the story ("Freaky Tuesday," July 25) of another publicity seeking, rich, young, law-breaking drunk – Lindsay Lohan. It is a sad state of affairs for your good paper.

(The Daily Press) is not The Globe or The National Enquirer, or such. Surely, your reporters can find more important local news that affects many of us, rather than the Lohan story. Many of us are getting tired of press publicity that promotes out-of-control behaviors of young so-called "famous" people who are far from being models for our youth.

Sharon Steck
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Politicians are as bad as athletes

AS OF THIS WRITING, THERE ARE THREE major sports scandals going on. For those of you who aren't into sports, your reaction is probably, "Who cares? It's just sports." But if that were so, these three cases wouldn't have been recently on the front page of the newspaper, pushing Iraq and the presidential campaign to lesser parts of the paper. If sports weren't so important, Congress wouldn't be constantly investigating it. Americans care about sports. Maybe too much. But we care.

The three cases involve the perennial home run hitter, Barry Bonds, and his perennial steroids and tax problems; the Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick and the allegations that he participated in some brutal dog fighting; and finally, the charge that basketball referee, Tim Donaghy, bet on pro basketball games and may have helped "his" teams win.

Sports fans are more naïve than they should be. Despite all the previous scandals, we're still capable of being shocked or disappointed by a player's (or a ref's) behavior. Unfortunately, like most Americans, we don't feel that way about politics. We may be outraged by the behavior of political figures when they transgress, but we are so used to all the dishonesty and corruption that we're rarely shocked.

Some people say that the age of innocence in politics ended with the Kennedy assassination or with Watergate. Whenever it came, it came. I doubt that today's schoolchildren even react when they hear about a local official who took bribes, a presidential candidate who bent the truth or an elected official who's off to jail. But ask those kids how they feel about a ballplayer who may have cheated or a ref who might have "fixed" games, and you'll get a reaction from them.

I always read the sports section of the newspaper first, and when I'm finished, I'm disappointed that it didn't take me longer. That's because once I've read it, that means I have to turn to the pages about the real world. That's what sports are for many of us — a vacation from all the difficult or terrible things in the real world.

The role that sports has played in this country and the irrational worship of sports heroes was exemplified by the apocryphal moment during the "Black Sox" scandal of 1919. A player who appeared to represent baseball at its best and most ingenuous — "Shoeless" Joe Jackson — was allegedly involved in the scandal. As Joe came out of the courthouse, a young boy supposedly rushed up to him, pleadingly crying, "Say it ain't so, Joe."

But Joe couldn't say it wasn't so. Maybe our belief that sports are played and run by people who care more about The Game than anything else should have ended right then. But it didn't.

Intellectually, we know that sports are big business. Billions are involved, so there's bound to be greed as well as bad behavior by some who are suddenly wealthier than they ever dreamed of. But when we take our kids to their first baseball game, or when we settle down in front of the TV after a hard day's work, we don't think about sports as a business filled with temptation. We think of sports as the games we played and watched when we were kids.

I ALWAYS READ THE SPORTS SECTION OF THE NEWSPAPER FIRST, AND WHEN I'M FINISHED, I'M DISAPPOINTED THAT IT DIDN'T TAKE ME LONGER.

From time to time, we may be shocked or disappointed by the behavior of some who play (or ref) the games. But we keep forgiving The Game itself. We may turn a blind eye to obvious cheating, or characterize a miscreant as "just one bad apple." We have a strong belief in sport, maybe because we need it so much. Without it, what would we use as an escape from the real world? The famous cry of "Wait till next year" doesn't just have to apply to the hope that our team will do better next year. It can also reflect our eternal hope that The Game might be better — more honest, more pure — next year. So many of us have lost the ability to hope for this in politics.

And that's sad. Wouldn't it be nice if we had at least as much hope about our political system as we do about sports? Wouldn't it be nice if somehow we got back to feeling that a corrupt politician was a "rotten apple" instead of the norm? Wouldn't it be nice if someday, a kid were so shocked and so disappointed by something in the government that he felt compelled to plea, "Say it ain't so, Mr. President?"

LLOYD GARVER writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com.

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A newspaper with issues

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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

"I was like, 'Eh, we'll just buy a [statue of a] little man and keep our clothes on.' "

— Joe Simpson, father and manager to singer Jessica Simpson, on being offered a potentially Oscar-worthy role where his daughter would play a porn star

"Everyone wants to do what's not so normal and mainstream — students are looking for ways to differentiate themselves in the party scene."

— Luke Skurman, CEO of College Prowler, a publishing house and Web site that provides the lowdown on college campus life

"They'd say 'You have to lose weight', and I'd be like, 'All I can think about is muffins!'"

— Victoria's Secret model and executive producer of the cable TV show, "Project Runway," Heidi Klum

"He likes that Hollywood stuff and I don't like that."

— Brynn Cameron, Matt Leinart's ex and mother to his child, on why she thinks the Arizona Cardinals quarterback is an absent father

"If I drop the ball, it's OK. I'm not going to get yelled at."

— Los Angeles resident Amanda Warren on feeling less conscious if there are other female players in the touch-only style football games she participates in on Sundays

"If wishes came true, Ryan Seacrest would have AIDS."

— Former "American Idol" co-host Brian Dunkleman, who was fired in favor of the current host

"My first reaction was, 'My God, what is that girl up to?' She's an idiot."

— Monica Welch's reaction to the Lindsay Lohan arrest in Santa Monica on Wednesday morning

"Perhaps you and other vacuous stars need to tattoo 'Don't buy while pound pups die' on your foreheads to remind each other of that home truth."

— Excerpt of an e-mail sent to Britney Spears and Paris Hilton by PETA, who objected to Spears' \$3,000 purchase of a new puppy

"I moved here from Venice because I thought 'Oh, Venice is too dangerous,' and then the day I moved in there was a murder at that motel."

— Brendan O'Brien on the closing of the Pavilion Motel on Ocean Park Boulevard, after police arrested the owner and narcotics investigators arrested 10 people later the same day

Quotations captured and compiled with care by CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.

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The QLine

LIGHTS, CAMERA, SANTA MONICA

This past week, Q-line asked:

If you could make a film that focused on any issue related to Santa Monica, what would it be and who would you cast in the starring roles?

Here are your responses:

"DESPITE DAVID PISARRA'S COZY LITTLE column about the empowered homeless population, I would make a movie exposing the evils of this sceney way of life and the awfully negative impact on society. All the bums, drug addicts and alcoholics, perverts and freeloaders flock to this way of life to avoid the responsibility of living like a decent, law-abiding citizen. They give nothing and take everything, and we the citizens have to support that and live with the filth they generate."

"SANTA MONICA DOES NOT PRESENT A good setting for a motion-picture story. Those who attend film screenings enjoy a happy ending. They enjoy seeing Roy Rogers kiss Trigger and ride off into the sunset singing: "Happy Trails to You." Santa Monica has beautiful sunsets, but no happy trails. Santa Monica is awash with greed, traffic congestion and argumentative discontent on every level. The only stars are those who occasionally wander into Pavilions market on Montana Avenue. Still, if there was a documentary film made regarding Santa Monica, I would enjoy having Andy Rooney of "60 Minutes" as narrator. Andy has a way with words and lends humorous slang to dreary situations."

"MY FILM, TITLED "THE GREEN CANARD," would expose Santa Monica's ungreen reality. While residents may be conserving resources and using less, in general, City Hall and commercial development is pigging out. Water consumption, electric usage and sewer outflow is greater than ever. In truth, Santa Monica's carbon footprint would color these eight square miles the blackest on earth. Anyway, there's no need to cast anybody. This is a documentary."

"IF YOU WERE GONNA MAKE A MOVIE about the City Council, you'd have to call it "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest and Landed There and Stayed," because they're a bunch of nuts. In terms of another one, they should have a Godzilla movie; Godzilla could come in and clean out the area of the bums and the drunkards and the stolen shopping carts and all that other stuff, and beat on the gangs and wipe them out, too. That would be nice."

"IF I COULD MAKE A FILM BASED ON one issue related to Santa Monica, I would choose homelessness, and how you can make a living out of it in Santa Monica, the city by the sea. I would cast Gary Busey, the way he looks now, Robert Downey Jr., the way he used to look, and Nick Nolte. How about the guy who was ranting and raving about Jewish people in Malibu when he was arrested? He looked pretty rough. And let's show how if you hang out in strategic spots in Santa Monica, you can live. Sure, you don't have a place to sleep, you don't have a job, but you get enough money to make a "living." "Hand to mouth," that's what we'll call it. Since I'm unemployed right now, maybe I'll be an extra."

"GIRLS GONE WILD: SANTA MONICA" starring Lindsay Lohan, supporting roles

Paris Hilton, Nicole Richie, Britney Spears and other drunk coke heads du jour."

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Budget worries continue to grow

Republicans debate whether stalemate harms California

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Senate Republicans disagreed Thursday about the urgency of the nearly four-week budget stalemate, with lawmakers downplaying the governor's claim that it was hurting state services.

The Republican governor called a news conference to warn that "the daily operation of government that millions of Californians rely on are being threatened."

He said schools, roads, flood control projects and the state's readiness to fight a major wildfire were being harmed.

Republican senators who are holding out for cuts to the state's \$145 billion spending plan said history shows the state can operate smoothly without a new spending plan even weeks beyond the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

"In the last 10 or 12 years, many times it's gone 30 days, 40 days or 50 days, and somehow the state has continued to survive," said Senate Minority Leader Dick Ackerman, R-Tustin. "So we're all worried about it, but the world will go forward."

Senators left the Capitol Thursday without voting on Republicans' proposed \$840 million in budget cuts, which they are seeking to balance the budget.

No session was scheduled for Friday, but Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, told lawmakers to stay in Sacramento through the weekend in case a compromise was reached that would permit a budget vote. No deal appeared imminent, however.

The state controller's office estimates that vendors that provide goods and services to the state are due about \$140 million for July. School districts are owed \$170 million, and community colleges \$177 million. Republicans were unmoved.

Schools and community colleges will be paid eventually, and transportation projects typically take years to build and won't be harmed by a delay, Ackerman said.

"The longer we stay here, the more waste we continue to find," said Sen. Jeff Denham, R-Merced. "We'll keep being here every day, and we'll keep finding more cuts."

Denham has resisted heavy pressure to break ranks and provide one of the two Republican votes needed to pass the budget, which requires a two-thirds majority of the 40-member chamber.

Schwarzenegger said he initially was pleased that Republicans held out to cut the state's projected budget deficit this year from the \$1.4 billion he had proposed to about \$700 million. That figure is in the version of the budget approved by the Assembly after

an all-night session last week.

The Senate failed to pass the plan after a similar overnight session, with Republicans remaining unified against it.

Schwarzenegger said Republicans' goal of ending the deficit completely and enacting unspecified budget reforms should be left to next year in the interest of passing a budget.

"What they are trying to accomplish is a miraculous situation," Schwarzenegger said. "I think that is something good to shoot for, but I think, as I said, the time is now to pass a budget because from now on, as I said, it will affect government operation."

