

# 8 Santa Monica Daily Press

FEELING LUCKY?  
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE HITTING THE WAVES ISSUE



Alexandra Bissonnette [news@smdp.com](mailto:news@smdp.com)

**SUMMER FUN:** Kids spend their day learning to surf in the Santa Monica sun with help from instructors at one of three surf camps City Hall hired.

## Overcrowded waves could become a thing of the past

BY MELODY HANATANI  
Daily Press Staff Writer

**SANTA MONICA BEACH** Terry Dunn knew there was something different in the water. The long-time surfer was hanging out in the water off Bay Street on Monday, chatting with an acquaintance about the noticeable decrease in beach activity, seeing fewer

novices attempting to ride the waves. "Last year it was your typical zoo in August with a million classes," Dunn said. "This year it's a lot less." The drop could be attributed to heightened City Hall regulation of surf camps this summer, all instruction activity, whether group or one-on-one lessons, is required to have a permit for the first time.

Camps and private instruction were previously free to operate without a city-issued permit as long as they had less than 20 students. The lax policy resulted in a number of problems, including occasional conflicts between recreational surfers and teachers, and challenges for lifeguards trying to man-

SEE SURF PAGE 10

## L.A. leaders reject latest transportation tax measure

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOS ANGELES** Los Angeles County leaders denied a request on Tuesday to put a proposed half-cent sales tax increase on the November ballot that could raise up to \$40 billion for road and transit projects, including the long-discussed subway to the sea.

The county board of supervisors voted 3-2 to reject the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's request to put the measure on the general election ballot. The supervisors who voted no said they were opposed to new taxes.

The MTA would have to spend up to \$10 million to put the measure on a separate ballot for the Nov. 4 election, but the agency said it would file a lawsuit to force the measure onto the existing ballot. Agency spokesman Rick Jager said the board was asked to consider whether the measure was written correctly to be placed on the ballot.

"They can't merely reject it because of their political views," Jager said. "The voting public should get a chance to decide."

A consolidated ballot would cost the MTA about \$7 million, while printing a second ballot would waste taxpayer money and confuse voters, he said.

The MTA board, whose members include Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, approved the ballot measure in July to raise the county's sales tax to 8.75 percent from 8.25 percent over 30 years. It would require two-thirds voter approval for passage.

The revenue would go toward expansions of bus and rail, including a subway route linking downtown and Santa Monica, highway road improvements, and local transportation needs.

## Young people tapped to 'connect' local nonprofits to public

BY MELODY HANATANI  
Daily Press Staff Writer

**18TH STREET** For years, young adults have entered their thoughts on Internet diaries, opting for the electronic medium to publish their opinions on a recent TV episode or lat-

est juicy high school gossip, the likes of Blogger and Xanga replacing the old notebook.

But trendy topics seem to be changing, at least in Santa Monica where a group of local teenagers have found something new to blog about — nonprofit organizations.

Their journals are part of a new City Hall-sponsored effort to raise more awareness about the city's 34 artist groups and human service providers, tasking 10 local high school and college-aged students to spend the next three months interviewing and writing about the various cultural and

social efforts, the entries being posted on a new Web site called [SantaMonicaConnect.org](http://SantaMonicaConnect.org).

The initiative was unveiled during a Tuesday press briefing at the 18th Street Arts

SEE WEB SITE PAGE 11

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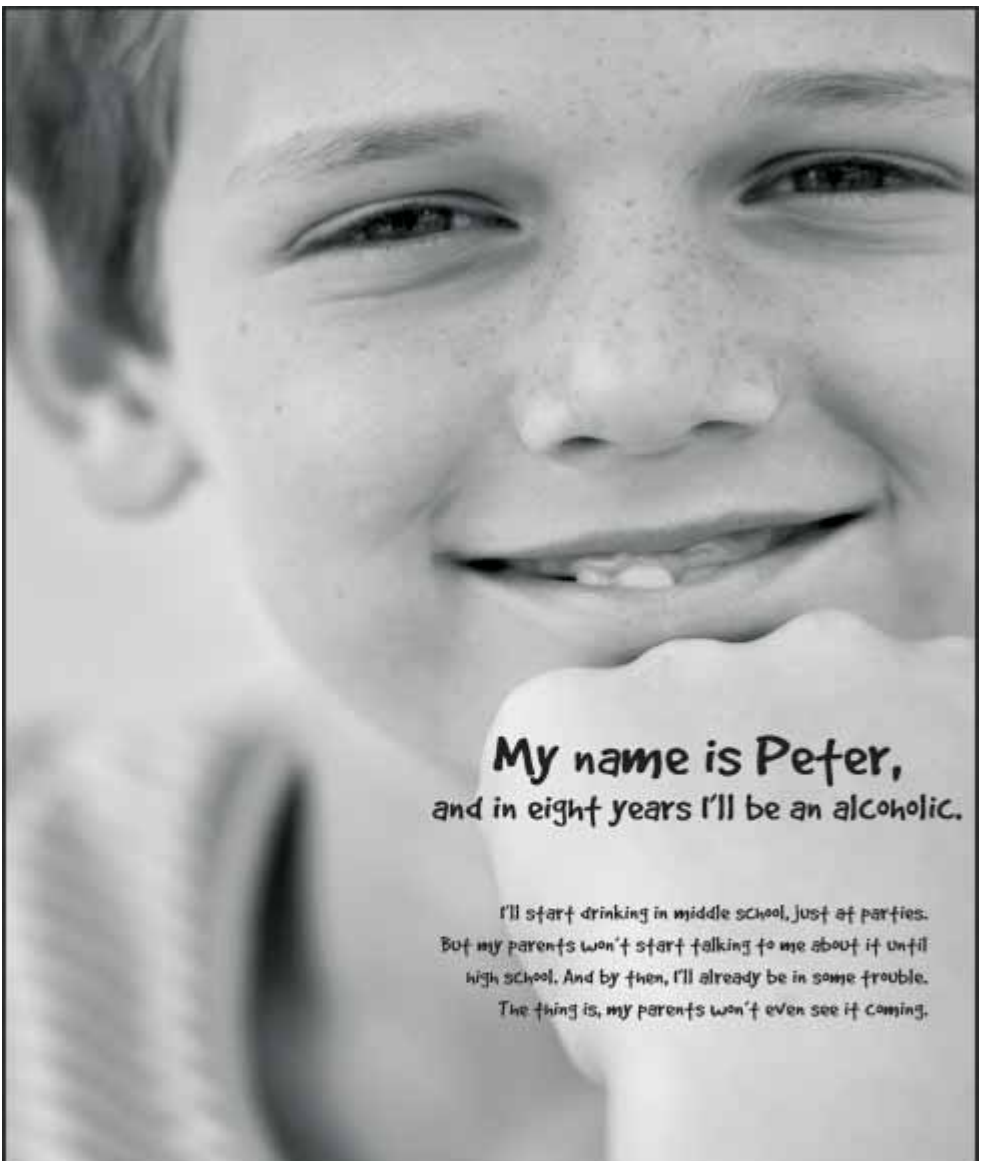
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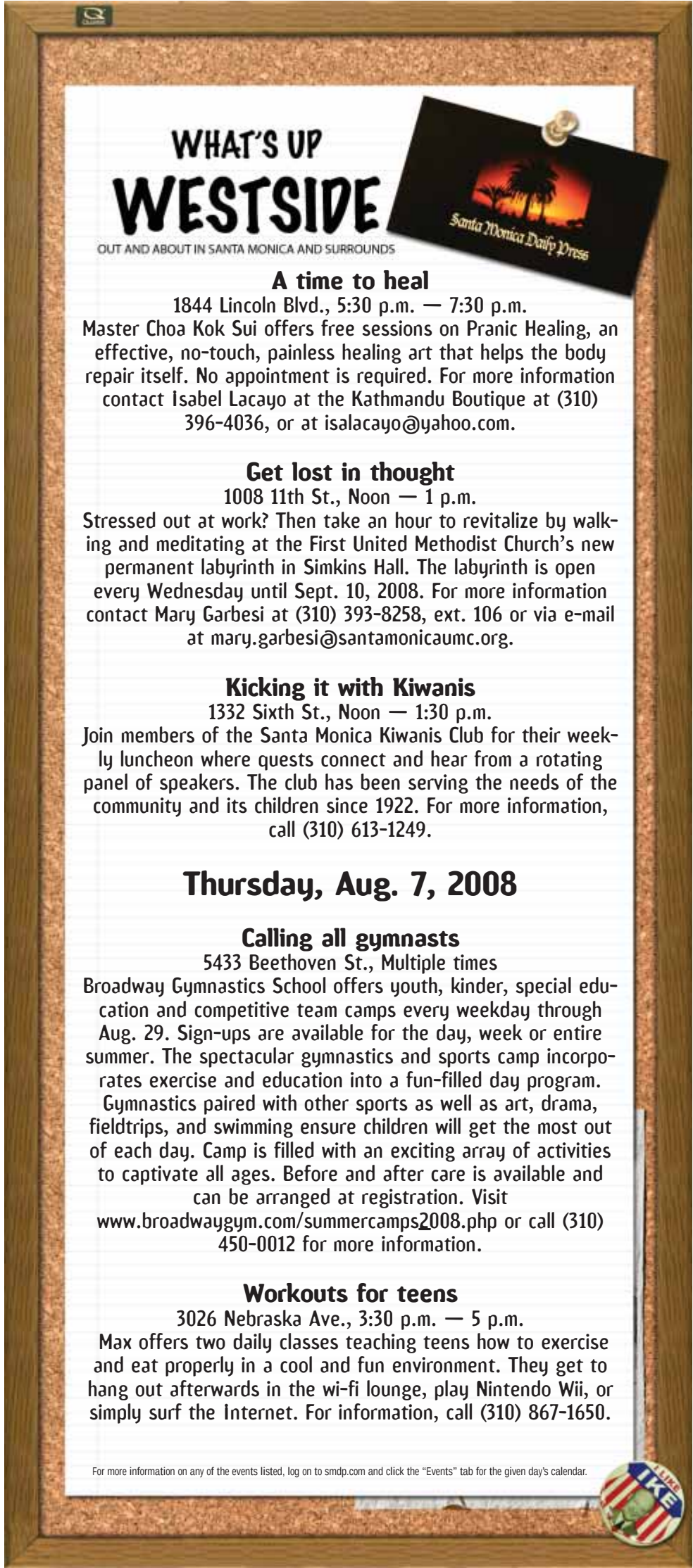
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**WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE**  
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

