



CALLING OUT CINGULAR
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE HIP HOP 101 ISSUE

Matriarch mad at cops

Pico resident lobs complaint against Santa Monica officer

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD A grandmother who said she was caught last weekend in the middle of a gang sweep, along with her grandson and four other children, has filed a complaint against a Santa Monica Police officer after she was allegedly mistreated, insulted and unlawfully arrested.

Charlene Gowers, 50, said she was walking on the 1900 block of 17th Street with her 3-year-old grandson and some neighborhood kids around 8 p.m. Saturday when she found herself smack in the middle of a police raid on a suspected gang member's home.

Several undercover officers jumped out of a van with their guns drawn and began cursing at her, the children and her adult son for failing to stay clear of the multi-department raid, Gowers alleges.

The Pico resident claims there were no signs or barricades that would have led her to believe an investigation was in progress, just a standard police car — parked with its lights flashing.

"The police are always on our street giving out tickets to people who fail to stop at the stop sign by our house," said Gowers, who lives on the corner of 17th Street and Delaware Avenue. "The kids always like to watch and sometimes the cops give them stickers."

"That's all we thought it was."

Gowers claims that she and her son were suddenly being handcuffed, with officers yelling, "The kid is gone. You will never see him again," referring to her grandson, who was taken from Gowers at the scene by a representative from the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family

SEE COMPLAINT PAGE 11

ENTERTAINMENT

ON COMMON'S GROUND

Legendary rapper rocks Third Street Promenade

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 10



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Tai Chi classes

400 W. Pico Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.

St. Joseph Center is holding ongoing weekly Tai Chi classes. These low-impact classes are designed to help individuals improve their overall physical fitness and increase their mobility and flexibility. Classes are free, but enrollment is limited and advance registration is required. For more information, call (310) 396-6468, ext. 307.

Indie folks rocking out

1026 Wilshire Blvd., 8:30 p.m.

Moshav and Brett Andrew play Temple Bar. Tickets are \$10. For more information, visit www.templebarlive.com.

Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007

Healing words

1444 9th St., 1:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Join Heal the Bay's Speakers Bureau and become one of Heal the Bay's most elite volunteers. Speakers present the causes and consequences of marine pollution to schools, community groups, clubs, businesses, and civic organizations throughout L.A. County. Attendance at all training events is mandatory. Sign-up at www.healthebay.org/speakers.

John Abrams Presents

2601 Main St., 2:30 — 3:30 p.m.

An afternoon of magic, comedy, music and live exotic pets. For more information, call the Ocean Park Branch Library at (310) 458-8638.

Emperor's College Open House

1807 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 200, 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Learn how to incorporate herbal medicine and the practice of Qi Gong into daily life and hear from students about the Master's program in acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Call (310) 453-8300, ext. 127 to RSVP.

An evening with Mary Frosch

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Mary Frosch is co-editor of the multi-cultural anthology "Coming of Age Around the World." With this collection of 24 stories from around the world, editors Adiele and Frosch set out to chronicle the global quest for identity as they consider whether coming of age is a Western — or universal — concept.

Debbie does Broadway

9039 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, 8 p.m.

Debbie Benton and her fellow high school cheerleaders are at it again, but this time it's live. Paid admission is also good for the post-performance party at Key Club. Tickets are \$35 — \$55. For tickets or more information, visit www.ticketmaster.com or call (310) 274-5800.

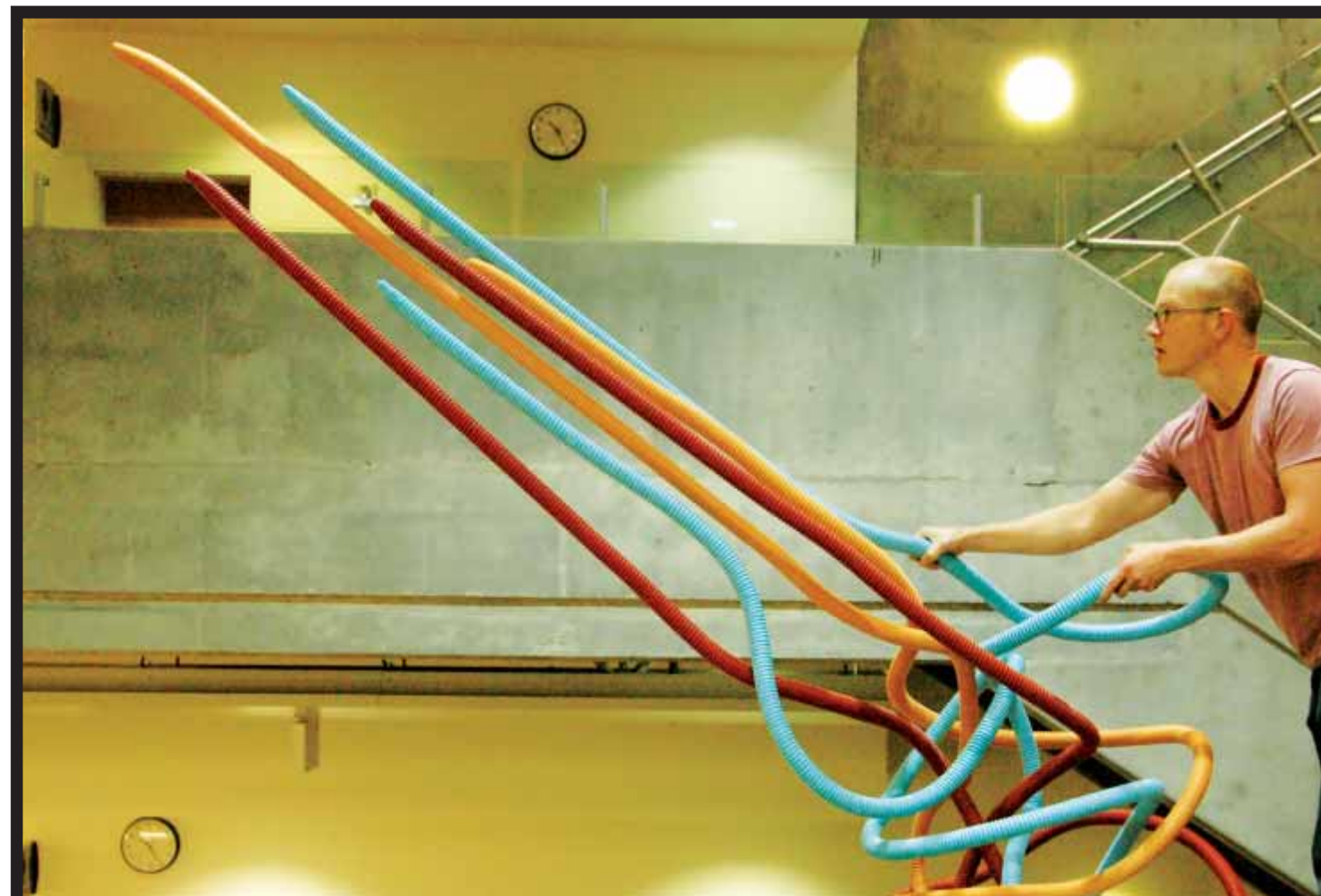
'Just Beyond Reach/New Type Windows'

1423 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Tonight's opening reception presents a series of cibachrome photographic prints which are juxtaposed with Elizabeth Paige Smith's film installation of a suburban neighborhood consumed by technological hell and the resulting effort to find sanctuary within. For more information, call (310) 392-8060.

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.





ARTISTIC SPECTACLE

Art student Pontus Willfors, a native of Sweden, installs his untitled steel and conduit sculpture at Santa Monica College's library on Monday.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

BUSINESS

Singled out for lawsuit

Debit card case goes forward against AT&T

KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK A Santa Monica-based consumer watchdog is suing Cingular, now AT&T Mobility, for allegedly engaging in false and misleading advertising when offering rebates on cell phones.

The Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights is suing the wireless giant on behalf of consumers in California who purchased cell phones with the belief that they would receive a rebate check. But instead of getting cash,

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 8

Study debunks moon beliefs

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE
Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria Ever whacked your thumb with a hammer, or wrenched your back after lifting a heavy box, and blamed the full moon? It's a popular notion, but there's no cosmic connection, government researchers said Tuesday.

Robert Seeberger, a physicist and astronomer at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, said a team of experts analyzed 500,000 industrial accidents in Austria between 2000 and 2004 and found no link to lunar activity.

"The full moon does not unfavorably affect the likelihood of an accident," Seeberger said.

The next full moon in Santa Monica is

expected Aug. 28.

The study, released Tuesday by the General Accident Insurance Office, said that on average there were 415 workplace accidents registered per day. Yet on days when the moon was full, the average actually dipped to 385, though the difference was not statistically significant.

The lunar influence theory dates at least to the first century A.D., when the Roman scholar Pliny the Elder wrote that his observations suggested "the moon produces drowsiness and stupor in those who sleep outside beneath her beams."

Seeberger, who advises the Austrian government on accident prevention, said he and fellow researcher Manfred Huber decided to take a closer look because the full moon theory kept surfacing "again and again."

They also checked for a possible interplay between the rate of accidents and the position of the moon relative to Earth, theorizing that gravity might have some effect in tripping people up at work.