Senate Republicans insist on balancing the budget this year for fear the deficit will balloon to more than \$5 billion next year. They also said they are not willing to let Schwarzenegger simply use his veto power to trim specific spending items from the budget.

THE LONGER WE STAY HERE, THE MORE WASTE WE CONTINUE TO FIND. WE'LL KEEP BEING HERE EVERY DAY, AND WE'LL KEEP FINDING MORE CUTS."

Sen. Jeff Denham
R-Merced.

In a related matter, Schwarzenegger said he was open to a compromise with Republicans over a bill prohibiting Attorney General Jerry Brown, a Democrat, from taking action against local governments. Brown wants to require cities and counties to take immediate steps to lessen the effects future growth might have on global warming, a move that could delay housing, commercial and road projects.

Republican senators want protections for local governments in the budget package.

Despite the impasse, lawmakers toned down the rhetoric from Wednesday, when Perata said Republicans were engaging in "fiscal terrorism" by holding up the budget. Republican lawmakers responded by holding up a picture of Osama bin Laden to remind Democrats about the real terrorists.

The Democratic leader said it was up to Schwarzenegger to convince members of his own party to support a budget compromise. Ackerman said that wasn't the governor's role.

"The responsibility for getting a budget is ours; it's not the governor's," Ackerman said.

Shortly after Schwarzenegger said he was available to do whatever it takes to pass a budget, his office announced he would head to San Jose on Friday for a news conference on climate change with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

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Port deal could keep holiday cargo moving

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LONG BEACH Shipping companies and clerks at the nation's largest port complex tentatively agreed on a new contract Thursday, preventing a strike that threatened to halt shipments of billions of dollars of goods as the busy holiday season approaches.

The deal at the neighboring ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach came after more than a week of marathon negotiations in which the union repeatedly said it had given its last, best, final offer only to return to the table.

The deal with the Office Clerical Unit, Local 63, of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union finally came after an impasse in talks was declared late Tuesday.

At a news conference where workers clapped and cheered, John Fageaux Jr., president of the union local, described days of virtually nonstop negotiations that nearly dead-ended without a deal.

"We were prepared to walk," he said.

Earlier, Fageaux said he was satisfied with the deal.

"Both sides negotiated hard for their positions, and both sides recognized what the other side needed," Fageaux said.

The 15,000-member ILWU had indicated that longshoremen would honor picket lines if the hundreds of clerical workers went on strike. The move could have effectively stopped the loading and unloading of cargo at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, idling trucks and container ships in the process.

The port complex accounts for more than 40 percent of all the cargo container

traffic — everything from cars and electronics to toys and clothing — coming into the United States.

"We think it's in everyone's interest — the consumers, the city — that we don't have a work stoppage," said Steve Berry, a negotiator for shippers and terminal operators.

Under the tentative deal, the workers will receive a wage increase of 7 percent over the three-year contract. That includes a 50 cent per hour increase in the first year and \$1 per hour increase in each subsequent year.

"The employers are pleased that the union recognized the substantial investment that (employers) have made and agreed to their last wage proposal," Berry said.

The employers also agreed to pay \$3.4 million toward establishing a Taft-Hartley trust fund to manage the employees' health and welfare and pensions plans — a priority for union negotiators.

Employers backed away from seeking changes in the employees' health plan that would have limited new hires to HMO coverage for a period of time before they could graduate to other types of health plans.

The shippers also wanted the union to negotiate the next contract with an association that would represent all the companies in collective bargaining. Workers agreed to hold meetings with employers during the next three years to discuss the issue.

Along with a raise, the port clerks gained an agreement that will allow monitoring of whether any of their job duties are being outsourced.

Fageaux expects the union membership to vote on the tentative deal next week.



Photo courtesy Port of Los Angeles

REAL DEAL: Shipping companies and clerks at the nation's largest port have come to a tentative agreement on a new contract.

"We believe we're going to get full support on this," he said.

Clerk Jose Ramirez, 34, said he was relieved that a strike was avoided.

"I'm glad we don't have to go down that road," he said.

The clerks union previously threatened to go on strike if no deal was reached by July 16, but talks continued after the deadline.

All told, Local 63 represents more than 900 full-time and temporary workers for 17 marine terminal operators and shipping firms at the twin ports.

The tentative agreement, however, only applies to contracts for between 600 and 850 full- and part-time workers at 14 companies.

The clerks work at marine terminals and handle bookings for the export of cargo and other transport documents.

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
School briefly locked down as police pursue suspects

A high school was briefly locked down Friday morning when suspects in an area crime ran onto the campus, authorities said.

The suspects were believed to have entered the area near a gym at Narbonne High School in Harbor City, said Nadia Gonzalez, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Police arrested the suspects and no one at the school was harmed, she said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA ANA
OC court traffic ticket date outsourced to Mexico

Traffic ticket data, including driver's license numbers, birth dates and other personal information, is processed by workers in Mexico under an outsourcing contract with Orange County courts.

There was outrage over Thursday's disclosure that the court has contracted for ticket data entry since March 2006 with Cerritos-based Cal Coast Data Entry Inc.

The work is done at a Cal Coast facility in Nogales, Mexico.

"(DMV information) has to be kept as closely guarded as possible and outsourcing this kind of information outside the country is something this board would never support," Supervisor Chris Norby said during an interview Thursday on KFI radio.

Information from traffic tickets is scanned at the Cerritos facility and sent electronically to the Mexico facility.

Court officials said transfer of ticket information was by electronic encryption and the company has state-of-the-art security.

"The company and the staff they employ are dedicated to keeping the public's data secure and safe. The court wants to ensure the public that private data is safe," the court said in a statement late Thursday.

Cal Coast refused to comment, citing client confidentiality.

It wasn't known if other California courts have similar contracts. It's within a courts discretion to enter into contracts for outsourcing data processing, said Lynn Holton, spokeswoman for the Judicial Council of California.

"Many courts in California enter into contracts for various services that are needed for court operations," she said.

The statement from Orange County Superior Court said an independent company audits Cal Coast to ensure compliance with security measures and the Mexican staff in Nogales undergo a national felony background check. Nogales employees are also certified by the Sonoran State Police, according to the statement.

AP

LOS ANGELES
Councilman indicted for dealings with developer

A Hawthorne councilman was indicted on conflict-of-interest felonies for his alleged dealings with a developer.

Councilman Ludwig "Louis" Velez rented his home from a developer who later came before Hawthorne's City Hall to bid on projects, Hawthorne City Manager Jag Pathirana said in a statement from the city.

The name of the developer wasn't disclosed.

District attorney's office spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons declined comment on details in the case because the indictment was sealed. Velez surrendered Wednesday and was released on his own recognizance pending Aug. 7 arraignment.

"We are shocked and saddened by the indictment today," Pathirana's statement read. "This is a horrible day for council member Velez, his family and the community of Hawthorne."

The statement said Velez is a "dedicated public servant" and that "his rental terms (with the developer) were and are consistent with the current rental market value."

Additionally, Velez met with legal counsel and the state Fair Political Practices Commission before voting on the contracts given to the developer, Pathirana said in the statement.

Velez "was told that there were no legal obstacles to his participation in city deliberations concerning the developer's proposals," the statement said.

AP

RIVERSIDE
Prosecutors drop firefighter manslaughter charge

A vehicular manslaughter charge against a county firefighter was dropped by prosecutors who determined he was not responsible for a 2005 firetruck rollover crash that killed a fellow fireman.

Michael Arizaga of Beaumont had been charged with misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter after the 1987 Spartan fire truck he was driving hydroplaned off Interstate 10 during a rainstorm while responding to a flooded home call.

Firefighter Chris Kanton, 23, of Temecula, was killed in the accident.

The charge was based on the initial accident investigation, the district attorney's office said Wednesday. New information showed there was no criminal negligence involved.

The accident was caused by weight-distribution factors in the truck's design that made it fishtail and overturn, Assistant District Attorney Sara Danville said.

"This is a good day. It's something that should have happened quite a while ago," Arizaga, who turned 48 on Wednesday, said after Superior Court Judge Helios Hernandez dismissed the case.

AP



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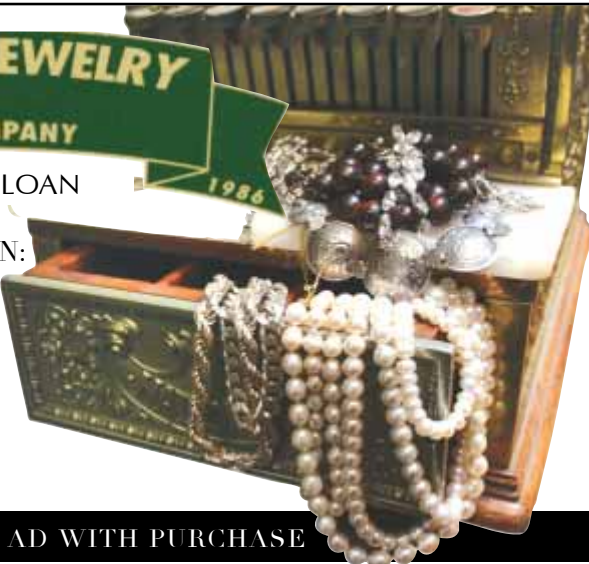
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No new lynx kittens found in Colorado

By the Associated Press

DENVER Biologists monitoring Colorado's restored lynx population didn't find any new kittens this year, spurring speculation that declining numbers of prey could be affecting reproduction.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife just completed its search for dens with kittens. Last year biologists found 11 kittens, down from 50 in 2005.

Biologists have been tracking the number of lynx kittens since 2003. That's when the lynx trapped in Canada and released in southwestern Colorado since 1999 began reproducing.

Researchers believe that this year's lack of reproduction might be due to a drop in the number of snowshoe hares, the cats' main prey. Similar drops have been documented in Canada during fluctuations of the number of hares.

Division of Wildlife spokesman Joe Lewandowski said the agency is taking a long-term view of the restoration program.

"It could be 10 years before we can say, 'Yeah, it's a suc-

cess,'" Lewandowski said.

A total of 218 of the long-haired mountain cats trapped in Canada and Alaska have been released in the San Juan Mountains since 1999. A total of 116 lynx kittens are known to have been born in the state.

Biologists estimate that at least 125 lynx released and born in the state are still alive.

A major milestone was reached last year when a Colorado-born lynx gave birth to two kittens, raising hopes that the population can become self-sustaining. The division has no immediate plans to bring in more lynx.

"With the number of lynx currently in Colorado, we believe they could go two or three years without reproduction and still have enough survivors to rebuild the population," said Rick Kahn, the program's lead biologist.

Dozens of the transplanted cats have died since the program began. Some have been hit by cars, killed by other animals and shot.

The lynx, a federally listed threatened species, are similar in size to bobcats, with male cats averaging 24 pounds and females averaging 20 pounds.



Photo courtesy State of Colorado

KITTY CONUNDRUM: No lynx kittens were spotted in Colorado this year.