**A time to heal**  
 1844 Lincoln Blvd., 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.  
 Master Choa Kok Sui offers free sessions on Pranic Healing, an effective, no-touch, painless healing art that helps the body repair itself. No appointment is required. For more information contact Isabel Lacayo at the Kathmandu Boutique at (310) 396-4036, or at [isalacayo@yahoo.com](mailto:isalacayo@yahoo.com).

**Get lost in thought**  
 1008 11th St., Noon — 1 p.m.  
 Stressed out at work? Then take an hour to revitalize by walking and meditating at the First United Methodist Church's new permanent labyrinth in Simkins Hall. The labyrinth is open every Wednesday until Sept. 10, 2008. For more information contact Mary Garbesi at (310) 393-8258, ext. 106 or via e-mail at [mary.garbesi@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:mary.garbesi@santamonicaumc.org).

**Kicking it with Kiwanis**  
 1332 Sixth St., Noon — 1:30 p.m.  
 Join members of the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club for their weekly luncheon where guests connect and hear from a rotating panel of speakers. The club has been serving the needs of the community and its children since 1922. For more information, call (310) 613-1249.

**Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008**

**Calling all gymnasts**  
 5433 Beethoven St., Multiple times  
 Broadway Gymnastics School offers youth, kinder, special education and competitive team camps every weekday through Aug. 29. Sign-ups are available for the day, week or entire summer. The spectacular gymnastics and sports camp incorporates exercise and education into a fun-filled day program. Gymnastics paired with other sports as well as art, drama, fieldtrips, and swimming ensure children will get the most out of each day. Camp is filled with an exciting array of activities to captivate all ages. Before and after care is available and can be arranged at registration. Visit [www.broadwaygym.com/summercamps2008.php](http://www.broadwaygym.com/summercamps2008.php) or call (310) 450-0012 for more information.

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

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to [smdp.com](http://smdp.com) and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.





## SWEET RELIEF

The average price of a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline has dropped in Los Angeles County for 27 consecutive days and has fallen 40.5 cents since hitting a record high, the Oil Price Information Service reported Tuesday. The average of \$4.221 is 37.1 cents lower than at this time last month and eight-tenths of a cent lower than the price reported early Sunday. Ken Prince from Salt Lake City filled his gas tank at a Santa Monica Arco Station on Tuesday. "I saw gas for \$4.59 just the other day," he said, expressing his happiness regarding the lower prices.

Alexandra Bissonnette [news@smdp.com](mailto:news@smdp.com)

## Couple marrying Friday to clinch luck of triple 8s

BY MEGAN K. SCOTT  
Associated Press Writer

It may not be as big as 7-7-7, but thousands of couples are heading down the aisle Friday, hoping the date Aug. 8, 2008, brings them luck and an easy to remember anniversary date.

The number eight has long been considered fortuitous in China, where people pay extra to have it in phone numbers and license plates — and the opening ceremony for the Beijing Olympic Games falls on Aug. 8.

"We chose the date because eight has

always been our lucky number," said upcoming bride Denise Becker, 26, a middle school teacher in East Northport, N.Y.

She and her fiancé always found themselves in Seat 8, Row 8, at movie theaters with eight screens. She started planning her wedding 1 1/2 years ago and was surprised that venues were booked.

Another 8-8-08 bride, Stacy Ebert, 34, of Surprise, Ariz., has a long relationship with the number.

"I like the way it looks, that it's continuous," said Ebert, a Home Depot cashier. "We waited until 2008 because I like eight.

Otherwise we would have gotten married earlier."

In China, the pronunciation of the word eight sounds like the phrase for great fortune, said Han-Chia Li, an instructor of Chinese at the University of Mississippi. A reported record 9,000 Chinese couples plan to tie the knot that day.

In the United States, the wedding and gift registry site WeddingChannel.com has seen a 213 percent increase in weddings for Aug. 8, 2008, compared with the same Friday last year on Aug. 10, said Summer Krecke, the deputy editor.

## Jet evacuated after emergency landing at LAX

BY ROBERT JABLON  
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Passengers were evacuated by inflatable chutes Tuesday after a Honolulu-bound airliner made an emergency landing at Los Angeles International Airport because someone smelled smoke in the cabin.

No sign of fire was found on the aircraft.

Six passengers, including a child, were treated for bumps, bruises and other minor injuries, city fire spokesman Brian Humphrey said.

American Airlines Flight 31 to Honolulu, carrying 188 passengers and six crew members, took off from the airport at 8:48 a.m., American spokesman Tim Smith said. A short time later, the pilot decided to turn back.

"They had some type of smoke or odor in the cabin," Smith said.

The Boeing 757 landed about 57 minutes later and "the captain elected to declare an emergency and get everybody out of the aircraft via the slides," Smith said.