But the moon orbits the planet in almost a perfect circle, and there was also no statistically significant relationship between the accident rate and the moon's closest proximity to Earth.

There were an average 400 accidents on days when the moon nudged closest, the study found, compared to an average 396 per day at other times.

Past studies have differed on whether the full moon affects humans by subtly influencing "biological tides."

A landmark study published in 1984 in the British Medical Journal examined the

incidence of crimes reported to police from 1978-82 in three locations in India — one rural, one urban, one industrial — and found a spike in crime on full moon days compared to all other days.

But another study, done in Canada in 1998 by University of Saskatchewan researchers, looked at nearly 250,000 traffic accidents that caused property damage or nonfatal injuries over a nine-year period and found no relationship to the lunar phase.

Most scientists agree that at nearly 239,240 miles away, the moon is simply too distant — and human beings too small — for it to have any significant effect.

"There's no real reason why it should," said D. John Hillier, a professor of astronomy at the University of Pittsburgh who was not involved in the Austria study.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't cover the undeserving

Editor:
I think (the Daily Press) is great. I respect your reporters and editors, enjoy your strong graphics and photos, and appreciate the voice you give to residents ... like this letter from me.

Having said that: You guys made a mistake giving our area pedophile more front page ink today ("Pedophile threatens litigation," July 31). Big deal. Anybody can threaten a lawsuit.

How about this? I'm thinking about suing Santa Monicans for Renters Rights for systematically lowering the city's quality of life through their counterproductive and expanding empire of homeless services – for a billion dollars! \$10 billion! Front page, baby!

Most newspapers, as a rule, ignore lawsuit threats because they are too easy to make and usually turn out to be nothing but bluster. Wait until the pedophile actually hires a lawyer and files his grievance in court. Otherwise, it's merely free publicity, which is what I think he really wants, but certainly does not deserve.

Mark Shepherd
Santa Monica

Keep a closer eye on pedophiles

Editor:
Let me see if I got this right ... according to a July 28-29 SMDP article ("SMPD says keep an eye out"), Jack J. McClellan, a nationally-known and self-admitted (pedophile) who runs a Web site designed to tell (pedophiles) where the best places are to see children ... was spotted by an aware mom at the Main Library. OK, to the City Council, who cares about my smoking a cigarette on the promenade and my Styrofoam coffee cup ... Why are there no cameras in the common areas of our libraries, especially in the children's area? I've been told by an employee at the library that only adults accompanying children are allowed in the children's area, so how did a nationally-known pedophile get to wander in?

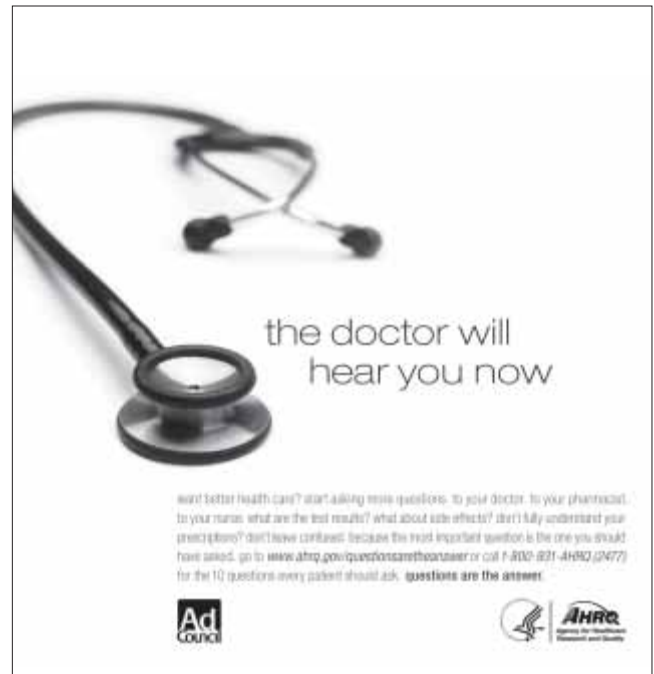
Let's get with the program. Stop freaking on my Marlboros and neighbors' hedges. We can not, and must not, wait until one of these evil animals snatches a child.
James Zeruk Jr.
Santa Monica

Keep tabs on tabloid stories

Editor:
In the July 28 weekend edition, reader Sharon Steck wrote a letter chastising the Daily Press for extended coverage of Lindsay Lohan ("Celebs aren't breaking news"). After all, she said, you're not the Globe or the National Enquirer.

In the same issue, on page 25, a story about Lohan's father, Michael Lohan, was accompanied by a photo of Lindsay in a bikini.

Ms. Steck was wrong. You are the National Enquirer.
Kevin Skoglund
Santa Monica



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Word in Edgewise



Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Clinton is afraid of competition

THE WARM GLOW OF PARTY UNITY surrounding the Democrats in Washington is gone, chased away by Sen. Hillary Clinton after last Monday's CNN/YouTube "debate." Why did she do it? Because she's scared to death of Sen. Barack Obama.

It started when they were both asked whether they would, in the first year of their administration, meet with the leaders of rogue nations. Sen. Obama went first, saying: "I would. The notion that somehow not talking to countries is punishment to them, which has been the guiding diplomatic principle of this administration, is ridiculous." Sen. Clinton came back with, "I will not promise to meet with the leaders of these countries during my first year. I will promise a very vigorous diplomatic effort. I don't want to be used for propaganda purposes. I don't want to make a situation even worse."

AND WITH THAT, IT WAS OVER. SEN. CLINTON HAD TRIED, AND FAILED, TO PLAY UP WHAT SHE PERCEIVES TO BE HER ADVANTAGE OVER SEN. OBAMA – HER SO-CALLED EXPERIENCE.

Had it stopped there, it would have been a one-day story. But it didn't. On Tuesday, Sen. Clinton was in Iowa (where she's nervous about trailing John Edwards) and broke the cardinal rule for front-runners: Do not engage your opponents.

She was baited into it by a reporter saying that Sen. Obama's statement that the time to ask how we were going to get out of Iraq was before we got in meant he was suggesting she didn't think enough about an exit strategy before her vote to authorize the use of force. And, man, did she ever take the bait. She responded with, "I would not vote that way were I to do it over again," and the reporter had her on the defensive.

He pressed on, asking if her answer to the question about meeting with leaders of rogue nations was a reversal of her statement in April that she "thinks it's a terrible mistake for our president to say he won't talk to bad people." She didn't see it as a reversal and said Sen. Obama's response was, "irresponsible and, frankly, naïve." It

would be one thing if a campaign staffer made this statement, but when it comes from the candidate herself, it is a serious breach of protocol and a genuine escalation of rhetoric. Then it was on.

Sen. Obama came back firing with both barrels on Wednesday saying, "if you want to talk about irresponsibility and naïveté, look at her vote to authorize George Bush to send our troops into Iraq without an exit plan and then asking the Pentagon about what the plan is five years later." Then, on Thursday, he drove the point home, burying Sen. Clinton's attempt to make hay out of all of this by saying, "I'm not afraid of losing the PR war to dictators, I'm not going to hide behind a bunch of rhetoric. I don't want a continuation with Bush-Cheney. I don't want Bush-Cheney light. I want a fundamental change."

By then, Sen. Clinton had clearly given up the fight and was trying to act like she didn't start it by saying, "Well, this is getting kind of silly. I've been called a lot of things in my life, but I've never been called George Bush or Dick Cheney, certainly." Then she tried to take another shot on the way out with, "We have to ask what's ever happened to the politics of hope?"

There's an expression we use on the block (in the 'hood, around the way, whatever you want to call it) when someone starts something they can't finish: "They don't want none." By the end of the week, Sen. Obama knew Sen. Clinton really didn't want none, so he came back with, "The notion that we can't have a substantive argument, or that I can't challenge some of their conventional wisdom without somehow sacrificing the broader themes of our campaign — which is to bring people together and change the tone of politics — I think makes no sense."

And with that, it was over. Sen. Clinton had tried, and failed, to play up what she perceives to be her advantage over Sen. Obama — her so-called experience. The only thing she succeeded in doing was to show that Sen. Obama, a truly nice guy, is not to be trifled with. He took her best shot, blocked it with his gloves, dipped his shoulder and counter-punched. And while neither of them is likely to deliver a knockout blow between now and Super Tuesday, Sen. Clinton will certainly think twice about getting back in the ring with Sen. Obama unless it's really necessary.

If she was afraid of him before last week (and clearly she was), she's got to be petrified of a one-on-one debate with him now. She's seen his punching power and she knows she doesn't have the chin to take it.

KENNY MACK is a writer and comedian living in Santa Monica. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

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Guest Commentary

Jeanette Henderson

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Iraqi progress is bad for Dems

WHEN TWO HARSH CRITICS OF THE Bush Administration's handling of the war came back from an eight-day trip to Iraq and printed an op-ed article with the title "A war we just might win" (NY Times July 30), most Americans cheered, grateful to see some progress, daring to dream that, perhaps, we could achieve some semblance of peace and cooperation in that worn-torn country.