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Photo courtesy National Parks Service

BURN ZONE: New Mexico's Gila National Forest has been designated a 'let-it-burn laboratory' by federal wildfire managers.

'Let it burn'

Mounting costs force Forest Service to adopt a new method

BY JOHN MILLER

Associated Press Writer

MCCALL, Idaho Western public lands, including the Payette National Forest in Idaho, the Gila National Forest in southwestern New Mexico and the Bitterroot National Forest that straddles the Montana-Idaho border, have become "let-it-burn laboratories," federal wildfire managers say.

Sparse populations surrounding those forests make it possible to pursue some of the nation's most progressive fire management policies.

An increasing number of wildfire managers are letting more lightning-caused fires on federal land burn, to help return forests to their natural state where wildfire and trees survived in equilibrium before modern man's arrival. The policy also keeps firefighters from harm's way — and could save millions of dollars otherwise spent fighting fires miles far from civilization.

Environmental advocates favor these changes, saying they let Mother Nature take her course— even as some forest communities fear allowing more fires to burn is a recipe for disaster.

The 1988 firestorm in Yellowstone National Park that torched 1.2 million acres was one turning point, emboldening fire managers who were already arguing that battling every drought- or wind-fueled fire in the West was an exercise in futility.

Sam Hescok, a U.S. Forest Service regional fire manager on the Payette National Forest north of Idaho's capital, remembers a key turning point in his forest: It was July 1996, and a dry lightning storm rolled over the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, igniting a remote wildfire. He told firefighters to hold off — to the chagrin of some forest bosses.

"They told me, 'Sam, we normally don't let those things go until Aug. 15. In July, we just don't do that,'" Hescok recalls. "I told them, 'Then you hired the wrong person.'"

Hescok has survived as a fire manager at the Payette, and he's still letting thousands of acres of ponderosa pine burn annually following lightning strikes, whether it's Aug. 15 or not.

Last year, fighting wildfires cost \$1.3 billion when a record 9.8 million U.S. acres burned. Twenty-four wildland firefighters died. A study by the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise concluded that a wildland fire costs \$43 an acre to monitor, compared to suppression fires where bills can run as high as \$250 an acre.

"The benefit is safety and a lot of economics," Hescok said. "What happens if we crash an airplane or hurt a smokejumper on a fire miles from nowhere? What do we tell the parents? Why not just have a fire scar out there?"

WE DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DO IT, AND WITH CLIMATE CHANGE, IT'S GETTING HARDER TO PUT OUT FIRES."

George Wuerthner

Author of 'Fire Ecology: A Century of Failed Forest Policy'

Between 1972, the first year the Forest Service says it allowed a lightning-caused fire to burn, and 1988, the agency let an average of just 12,000 acres burn unimpeded annually. From 1988 to 2000, that figure tripled to 35,000 acres, for what came to be called "Wildland Fire Use" fires. Since then, the number has spiked to as many as 300,000 acres a year.

That's a far cry from the 1930s Forest Service's "10 a.m. policy," when the agency set a goal of extinguishing new fires by 10 a.m. the next day.

"A vast majority of agency personnel, whether it's Forest Service, National Park Service, or Bureau of Land Management, now appreciate the important role that fire plays in the landscape," said George Wuerthner, author.

Study: Back Pain Sufferers Benefit From New Technology

Santa Monica — "A new study shows that technology may have finally found a non-surgical solution for chronic back pain and sciatica sufferers."

That's what Santa Monica Chiropractor, Dr. Tim Bullock is saying about a treatment called Spinal Decompression. Dr. Bullock has been using FDA approved non-surgical spinal decompression in his office for over two years now. This treatment is a drug free breakthrough to treat back pain, disc herniation and sciatica.

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No more plastic in Hawaii?

Island councilman seeks to ban plastic shopping bags

By the Associated Press

WAILUKU, Hawaii "Paper or plastic?"

Maui County Councilman Michael J. Molina wants to do away with the question entirely over the next five years.

Saying plastic checkout bags has become an environmental nuisance throughout the county, Molina has drawn up a bill to restrict their distribution and to encourage the use of environmentally preferable alternatives.

"The time has come for the dependence on nonbiodegradable plastic bags to be replaced with more environmentally appropriate bags," Molina said Thursday in a news release. "Residents and visitors need only to travel the roadways of Maui to see that plastic bags are littering our beautiful and scenic vistas."

The councilman said plastic bags also pose a threat to marine life through ingestion and entanglement.

The County of Maui Recycling Division estimates that Maui residents each use 300 nonbiodegradable plastic bags a year for a total of 50 million in the county, Molina said.

Under the bill, businesses with annual gross revenue over \$250,000 would be



Christine Chang news@smdp.com

NEW BAG: Maui County Councilman Michael J. Molina wants to ban plastic bags within the next five years. Similar bans have been enacted on the mainland.

barred from using plastic bags immediately. Environmentally preferable bags — such as recyclable paper bags and reusable bags — would have to be distributed.

In five years, the measure would cover all businesses in the county.

Revenue from fines that would be imposed for violations would be deposited in the Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources and Scenic Views Preservation Fund.

"The county budgets \$180,000 per year to collect plastic bags from the fences around the public landfill," Molina said. "This revenue should be utilized more effectively for enhancing the environment, such as open-space acquisition or improving our parks."

Molina said he decided against an alternative approach of recycling plastic bags because the cost of such a venture would be prohibitive.

Environmentalists have argued plastic

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE DEPENDENCE ON NONBIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC BAGS TO BE REPLACED WITH MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY APPROPRIATE BAGS."

Michael J. Molina
Maui County Councilman

bags jam machinery, pollute waterways, suffocate wildlife and often end up as eyesores in trees or bushes.

Grocers, bag manufacturers and trade groups have argued many people already reuse their plastic bags.

Jeff Mikulina, director of the Sierra Club of Hawaii, said his environmental group supports Molina's bill.

Mikulina said the best answer to the question "Paper or plastic?" is "Neither. You're supposed to bring your own canvas bag."

"Really, the bottom line is folks aren't so interested in plastic bags," he said. "They just want a convenient way to bring home whatever they're purchasing. So ... the challenge is to find that solution."

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Santa Monica Daily Press



Photo courtesy USDA

WHEAT WORRIES: Farmers were pleased to find that this winter's wheat crop was not as bad as previously expected.

Winter wheat crop not so bad after all

BY DAVID MERCER
Associated Press Writer

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. After his fields thawed from an April freeze, Gary Berg wanted to forget about wheat.

Like many farmers in Illinois, Missouri and elsewhere in the central Midwest, Berg's wheat was in bad shape after the late-season string of 20-degree days.

"I got tired of looking at wheat there for a few weeks," said Berg, who farms in St. Elmo, about 70 miles northeast of St. Louis.

But a funny thing happened along the way to what was expected to be a poor harvest: In some states, it wasn't so bad after all.

Winter-wheat farmers in Illinois averaged 57 bushels an acre, well off the 67 bushels of 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but better than the 50 bushels per acre that experts predicted a couple of months ago.

Farmers in other states affected by the freeze had lower-than-normal results, in many cases worse than Illinois.

Arkansas farmers harvested 40 bushels an acre, two-thirds of last year's record 61-bushel yield, according to the USDA.

But in Kansas, the country's top wheat-production state, farmers averaged 32 bushels an acre, the same as last year. Kansas plants far more wheat than any other state — 10.3 million acres this year, according to the USDA.

The national average ended up a respectable 41.6 bushels an acre, essentially the same as 2006, according to the USDA.

Good weather in western Kansas led to a relatively strong crop there, said Brian Olson, a crops and soils specialist who works for the Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service.

"The farther west you go, we get out of the area where we had the freeze damage," he said. "Then we start picking up better wheat."

In Illinois, the wheat harvest was better in the central and southern parts of the state than in the north, University of Illinois crop expert Emerson Nafziger said.

"We lost about 160,000 acres out of 970,000 seeded," either killed by the freeze or damaged enough to force farmers to plow it under, Nafziger said. "But the crop that was left did a pretty nice recovery."

Berg thinks he left a few bushels in his fields, thanks to the freeze. It's a rare year when at least some of his crop doesn't produce at least 80 bushels an acre.

This year, his fields turned out anywhere from 58 to 78 bushels an acre, he said.

Under the circumstances, he'll take it.

"It ended up being better than what we ever expected," Berg said.

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Still waiting to exhale in SM

City planners work on report detailing how to deal with medical pot

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Those looking to open medical marijuana dispensaries in Santa Monica should know where they stand next month when city planners complete a report on how best to regulate the controversial businesses, at least six of which in the Los Angeles area were raided by the DEA this week.

Planning Manager Amanda Schachter said city staff has been studying other jurisdictions with dispensaries since February, trying to come up with options for the City Council to consider.

Schachter said a report should be available by late August or early September and will focus heavily on zoning. Current zoning codes do not cover cannabis clubs and city officials are uncertain as to what they should classify a dispensary as. Is it a pharmacy or a doctor's office, or is more like a business that sells medicinal herbs and other holistic remedies?

City officials said they are not aware of any medical marijuana dispensaries operating in Santa Monica.

There are more than a half-dozen in

Venice and over 149 located within 20 miles of Santa Monica, according to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

The lack of any type of regulation of dispensaries in Santa Monica was brought to light in February when two former real estate agents, Nathan Hamilton and Logan Aries, went before the council requesting changes to zoning so that they could obtain a business permit to open a dispensary on Main Street, which they planned to call the So Cal Co-Op. The two wanted to serve at least 100 patients in Santa Monica who, at the time, had to drive or find another mode of transportation out of the city to get their medication.

Marijuana has been shown to ease HIV-related nerve pain and reduce vomiting and nausea caused by cancer chemotherapy, however, its medical benefits are heavily disputed.

At the time of their request, Hamilton and Aries said they had satisfied conditions set by the county and the state, rented an office and invested roughly \$14,000. All they needed was a business permit.

Hamilton said that he and his partner had targeted Santa Monica because voters passed Measure Y in November 2006 which made the personal, private use of marijuana by adults the lowest law enforcement priority for the Santa Monica Police Department.

Additionally, the measure requires the City Clerk to annually send letters to congressman and senators representing Santa

Monica voters, to the Governor of California and to the President of the United States requesting that the state and federal governments enact similar laws.

The measure passed with 65 percent of the vote, according to the city clerk's office.

Hamilton could not be reached for comment on whether or not he and his partner still have plans to open up shop.

That may be difficult even if the council votes to allow dispensaries to operate on Main Street or any other area of the city. That's because many property owners may be afraid to rent out space to a dispensary after the DEA sent out letters warning them that they can be arrested and forced to forfeit their land if convicted.

Under federal law, "it shall be unlawful to knowingly and intentionally rent, lease, or make available for use, with or without compensation, a building, room or enclosure for the purpose of unlawfully manufacturing, storing, distributing or using a controlled substance," the letter states.