The passengers were to be placed on another plane to Hawaii but it was unclear how long they would have to wait, Smith said. Fire crews using thermal imaging cameras scanned the cabin and cargo hold "and thus far found no evidence of an active fire," Humphrey said. He said the airline, the National Transportation and Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration will investigate.

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said he could not recall the last time an aircraft had to deploy evacuation chutes at the airport.

"You hear from time to time about planes returning to airports because an indicator light went on, but it's pretty rare that they actually deploy chutes," he said. "That's essentially up to the pilot, who makes the call based on the particular circumstance he or she faced."

Smith said one reason the pilot deployed the chutes was the aircraft was totally full of passengers.

The American flight landed as fire crews were preparing for a publicity event at the airport. Fire trucks were supposed to spray streams of water to welcome an Airbus A380 — the world's largest jetliner — flown by Emirates Airlines.

The American emergency landing delayed the Emirates flight for about 45 minutes, and the water cannon ceremony was scrapped, said Erin Franklin, a publicist for the event.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

### Pushing buttons

Editor:

As a member of Santa Monica's silent minority (homeowner, two working-parent family, property tax payer with two kids at Grant Elementary) it takes a lot to prod me into action. But the recent letters to the editor opposing the RIFT initiative based on potentially "lost" income to the city really pushed my buttons.

What will these people claim next, that a vote for RIFT will cause earthquakes, floods, or a plague of locusts? Based on their bizarre logic, if we don't keep building bigger and higher then the city will soon see massive financial devastation. The last time that I checked, there weren't that many vacant parcels of land within city limits. Santa Monica is already 100 percent developed. What they, and the City Council, desire is to over-develop the city. More, more and more is not always better and residents want it to stop!

I find it truly amazing that city government officials are so out of touch with the will of those that elected them, that the citizens of Santa Monica – those of us who actually live here, pay taxes here and send our children to school here – had to place the RIFT initiative on the ballot to force them to listen to us. The only silver lining in this situation is that this is the last straw. That they have finally motivated citizens like me to take action against their build at any cost agenda.

**Steven Brand**  
Santa Monica

### Oil companies should pay

Editor:

Quarter after quarter, and year after year, the oil companies post record profits that are even higher than ever before. If they were just passing the high cost of crude oil on to the consumer, their profits would be constant. No, they are squeezing us for excessive profits simply because they can.

Sure, this hurts us consumers. It is also wrecking havoc on our country's economy. And still, they receive billions in tax breaks. These must stop. Instead, the oil companies should pay a windfall-profits tax. Let's use their profits to fund solar and wind energy alternatives. Then we could drive plug-in electric cars with no carbon footprint on the environment.

**Bruce Joffe**  
Piedmont, Calif.

### GOP needs to wake up

Editor:

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger pushes for a sales tax hike. A one-cent increase for three years would help end the budget impasse and deficit.

The GOP's response: "We continue to be opposed to broad-based rate increases especially in the face of a weak economy." – Roger Niello (R - Fair Oaks).

There you go again. A few anti-tax Republicans continue to force their flawed and warped ideology on millions of Californians, deficits and fiscal instability be damned.

**Ron Lowe**  
Santa Monica

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## Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# Putting a leash on the paparazzi

TO DATE, VIVIENNE AND KNOX JOLIE-PITT have each earned about \$7 million. Considering they're less than a month old and have already made more than most people will earn in their entire lives, I'd say that's pretty good. It's below average in the Jolie-Pitt clan, however, since their older sister made over \$7.5 million by the time she was their age (if Jan Brady thought she had it tough, imagine what it's going to be like growing up in the shadow of Shiloh).

Of course, all they had to do was sit still for the camera — an easy gig for a newborn — and they were independently wealthy before they've been weaned off their mother's internationally recognized teat.

This is the new reality in the celebrity economy; images ranging from the iconic to the idiotic are captured, bartered, and splashed on screens all over the world.

A good percentage of these images originate in L.A.'s "30-mile zone" where you can't swing a dead cat in a sidewalk café on Robertson Boulevard without hitting someone who considers themselves a celebrity. It's time our police department recognized the risks involved in getting those photos and did something about people who will hit a 5-year-old in the face with a camera in order to get a shot of Reese Witherspoon at California Adventure.

I give credit to former LAPD officer and current Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine, whose proposed city ordinance creating "personal safety zones" between photographers and their subjects might help. "This is out of control with the paparazzi that violate all the rules and thinking the law doesn't apply to them," he has said, "and someone's going to get hurt."

Last Thursday, Zine held a hearing at City Hall to discuss the problem. In attendance were musician John Mayer as well as actors Eric Roberts and Milo Ventimiglia who said he'd "lost confidence in the laws" after being followed by carloads of paps (who would jump out at red lights and surround his car while snapping photos) to the Sheriff's station and being told there was nothing they could do to help him.

Unlike Zine who is a native Angeleno, the chief of police, Bill Bratton, is a carpetbagger who has only lived here for about six years. Zine grew up here and Bratton flew here. If either of them has a better sense of the unique personality of our fair city, it's the councilman and not the chief.

That's not going to stop Bratton from appearing in front of a KNBC camera, sweaty from exercise in a sleeveless T-shirt with a gym towel around his neck, to patronize all of us with his infinite wisdom.

"I figured I'd come over and straighten it out," the chief said. "We have no intention of participating in today's hearing, a

total waste of time. We have sufficient laws on the books that we enforce to deal with this issue.

If you notice since Britney started wearing clothes and behaving, Paris is out of town not bothering anybody any more (thank God), and evidently Lindsay Lohan has gone gay, you don't seem to have much of an issue. If the ones that attract the paparazzi behave in the first place (like we expect of anybody), that solves about 90% of the problem.

## UNLIKE [DENNIS] ZINE WHO IS A NATIVE ANGELENO, THE CHIEF OF POLICE, BILL BRATTON, IS A CARPETBAGGER WHO HAS ONLY LIVED HERE FOR ABOUT SIX YEARS.

The rest of it we can deal with so as far as all this grandstanding and foolishness, waste of city time on this issue, and the fact that I felt aggravated enough about it to interrupt a workout to come over and set the record straight — LAPD has no intention of participating in this farce."

God forbid the chief of police should be "aggravated" by a risk to public safety.

Never mind that L.A. County Sheriff Lee Baca was in attendance, along with representatives from the celebrity-laden enclaves of Beverly Hills, Malibu, and Calabassas; and forget about the fact that Chief Bratton lives in Los Feliz where the only paparazzi are following Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale. Boston Bill says there is no problem. He handed reporters a list of over 40 laws dealing with aggressive photographers, but I guess he never gave it to the rank-and-file in his department.

I've watched my Britney being trailed by a caravan of about a dozen vehicles full of photographers and I've seen six or seven cars run a red light while chasing her. This cat-and-mouse game has been going on for almost a year and only once — once — has Bratton's LAPD seen fit to enforce the "sufficient" laws we've got.

So maybe it's time for some new laws. As John Mayer put it, "you can either name the law after what it prevents, or you can name it after the first person who is killed." Got that, chief?

KENNY MACK is a writer, comedian, and social commentator living in Santa Monica who thinks the best thing Bill Bratton has ever done was getting the otherwise brilliant Rikki Klieman to marry him. He can be reached at [kennymack@gmail.com](mailto:kennymack@gmail.com)

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## Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# L'état, c'est Obama

**A SEXY UPGRADED BOEING 757 WITH** new Rolls Royce engines, custom paint job and interior: \$110,000,000.

A night stay in the Presidential Suite at the Hotel Adlon in Berlin: \$15,550.

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In the denouement of the Dauphin of Democratopia's Density of Hype Tour, one is left to ponder how Barack Obama's overseas dog and pony show with his stenographers from the major networks, now known as ObamaTV, will pornographically propagandize him in securing the American presidency. I heard that Obama's "tour of duty" sent a shiver down Chris "Hardball" Matthew's other leg.