But while most Americans embraced the good news, the Democrat leadership continued on its pessimistic path toward defeat. In fact, they have little choice. Since their head honcho Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid declared, repeatedly, that the war is already lost, he's backed his Democrats into a corner that isn't going to be easy to get out of. They've invested so much political capital in bringing the troops home, regardless of the status of the job they are doing, to back down now would be a tacit admission that President Bush's surge strategy might just have a chance of working.

Since most of the Democrats' overall political strategy relies on bashing the Republicans no matter what, they're stuck treading water until there is more bad news in Iraq.

It's a terrible thing to have to say, but the Democrats have to bank on things getting worse over there. They've leveraged their entire political futures on it. Yet in the long run, it could spell disaster for them on many levels. From congressional candidates to presidential hopefuls, Democrats who oppose a strategy that appears to have a chance of winning will only further distance them from the average American, who hates to see troops injured and dying overseas, but hates to lose a fight even more. Even as we embrace the good news and clamor for more, the Dems are forced to continue predicting gloom and doom.

Democrats are once again in danger of shooting themselves in the foot, a habit they seem to have every time they gain any momentum. If things get worse in Iraq (the fuel for the Democrats' movement), you can count on them making as much hay out of it as possible, and the Bush-bashing becoming even more strident than ever.

On the other hand, if things get better, the Democrats will have to make a choice — to continue on the Reid-Pelosi-Schumer party line in their blind ambition to put a Democrat in the White House, or to try to figure out a way to distance themselves from their party in an effort to reconnect with the overwhelming number of Americans who will jump on the bandwagon of victory the moment it starts to look like it might be moving again.

IT'S A TERRIBLE THING TO HAVE TO SAY, BUT THE DEMOCRATS HAVE TO BANK ON THINGS GETTING WORSE OVER THERE. THEY'VE LEVERAGED THEIR ENTIRE POLITICAL FUTURES ON IT. YET IN THE LONG RUN, IT COULD SPELL DISASTER FOR THEM ON MANY LEVELS.

Inevitably, this will weaken the Democrats, because, as President Lincoln said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." The same is true for our country, and the sooner more people start remembering that it is America at war, and not Republicans or Democrats, the stronger and greater our country will be.

JEANETTE HENDERSON is a speech coach, commentator, writer and co-author of the book "There's no such thing as public speaking." She can be contacted through www.podiummaster.com.



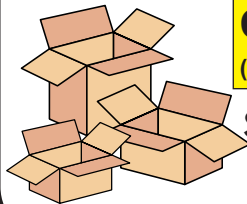
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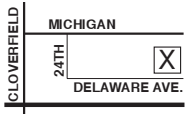
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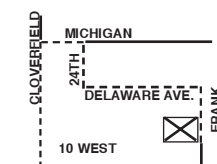
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The Q-Line

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Showtime in the slammer

Paris Hilton did time. Pal Nicole Richie is getting ready for her stint behind bars, too. Lindsay Lohan, fresh off her most recent drug- and alcohol-related arrest may soon be added to the growing list of celebrities who have been to the big house.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What should Lohan receive as punishment for her numerous brushes with the law?

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



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Four units are better than one

YOU WALK IN AND CANNOT BELIEVE your eyes — this is the condominium of your dreams. You ask the real estate agent what the price is and she answers \$400,000. The listing price is at the upper stratosphere of your budget, but you love the condo and want to put in an offer. She says that several offers have been submitted well above the asking price. Your heart drops. This is the reality of looking for a piece of real estate you can call home on the Westside of Los Angeles. However, you may have other options. Some first-time homebuyers look at purchasing multiple units on one parcel. One of the best number of units to purchase is a four-plex or four-unit since it generates income like an apartment building, but still qualifies for residential financing.

be for the remaining \$225,000 or a payment of about \$1500, while \$100,000 was used for the down payment. The nice part about this scenario is that you do not have to sell the property when you move out; you can refinance it and use the equity to purchase another property.

Now the above example works if the property is grossing enough money, but what if it is not bringing in a strong income? If the four-unit is not grossing the needed money, you could choose to increase the rents. The problem with increasing rents is that tenants may move out and it maybe difficult to find new tenants. Also, cities like Santa Monica have strict rent control laws, which must be observed. Cities such as Long Beach and Inglewood, however, do not have strict rent control laws. What if you cannot come up with the down payment?

Using the above example one would ask "where do I come up with \$100,000 plus closing costs?" If you only have a portion of the down payment, you could get partners who would come up with the difference. For example, if you found three partners who wanted to live in the property, you would only need to come up with \$25,000 for the down payment. In the above example, you are paying \$250,000 a unit. In the Westside of Los Angeles it would be very difficult to locate a condo for that price, plus with the four unit you do not need to pay monthly condo fees. However, the property will need maintenance so calculate those costs. Also, remember that it maybe difficult buying your other partners out in the future. If you decide to have partners have an attorney put together a partnership agreement and make sure everyone is on the same page. With partners, it would be a good idea to set a sale date for the property with each partner receiving an equal share of the equity proportional to the down payment amount.

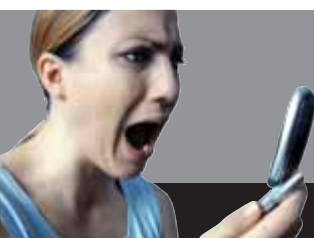
Purchasing a four-unit is a great way to start investing in real estate. Having tenants cover a portion of the mortgage and living in a four-unit is a great alternative to a condo. Just remember, if you get partners, agree on the same exit strategy beforehand to avoid problems in the future. On the Westside of Los Angeles a four-unit can be the first step to your real estate dreams.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. He can be reached at 310-428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

PURCHASING A FOUR-UNIT IS A GREAT WAY TO START INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE. HAVING TENANTS COVER A PORTION OF THE MORTGAGE AND LIVING IN A FOUR-UNIT IS A GREAT ALTERNATIVE TO A CONDO.

Shopping for a four-unit over a condo can make sense. Most lenders will finance 90 percent of the purchase price, meaning that you will only have to bring 10 percent of the purchase price to the closing table. However, what makes a four-unit purchase more desirable is that income from the other units is used to cover a portion of the mortgage payment. For example, if you were to purchase a four-unit property with a list price of \$1,000,000 and three of the units grossed \$2000, each totaling \$6000, the lender would be able to use 75 percent of the three units income towards the loan. At \$6000 the lender could use \$4500 towards the payment. With an interest rate of 7 percent amortized over 30 years, that translates to roughly \$675,000 in loan dollars. Your portion of the payment would

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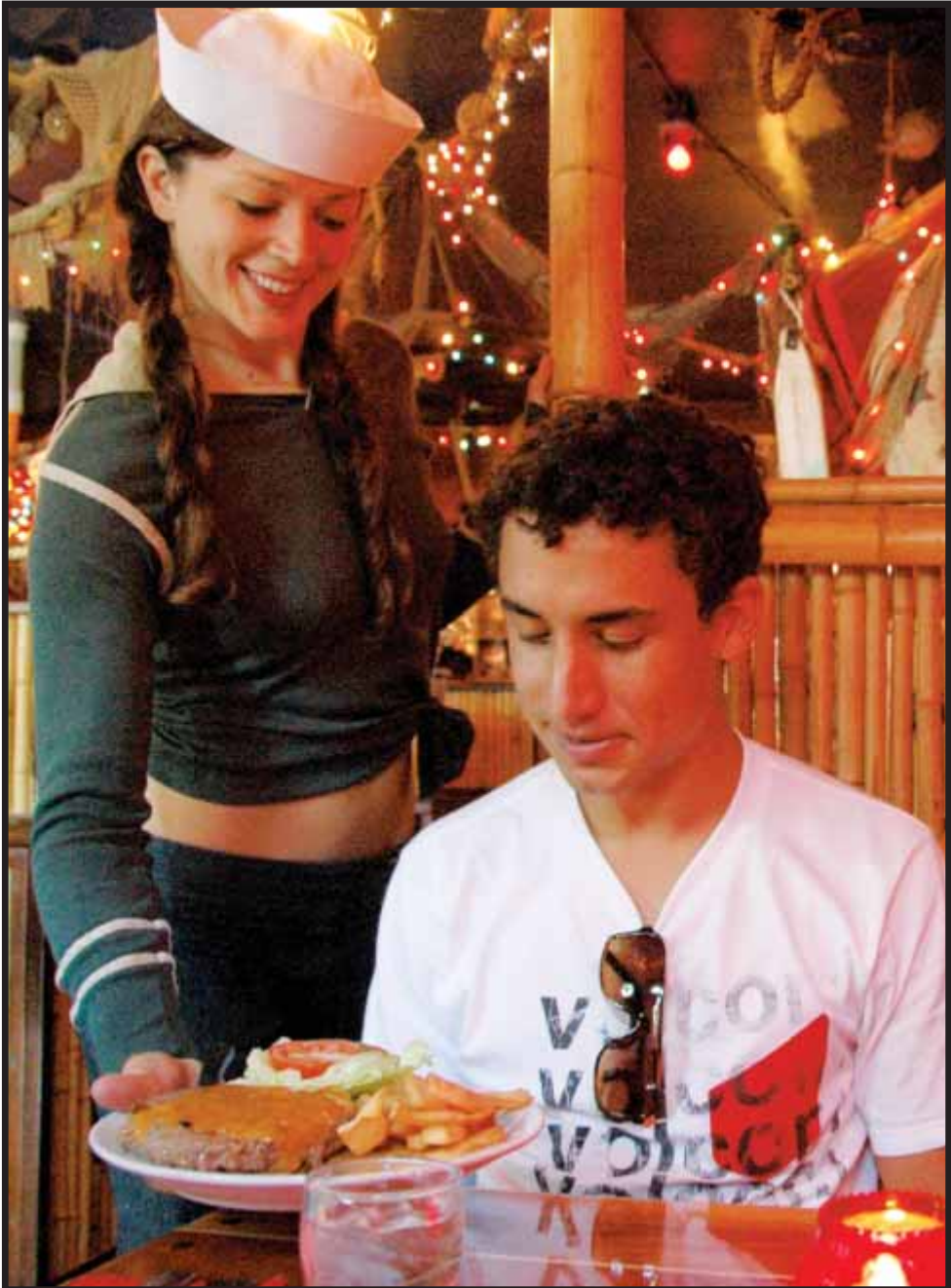