DEA agents warned property owners that they are not protected under Proposition 215, the state law that allows people to grow or possess marijuana if they have a prescription from a qualified physician. Patients and cannabis clubs are also not protected under the state law, DEA agents said, because federal law takes precedence and marijuana is still considered a dangerous drug under federal law.

"Violation of this law is a felony crime and carries with it a penalty of up to 20 years in prison," the letter states.

DEA agents conducted at least six raids this week of medical marijuana dispensaries in Los Angeles County, where several hundred have sprouted up in the year since county supervisors approved an ordinance regulating these businesses.

Under the law, which was approved in May 2006, dispensaries operating in unincorporated areas of the county cannot be located within 1,000 feet from a school, church, library or other "sensitive location." The law also states that dispensaries must obtain a valid business license and obtain minor conditional use permits. They also must have adequate lighting, signs and a security system, and provide a contact phone number to neighbors in case of problems.

A public hearing before the Regional Planning Commission is held if two or more nearby property owners protest.

As for private consumption, those with a valid prescription are allowed to have six mature marijuana plants, or 12 immature plants and eight ounces of pot, according to Americans for Safe Access, a group dedicated to protecting the rights of medical marijuana patients.

Santa Monica could chose to go the route of the county and set a 1,000-foot limit, or they could follow other municipalities, many of which set limits to how many plants and pounds of marijuana are allowed at a dispensary at any given time. The city of Berkeley allows patients to

SEE MEDS PAGE 20

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Dr. Sumner Bohee (the Second II) pins his son Sumner (the third III) with his new SMPD Police Badge at City Hall on Wednesday, July 25.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com



courtesy of SMPD

EVIDENCE: Officers confiscated several firearms and ammunition after serving three search warrants in the Pacific Palisades and Santa Monica. Officers served the warrants as part of their investigation into a shooting that occurred north of Montana Avenue on July 15. Four people were wounded in the shooting. Two suspects have been arrested in connection with the shooting

Individual suspected in shootings arrested

FROM SUSPECT PAGE 3

Attorney's Office.

Witnesses at the scene of the shooting told police that several partygoers were approached by a group of men outside the home. One of the men asked the crowd if anyone belonged to a gang or graffiti clique known to have originated at Santa Monica High School.

When the group said no, the man pulled out a small-caliber handgun and fired several shots into the crowd as he ran away from the scene. Witnesses said the shooter jumped in a silver BMW 5-series and fled.

While the officers were at the scene, they were notified that two shooting victims, one male and one female, had arrived at a local hospital and were being treated for non-life threatening injuries. The female

victim had been shot in the leg and the male in the forearm and lower torso.

A few minutes later, two other shooting victims, both adult males, arrived at another local hospital where they were treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Police have not classified the shooting as gang-related and no gang enhancement has been added to Sackett-Michel's charges.

Detectives are still investigating and other suspects are being sought, police said.

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

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Getting the jump on college

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE Christina Choi is really enjoying the college life — the challenging courses, diverse curriculum and interesting lab assignments.

In fact, she can hardly wait until she becomes a college freshman in just three short years.

An incoming sophomore at the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies, a magnet school located off Fairfax Avenue, Choi is just one of many motivated high school students trying to get a head start on their post-secondary education, enrolled in summer courses at Santa Monica College.

"I'm ahead of my peers in high school, and since our school is really competitive, it helps if you're a step ahead," Choi said, referring to her college-level courses. "And for college applications, it looks good."

Then there's the bonus of shaving off a few credits, relieving the workload necessary to attain a college degree.

"I'm thinking about just shortening my work at college," Choi said. "Even if I don't (finish in) three years and have to take four, just doing the work while I'm in high school helps me a lot just to understand the concept (before) I go into college."

More and more high school students are getting a taste of college life, hitting the books at SMC — some to compile college credit to use down the road, others to spice up their college admissions applications.

During the 2006-07 school year, more than 500 Malibu and Santa Monica high school students received college course credit through the concurrent enrollment — courses taken at SMC — and dual enrollment — college-level courses taught on the high school campus — programs.

In May, administrators at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and Santa Monica College inked an agreement that will launch two new programs in the coming years, increasing accessibility to post-secondary education for high schoolers.

Through the Early College High School program, high school freshmen — starting in the 2008-09 school year — could graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate's degree after four years.

The Transfer Academy, on the other hand, would give juniors and seniors the option of taking classes in the morning at the high school and finishing their day at SMC, earning transferable college credit.



Christine Chang news@smdp.com

DOUBLE CHECKING: Kumon Instructor Oliver Liu grades papers at the Kumon Center in West Los Angeles.

The program could allow ambitious students to finish their first year of college before they even graduate from high school.

The benefits of getting a jump-start on college and completing courses early are believed to be immense. With ever-increasing tuition, a student could save thousands of dollars if they manage to complete their undergraduate studies earlier than the typical four years. Graduating in three years could mean a savings of more than \$30,000 at a private college or university.

Completing college courses early could also give students a leg up in the admissions process, which has become increasingly competitive over the years. Students are always striving to set themselves apart from their peers, taking more extra-curricular activities and college-level courses, said Luke Skurman, the CEO of College

Prowler, the largest publisher of material on campus life.

"They want to let them see they're capable of doing well in college-level courses," Skurman said.

It's one of the reasons why Samohi student Michael Lagerfelt is taking a U.S. history course this summer through the dual enrollment program.

"College classes give you a deeper understanding of the material," Lagerfelt said. "It gives you a jump-start for college and it looks good on your transcript."

As an athlete and member of Samohi's music program, Lagerfelt is also taking the summer class to lighten his load this coming school year.

The high school junior believes if he takes on more college-level history courses while still in high school, it will allow him to focus his attention more on law

and business classes when attending college, which are the two disciplines he is considering as majors.

But at this point, his mind isn't focused on trying to finish college in less than four years.

"You have the rest of your life to work," Lagerfelt said. "(College) is a time a lot of people wish lasted a lot longer for them."

There are potential drawbacks with finishing college in less than four years, most notably the missed opportunities on internships and enjoying college life to its fullest, Skurman said.

"By getting ultra-focused on getting more credits and more units and getting through everything faster, there's a maturation process lost," Skurman said.

Ron Furuyama, the project manager for SMC's Dual Enrollment program,

SEE COLLEGE PAGE 17

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REFRESHER COURSE: Michelle Contreras brushes up on her math skills and receives summer tutoring at a Kumon Center in West Los Angeles.

High school students get a leg up on college

FROM COLLEGE PAGE 16

doesn't believe students would necessarily lose out by finishing up early. They could use that extra time to travel abroad for a semester or take advantage of another program available on their college campuses, he said.

THE ALUMNI SPEAK

Jillian Parker received her bachelor's degree in African-American studies, with a minor in Spanish, from Loyola Marymount in December 2006, one semester sooner than expected.

Parker was already ahead of the game when she started her undergraduate studies, entering college with advanced placement credit in Spanish.

Following her graduation from high school, Parker took several classes at the local community college every summer, allowing her to graduate a semester early and use that extra time to begin looking for a job.

She is now a technical recruiter at a staffing agency.

"I definitely think it was a good idea," Parker said. "I never took summers off. I was always reading or studying ... I felt like it kept me in the loop of things."

Fellow LMU alumna Amy Sarti, who works in marketing for an architecture firm, also finished school in three years, graduating with a degree in communication studies, with a minor in theater arts, in 2001. She immediately went on to graduate school at USC, attaining her master's degree two years later.

"Part of me wished I stayed (in college) when I started working," Sarti joked.

PEAKING INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

When the Early College High School and Transfer Academy programs were announced, school officials said it would give would-be first-generation college students motivation to strive for post-secondary studies.

"For some students, this may be their first time ... they may not have people to guide them," said Dr. Chiung "Sally" Chou, the district's chief academic officer, on Thursday. "At a community college, they have counselors and can talk to other college students about their aspirations."

Many students in the Dual Enrollment program this summer say taking a college-level class has given them a better understanding of the differences between high school and college courses.

Samohi junior Monet Flenbaugh has been taking a U.S. history course this summer through the Dual Enrollment program, not to get a head start on college, but to relieve her schedule next year, when she will juggle tennis and several advanced placement courses.

Both the summer class and the AP classes she has taken have given her an idea of what to expect in a few years as a college freshman.

"You notice how much more work you have to do and how fast the pace is," Flenbaugh said.

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SMPD says keep an eye out

Proud pedophile spotted at Santa Monica's Main Library

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Police are asking residents to keep a close eye on their kids after a mother spotted a known pedophile advocate walking through the children's section of the Main Library on Thursday.

In an information bulletin released this week, officers are asking that parents contact the police department if

they see Jack J. McClellan in the area of children.

While McClellan is not a registered sex offender and is not wanted in connection with any crime, he has admitted to operating a Web site that caters to pedophiles, police said.

"We are not aware of other law enforcement agencies putting out bulletins, but the chief felt it was important that our community be aware of (McClellan's) presence," said SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla.

Both national and local news accounts have reported that McClellan traveled across

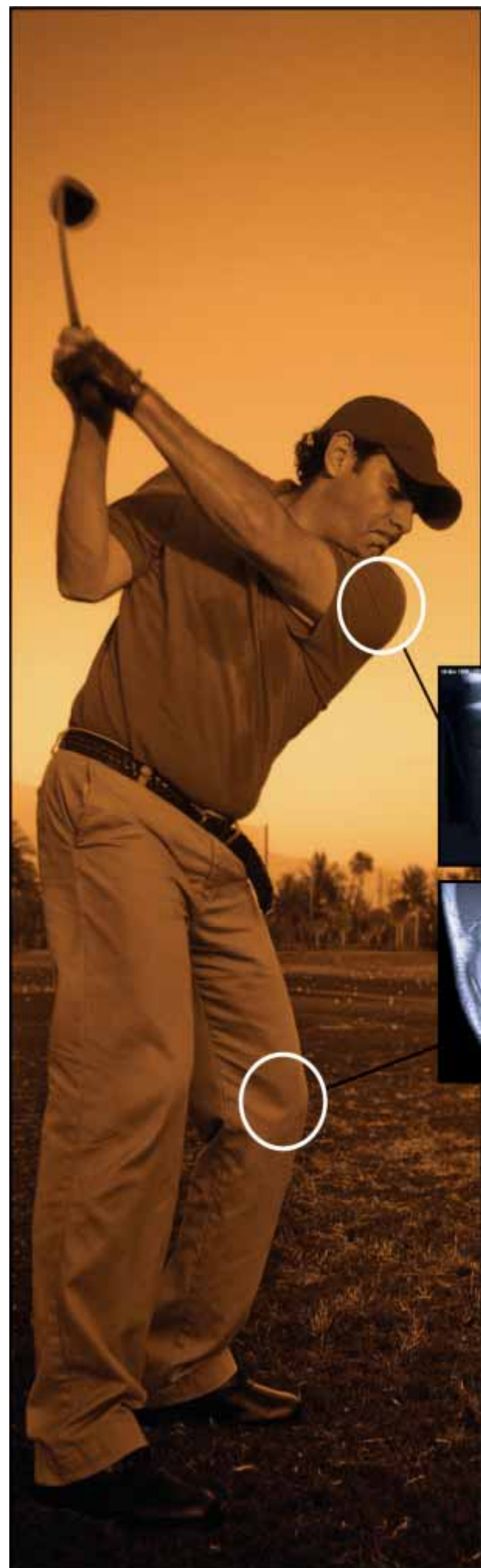


MCCLELLAN

the state of Washington to photograph young girls in public settings. McClellan admits to being a pedophile who is sexually attracted to young girls, police said.