While Obama has co-opted the faux-fur accouterments of a president, he has neglected to notice that he has not yet been elected to the position despite the turgidly tumescent ululations of the French and German people. I placed an inquiry to a local travel agent, Anna-April Ross, to see what a leased Boeing 757 was spinning for these days: \$9,000/hour or \$1.5 million for a 7 day booze cruise. This figure is not reflective, however, for the inclusion of fuel, flight crew, in flight meals, movies, landing fees or stops at the drive-thru window at Spago's.

The Mughal of Moolah also had the paint scheme redone on O Farce One. As the paint and labor doesn't come from Home Depot, custom jobs like this start in the high six-figures department. Obama also stripped the American flag from the tail and emblazoned it with his personal coat of arms while the entire passenger cabin interior was razed and redesigned. The rear third of the bird was designated as the press section, affectionately dubbed the "veal pen" by its habitués. The walls of the plane are also adorned with candid photos of HRH Obama's favorite subject — himself. The forward First Class section features only four seats of which a single throne has the "Obama '08" campaign emblem embroidered in the headrest so that it frames him like a Byzantine Emperor's halo. It complements his redesigned Presidential Seal.

O Farce One, or "Sally", as the Charlemagne of Change has christened her, will log 18,222 round-trip miles on this tour of Barack-apalooza. She sucks up 11,489 gals of JP5 jet fuel at the going rate of \$4.59/gallon. The five "fill'er ups" will run \$263,672. You can keep the change. On an environmental note, "Sally" will vomit forth 32,443 pounds of CO2 while airborne, which begs the question: How many polar bears were crushed and drowned beneath the studded jackboots of Kaiser Barry's carbon footprint?

While this is a mere distraction from what's really important to the Europe ... uh, I mean, the American people, there aren't any polar bears in Germany or France anyway. C'est la vie. Sa Majesté Barry has certainly accessed a brighter and better future for himself at the expense of the unwashed rabble among his \$5-\$25 donor base.

After all, his donors pimped his new ride, bought the gas for the trip, fed his entourage in the best restaurants and furnished the five star hotel accommodations while they had to decide between putting gas in their cars or taking the bus and eating ramen with Spam for the month. In the aftermath the of the Sun King of Hope's departure from the "broken system of campaign finance", he has returned to the gilded pork trough of political fast cash and plutocratic excess that the federal campaign finance limits had sought to curb since 1972. Accepting federal campaign funding enforced a degree of frugality upon a given candidate while forestalling any charges that the Seal of the Presidency was fiscally procured.

By June of 2008, the Emperor of Change had blinged his way into \$287 million ducats since the beginning of his campaign while expending \$244 million ducats to beat up that sweet little old lady from New York. He outspent her three to one and barely limped across the finish line with a 41,000-vote lead out of 34 million cast.

I would neither quantify nor qualify that expenditure as a reasonable return on one's investment. As Obama professes that he will lead the U.S. economy to greater fiduciary solvency, I am bereft of any confidence in his ersatz claim considering his compulsive shopping habits to burnish his Lilliputian foreign policy portfolio with donor financing. Or more importantly, how will he plunder the pockets of the U.S. taxpayers if he is elected president?

While feasting at the banquet of applause from foreign kings and adulatory European audiences, an inchoate mob paid for his trappings of satrapy.

Meanwhile, McCain was with the Hobbits of Ohio having bratwurst and beers and engaging in "kitchen table diplomacy" that Obama, while sipping a sublime Chateau Margaux with President Sarkozy, has arrogantly neglected in favor of a more refined class of people.

Anybody want a beer?

STEVE BREEN prefers his political BBQ medium rare and conservatively roasted over an open Mesquite grill and is still the "best looking mailman in the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at [dulcamarax@yahoo.com](mailto:dulcamarax@yahoo.com).

Federal Consumer Protection has confirmed the fuel saving described in this advertisement.

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pollution, this 22% of each gallon normally burns when it reaches the platinum of the catalytic converter.

Unfortunately, the converter's platinum burns this fuel outside of the engine, where the heat and energy produced from this fuel cannot give you more miles per gallon.

But when the air and fuel carry the platinum into the engine, 22% more of each gallon burns inside the engine so that 22% fewer gallons are required to drive the same distance.

After a five year study, the government concluded: "Independent testing shows greater fuel savings with the Gas Saver

than the 22% claimed by the developer."

In addition, the Gas Saver has received patents for cleaning out carbon and raising octane, making the higher cost fuel unnecessary for most vehicles.

Joe Robinson, the developer, commented: "Since the government concluded its study, we have sold a half million Gas Savers. To our surprise, more people buy the Gas Saver because it extends engine life by cleaning out the carbon than buy it to increase gas mileage or to raise octane."

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## The Q-Line

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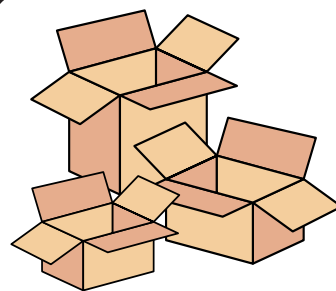
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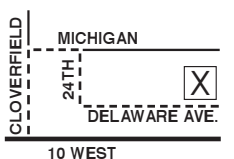
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## Market Matters

Brian Hepp

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# Tips for teaching your children about money

**AMONG THE MANY RESPONSIBILITIES** of adulthood, managing personal finances is one of the most important skills you can learn. Unfortunately, many of us have had to learn this lesson the hard way, without any formal education on the subject. If you want to help give your kids a head start on the road to financial independence and success, there are many simple tips you can use to get them started early.

This week, in the first of a two-part series, we'll discuss six easy ways to help your younger children learn about the value of money and investing. In the second part, next week, we'll go over another six tips, to make it an even dozen. Here are some ideas for you to consider:

## INTRODUCE KIDS TO DOLLARS AND CENTS

Teach your kids how to count change, and help them understand the value of each coin. Explain how to pay for things. For example, if they find a toy at the store that costs \$2.75, show how they would need two \$1 bills plus three quarters to pay for this purchase. You can even let them make the exchange at the check-out counter.

## EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT OF EARNING MONEY

It's important for your children to understand how you earn money when you go to work, and also how that money pays for housing, food and the many fun activities your family enjoys. Explain to them the benefits of having a job, and help them appreciate the reason you leave the house each morning.

## RESPECT MONEY

To set a good example for your children, don't discard pennies or small change. Show them how saving even small amounts of change in a jar can add up to a significant sum. Count it out together every few months, and help them pick out something

useful they can spend it on.

## GIVE YOUR CHILDREN AN ALLOWANCE

By providing your children with a weekly allowance, you can teach them both how to save money, and also how to spend it wisely. You can also tie their allowance to weekly chores done around the house, to help them learn the concept of earning their money. It may also be a good idea to pay their allowance in small increments, such as five \$1 bills instead of one \$5 bill. Dividing their money in this way can help them see how they can use a portion of the money to spend on things they want, and also how to save a portion of their earnings as well.

## HELP SET SAVINGS GOALS TO WORK TOWARD

If your child wants to purchase a video game or a new item of clothing, work with them to figure out ways to save for this goal. If the item costs \$20, help them estimate how much of their allowance they will need to save and how long it will take to save that amount. You can also encourage your child to find ways to make some extra money by picking up additional chores around the house.

## MATCH THEIR SAVINGS

One way to encourage good habits is by matching a portion of your child's savings. For example, you could contribute an extra 50 cents for each dollar they put away. Giving them extra incentive can increase their savings more rapidly and teach them good habits at the same time.

These are just a few ideas to get your kids started on the road to savings. Check back again next week for more thoughts on how to help them learn about personal finance.