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Santa Monica Daily Press

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OLD SCHOOL PRICES

Waitress Annie Thimmes, 25, serves Adham El Sherif, 20, a burger and fries during The Galley's 1934 Day on Saturday. All prices were rolled back to what they were when Santa Monica's oldest eatery first opened for business.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

BUSINESS

Consumer spending cools down in June

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Shoppers took a break in June, boosting their spending at the slowest pace in nine months as high gasoline prices and fallout from the housing slump made people think twice about buying.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that consumer spending edged up by just 0.1 percent. That marked a pullback from May's brisk 0.6 percent rise and was the smallest increase since last September. Incomes, the fuel for future spending, rose 0.4 percent for a second month in a row.

However, a more forward-looking report suggested that consumers were in a much better frame of mind in July. Their confidence shot up to a six-year high.

The Conference Board said that its Consumer Confidence Index, jumped to 112.6 in July from a reading of 105.3 in June. The fresh survey of consumer attitudes, though, was taken before last week's stock market meltdown.

Another report from the department

showed that construction spending dipped 0.3 percent in June, restrained mostly by cut-backs in home building and projects by the federal government. It was the weakest showing since a 0.6 percent drop in January and fell shorts of analysts' forecasts for a modest 0.2 percent rise.

The weakness in overall construction spending came even as construction by private builders on commercial structures, such as offices, hotels and motels, and schools, climbed to all-time highs. Spending by state and local governments on construction projects also rose to record highs.

The report underscored fallout from the sour housing market.

Private builders cut spending on residential construction 0.7 percent in June, marking the 16th straight month in which this spending declined. The other soft spot was a 1.1 percent drop in spending by the federal government.

Fresh fears about the housing market sent stocks tumbling.

The Dow Jones industrials lost 146.32 points to close at 13,211.99

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North of Montana	= \$ 3,739,238	\$ 1,985,265
Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 2,997,444	\$ 867,599
South of Wilshire	= \$ 972,000	\$ 677,713
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,494,250	\$ 677,290
Ocean Park	= \$ 1,929,727	\$ 933,556

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Local group sues carrier

FROM LAWSUIT PAGE 3

purchasers received a "VISA Reward" debit card that had numerous restrictions, according to the suit.

A federal court ruled last week that the suit can proceed. In May, Cingular/AT&T asked the federal court to dismiss the suit, arguing that consumers were not harmed or misled and that California's consumer protection laws do not prevent the company from engaging in the practice of offering rebates.

The court's ruling states: "The court finds that a reasonable consumer, upon seeing an advertisement that promises a 'rebate' of a certain amount, would generally understand that advertisement to mean that the amount will be returned to the consumer in cash, check or its equivalent ..."

Harvey Rosenfield, one of the attorneys for the foundation, said consumers did not find out about the restrictions attached to the debit cards until it was too late to cancel Cingular's wireless service without paying an early termination fee of \$175.

The cards could only be used in certain places and had to be activated through Cingular's Web site or by telephone before any money could be retrieved. Rewards cards can also incur service charges and expire within 120 days from the date of issuance, the suit states.

"In their intense marketing for cellular services, cell phone companies make price the paramount focus," Rosenfield said. "Cingular told consumers that they would ultimately pay a discounted price, once the rebate was received. In some cases, consumers were led to believe the phone would be 'free' — that it would end up costing them nothing after the rebate.

"But instead of getting money back, consumers get a VISA Reward card," he added. "Purchasers never got the promised discount. None of this was made clear to consumers. This deceitful practice hurts consumers and other cell phone companies that advertise honestly."

Representatives from AT&T said the allegations in the suit are false.

"It is important to note that this ruling only allows the case to proceed and does not address the evidence in the case," said Walt Sharp, spokesman for AT&T.

The foundation claims that Cingular/AT&T changed its advertising once the suit was filed, but is still misleading the public.

The lawsuit asks the court to order the company to stop the practice and to provide refunds to consumers.

The foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan citizen

advocacy group that has brought several lawsuits on behalf of consumers challenging the practices, services and charges of wireless companies including T-Mobile and Nextel.



**THIS DECEITFUL
PRACTICE HURTS
CONSUMERS AND OTHER CELL
PHONE COMPANIES THAT
ADVERTISE HONESTLY."**

Harvey Rosenfield

Attorney for the foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights

Research conducted by Vericours, Inc., a consulting company, showed that about 40 percent of rebate offers are never redeemed.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Clearing the air

Committee approves bill to push EPA to give state waiver

By the Associated Press

WASHINGTON A Senate committee approved legislation Tuesday that would require the EPA to rule by Sept. 30 on California's petition for permission to implement the state's tailpipe emissions law.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen L. Johnson has promised a decision by the end of the year, but that's not fast enough for California officials. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has warned he'll sue if there's not a decision by Oct. 1.

The legislation requiring faster action by EPA passed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on a party line vote of 10-9. It was authored by Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and co-sponsored by Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who chairs the environment committee.

"Passage of the Nelson-Boxer waiver bill sends a signal that EPA should stop stalling and act now on California's request so California and 12 other states can begin setting and enforcing standards on carbon emissions from the transportation sector," Boxer said.

Under the Clean Air Act, California has special permission to implement its own pollution regulations if it gets a federal waiver. Other states can then adopt California's standards or stick with the federal rules.

In this case, California wants permission to put in

place a state law to cut greenhouse gas emissions, mostly carbon dioxide, by an estimated 25 percent from cars and 18 percent from sport utility vehicles beginning in 2009. If California gets its wavier, a dozen other states are prepared to follow in its footsteps.

California submitted the waiver request in December 2005. The EPA began considering it actively only after a Supreme Court decision this past April specified that the agency has authority to regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases linked to global warming.



PASSAGE OF THE NELSON-BOXER WAIVER BILL SENDS A SIGNAL THAT EPA SHOULD STOP STALLING AND ACT NOW ..."

Sen. Barbara Boxer,
D-Calif

Boxer and other Democrats and environmentalists are growing convinced the Bush administration will deny California the waiver because of pending federal regulations being crafted in response to an executive order from Bush to cut motor vehicle emissions. Those rules are due from EPA and other federal agencies by the end of 2008.

A House version of the Nelson-Boxer bill has been introduced by Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash.

In a dry summer, powerful farmers negotiate water deal

BY GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO The U.S. government appears poised to turn over the rights to billions of gallons of water to a politically connected group of farmers, even as residents across the West are being asked let their lawns go brown and adopt other emergency measures to conserve water.

Under a proposed settlement federal regulators are likely to present Wednesday in Washington, landowners in the Westlands Water District would gain the rights to 1 million acre feet of water, or 15 percent of the federally controlled water in California. That would make it the largest grant to irrigators since the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was created in 1903, agency officials said.



THIS NEW PROPOSAL APPEARS TO INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WATER DIVERSIONS TO THE BIGGEST FARMS OF ALL ."

Hal Candee
Senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council

If drought-like conditions persist, the deal would guarantee the farmers' irrigation pumps will flow, even if that means some cities in the San Francisco Bay area will get less drinking water. That prospect has alarmed environmentalists and others seeking to preserve the state's water supply for cities and an estuary inhabited by an imperiled species of fish.

"This new proposal appears to increase the opportunity for water diversions to the biggest farms of all," said Hal Candee, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources

Defense Council who is participating in the negotiations. "Can a proposal that appears to put a small group of farm operations ahead of the taxpayers and our fish and wildlife resources be justified because it may help one federal agency deal with a specific drainage problem?"

The Westlands Water District, a coalition of giant agribusinesses in the fertile San Joaquin Valley, draws its water from the Central Valley Project, a vast irrigation system that also supplies drinking water to about 1 million households.

A decade ago, the district sued the government after a botched federal project left thousands of acres of cropland tainted by salty, polluted runoff, and caused the death or deformation of thousands of birds. The proposed water-rights deal would settle that lawsuit.

One proposal obtained by The Associated Press would give Westlands members a stake in a massive reservoir, millions of dollars in pumps and pipes, and permanent rights to enough water to serve 8 million people in exchange for assuming the cost of cleaning up farmland left too salty to grow crops. Some other nearby districts would also be included in the agreement.