On July 23, a Santa Clarita Valley newspaper — The Signal — reported that McClellan visited the area last month in search of little girls. Staff Writer Jim Holt referenced McClellan's own Internet postings, in which the suspected pedophile admits to visiting the Santa Clarita Lanes bowling alley to prowl for youngsters.

SEE PEDOPHILE PAGE 19



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MySpace identifies 29,000 offenders

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. MySpace.com disclosed this week that it had found more than 29,000 registered sex offenders with profiles on the popular social networking Web site — more than four times the number cited by the company two months ago.

As of 2006, MySpace.com was based in Santa Monica.

North Carolina's Roy Cooper is one of several attorneys general who recently demanded the News Corp.-owned Web site provide data on how many registered sex offenders were using the popular social networking site, along with information about where they live.

After initially withholding the information, citing federal privacy laws, MySpace began sharing the information in May after the states filed formal legal requests.

At the time, MySpace said it had already used a database it helped create to remove about 7,000 profiles of sex offenders, out of a total of about 180 million profiles on the site.

Cooper's office said Tuesday, however, that now the figure has risen past 29,000.

"I'm absolutely astonished and appalled because the number has grown so exponentially over so short of time with no explanation," said Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, who also had pressed the company earlier for sex offender data.

MySpace declined to comment on the figure, focusing instead on its efforts to clean up its profile rolls.

"We're pleased that we've successfully identified and removed registered sex offenders from our site and hope that other social networking sites follow our lead," MySpace chief security officer Hemanshu Nigam said in a prepared statement.

Cooper is pushing for a state law that would require children to receive parental permission before creating social networking profiles, and require the Web sites to verify the parents' identity and age. For example, social networking sites would have to compare information provided by a parent with commercial databases. Sites could also force parents to submit credit cards or printed forms.

Cooper is working with law enforcement officials in other states in pressuring MySpace to use age and identity verification methods voluntarily. Based on media reports, Cooper's office found more than 100 criminal incidents this year of adults using MySpace to prey or attempt to prey on children.

Most recently, a Virginia man pleaded guilty Monday to kidnapping and soliciting a 14-year old girl he met on MySpace.

"All we're doing is giving parents the right to make a choice whether their children can go online," Cooper told a state House committee considering the bill on parental involvement and verification.

He said the measure would lead to "fewer children at risk, because there will be fewer children on those Web sites."

Advocates for Internet companies and privacy issues testified against the proposed restrictions, saying the broad parental verification standards would be found unconstitutional because they prohibit free speech.

Notorious pedophile seen in town

FROM PEDOPHILE PAGE 18

After leaving the bowling alley, McClellan crossed the street to Saugus Speedway, where families were roaming the grounds at the San Fernando Valley Fair, Holt wrote.

"With children darting from ride to ride, eating cotton candy, petting zebras and playing games of chance, McClellan strolled the grounds anonymously," Holt wrote. "Most likely, parents would not have recognized the man in his characteristic black wide-brim hat."

In the article, a sheriff's deputy said that if parents see McClellan following their child, or if he's seen in the area of children with camera equipment, they should file a child annoyance complaint with law enforcement. It would only be a misdemeanor, the deputy said, but "at least it's something."

Internet blogs about McClellan dating back to June 2, 2007, claim he created a Web site called "Los Angeles Girl Love"

and was planning to hit as many family events as possible in the Los Angeles area.

FOX News published a story about McClellan in March 2007 in which they described his Web site in Washington as a "how-to-guide to pedophilia," featuring listings of events where pedophiles could find large groups of young girls. That site — "Seattle, Tacoma, Everett Girl Love" — has since been shut down, according to the report.

June, McClellan admitted he was a pedophile, but stated that his actions have nothing to do with sex.

"It isn't really just a sexual thing, it's really the whole ambiance of being around children that I enjoy," McClellan told CBS.

To protect their children, parents should always be vigilant and keep a watchful eye, according to law enforce-

ment, what they are watching on television and what Web sites they are visiting.

Parents should also teach their children to always travel with a friend, whether it be walking home from school or using a public restroom. For young children, it is recommended that parents teach their children about different parts of the body and which are their own private parts.

"When you are in public, talk to your children about being approached by strangers and about not going anywhere with people they don't know," Padilla said. "And always travel in twos."

Police said McClellan may be driving a blue, 1993 Ford Escort, two door, with the Washington license plate number 915WEX. If anyone spots McClellan in the area of children, they are urged to contact the SMPD at (310) 458-8451 or (310) 458-8427.

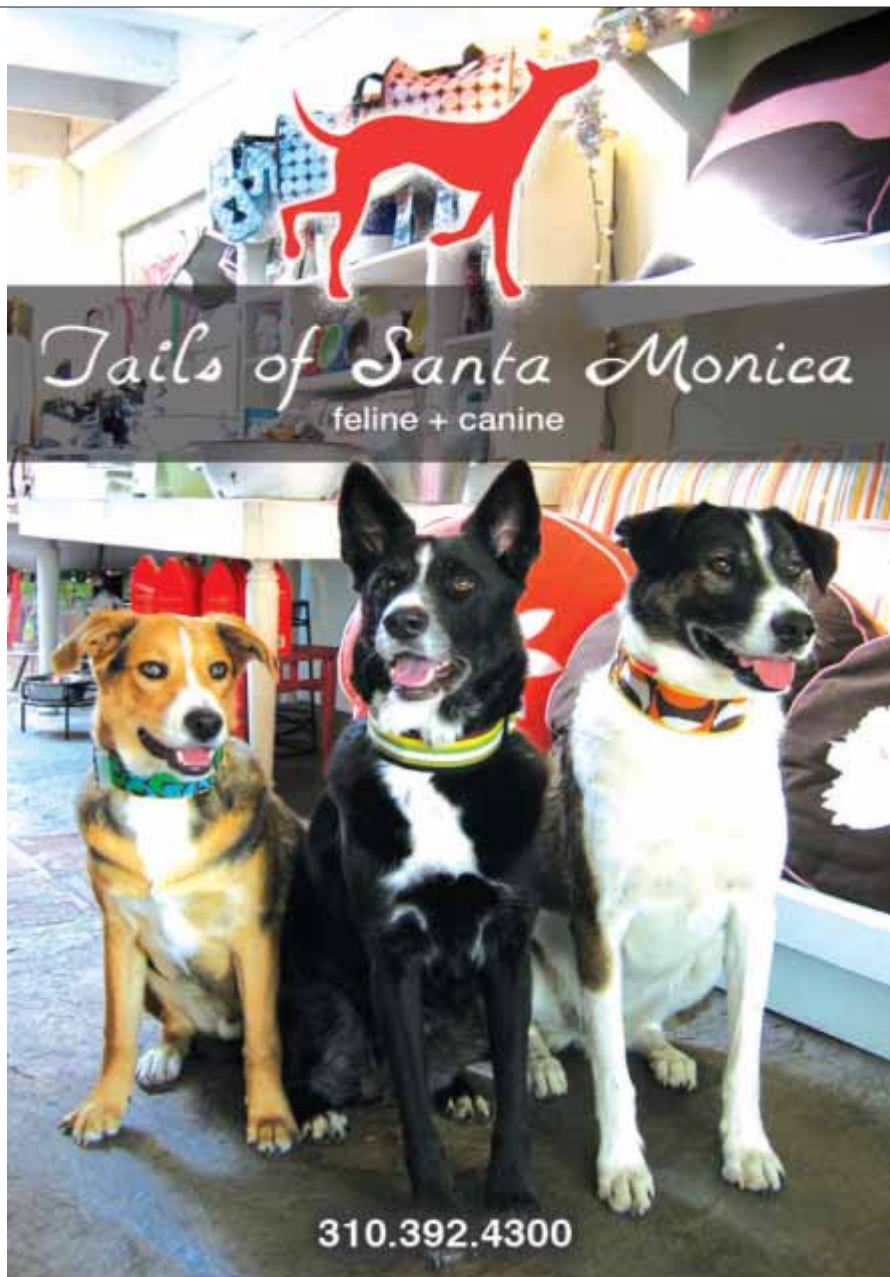
WHEN YOU ARE IN PUBLIC, TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT BEING APPROACHED BY STRANGERS AND ABOUT NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITH PEOPLE THEY DON'T KNOW."

Lt. Alex Padilla, SMPD

kevinh@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

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Fixing traffic problems

FROM TRAFFIC PAGE 3

previous ones encompassing topics such as homelessness and nation-building in Iraq.

Gridlock has long been the bane of Southern Californians' existence, with the average Los Angeles commuter spending 29 minutes traveling to and from work in the car, ranking behind only New York City, Chicago, Newark, N.J., Riverside and Philadelphia, according to a 2005 U.S. Census study.

The study found that Americans spend, on average, about 100 hours commuting every year.

"It's horrible," said a woman on Friday, who commutes from her home in the Pacific Palisades to work on the Third Street Promenade.

"Debbie," who declined to give her last name, said she hits traffic 50 percent of the time taking Pacific Coast Highway to Santa Monica. If there's an accident on the PCH, which happens quite frequently, she said, the commute could take about an hour.

"Traffic is affecting quality of life," she said.

Traffic is a "troublesome byproduct" of economic success, according to Wachs. The challenge in solving congestion is doing so without affecting economics.

People want more shopping, more housing, more schools and a booming tourism while keeping traffic down.

"Well, good luck. It's not going to happen," Wachs said, drawing laughter from the audience.

Though it might seem so to long-time driv-

ers, congestion levels and speeds are no worse now than they were years ago, Wachs said. Rather, traffic has spread geographically and now lasts longer, mainly because commuters have left work earlier and later to avoid traffic.

Adding more lanes, more rail lines and buses could result in improvement, but the traffic would spread over time, Wachs said.

There are ways to reduce traffic between 15 and 20 percent, Wachs said, listing ideas that include creating more bike lanes, shifting the movement of commercial goods from the morning to the later evening hours, and increasing incentives for people who use alternative modes of transportation during peak traffic hours.

Implementation comes down to political courage, Katz said.

"We have a solution today that would

take 20 percent of traffic (out)," Katz said. "It wouldn't last long ... (but on) the day it opens, it would take 20 percent out."

Los Angeles is unique in that it is both dense and vast geographically, while most cities would claim one or the other. It's one of the challenges facing the county in spending money to address congestion.

If a compass was placed on the Eiffel Tower and a seven-mile radius was drawn, it would include most of Paris. The same goes for Big Ben in London, Yaroslavy said.