**BRIAN HEPP** is a financial consultant and can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at [brian.hepp@agedwards.com](mailto:brian.hepp@agedwards.com).

## TECHNOLOGY

# Cisco earnings up 4 percent

**BY PETER SVENSSON**  
AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK** Cisco Systems Inc. reported a 4 percent increase in quarterly profit Tuesday, beating analysts' expectations by a penny per share, but signaled that the weak economy would affect results in the next few quarters.

The world's largest maker of computer networking gear said it earned \$2.01 billion, or 33 cents per share, in the three months ended July 25, its fiscal fourth quarter. In the same period last year, Cisco earned \$1.93 billion, or 31 cents per share.

Sales rose 10 percent to \$10.4 billion.

Excluding one-time items, earnings were 40 cents per share. Analysts had expected Cisco to report earnings of 39 cents per share on \$10.3 billion in revenue, according to a Thomson Financial poll.

Chief Financial Officer Frank Calderoni said the results, coming in "a quarter of somewhat uncertain macroeconomic conditions," demonstrated the strength of the

company's business model. However, the company's forecast for the first half of the current fiscal year showed signs of a pull-back in customer spending.

Chief Executive John Chambers said revenue for the current quarter, the fiscal first, would grow by 8 percent from a year ago, suggesting revenue of \$10.3 billion. Analysts had been expecting revenue of \$10.4 billion.

For the following quarter, which ends in January, Chambers predicted revenue growth of 8.5 percent, pointing to sales of \$10.7 billion. Analysts had been looking for \$10.8 billion.

Speaking on a conference call to discuss results for the fiscal fourth quarter, Chambers said uncertainty in the economy meant that the company would not provide a full-year outlook as it usually has.

Investors seemed unfazed, sending Cisco shares up 92 cents, 4 percent, to \$23.57 in extended trading. The shares had gained 3 percent to close at \$22.65 before the earnings report.



## Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# More than meets the eye

I REMEMBER PLAYING WITH Transformers toys when I was a child. After last summer's blockbuster movie, most of the world now knows what the Hasbro toys are and many children want them. When you stop to think about it, Transformers are neat toys, really two toys in one.

If you purchased a transformer toy, such as "Bubble Bee," back in the 1980s you got a yellow Volkswagen beetle that changed into a humanoid action figure.

The whole idea of transforming one thing into another made me realize that people do this with spaces in their homes all the time. The idea of transforming a space into another type of space is only limited by your imagination, the laws of physics, and your bank account.

Most people who own a home want a home office. This desire comes more from a need than a want. You want a place you can balance your checkbook, plan that dream vacation and do work away from everyone else. A home office can be as simple as a desk that folds down from the kitchen wall, or a more elaborate corner space in a bedroom. However, to make a true home office you want to have a door you can shut to focus on tasks. Without tearing down walls and changing the configuration of your home, the best way to create a home office is to change a bedroom into an office.

What distinguishes an office from a bedroom is a closet. If you have a bedroom and change it into an office there is no need to remove the closet. All you have to do is keep the closet door closed.

The most important piece of furniture to put into an office is a desk. If you go to your local hardware store, you can find shelving systems that can be used as desks. The nice thing about using a shelving system is you can customize it to your room.

If you own a home with a backyard, you can turn that space into an outside living space. Many high-end homes that cost millions of dollars have beautiful outdoor spaces with outdoor kitchens, fire pits and green space. However, you do not need to be a millionaire to have an outdoor space. All you need is a little space, imagination, time and money.

My friend is a landscape architect and he said that when you are planning an outdoor living space it is important to break it down into phases.

Rome was not built in a day and your outdoor space will not be either. Sure, you could do the entire transformation at once, but creating an outdoor space over time is just as effective.

The first step to creating an outdoor living space is deciding what you want to do. If you are a weekend warrior who can do many things yourself, get some books for ideas and put together a plan. Write down what you want and price out materials. Just like you build a house from the ground up, you want to build your outdoor space from the ground up too.

If adding plants and grass, remember to add a sprinkler system in the beginning. If you want to build a deck, make sure you reinforce it correctly.

If you are putting up small structures, make sure you pull permits. The last thing you want to do is create a beautiful outdoor space and have a city ordinance officer come by and tell you to tear it down because it does not meet city codes.

Just because a room is called a bedroom does not mean you have to put a bed in it. The same goes with any other room in your home. I met a nice older couple who built a gorgeous house, but never put in a kitchen because they did not cook.

They said they would put in the kitchen before they moved since they did not want the kitchen to become dated. Sure, that sounds a little unorthodox, but if you do not use a kitchen what does it matter? Of course, there are those individuals who decide to turn their garages into gyms which can rival more expensive large gyms.

The possibilities are endless. Remember that transforming one type of space into another type of space is only limited by your imagination, the laws of physics, and your bank account.

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](mailto:michael.heayn@wamu.net).

## TECHNOLOGY

# Giant online security hole getting fixed, slowly

BY JORDAN ROBERTSON

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A giant vulnerability in the Internet's design is allowing criminals to silently redirect traffic to Web sites under their control. The problem is being fixed, but its extent remains unknown and many people are still at risk.

The gaping security hole enables a scam that targets ordinary people typing in a legitimate Web address. It happens because hackers are now able to manipulate the machines that help computers find Web sites. If the trick is done properly, computer users are unlikely to detect whether they've landed at a legitimate site or an evil double main-tained by someone bent on fraud.

Security experts fear an open season for virus attacks and identity-fraud scams.

"It's kind of like saying, 'There's a bunch of money on the street. If you can get over

there soon enough, you can get it,'" said Ken Silva, chief technology officer for VeriSign Inc., which manages the ".com" and ".net" directories of Internet addresses. "It's something the industry is taking seriously. You'd be in a bad place if you weren't doing something about it."

The bug's existence was revealed nearly a month ago. Since then, criminals have pulled off at least one successful attack, directing some AT&T Inc. Internet customers in Texas to a fake Google site. The phony page was accompanied by three programs that automatically clicked on ads, with the profits for those clicks flowing back to the hackers.

There are likely worse scams happening that haven't been discovered or publicly disclosed by Internet service providers. "You can bet that the (Internet providers) are going to stay tightlipped about any attacks on their networks," said HD Moore, a security researcher.

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## WALL STREET

# Fed report boosts stock market

BY JOE BEL BRUNO  
Associated Press Writer

**NEW YORK** An already soaring Wall Street extended its advance Tuesday after the Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged and assuaged some of the market's fears about the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average shot up more than 330 points, and all the major indexes had gains approaching 3 percent.

The market was enjoying a big rally before the Fed meeting as investors responded to a report that services sector activity fell less than expected last month and to another drop in oil prices that took crude as low as \$118 a barrel.

The Fed gave stocks another huge push higher in the last hours of trading. In a statement accompanying its widely expected rate decision, the central bank reported that "economic activity expanded in the second quarter, partly reflecting growth in consumer spending and exports." That assessment was welcome news to a market that has feared the economy was falling into recession because of weak consumer spending.

The Fed did have some darker news, stating that "inflation has been high, spurred by the earlier increases in the prices of energy and some other commodities." But it also said it expected inflation to moderate later in the year.

"The wording is a little strong over inflation, but there's really no real change in pol-

icy," said Brian Gendreau, investment strategist for ING Investment Management. "I think they are trying to buy time to allow the economy to recover, and so that the financials can slowly repair."

Ryan Larson, senior equity trader at Voyager Asset Management, said he believes the central bank will keep rates on hold until the early part of 2009. He said of Fed officials, "they seem more concerned about growth for the rest of this year, and I'd say right now they appear to be dovish for the short term."