Jeff McCracken, a bureau spokesman, said he could not confirm that this version would be proposed at Wednesday's meeting in Sen. Dianne Feinstein's office.

A second, competing proposal would offer landowners a contract for less water but would still ensure that Westlands farmers get their water before cities in densely populated Santa Clara and Contra Costa counties. It would also relieve the farmers of their responsibility to pay for much of the cost of building the Central Valley Project's pumps and canals, but they would still be responsible for cleaning up the polluted runoff.

A dry winter has prompted a growing number of communities whose drinking water comes from the Central Valley Project to implement conservation measures and has also forced mandatory rationing in Sonoma and Santa Cruz counties. Farmers, too, are getting reduced water supplies this summer, and have told Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger they may lose valuable crops if the irrigation flow is cut further.

STATE BRIEFS

WALNUT

Retired officer fatally shot

Sheriff's detectives were investigating the killing of a retired Los Angeles police sergeant as he waited for a tow truck after his car got a flat tire.

Ruben Whittington, 62, was shot in the chest late Sunday in Walnut, east of Los Angeles, sheriff's officials said.

Whittington had worked late at his business, Mr. Handyman, and was shot in the 10 minutes between his call to the Automobile Club of Southern California and the tow truck's arrival, said Los Angeles County sheriff's Detective Kevin Lowe.

His widow, Marsha, said he also called her to say he had a flat and had called the Auto Club.

The shooting was possibly a robbery attempt, Lowe said.

Whittington spent 20 years in the Los Angeles Police Department and retired as a sergeant in 1995. A Vietnam veteran, he also taught law enforcement at high schools and wrote a novel, "Soldier: Behind the Badge."

He is also survived by a 25-year-old daughter.

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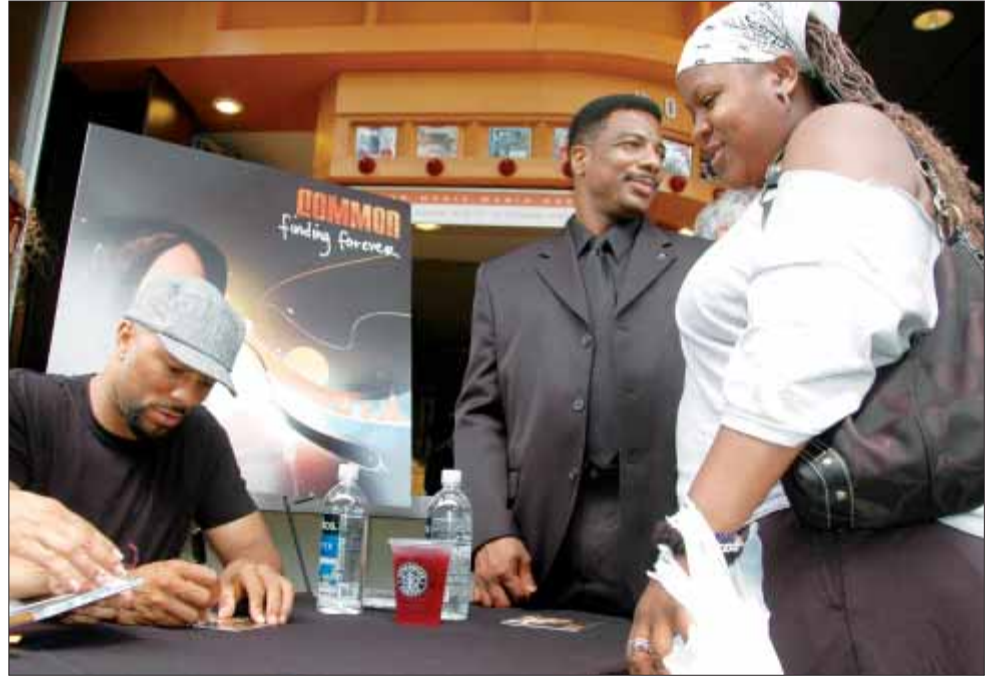
Contract Documents may be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer or by mail for an additional mailing charge (check or money order payable to the City of Santa Monica). Cost of the documents shall be \$50.00. Additional mailing charge shall be \$10.00. Contract Documents may also be examined in City Hall, at the Civil Engineering and Architecture counter, phone number (310) 458-8721. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.santa-monica.org/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a Class C license at the time of bid submission.

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Photos by Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

RHYMES AND LINES: Common signs copies of his latest release *Tuesday* outside of Hear Music on the Third Street Promenade on Tuesday. He also gave a short performance in front of his fans.



Living through his words

Rapper Common draws a crowd during performance on Third Street Promenade

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN There are the few Third Street Promenade performers that can grab the attention of shoppers passing by, wowing a modest crowd by balancing a bowl on their head or impersonating Frank Sinatra.

Then there are the even fewer that can draw in loyalists and shoppers by the hordes.

Cheers and screams could be heard for blocks as hundreds of fans swarmed around a promenade stage on which hip hop legend Common was performing on Tuesday, the Chicago native belting out tunes from his new album, "Finding Forever," which dropped in stores that day.

"Man it feels so good to be rockin' out here," Common said in between songs, commenting on the beautiful Southern California climate.

The outdoor concert and autograph session was hosted by Starbucks Hear Music, a coffee and CD store on the 1400 block of the Third Street Promenade. The performance by Common was the third in a series of Starbucks-hosted summer concerts taking place on the promenade, called "Let's Meet at Starbucks."

Previous performers this summer included Rocco deLuca and the Burden band, and Low Stars, both of which attracted a crowd of about 200 to 300 people, said Tiffany Lee, spokeswoman for the Starbucks Coffee Company.

"Santa Monica is such a great neighborhood," Lee

said. "We wanted to give back to the community."

Tuesday's performance drew the largest crowd to date.

The concert was held on the promenade between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard, the block nearly packed to capacity with not only fans who traveled from near and far, but the lucky few who just happened to work in the stores and didn't have to wait for hours to secure a spot.

Tunji Sookram of Rancho Cucamonga was told this morning by her husband to get dressed, they were heading to a mysterious destination for a surprise. It wasn't until they landed in Santa Monica when Sookram learned of her surprise — a free concert by her favorite hip hop artist.

"It was just beautiful," Sookram said after the performance.

A sea of fists, raised in the air for unity, encircled Common as he started rapping his way through the new album. Some young fans getting into the beat started dancing, others seemingly caught in a trance, swung their heads back and forth.

"How y'all feeling out there?" Common piped into the microphone, greeted with cheers from the crowd.

Pearl Boakye was among those who got lost in Common's lyrics, moving along with the rhythm of the music.

Boakye works in Downtown Santa Monica and decided to take a trip to the promenade after learning about the concert. She's been a fan for as long as she can remember, attracted to Common because he's the only man she knows who can free-style so well.

"I thought the performance was awesome," Boakye said. "The lyrics are on point and are socially conscious."

Many of the fans who came to the concert say they find Common and his lyrics refreshing, a nice departure from the music of many hip hop stars who sing about pouring Cristal down the drain and slapping bitches and hos in the meantime.

"He's responsible with his celebrity," said Nikrumah Farrar, whose been a fan since Common's sophomore album, *Resurrection*. "He has influence over young people and few use that responsibly."

THE NEVER ENDING LINE

The party didn't get started until the clock struck 1 p.m. and a long line began forming from the Starbucks Hear Music — where Common started signing copies of his new album — all the way down to the Broadway Deli.

It wasn't until close to 4 p.m. when the last fan got the last face-to-face interaction with Common.

The long line apparently was daunting enough to scare many fans away.

Germain Reefer was the last person standing in line about an hour after the autograph signing session began. Thirty minutes later, he had only moved 15 feet.

"We're making progress," said Reefer, who works at the Equinox Gym nearby. "I'm fine, I don't have anything to worry about."

Nathan Gauer joined the line behind Reefer about fifteen minutes later. The long-time Common fan learned earlier that morning about the concert and couldn't get away from work in time. When he heard about the autograph session, he darted to the promenade and bought a CD.

The sight of the long line almost scared him away and Gauer said he would leave if the line became a drag.

"I really want to connect with him as a person," Gauer said. "I want to show him my appreciation not just for his music, but the example he sets for young people."

Fans had been waiting in line as early as 8:30 a.m., about 30 minutes before the store opened, Lee said.

"I think the most interesting thing about him is the way he stands for people," said Erin McIntyre, a rarity in the crowd who had just become a dedicated fan.

melodyh@smdp.com



DRY SURFING

A girl catches a ride, balancing herself atop a bicycle along the Santa Monica Beach bike path over the weekend.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Complaint filed after recent raid

FROM COMPLAINT PAGE 1

Services, and later released to his mother.

Gowers said the officers arrested her for child endangerment and for assault on a police officer because she allegedly tried to hit one of the officers who was handcuffing her son.

"Just because we live in the Pico Neighborhood doesn't mean we should be treated like this," Gowers said.

SMPD Lt. P.J. Guido confirmed this week that a complaint has been filed by Gowers against one SMPD officer and that Internal Affairs is handling the investigation.

"We will follow up on Ms. Gowers' complaint, just like we would any other complaint, and investigate it thoroughly," Guido said. "In fairness to all parties involved, it's best to let the investigation proceed ..."