But in the city of Los Angeles, a seven-mile radius from City Hall would only reach to La Brea, Yaroslavy said.

"For a billion dollars here, you reach bupkis," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

DEA has raided several dispensaries this week

FROM MEDS PAGE 14

have 10 plants and 2.5 pounds of pot, and collectives up to 50 plants and 12.5 pounds at any given time.

The Los Angeles City Council on Wednesday voted in favor of a moratorium on new dispensaries so that city staff could have time to draft regulations that would establish a permit process and guidelines for providers of medical marijuana.

Three council members also sent a letter to the DEA asking the agency to stop raiding dispensaries and to

"allow this City Council to continue the important work of regulating these facilities without federal interference."

That same day, the U.S. House of Representatives defeated a measure that would have blocked the Justice Department from spending money to prosecute people who use, prescribe, distribute or cultivate marijuana for medical purposes in states that permit it. The vote was 262-165. The measure attracted the most votes it has ever gotten, but for the fifth straight year fell far short of passage.

Medical marijuana advocates have vowed to continue to fight despite losing another congressional vote.

As for the Santa Monica City Council, a vote in favor or against the regulation of dispensaries could be a close one. During the discussion in February, two members of the council were not present to voice their opinion on the matter.

Council member Bob Holbrook, a pharmacist, was heavily against dispensaries operating in the city while Mayor Richard Bloom said he wasn't sure how he'd vote but was certain that medical marijuana was not at the top of his list of priorities.

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Lohan 911 call released

By the Associated Press

SANTA MONICA Authorities have released an audio copy of the 911 call made by the mother of Lindsay Lohan's former personal assistant in the minutes before Lohan's arrest.

The woman pleaded frantically for help early Tuesday because a mysterious car was following her, according to the audio copy, released Thursday. The 911 call lasted nearly three minutes.

Lohan, 21, was arrested for investigation of misdemeanor driving under the influence and with a suspended license, and felony cocaine possession.

Her personal assistant had quit hours before the event, police said.

The woman contacted a Santa Monica police dispatcher shortly after 1:30 a.m. Tuesday while driving on Wilshire Boulevard. She apparently didn't realize the actress was in the white GMC following her. "We were just about to park our car. We are

turning home and out of nowhere a huge white GMC came up," the woman said to the dispatcher. "We're being followed by a GMC ... the gentleman jumped out of the car," she said a few seconds later. "Oh my God, sir, they're following us. We need help."



**WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO PARK OUR CAR.
WE ARE TURNING HOME AND OUT OF
NOWHERE A HUGE WHITE GMC CAME UP."**

Lindsay Lohan's former personal assistant's mother, 911 call transcript

The dispatcher repeatedly asked the woman for her location. The woman eventually said she was heading for the police station.

Police said the woman, accompanied by a passenger, drove her black Cadillac Escalade into the parking lot of Santa Monica's Civic Auditorium, about a block away from the

police department, followed by Lohan driving a Yukon sport utility vehicle.

During the call, the woman could be heard saying, "Oh my God, what is he doing?" Near the end, hysterical but muffled yelling and screaming is heard.

A few moments later, the woman could be heard in the background, apparently pointing out people to the officers.

"That's him, that's him right there," she said. "And him, stop them." Authorities saw Lohan and the woman in what police have called a "heated debate." They also said two men were with the actress in the car.

Three men have alleged they were with Lohan when she began chasing the woman, celebrity Web site TMZ.com reported Thursday.

According to the Web site, the men alleged that Lohan commanded the car outside a party in Malibu, about 20 miles away. One of the men claimed to have jumped out of the car just as Lohan accelerated, TMZ said.

The allegations could not be independently verified by The Associated Press. Lohan's lawyer, Blair Berk, declined comment when reached late Thursday by the AP.

Santa Monica police Sgt. Marty Fine declined comment and referred questions to a media representative who wasn't available.

Los Angeles police and sheriff's officials had no comment. They said they had not been contacted by the Santa Monica Police Department, which is leading the investigation.

Lohan's latest film, "I Know Who Killed Me," opened in theaters Friday.

Gabor ordered to pay \$4,000 penalty in lawsuit with daughter

By the Associated Press

SANTA MONICA Zsa Zsa Gabor has been ordered to pay nearly \$4,000 for missing a Santa Monica court appearance tied to her lawsuit against her daughter, Francesca Hilton.

Superior Court Judge Jacquelin Connor ordered Gabor to pay the penalty even though her lawyers provided the court with a doctor's note explaining Gabor's absence at the previous hearing. Gabor also was absent today.

The ailing socialite and her ninth hus-

band claim in the lawsuit that Hilton stole two million dollars by forging her mother's signature to take out a loan on Gabor's \$14 million Bel Air home. Hilton is Gabor's daughter with the late hotel magnate Conrad Hilton.

The lawsuit, which alleges elder abuse,

fraud and intentional infliction of emotional distress, also says Francesca Hilton used money from that transaction to buy a Laurel Canyon property and invest in a phantom company in New York.

Connor ordered Gabor to pay \$1,840 to Hilton's attorney, Ronald Richards.

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Photo courtesy

POSH SURROUNDINGS: Each room in Hotel 1000 in Seattle has an audio/visual hub for a laptop, flash drive, digital audio player and portable DVD player. Each room is also fitted with MP3 and iPod docking stations.

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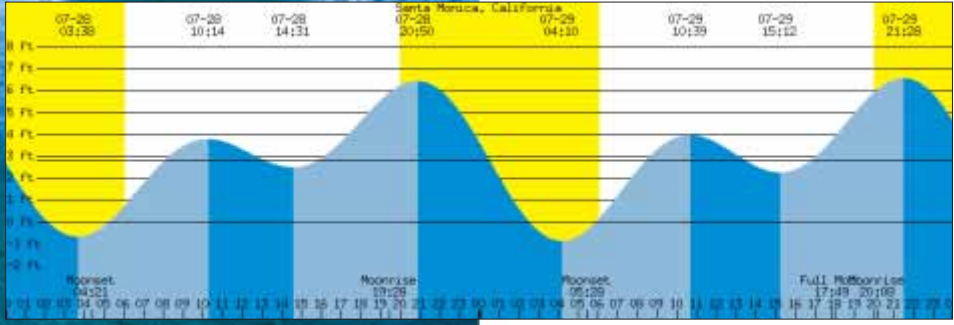
SURF CONDITIONS**WATER TEMP: 69°**

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

Today looks smaller as SW swell fades and NW wind swell remains small. Most all breaks are looking at knee to waist high waves. Winds could be a bit of an issue as well for many spots as a coastal eddy could kick up some southerly texture breezes for the early AM. Tide will be negative a couple hours before dawn, but linger at reasonable levels for early AM sessions.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SMALL SOUTHERN HEMIS NEXT WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



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 24, 2007

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 — 2

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0

Number of wet days — 8

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 42 / 40

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 4 / 10

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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 Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Luchessa and Los Alamos creeks	A+	ns
Erwin Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Devad Beach at Trabancas 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
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A	ns
Lorijo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Serfiche Canyon at San Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerto Santa Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	ns
Surfside Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfside Beach (beach location) - daily	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 16948 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Toros County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Tapanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

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.

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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. This 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.

Views of sunny Las Vegas

By KEN RITTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

It's been 178 years since a New Mexican merchant found a spring surrounded by scarce greenery in the parched Mojave Desert and called it the Spanish word for "the meadows."

Now the water source that gave Las Vegas its name and slaked the thirsts of travelers on the Old Spanish Trail is getting new life in a typically Las Vegas way: reimagined and recreated, bigger and better.

Water doesn't trickle here naturally any more. That's lesson one at the Springs Preserve.

But it gushes like a flash flood through "Mojave Canyon" at the OriGen Experience, an interactive exhibit hall sure to excite the kids while teaching about the desert, its dwellers, its dangers and its future. Designers call it a "playducational" museum.

"It felt like it was real," exclaimed 10-year-old Jules Jaget, a Las Vegas fifth-grader who said she was surprised when 5,000 gallons of recycled water whooshed down a recreated desert ravine in front of her and rushed beneath the walkway at her feet.

Water — whether too much or too little — is the elemental theme of the 180-acre preserve, three miles west of downtown.

The attraction, which is designed to show Las Vegas' past and provide a glimpse at a sustainable future, opened in June at a cost of \$250 million reaped from the sale of federal land around southern Nevada.

It's close enough to see the stunning skyline of the lavish resorts featuring dancing fountains on the Strip, but a world away when meandering from trail to gallery to garden. Everything is wheelchair-accessible.

"Ideally, this represents to Las Vegas what Central Park represents to New York City," preserve spokesman Jesse Davis said, expressing a theme as carefully crafted as the faux rock canyons and the centerpiece five-building Desert Living Center.

IF YOU GO

SPRINGS PRESERVE:
A \$250 million campus at Las Vegas' original water source featuring the interactive OriGen Experience, educational Desert Living Center, Springs Amphitheater, and gardens of drought-tolerant and native Mojave Desert plants. A Nevada State Museum is due to open in 2009.

INFORMATION:
(702) 822-7700 or www.springspreserve.org, with a live Web cam view of the preserve.

HOURS:
Exhibits open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days. Trails and gardens close at dusk. Maps provided.

ADMISSION:
Adults, \$18.95; children and teens 5-17 years, \$10.95; 4 and under, free. Students and seniors 65 and older, \$17.05. Nevada residents, \$4 discount. Individual annual pass, \$40; family annual pass, \$75.

GETTING THERE:
U.S. Highway 95 at Valley View Boulevard, three miles west of downtown Las Vegas. Across from Meadows Mall shopping center.

TIPS:
Bring the children and allow enough time. Many exhibits invite hands-on participation. Everything is wheelchair accessible, but trails are not paved. Hikers and garden visitors should bring sunscreen and a hat. Don't forget a camera.

"It's a cultural focal point, a historic centerpiece," Davis said, "something that offers something for everyone."

A hot summer day found moms with their children and their children's playmates disappearing into exhibit nooks, playgrounds and the gift shop.

"This is great to do with kids on vacation," said Cristi Milad, 38, a mother chaperoning four children, including Jaget, who said she also liked learning about animals.

Southwest Airlines experiments

BY BETH J. HARPAZ
AP Travel Editor

NEW YORK Can airlines do a better job of accommodating families?

That's the question Southwest Airlines is asking by experimenting with various ways to board and seat traveling families.

"We began testing about two weeks ago on all flights departing from San Antonio," Linda Rutherford, the airline's vice president of public relations, said Thursday. "We are testing several different ways to conduct family boarding."

Options being considered include "having designated rows for family seating; having them board with no onboard designated area, and pre-boarding them as we would normally," Rutherford said. She said the experiments would continue for a few weeks, and that it was too early to draw conclusions.

Rutherford added that Southwest has an open seating policy in which passengers are not assigned seats in advance, so the family boarding experiments are designed to "help

us ensure families may be seated together." She said the approach is not intended to segregate families from business travelers.

Alison Duquette, spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said an airline that wanted to seat families in a separate area would not need FAA approval. "It is not a safety issue so the FAA would have nothing to do with it," she said.