The oil market also helped soothe some of Wall Street's worries — crude fell as low as \$118 a barrel before settling at \$119.17, down \$2.24 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil has now fallen \$28 from its July 11 high of \$147.27 on widening expectations that the slumping U.S. economy will keep curbing consumer demand for gasoline and other petroleum products.

Stocks had plunged in June and early July as oil reached new heights; the fear on Wall Street was that higher prices for fuel would curtail consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the economy. With oil falling, and the Fed citing economic growth in its statement Tuesday, investors were allowing themselves to again feel a little more optimistic after a year of financial crises and soaring commodities costs that have pummeled stocks.

The Dow rose 331.62, or 2.94 percent, to 11,615.77. It was up about 225 points short-

ly before the Fed's 2:15 p.m. EDT announcement.

Broader indexes also rose sharply. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 35.87, or 2.87 percent, to 1,284.88, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 64.27, or 2.81 percent, to 2,349.83.

It was the Dow and S&P 500's biggest one-day gain since April 1, when the indexes kicked off the second quarter with a huge rally. This was also the Nasdaq's biggest point and percentage rise since mid-July.

Treasury bond prices fell after the Fed released its decision. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its prices, rose to 4.02 percent from 3.97 percent late Monday.

The dollar traded mostly higher against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Early in the session, shares rose sharply after the Institute for Supply Management, the trade group of corporate purchasing executives, said its services sector index rose to 49.5 from 48.2 in June. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/IFR predicted it would rise to 49.0.

Any reading below 50 signals contraction. The report is based on a survey of the institute's members and covers such indicators as new orders, employment, inventories, prices and exports and imports.

The notion that the sector might be in better shape than many investors feared gave Wall Street reason for optimism.

Earnings reports continued to stream in.

Cisco Systems Inc. reported late Tuesday a 4.4 percent increase in net income for its latest quarter, beating analyst expectations by a penny per share. The world's largest maker of computer networking gear said sales spiked almost 10 percent. Shares closed up 66 cents, or 3 percent, at \$22.65, then tacked on another 3 percent in after-hours trading.

Procter & Gamble Co., maker of Tide detergent and Gillette razors, said its fiscal fourth-quarter profit jumped 33 percent, boosted by price increases, overseas sales and tax benefits. Shares rose \$2.09, or 3.2 percent, to \$67.91.

Archer Daniels Midland Co. reported a 61 percent plunge in fourth-quarter profit, but said revenues soared amid higher prices for commodities like wheat and corn. The stock fell \$1.53, or 6 percent, at \$25.87.

D.R. Horton Inc., the nation's largest homebuilder, posted a narrower fiscal third-quarter loss as charges to write down the value of property declined. Shares fell 5 cents to \$11.17.

Advancing issues led decliners by a 3 to 1 basis on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 5.35 billion shares, up from 4.65 billion shares on Monday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 16.90, or 2.40 percent, at 721.04.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 0.15 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 2.52 percent, Germany's DAX index rose 2.66 percent, and France's CAC-40 rose 2.47 percent.

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# Buoys considered for deadly border canal

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT  
Associated Press Writer

**SAN DIEGO** The agency that is lining a border waterway with concrete agreed Tuesday to consider adding ladders and buoys to prevent migrants from drowning when they cross illegally from Mexico into Southern California.

The Imperial Irrigation District is having second thoughts about whether designs for 23 concrete-lined miles of the All-American Canal offer enough protections against drownings on an 80-mile waterway that has claimed more than 500 lives since it was built in 1942. The project to limit water seepage will deepen the canal and make the current faster.

The district's board, meeting in El Centro, voted unanimously to ask its partner on the project, the San Diego County Water Authority, to consider buoys and ladders on each side every 150 feet along the concrete lining, along with patches of bolted, synthetic cleats and a 10-foot fence on the south side.

The changes would represent a mid-construction shift on the \$285 million project, which began in July 2007 and is scheduled to finish in 2010. Current construction plans call for installing ladders every 250 feet on alternating sides.

"(It) is the clear sentiment of this board that more can and should be done to safeguard human life than has been the case to this point in the construction process," the board wrote to San Diego authorities.

The district's shift is a modest victory for an unusual alliance of Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-El Cajon, an immigration hard-liner, and his brother John, who has installed water jugs in the Southern California desert since the late 1990s to aid dehydrated border crossers.

"We won the fifth round," said John Hunter, who last month showed the board video testimonials of families who lost loved ones in the canal. "We still have 10 rounds to go."

The San Diego County Water Authority, which is paying for much of the project, believes the measures may encourage migrants to cross illegally, said Halla Razak, the agency's Colorado River programs director.

"We believe these kind of measures just provide a false sense of security," she said.

"The canal should not appear like a swimming pool that people can jump and swim across easily."

The earthen All-American Canal runs close to the U.S.-Mexico border, carrying Colorado River water to vegetable farms in California's Imperial Valley. The concrete lining is expected to capture water for 135,000 homes, mostly in San Diego and its suburbs. That water has been seeping into farms on both sides of the border.

The Imperial Irrigation District is overseeing construction. The San Diego agency and the state of California are splitting the costs.

More than 400 people died in the canal from 1975 through 2006, according to John Hunter. Drownings peaked at 31 in 1998 as heightened enforcement in San Diego pushed migrants east to the deserts of California and Arizona.

David De Leon Merida, 14, died in the canal in March 2006 as he traveled alone from Guatemala to join his older brother in the Los Angeles area.

His older brother, Hugo, said he had agreed to pay a smuggler \$2,300 to get his brother from the Mexican border to Los Angeles. The smuggler called about a week after the scheduled crossing to say that his group swam across the canal but then spotted Border Patrol agents. The group fled back to Mexico, but the boy got swept up in the current.

"I couldn't believe what he was telling me," Hugo said Monday as he recounted the story.

A Mexican consular official called about a month later to say his brother's body was found in the canal. Hugo said he identified his brother by a birth certificate in the boy's pocket.

The Imperial Irrigation District has resisted pleas from John Hunter since 2001 to add buoys and other safety devices on the canal. Board member Stella Mendoza said Monday that she still worries that any measures may make the agency liable for any deaths.

Duncan Hunter, who has staunchly advocated for more border fencing, has criticized the plans for concrete lining for failing to do enough to protect lives.

"The loss of human life in the Canal to date has been a costly consequence to past indifference," he wrote the agency's board in June.

## Deputy was on good terms with inmates

BY THOMAS WATKINS  
Associated Press Writer

**LOS ANGELES** An off-duty sheriff's deputy who was shot and killed outside his home appeared to have been well respected by the inmates he looked after, an official said Tuesday.

Investigators looking into the slaying of Juan Escalante, 27, are considering the possibility he was killed as a result of his work at the Men's Central Jail, where he escorted some of the region's most dangerous inmates to the exercise yard, police Capt. Denis Cremins said.

Detectives interviewed several "high-power" inmates and it appeared none of them had a problem with the Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy, Cremins said.

"He was known and respected by them,"

Cremins said.

Cremins said the probe was in its early stages and investigators had not discounted the possibility Escalante was killed by a former inmate or someone associated with a jailed gang member. Los Angeles County's jails are home to various gangs including members of the prison-based Mexican Mafia.

Cremins said a plain-clothed Escalante was shot as he was moving a child's seat from one of his cars to another early Saturday morning. The 21/2-year deputy was getting ready to go to work at the jail.

He was hit multiple times and pronounced dead at the scene. Witnesses had told police someone inside a white car opened fire but Cremins said new reports suggested the car could have been silver or another light color.


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The Oversight Committee is being assembled to audit the use of the proceeds of the Clean Beaches and Ocean Parcel Tax (also known as Measure V) adopted by voters in November, 2006.