Officers with the SMPD were conducting a gang sweep on Saturday along with officers from the Los Angeles and Culver City police departments, the California Highway Patrol and the FBI, according to SMPD Lt. Darrell Lowe. Each of the agencies are members of the Western Regional Gang Task Force, a collaborative law enforcement effort targeting Westside gangs in Santa Monica, Venice, Inglewood, Culver City and Mar Vista.

Lowe said more than 120 officers were involved in the sweep, but only a handful of whom were from Santa Monica, since Culver City was hosting. Santa Monica hosted a similar sweep last month, as did Inglewood police the month before. Each agency takes a turn hosting.

"It is a multi-layered approach," Lowe said of the sweeps. "We do everything from street enforcement, compliance checks with probation and parole ..."

Parole and probation officers, with police backing, paid surprise visits to the homes of alleged gang members on Saturday, and more than a dozen undercov-

er officers were placed in target areas. Fourteen arrests were made for outstanding felony warrants after searching 30 homes.

"Westside gang members don't recognize geographic boundaries," Lowe said. "While they may claim Santa Monica or Venice shoreline, they will go where opportunities exist. They may have felt a false sense of jurisdictional comfort ... Now, with all officers working in unison, when you see Santa Monica officers working with LAPD, probation and the Highway Patrol, it sends a clear message that we no longer recognize boundaries."

Lowe said he was aware of Gowers' arrest and that she has filed a complaint, but could not comment further since it is under investigation.

Gowers said she also plans to file complaints with Culver City and Los Angeles, but has, so far, been unable to identify the arresting officers. Gowers is also considering filing a lawsuit.

A spokesman for the Culver City Police Department said Tuesday that Gowers has yet to file a complaint. A spokesman from the LAPD said the agency does not disclose whether or not a complaint has been filed against an officer because that information is confidential.

Gowers feels "shocked and disturbed" that officers would allow a raid to take place in a residential neighborhood without blocking off the area, which is a "major through-way for students, residents and children."

"At any moment, the raid could have escalated and shots could have been fired," Gowers said. "Any of the adults or children could have been hit by gunfire or taken hostage ... The perimeter was not secured at all, guns were drawn and tensions extremely high."

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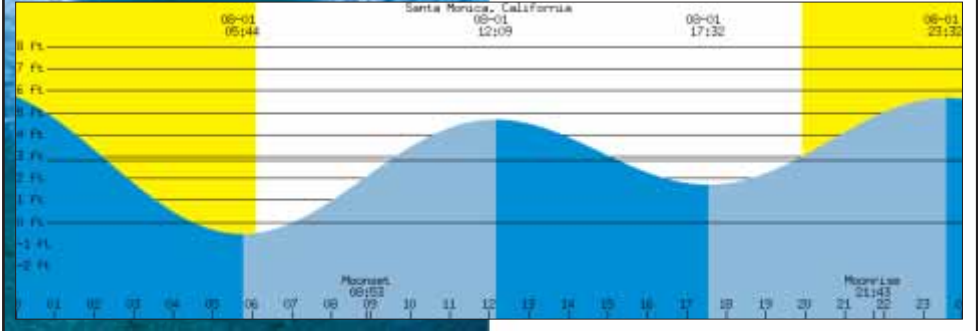
SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 70°**

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)
Today is when our next SW swell is due. NW wind swell should back down considerably as well. The SW swell is from a storm we were tracking near New Zealand since last week. This storm only peaked with 24-foot seas, which is moderate for storms in this region, but this storm stayed together as it traveled northeastward on a trajectory pointed at California.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SW DUE WEDNESDAY...
SW DUE ON 7TH INTO 8TH...



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **July 24, 2007**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healththebay.org - brc@healththebay.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 / 15
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / 15

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	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Del Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Palms Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechase and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Teneased Canyon drain	A	ns
Escalante Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsaugal)	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trazas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kentner storm drain	A	ns
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at San Bernardino County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Puerto Soto Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24672 Malibu Rd.	D	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Sunridge Beach at Middle Canyon Inlet	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	ns
Sunridge Beach (beach location) - daily	A	ns	Venice Beach - projection of Topsoil St.	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns	Morins del Rey, Mothers' Beach - playground tower	B	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Duckweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	C	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zone)	A+	ns	Duckweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Duckweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Puma Creek at Los Trazas County Beach	A+	ns	Duckweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Duckweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	ns	Duckweiler Beach - opposite Hypocline Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns	Duckweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	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.

Heal the Bay

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TASTY TEST

(Above) Chef M.L. Sirichalerm Svasti, one of the famous master chefs of Thailand, critiques students dishes during the first Thai Green Curry competition at the Art Institute of California-Los Angeles on Saturday. (Right) Luis Desantiago and Adil Tajgeer prepare dishes during the contest. (Below) Students await the judging of their works of culinary art.

Photos by Fabian Lewkowicz
fabianl@smdp.com



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Renters staying in control

Rent Control staff are presenting free quarterly seminars for tenants of residential rental property in Santa Monica. All interested tenants are welcome.

Tenants will learn the basics of the Santa Monica Rent Control law. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. Topics will range from a basic outline of rent control and the services the rent control office provides, to technicalities like eviction protection and included amenities.

The next seminar will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Interested tenants should meet in the Multi-Purpose room on the second floor of the Santa Monica Main Library.

To pre-register, call (310) 458-8751 or e-mail rentcontrol@smgov.net

DAILY PRESS

Picnic with a progressive vibe

The third annual Activist Support Circle Unity Picnic will be held on Sunday, Aug. 12, at Clover Park, featuring Los Angeles City Council member Bill Rosendahl as special guest speaker. The public picnic will take place from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., and all progressive activists - and those who are considering becoming activists - are invited to attend and bring a vegetarian potluck dish to share.

Clover Park is located at 2600 Ocean Park Blvd. Activists are also invited to perform music, poetry or other entertainment at the picnic.

The Activist Support Circle is an emotional support group for progressive activists that began in February 2005.

For more information, see www.activistsupportcircle.org or call (310) 399-1000.

DP

Red carpet

Damon, producer Marshall attend ‘The Bourne Ultimatum’ screening

FRANK MARSHALL won't rule out another sequel to the Jason Bourne films, but says the story has already ventured far afield from Robert Ludlum's novels. "There might be an idea out there that we could go forward with,

USHER IS MUM ON NUPTIALS

USHER and his pregnant fiancée, Tameka Foster, canceled their wedding last weekend, but they're apparently still together. "As of right now we don't have a date but we will let you know when we do," he tells Usmagazine.com in a story posted Tuesday. "Everybody's fine. Tameka and the baby are fine." "We're good. We're all doing great now," Foster is quoted as saying. The 28-year-old singer and Foster, his longtime girlfriend, called off their wedding Saturday, saying no details about the details of the cancellation would be released.

AP

but right now, the trilogy is done," Marshall said Monday at a screening of "The Bourne Ultimatum." Matt Damon, who stars as amnesiac assassin Jason Bourne, also attended the screening, a fundraiser for the

Boise Contemporary Theater. The event was held at the Egyptian Theatre. Marshall and Damon have attended screening events in Boise for each Bourne movie. Marshall has local ties to Boise, and has held several

premieres in the city to benefit various causes. Damon said he hoped future projects bring him back to Idaho. "I'm hoping that a lot of people from the industry come to Idaho – the mountains, the desert, the city, with

everything that you have going for you, more movies should be shot out here," the 36-year-old actor said. "The Bourne Ultimatum" opens in theaters nationwide Friday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Faith Hill berates overzealous fan

Callers to a morning radio show said they were embarrassed and angry that a female fan groped **TIM MCGRAW** after his concert at the Cajundome last weekend. The woman grabbed McGraw in the crotch area at the close of his set Saturday as the 40-year-old country singer walked between the barricade and the stage to greet fans. McGraw's wife, Faith Hill, who also performed on the Soul2Soul tour stop, berated the woman from the stage, calling her actions disrespectful. "Someone needs to teach you some class, my friend," Hill said.

Clips of Hill, 39, singling out the woman were posted on various Web sites, including YouTube and TMZ. "Within an hour, that video made it around the world," said C.J. Clement, who hosts a morning talk show on 99.9 FM KTDY with longtime partner, Debby Ray. On Monday, female callers supported Hill's decision to confront the woman, Clement said. "Most said they were embarrassed this happened in Lafayette," he said. "They sided totally with Faith defending her man, standing her ground."

AP



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

On top of your game, Gemini

Happy Birthday!

This year a new level of understanding becomes yours to access. Your creativity surges when and where you least anticipate it. You understand much more than you realize when you deal with many different people. Stability will be important, as others reverse gears out of the blue. Honor your goals and know where you are going. If you are single, you appear to be on the verge of a major relationship. If you are attached, with your sweetie's new innovative attitude, you will head in a new direction. PISCES understands a lot of life's heavies.