David Castelveter, spokesman for the Air Transport Association, the trade organization for U.S. airlines, said the ATA had no position on it.

A recent online Maritz survey found 73 percent of respondents said they would like to see family sections on airplanes.

The Southwest experiment follows several high-profile incidents involving passengers with children, including Kate Penland, who said she was forced to disembark because her toddler was saying "Bye-bye plane!" In another instance, the Transportation Security Administration took the unusual step of posting a video on its Web site that appeared to show a mother dumping the contents of her child's cup.

Bad break

Stephen Colbert injures wrist on set before a taping of his show

STEPHEN COLBERT'S disdain for all things left is growing.

The host of "The Colbert Report" revealed on Thursday night's show that he broke his left wrist while running around the

New York studio before taping a recent episode. Colbert removed a large "No. 1" foam hand to unmask a small cast.

"I didn't want to draw attention to it. I didn't want to play on your sym-

pathy," Colbert said before dramatically grimacing.

The fall happened June 27, before the show went on a two-week hiatus, a spokesman for Comedy Central said Friday. Colbert, 43, was only

recently fitted with a cast.

"To be honest, I'm not entirely sure how it happened," the mock right-wing talk-show host told his audience. "My director Jimmy is suggesting I might have broken my

wrist ... before the show."

Beyonce Knowles' "Ring the Alarm" was played over the footage, alluding to the singer's fall while performing the song during a concert Tuesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPEARS' BODYGUARD TICKETED

A bodyguard for **BRITNEY SPEARS** must face a battery charge after he scuffled with two men trying to photograph the singer and her young sons at a Las Vegas Strip resort, police said Friday.

The bodyguard, Cesar Julio Camera, 37, was accused of grabbing and punching one photographer and pushing another into a wall about 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the spa at the Wynn Las Vegas hotel-casino.

Camera was issued a misdemeanor battery summons after the scuffle.

No serious injuries resulted, police said. Neither Spears, 25, nor the children.

AP

Lindsay Lohan's father chided by divorce judge

A judge chided Michael Lohan on Friday for his failure to make child support payments to Lindsay Lohan's younger brother and sister since his release from prison earlier this year.

"The obligation to pay child support is absolute. ... It is not to be taken willy-nilly," state Supreme Court Justice Robert A. Ross scolded Lohan in a brief proceeding inside a small, standing-room-only Long Island courtroom. "Enough is enough."

The court appearance by Lohan and his estranged wife, Dina, who have been separated since 2005, attracted a brigade of photographers, reporters and camera crews eager for any snippet of Lohan news following the arrest earlier this week of their daughter Lindsay.

The 21-year-old actress was arrested Tuesday in Santa Monica, and released on bail for investigation of misdemeanor driving under the influence and with a suspended license and felony cocaine possession. She has insisted in an e-mail to an entertainment reporter that she is innocent.

AP



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

Happy Birthday!

You might be doing a lot of what you should do this year. Try adding that famous Leo spark. You could be delighted by how much zip you add to everyone else's life too. Investigate and enjoy what is happening. Judging could be a problem if you want to live life to the utmost. Emphasize health and the quality of your life. If you are single, you can always have a sweetie, but finding the right sweetie is another issue. Be more in touch with the inner you and your needs. If you are attached, your bond might need more time and nurturing.



Actress Sally Struthers (1948)

Singer Rudy Vallee (1901)
Cartoonist Jim Davis (1945)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Choose hush-hush, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Receive a jolt or insight gracefully. You discover much more than you might like. Understand the significance of new information to your finances and general well-being. Tonight: Busy taking networking to an art.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Taking an overview might be difficult, as new information, people and/or events collide. Your ability to flex comes forward. Someone quite different garners your attention and focus. Tonight: Try a new spot with music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your ability to relate on a deep level emerges. How you choose to look at someone might change substantially in the next few months. Just observe. This person could be going through a lot. Tonight: Go along with another's request.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ An inquiry into events reveals a lot. Everyone pushes in what they feel is the right direction. Let go of worries and choose to be carefree. Surprises will follow. Listen more. Tonight: Socialize to your heart's content.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You can only do so much, so fast. A partner surprises you with his or her approach and thoughts. You'll feel nurtured and directed if you remain open. Understand that this role is not your usual, and if you're in discomfort, understand why. Tonight: Easy does it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ If you allow more information to head in your direction, you will gain tremendous insight. Let others be, and you will relax. Kick up your heels and jazz up your life. Tonight: Having fun needs to be a major preoccupation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ See situations from a far more creative and dynamic perspective. You understand what others just don't get. Share your attitude and knowledge. Invite others to your home, where you can kick back and enjoy yourself. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Make the first move, and others will be delighted. You might want to see someone in a new light. Greet calls as good news. Someone makes an effort to get to know you better. How nice! Tonight: Others listen. Express interest in what they share too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Take your time realizing what is enough. You might not always have the answer, but more times than not, you will. Deal with finances with skepticism. You like what you see. Tonight: Indulge and live it up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Understand that when a surprise heads your direction, you'll want to adapt your plans. Let the bold you out, and make the most of the moment and live it up. A gift or special act touches a loved one deeply. Tonight: Do exactly what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Take your time and follow through on what you deem important. Opt to hide away with someone rather than be totally visible. You need that change of pace and perhaps that intimacy. Tonight: Remember to choose hush-hush.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Investigate what happens when you simply hang out with your friends, perhaps as you did several years ago. Be willing to be less demanding and more in the moment. Accept what is rather than long for what was. Tonight: Add that special spice to a happening that only you can.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

A Hard Day's Night (1964) (G)
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Live Free or Die Hard (PG-13)
10:50am, 1:40, 4:25, 7:20, 10:20
Sicko (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00
The Simpsons Movie (PG-13)
10:30am, 1:00, 3:20, 5:55, 8:20, 10:45
Transformers (PG-13)
11:55am, 3:05, 6:30, 9:50

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
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Hairspray (PG)
11:20am, 12:30, 2:10, 3:25, 5:00, 6:20, 7:50, 9:15, 10:45
Knocked Up (R)
11:05, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:40
No Reservations (PG)
11:10am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40, 12:05am
Ratatouille (G)
DLP-Digital Projection
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
The Simpson Movie (PG-13)
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15, 12:15am
Transformers (PG-13)
12:45, 4:00, 7:30, 10:55

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
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Sunshine (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
Talk to Me (R)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00

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FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Arctic Tale (G)
11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
Goya's Ghosts (Los Fantamas de Goya) (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
La Vie en Rose (La Mome) (PG-13)
1:20, 4:45, 8:10
Rescue Dawn (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13)
DLP-Digital Projection
12:10, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13)
1:10, 4:10, 7:30, 10:30
I Know Who Killed Me (R)
11:20am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40, 12:10am
I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (PG-13)
DLP-Digital Projection
12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00
Who's Your Caddy? (PG-13)
11:50am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30, 12:00am

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis

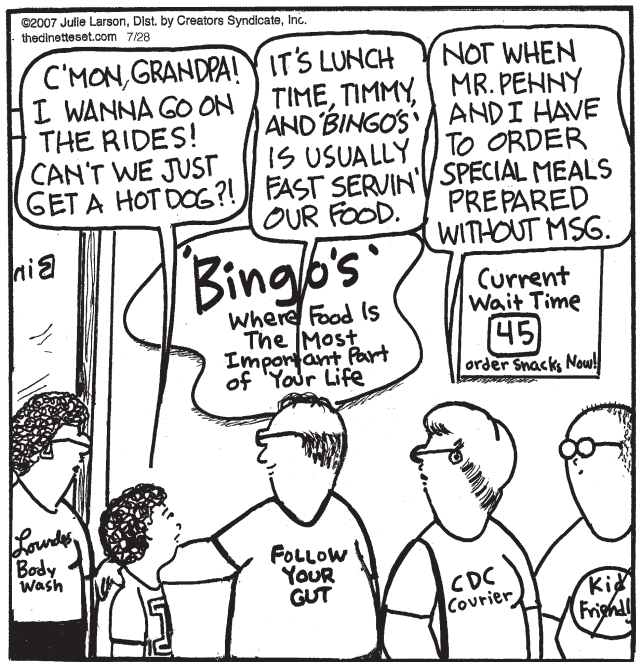


Dog eat Doug

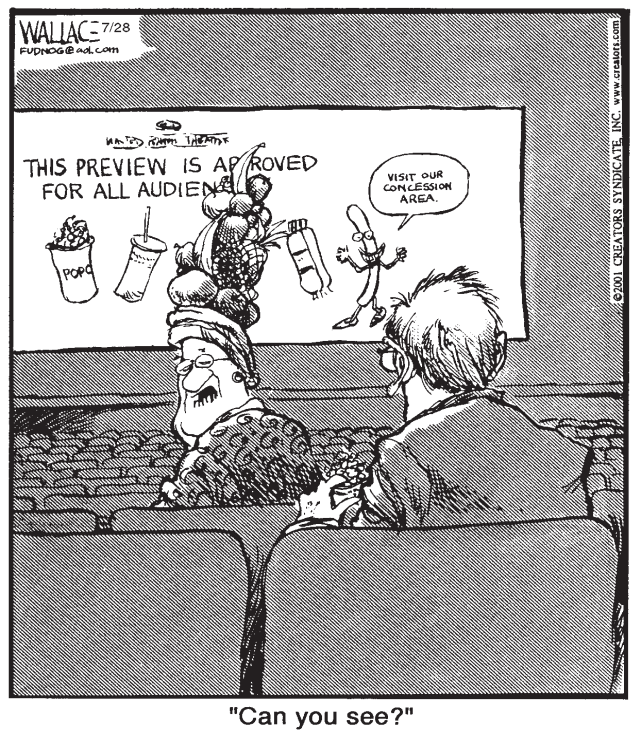
By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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BEST FOOT FORWARD Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com
Benjamin M. Steers is the winner of the most recent Mystery Photo contest, being the first to identify that this shot was captured of a no skateboarding/skating sign on the walk paths leading to Santa Monica College. Steers wins a prize from the Daily Press.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Shades

- 1 Beach critter
- 5 Beliefs
- 9 Beach setting
- 10 Some love songs
- 12 Birth-related
- 13 Caesar's land
- 14 Mobile home?
- 16 Bishop or rook
- 17 Favorite
- 18 Swing group
- 20 Squelch
- 22 Some linemen
- 23 Come up
- 25 Sprit, e.g.
- 28 Oxonian's rival
- 32 Ring swing
- 34 First número
- 35 Bruins legend
- 36 Shipping ban
- 38 Overlooks
- 40 Modify
- 41 Print units
- 42 Rings
- 43 Race finish

DOWN

- 1 Swiss lodge
- 2 Turn
- 3 Bedouin, e.g.
- 4 Explain to death
- 5 Luggage clip-on
- 6 Be litigious
- 7 Singer Ethel
- 8 Maroon
- 9 Gingery cookies
- 11 Beach bits