The State Political Reform Act requires Commission (Committee) members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action by filing a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office and annually thereafter.

Application forms and information are available on the internet at [www.smeppd.org](http://www.smeppd.org). Applications are also available at the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite J, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Applications may be received and/or submitted by mail, email or fax. Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request. Contact information: phone: (310) 458-2213; fax (310) 393-1279 or email: [environment@smgov.net](mailto:environment@smgov.net).

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# New permit system resulted in fewer surf camps

FROM SURF PAGE 1

age the safety of everyone in the water.

The issues led city staff to draft a new ordinance instituting a new permit system, which went into place at the beginning of the summer.

City Hall was one of only two or three municipalities in the state that didn't regulate surfing instruction, which is one of the reasons why there was such a huge number of operations at the beach.

The result of the new system seems to be a less crowded beach.

"I have nothing against people who are trying to learn," Dunn, who is teaching his 6-year-old daughter the sport, said. "But it was pretty crowded last year."

Dunn pointed out that most surfers are actually pretty easy-going and were non-confrontational with the instructors.

Zeynep Aksoz, a surfer from Austria who has visited the city the past few summers, said most of the professional-caliber surfers stay farther out in the water, avoiding collisions with the beginners.

"The kids (at the camps) surf better than I do," Aksoz said.

City staff worked with county lifeguards to determine where different types of instruction and activity should be located, including which areas could better accommodate group or private lessons.

City Hall then solicited applications from prospective surf camp operators and schools offering private lessons, ultimately receiving more than 10 applications, turning away approximately four. The applicants were required to have CPR certified staff and a minimum of five years owning and operating a business of a similar size and scope. Businesses that would teach children were



Alexandra Bissonnette news@smdp.com

**WIPE OUT:** City Hall's regulation of surf camps has led to considerably less crowded beaches.

required to have at least one certified lifeguard in the group. All instructors were also required to undergo a police background check.

In the end, the most qualified operators were selected, Callie Hurd, the open space manager for City Hall, said.

The application and permits costs \$150 and schools are required to pay 15 percent of their gross receipts to City Hall.

Only four surf camps received a permit — two a piece operating on the north and south sides of the pier. A provider was also selected to run a private and semi-private instruction near the pier, accommodating all

the beach-front hotels but keeping the lessons open to the general public.

"All of the hotels told us what they need and that they would like to provide their guests," Hurd said. "We customized a permit specifically to deliver that type of service."

The total number of permits includes about three sole proprietors who offer lessons to one or two students. About five more of those applications are currently pending.

Among the licensees is Islands Surf Camp, which has operated at the beach for the past 12 years.

"There's less camps and the kids and parents are happier ... because there's just more

space," Dan Jesson, the owner of Islands, said. "I think the idea of limiting the amount of private interest on public property is always a good idea."

"Ultimately, it's a public beach and its main purpose is to provide a place of recreation for local residents."

But those who didn't receive a permit might be singing a different tune.

Jessica Anderson, whose husband runs the Christian Anderson School, ran a surf camp for 10 years before his application was rejected.

Anderson typically took time off in the summer from his work in the movie set building industry in order to teach children how to surf. After his bid was denied, Anderson took a movie job out of state.

"When that happened, it was devastating because he worked from the movie business and does this," she said. "He didn't know where to go."

"It was really a lame deal."

City Hall will evaluate the new system at the end of the summer and decide whether to propose any more changes to the City Council. Hurd said minor changes can be done by staff without council approval.

Hurd, who for years worked at San Diego and Santa Cruz area beaches for the California State Parks, said she has not heard of any students getting turned away by a camp because they've reached capacity.

"It's difficult to come up with a system that is fair and equitable that meets everyone's needs," she said. "There are several ways to do it and we will have to work together to find the best way to do it for Santa Monica."

melodyh@smdp.com. Christina Yoon contributed to this report

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Melody Hanatani [melodyh@smdp.com](mailto:melodyh@smdp.com)

**CHAT TIME:** Jan Williamson, executive director of the 18th Street Arts Center, talks with Alexandra Pollyea of the Santa Monica Museum of Art about a City Hall-sponsored effort to use the Internet and bloggers to spread the word about the various nonprofits in Santa Monica. The \$70,000 project aims to increase the visibility of nonprofits through an aggressive marketing campaign.

## New campaign aims to raise awareness about nonprofits

FROM WEB SITE PAGE 1

Center, which is partnering with City Hall, acting as a go-between for the various program participants, including Jewish Vocational Services — who hired the teenagers — and marketing firm Counterintuity.

“We’re proposing some innovative and different ways to get the word out,” Julie Rusk, the human services manager for City Hall, said.

The \$70,000 project aims to increase the visibility for nonprofit organizations through an aggressive marketing campaign, consisting of the new Web site, a monthly e-mail newsletter, a door hanger drop to every residence in the city, and a mass-mailed postcard — reading “It’s here for you” — delivery to 300 businesses and groups.

In addition to directing the public’s attention to the services provided by the nonprofits, the site will also help the various organizations, all of which receive city funding, communicate with each other.

“We found that these ... organizations don’t all know each other,” Lee Wochner, the CEO and creative strategist for Counterintuity, said.

The site will launch on Aug. 11 — or 8/11 — at 8:11 a.m.

Among the beneficiaries of the new campaign will be the Venice Family Clinic, which is one of the largest health care providers in the state.

“Our mission is to provide fine quality health care to people in need, so it’s nice to get support with activities that are not central to our mission but are very important,” Timothy Smith, the communications director for the clinic, said. “It’s nice to see the city’s role as being larger than simply providing funding.”

Among the bloggers is Asia David, a Santa Monica resident who will be a senior at the Community Harvest Charter School in Los Angeles.

“I wanted more experience in connecting with people and being a better writer as

**I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT AN ORGANIZATION I HAD NO IDEA EXISTED.”**

**Asia David**  
Teenage blogger

well,” she said.

After going through a series of workshops, the students were allowed to select a group of nonprofits in which they were interested. The only catch is that all 34 organizations must be profiled on the site at least twice before the project concludes in the fall.

The site will be updated with three or four new entries every week.

The students, many of whom are between the ages of 15 and 20, are all from the city and largely unaware of the plethora of organizations.

In her first week on the job, David has already interviewed the Virginia Avenue Project, a free after-school program that uses the arts to help children reach their full potential.

“I learned a lot about an organization I had no idea existed,” David, who plans to write up her blog later this week, said.

City Hall will evaluate the program after the three-month project period is over, asking organizations whether they have noticed an increase in activity, monitoring the number of hits on the Web sites and e-mail newsletters.

John Ruskin, the artistic director of the Ruskin Group Theater Co., said it’s hard for nonprofit groups to get the word out because of the high cost of advertising.

“It’ll be great to come together on one Web site,” Ruskin said. “Anytime you unionize the artists and the various nonprofits, it’s powerful.”

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# Grow or buy?

## Careful gardening can pay off

BY BARBARA WHITAKER  
Associated Press Writer

The weather was bleak and the ground unworkable in March, when J.D. Roth and his wife began tracking whether their gardening efforts would result in savings on their food bills.

It wasn't looking good by the end of May. He had a handful of strawberries, \$300 in bills and 21 hours invested in the garden. To make matters worse, it was still unclear whether the tomatoes that his wife, Kris Gates, had nurtured from seed would survive an April hailstorm. But within weeks, the balance shifted. The strawberries were coming in by the basket and the snow peas were flourishing. Come July, the couple was harvesting a wide variety of berries, along with green beans, snow peas, zucchini and cucumbers.

According to Roth's calculations, they had spent 39 hours and \$320 on the garden by the end of July, harvesting \$175 worth of food, not counting the excess berries they traded with other gardeners for lettuce and carrots.