Born Today
Designer Yves Saint Laurent (1936)
Musician Jerry Garcia (1942)
Rapper Coolio (1963)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★ Take your time making decisions. Perhaps your creativity emerges because of innate stress. The unexpected occurs when you least expect it. Be willing to adapt rather than judge. Your strength emerges. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You zoom in and create much more of what you need and want. You feel destined to head in a certain direction. A friendship plays an enormous role in making a decision. A partner wants the same importance (ouch!). Tonight: Where the gang is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Take your bows and get ahead of the game. Listen to others and take a stand. Extremes hit in a very different way. The unexpected occurs. Demonstrate your flexibility. Tonight: You're on top of your game.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your imagination and creativity emerge professionally and personally. New insights, surprise calls and unusual invitations head your way. Read between the lines when people speak. Tonight: View life through another's eyes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others invent many reasons to be involved with you professionally and emotionally. You might want to rethink decisions that involve joint finances, risks and your life in general. A loved one knocks on your door. Tonight: Forget boredom.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You might believe that the opposite of what you are hearing is the right decision; it isn't. You might need to move in another direction or try something very different. Tonight: Whether you like it or not, you are in the whirlpool of life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might feel as if you need to jump into the trenches, and you do! You have less control than you realize. Try positive feedback and new information. Realize what might be going on subliminally with an associate. Tonight: Relax in your recliner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Knowing when to call a halt to a situation could be helpful. You manifest unusual creativity, yet many around you could suddenly be coming out of left field. Deal with the unexpected and smile. Tonight: Midweek break.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might want to dance to a different tune from the many people who surround you. News might encourage you to take off in an unanticipated direction. Your creativity emerges out of the blue. Tonight: Easy does it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your instincts guide you in conversations. How you see life could change radically. You might feel enlightened with a lot of get-up-and-go. You might not be sure which way to turn. Nearly any direction provides surprises. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Move in a new direction when thwarted. In fact, you could swerve so quickly, you might not know what hit you. Aim for what you want. Meeting others proves to be a source of anchoring and ideas. Zoom in on what you want. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You have what it takes. Others seek you out on a major level, as they trust your instincts. You might feel as if others finally appreciate what you have to offer. Accept greater responsibility, and you'll have the impact you desire. Tonight: On a roll.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

White (Trois couleurs: Blanc) (R)
7:30

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

Live Free or Die Hard (PG-13)
1:40, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15
Sicko (PG-13)
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00
The Simpsons Movie (PG-13)
1:00, 3:20, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35
Transformers (PG-13)
12:30, 3:30, 6:35, 9:50

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Hairspray (PG)
11:20am, 12:30, 2:10, 3:25,
5:00, 7:50, 9:30, 10:45
Knocked Up (R)
11:05am, 1:55, 4:50, 7:40,
10:30
No Reservations (PG)
11:10am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40
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
Transformers (PG-13)
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

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

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Arctic Tale (G)
1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
Goya's Ghosts (Los Fantasma de Goya) (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
La Vie en Rose (La Mome) (PG-13)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
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
1:10, 4:10, 7:30, 10:30
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13)
12:10, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50
I Know Who Killed Me (R)
11:20am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
I Now Pronounce You
Chuck & Larry (PG-13)
DLP-Digital Projection
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20,
10:00
I Now Pronounce You
Chuck & Larry (PG-13)
12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
Who's Your Caddy? (PG-13)
11:50am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

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

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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

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

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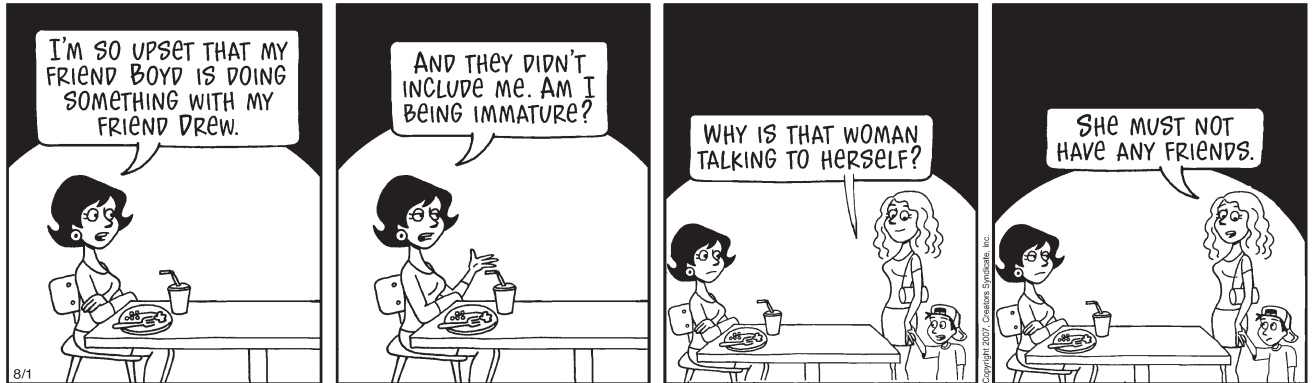
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



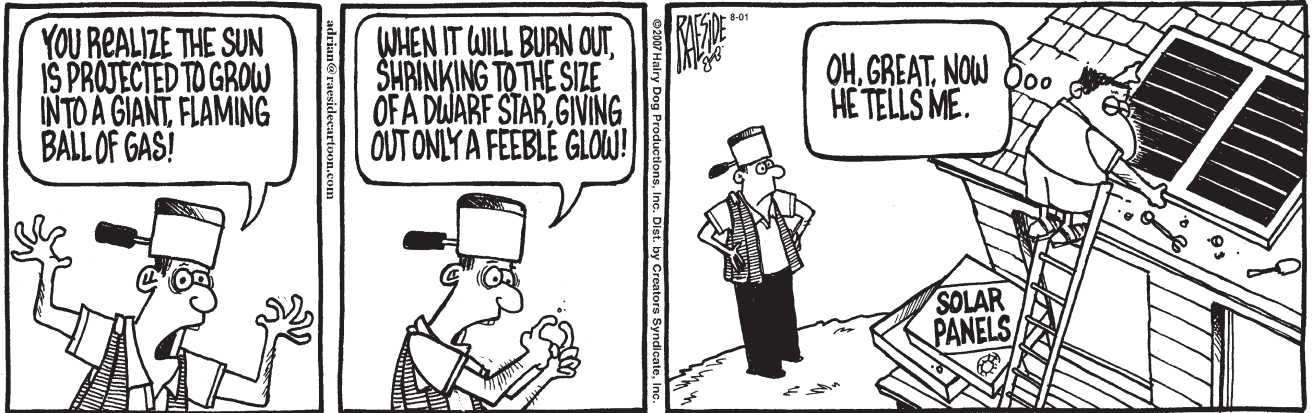
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