F	O	R	M		L	I	C	K	
I	R	O	N	S		I	D	L	E
A	B	B	O	T		S	E	I	N
T	I	E		A	N	T	E	N	N
S	T	R	O	K	E	S		T	E
	S	T	R	E	W		E	E	L
		R	E	D		B	A	A	
A	M	E	S		M	A	R	S	H
M	U	D		W	O	R	S	T	E
I	N	F	R	O	N	T		W	A
S	C	O	U	R		A	M	O	R
H	I	R	E	D		B	O	O	M
	E	D	D	Y		O	D	E	S

Yesterday's answer

- 15 Portable filmer
- 19 "It's — real"
- 21 Divide
- 24 Day for observance
- 25 Sailing boat
- 26 Sanction
- 27 Serengeti setting
- 29 Slow mover
- 30 California team
- 31 Rude fellows
- 33 Track great Owens
- 37 Moises of the Mets
- 39 Call on

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				
41						42				
	43					44				

DAILY LOTTERY	8 17 20 23 50 Meganumber: 17 Jackpot: \$55M
MEGA MILLIONS	12 19 27 43 44 Meganumber: 20 Jackpot: \$45M
Super LOTTO	12 15 17 32 36
Fantasy 5	MIDDAY: 2 1 0 EVENING: 4 3 6
DAILY 3	1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 11 Money Bags 3rd: 08 Gorgeous George RACE TIME: 1.44.70

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Elderly drivers' recent lapses of concentration, stepping on the gas instead of the brake: An East Meadow, N.Y., man, 91, crashed into his wife (March). A prominent biochemist from the 1940s, age 88, crashed through a wall of the Civic Center in San Rafael, Calif. (June). An 84-year-old woman, playing golf with another woman, accidentally ran her down in her golf cart, Medford, Ore. (April). A Shiloh, Ill., woman, 84, drove into the cafeteria of Shiloh Elementary School, hitting one girl (January). A Deland, Fla., woman, 84, driving to pick up a prescription, smashed into the pharmacy (November). An Eastbourne, England, man, 80, crashed into the lobby of Eastbourne General Hospital, coming to visit his wife (June). An Oshkosh, Wis., man, 77, smashed into a restaurant (with pedalwork that was complicated by his cane, leaning against the driver's seat) (December).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1794 Maximilien Robespierre is guillotined in front of a cheering crowd, for sending thousands of others to a similar fate during the French Revolution.
1866 The Metric Act of 1866 becomes law and legalizes the standardization of weights and measures in the United States.sending thousands of others to a similar fate during the French Revolution.
1878 Great Britain's William Gowland becomes the first non-Japanese to reach Yarikatake peak (3,180 meters), and he names the mountain the Japanese Alps, a name that is eventually used to refer to the entire mountain range.
1932 US President Herbert Hoover orders the United States Army to forcibly evict the "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans gathered in Washington, DC.
1945 A US Army B-25 bomber accidentally crashes into the 79th floor of the Empire State Building killing 14 injuring 26.
1965 Vietnam War: US President Lyndon B. Johnson announces his order to increase the number of United States troops in South Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000.
1976 The Tangshan earthquake measuring between 7.8 and 8.2 magnitude flattens Tangshan, the People's Republic of China, killing 242,769 and injuring 164,851.

WORD UP!

coruscate \KOR-uh-skayt\, *intransitive verb*: 1. To give off or reflect bright beams or flashes of light; to sparkle. 2. To exhibit brilliant, sparkling technique or style.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Yard Sales

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by day, honest reliable, own transportation, references, L.I./L.O. nanny housekeepers. Low fees, been in business since 1988, open 7 days. Call, ask for Adeline (818)705-0295 or fax (818)705-0297

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WLA CPA firm is seeking a candidate with strong organizational and computer skills. Candidate must work effectively under pressure and be able to handle multiple tasks. Must type efficiently 55 wpm and be computer literate. Advance knowledge of MS Office a plus. Must be a Team Player! Overtime is required. ASSEMBLY OF TAX RETURNS A HUGE PLUS BUT NOT REQUIRED. Fax resume w/salary history to 310-477-8424 Attn: Sylvia Vargas or email to: Sylvia.vargas@mossadams.com

ARE YOU looking for experience and education, psychology and social services? Call Esperance Center in Malibu, position is for residential home for adults with developmental disabilities. Mon-Fri 3pm-10pm. Excellent benefits. (310)457-2026

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Accounts Payable Assistant Go to www.coopportunity for more info or stop by the store at 1525 Broadway for an application.

PT/FT SALESPERSON for a hardware store. Call (310) 395-1158

Employment

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needed for busy Westside Doctor of Osteopathy and his holistic health clinic. \$40,000 yr. Must know Quickbooks (accounting), non-smoker, interested in alternative medicine, friendly and positive for front office with ability to multi-task. Filing, inputting and organizing patient files needed immediately. Fax resume to (310) 390-3426, or email talya@clearwayhealth.com.

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GARAGE SALE Santa Monica 1343 19th st. Couch, coffee table, chairs, clothes, household items, and much more. Sat. 8am-12pm.

HIRING DISPATCHERS and drivers for a tow company in WLA. 2200 Centinela Ave. 90064, cross st. Olympic. (310)923-8888

HOUSEKEEPER
OCEAN House, an elegant assisted living community, is looking for an ideal candidate with a positive attitude to provide housekeeping services for our elderly residents. Prior hotel or senior living community experience a plus. Job duties include daily cleaning of apartments and common areas. The position is full time and benefits eligible after 90 days. Meal plan is available as well. Please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405.

JANITOR
Ocean House, an elegant assisted living community is looking for an ideal candidate with a positive attitude to provide janitorial services to our elderly residents. Job duties include maintenance of common areas, carpet cleaning, window washing and light maintenance. The position is full time and benefits eligible after 90 days. Meal plan is available as well. Please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405.

MUSICAL AIRPLAY CAMPAIGN SALES POTENTIAL \$80,000 P/T. (310)998-8305 XT 83

Employment

NEED IMMEDIATELY security officer with guard card, 5pm-9pm for Santa Monica. (714)531-0555

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Needed for busy WLA CPA firm. Candidate must be responsible and efficient. Resp include: office maintenance, filing, copying, faxing, office errands. Team player a MUST. Fax resume to 310-477-0590 Attn: Carmen Aguirre or email to: Carmen.aguirre@mossadams.com

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Café Line Cooks
Pizza Rollers
Apply at Perry's, 2400 Ocean Front Walk and call Mary at (310)722-5853.
(No calls on Thursdays.)

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You may also apply in person at: A.B.S - 1533 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90403

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APR 6.710%	
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APR 7.155%	
5 YEAR/1 ARM	6.25%**
APR 7.5%	
3 YEAR/1 ARM	6%**
APR 7.525%	
1 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%
APR 7.6%	
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5.5%
APR 7.74%	
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1.5%**
APR 8.5%	

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* As of June 20, 2007

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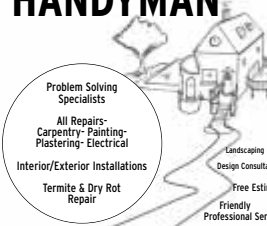
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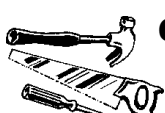
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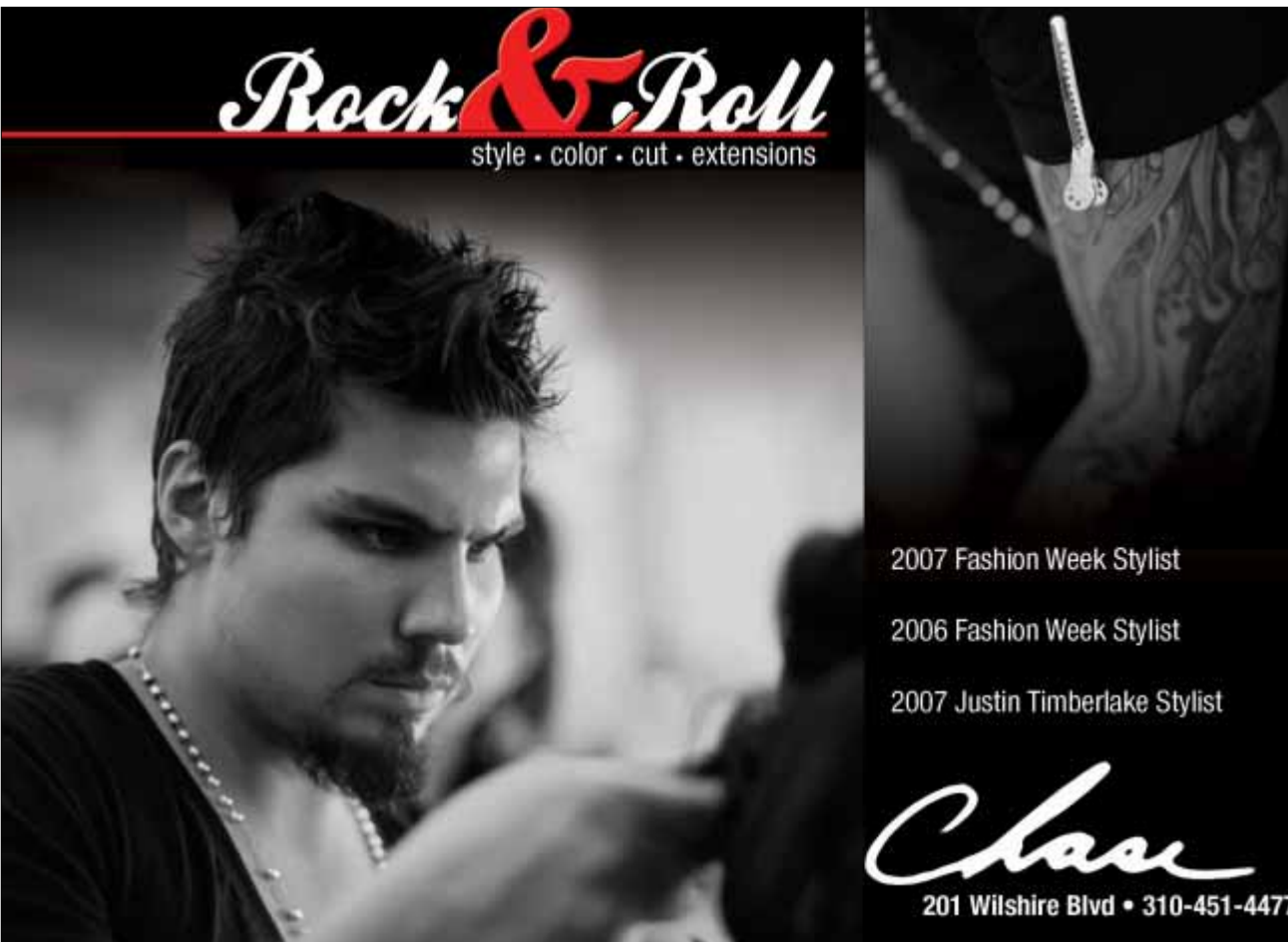


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