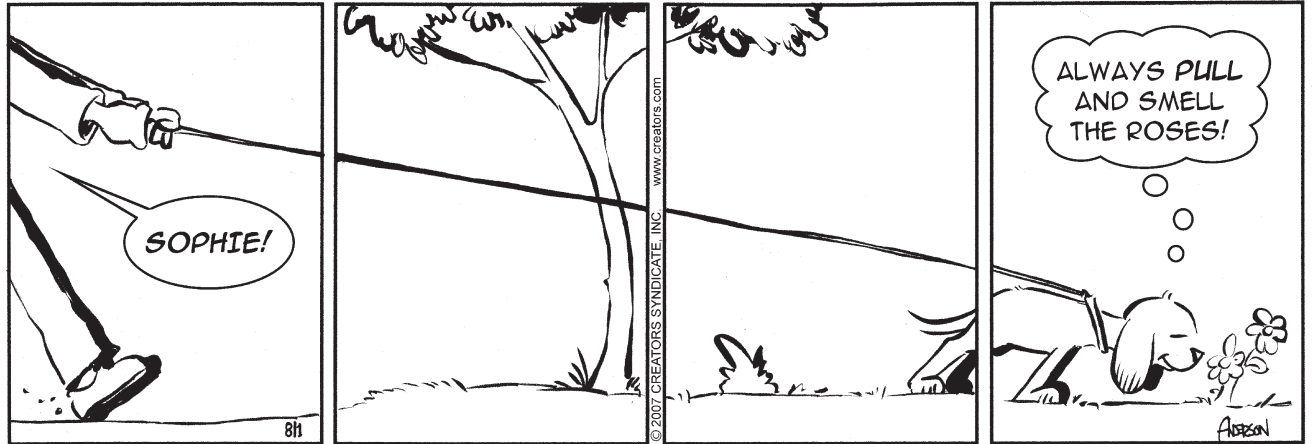
Garfield

By Jim Davis

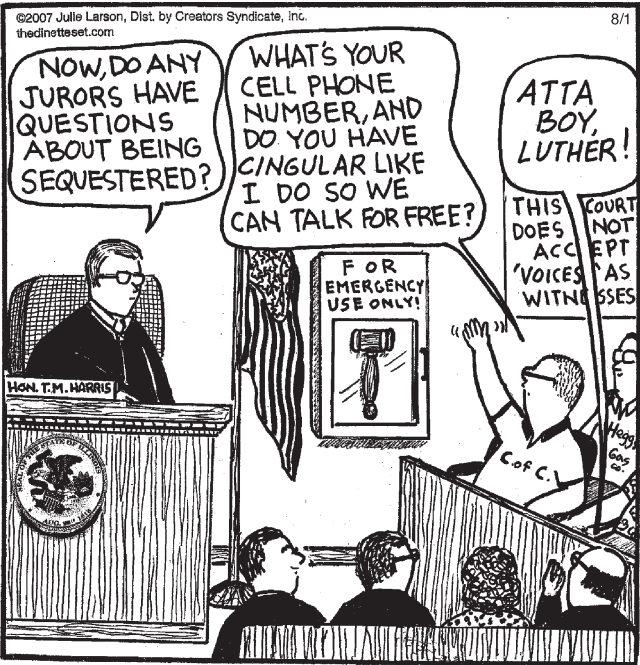


Dog eat Doug

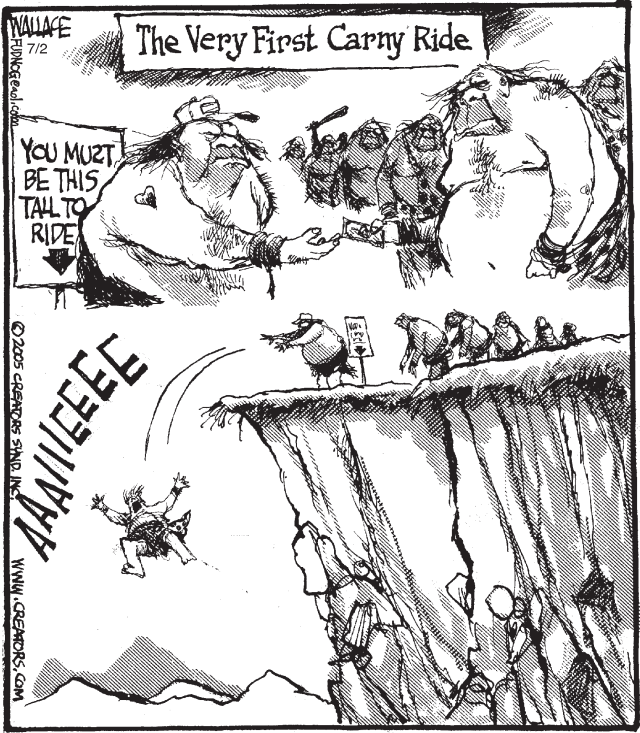
By Brian Anderson



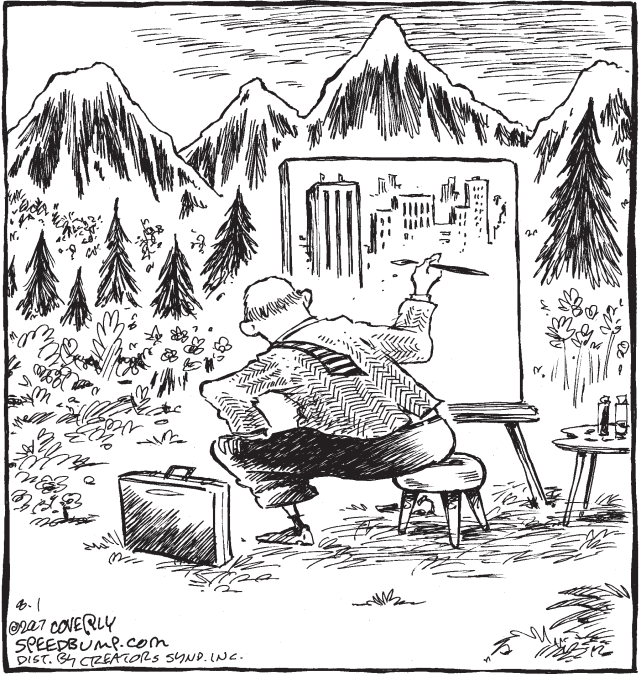
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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Fabian Lewkowicz fabian@smdp.com

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Hotel workers
6 High returns
10 Bert's friend
11 William-son of "Excalibur"
12 Intent look
13 Final letter
14 Influence
15 Crime writer Ed
16 Earth-bound bird
17 Lush
18 Hoop attachment
19 Belts
22 Read quickly
23 Jazz bit
26 Prepares to leave the hotel
29 Tall tale
32 Birth name
33 Antique auto
34 Start a new paragraph
36 TV's Lawrence
37 Capital on the Nile
38 France's longest river
39 As a companion

40 Light gas
41 Hardy heroine
42 Flexes

DOWN

- 1 Inter-twines
2 Hunting goddess
3 De-pressed
4 Grime
5 Behold
6 Bough
7 Sailor's spot
8 Hobgoblin (Var.)
9 Italics feature
11 Dreamy composition
15 Barn sound
17 Sitcom boat
20 USO audience
21 "My country — of thee"
24 Non-native
25 Reactor part
27 Under-stand
28 Game pieces
29 Permitted
30 Laugh-able
31 Tends text
35 Aphro-dite's son
36 Got into
38 Chemist's place

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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			

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
5 18 37 39 43
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: \$65M

Super LOTTO
4 9 11 15 25
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$48M

Fantasy 5
2 8 13 24 38

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 2 7 9
EVENING: 3 9 4

DAILY DERRY
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 06 Whirl Wind
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:40.45

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) A Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan) researcher reported in June that his work reveals that cockroaches have memories and the ability to learn, in that they can be taught to salivate (upon exposure to a specific odor), just as Pavlov showed that dogs could be taught to salivate (upon hearing a bell).
■ The human nose's ability to differentiate smells is greatly improved by mucus, which helps the nose by separating the scents chemically, and researchers from the UK's Warwick University said in April that they had developed an artificial mucus (a thin polymer coating over an artificial nose that enhances that device's effectiveness).
■ Among the recent discoveries of substances that provide similar virility outcomes as Viagra: the venom of a variety of black widow spider found in southern Chile (according to a researcher at Universidad de la Frontera in Temuco, Chile); the health drink Boost Plus (according to a June lawsuit filed by Christopher Woods of New York City, who developed priapism); the winter-flowering heather plant (according to botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, Scotland); and walnut extract (according to a researcher at Universiti Malaya in Malaysia) (though one would need 7 pounds of walnuts to achieve the effect of one pill).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1902 The United States buys the rights to the Panama Canal from France.
1941 The first Jeep is produced.
1944 Anne Frank makes the last entry in her diary.
1945 Mel Ott becomes the third member of the 500 home run club with a Home run at the Polo Grounds in New York, New York.
1948 The U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations is founded.
1957 The United States and Canada form the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).
1966 Charles Whitman kills 15 people shooting from the Main Building at The University of Texas at Austin before being killed by the police.
1970 Powder Ridge Rock Festival.
1975 CSCE Final Act creates the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

WORD UP!

stasis \STAY-sis; STAS-is/, noun; plural stases \STAY-seez; STAS-eez/: 1. A state of balance, equilibrium, or stagnation. 2. Stoppage of the normal flow of a bodily fluid or semifluid.

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Employment

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

HOUSEKEEPER FOR upscale hair salon to work Tues-Sat. 8-5 \$8.50/hr. (310)453-5497

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.

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

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

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. \$20/hr. \$57K/yr. Benefits, OT, PT/FT. 1-866-483-1057, USWA

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT company seeking full-time maintenance with experience in painting, plumbing, and electrical repairs. Salary range \$1733.40-\$2080/month doe. Benefits include vacation, sick, health insurance and 401k. Fax 714-940-0521 or email resumes@barkermgt.com.

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A.B.S - A leader in contemporary/designer women's clothing is looking for Full-Time Sales Associates for our upscale women's retail boutique located on Montana Avenue in Santa Monica. Must be an energetic, self-motivated, sales driven individual with ability to build relationships & develop a strong client base. Previous retail experience preferred. Interested individuals should send resume directly to Attn: Human Resources email: hr@absstyle.com or fax: 310-393-3253
You may also apply in person at: A.B.S - 1533 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90403

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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%	

*Rates subject to change
* As of August 1, 2007
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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF PETER LEMAN SAMEK aka PETER L. SAMEK

Case No. BP105783
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of PETER LEMAN SAMEK aka PETER L. SAMEK

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Edward J. Joyce in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Edward J. Joyce be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on August 29, 2007 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 9 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner: Kim Doering Esq SBN 207601
LAW OFFICES OF CAREN R NIELSEN APC
15760 VENTURA BLVD STE 1520 ENCINO CA 91436-3026
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN780012 SAMEK Aug 1,2,8, 2007

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20071623745 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as STUDIO VAGABOND, 1622 WILSHIRE BLVD. SUITE B, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : CALDER GREENWOOD, 1622 WILSHIRE BLVD. SUITE B, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90403, JENNIFER ROTH, 908 11TH ST. APT. 6, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90403, COLIN HARGRAVES, 908 11TH ST. APT. #6, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90403, DARREN BOLING, 1836 17TH #1, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90404, MARCELLO DACIANO, 1836 17TH ST. #1, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90404. This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)7/9/2007. /s/: JENNIFER ROTH, CALDER GREENWOOD, COLIN HARGRAVES, DARREN BOLING, MARCELLA DACIANO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/9/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/11/2007, 7/18/2007, 7/25/2007, 8/1/2007

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20071533056 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as RAVISHING SHAPES, 16461 VENTURA BLVD. UNIT-6. The full

DBAS

name of registrant(s) is/are : LISA RACITI, 707 HARDING AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90022 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein. /s/: LISA A. RACITI
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 6/26/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/25/2007, 8/1/2007, 8/8/2007, 8/15/2007

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