"We're sure to come out ahead financially," said Roth, who lives just outside Portland, Ore. "But it's not only about the money. Working in the garden is satisfying for both of us. We would do this even if it cost us money."

Across the country, there is growing interest in gardening to put food on the table — and it's not just about money.

"I think there's a real interest in people trying to grow their own food partly because it's fun, partly because it tastes good and partly because it saves money," said Roth, who is tracking the results of his gardening on his blog at [getrichslowly.org](http://getrichslowly.org).

But is it practical to think that a home gardener's efforts will really translate into a meaningful difference? Maybe.

Experts suggest that careful planning and thoughtful spending are key to making that happen.

Gardening can be expensive, particularly if you want to start and raise plants indoors. An online survey of prices found grow lights ranging in price from \$7.70 up to \$53.94 for incandescent or fluorescent lights. Specialty lighting that takes plants from sprout to harvest or for use in hydroponics can cost a few hundred dollars.

Then there are timers to turn the lights on and off (\$9.97 to \$39.93), power surge protectors (\$24.99 to \$49.99) and any number of miscellaneous items from seedling trays to extension cords to pots. Not to mention the impact on the electricity and water bills.

Whether growing inside or out, the cost of basics can also add up. While a \$1.99 packet of seeds will yield dozens of plants, buying mature seedlings can become costly quickly. A 4-inch pot containing an organic tomato can easily cost \$4.99 and tools, containers, fertilizers and other related items can send costs into the hundreds if not thousands of dollars.

"You can spend a lot of money on gardening," said Becky Grube, sustainable horticulture specialist at the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. "But you don't have to make a big investment."

Emily Kerns and Pete Petron, who started a vegetable garden this spring in Fairfield, Conn., wanted to go organic with their 20-by-40-foot garden. Not only was it going to be costly — one person said they would need to replace much of the soil — the process would take three to five years, they were told.

They chose a simpler route, deciding they

**I THINK THERE'S  
A REAL INTEREST  
IN PEOPLE TRYING  
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GOOD AND PARTLY  
BECAUSE IT SAVES  
MONEY."**

J.D. Roth  
Gardener

would just steer clear of using chemicals in their garden while they learned more about maintaining their garden. They had to spend \$3,000 for a deer fence, but they kept plant costs to about \$100 for a wide variety of annual vegetables and borrowed gardening tools and a rototiller to get started.

To cultivate success and avoid overspending, start small. Don't get swept into thinking that gardening requires a lot of fancy equipment.

All that's really needed to get started is some soil, seeds or seedlings, water and something to turn the soil. A pair of gloves is also nice. And, for those gardening in smaller spaces, pots may also be a requirement.

"See what works well for you," Grube said. "People often find out that their site doesn't work well for what they really wanted to grow."

Maintaining a few pots of herbs is convenient and particularly cost effective. A mature plant or pack of seedlings will cost about the same as one packaged container of herbs in the store and for those willing to work with seeds, repeat sowing will keep the supply going for months.

When it comes to growing vegetables, some plants make more sense than others, said Stephanie Turner, director of seed products with Park Seeds in Greenwood, S.C.

She noted that most vegetables require at least 6 hours of direct sunlight, plants like tomatoes and peppers — among the most popular plants in vegetable gardens — tend to be water-sensitive, requiring a little more attention.

Grube suggests steering clear of vegetables like asparagus, celery and rhubarb because they are perennials that only start to produce after several years. But, she said, it makes sense in even the smallest spaces to have at least some herbs growing.

For those with patios, there are special types of tomatoes for pots and lettuce and peppers are particularly well-suited to container gardening.

However, even if you have enough land to put in a full-fledge garden, it's best to not get carried away.

"Start with a few things you know you like to eat," said Roth, noting the couple put something like 50 peppers and 30 tomatoes in their first vegetable garden.

"It was just dumb," he said. "It was an overwhelming amount of work. It's easy to grow just three tomato plants. Start there and work up."

# Study: Restaurant children's meals loaded with calories

BY JOAN LOWY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Parents looking for healthy meal choices for their children are likely to find slim pickings on the menus of the nation's top restaurant chains, according to a report released Monday by a nonprofit public health group.

Nearly every possible combination of the children's meals at Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bell, Sonic, Jack in the Box, and Chick-fil-A are too high in calories, the report by the Center for Science in the Public Interest said.

The report looked into the nutritional quality of kids' meals at 13 major restaurant chains. The center found 93 percent of 1,474 possible choices at the 13 chains exceed 430 calories — an amount that is one-third of what the National Institute of Medicine recommends that children ages 4 through 8 should consume in a day.

For example, Chili's Bar and Grill has 700 possible kids' meal combinations, but 658, or 94 percent, of those are too high in calories. One Chili's meal comprised of country-fried chicken crispers, cinnamon apples and chocolate milk contained 1,020 calories, while another comprised of cheese pizza, homestyle fries, and lemonade contained 1,000 calories. Burger King has a "Big Kids" meal with a double cheeseburger, fries, and chocolate milk at 910 calories, and Sonic has a "Wacky Pack" with 830 calories worth of grilled cheese, fries, and a slushie.

While there are some healthy choices on restaurant menus, "parents have to navigate a minefield of calories, fat and salt to find them," the report said.

Subway's kids' meals came out the best among the chains examined in the report. Only 6 of 18 "Fresh Fit for Kids" meals — which include a mini-sub, juice box, and one of several healthful side items such as apple slices, raisins or yogurt — exceed the 430-calorie threshold. But Subway is the only chain that doesn't offer soft drinks with kids' meals, which helped lower the calorie count.

The report notes that eating out now accounts for a third of children's daily caloric intake, twice the amount consumed away from home 30 years ago.

"Parents want to feed their children healthy meals, but America's chain restaurants are setting parents up to fail," CSPI

nutrition policy director Margo G. Wootan said in a statement. "McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, and other chains are conditioning kids to expect burgers, fried chicken, pizza, French fries, macaroni and cheese, and soda in various combination at almost every lunch and dinner."

The report also found that 45 percent of children's meals exceed recommendations for saturated and trans fat, which can raise blood cholesterol levels and increase the risk of heart disease, and 86 percent of children's meals are high in sodium.

Christi Woodworth, a spokeswoman for Sonic, said the chain is looking into adding a variety of healthy side items, and plans to introduce string cheese at 90 calories each in September.

KFC released a statement saying the chain is "proud to offer a variety of kids meals for those looking for lower calorie, lower fat options." The statement noted that the report's calculations include baked Cheetos and a biscuit, sides that are no longer offered.

Jack in the Box spokeswoman Kathleen Anthony said while kids meals are not a "significant part of our business," parents do have several healthy items they can select for their children, such as applesauce and reduced fat milk.

Calls over the weekend to other restaurant chains in the report were not immediately returned.

The report recommends restaurants:

— Reformulate their menu items to reduce calories, saturated and trans fat, and salt, and add more healthy items like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

— Make fruit or vegetables and low-fat milk or water the default sides instead of French fries and soda for children's meals.

— Provide nutrition on menus and menu boards. New York and San Francisco are among the cities and localities that have adopted menu labeling policies.

Other restaurant chains included in the report are Wendy's, Dairy Queen, Arby's and Denny's.

Six leading restaurant chains — Applebee's, TGIFriday's, Outback Steakhouse, Olive Garden, Red Lobster and IHOP (International House of Pancakes) — weren't included in the report because they do not disclose nutrition information about their meals even when asked, the center said.

## Gun-control groups fear activist was NRA spy

BY MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA A gun-control activist who championed the cause for more than a decade and served on the boards of two anti-violence groups is suspected of working as a paid spy for the National Rifle Association, and now those organizations are expelling her and sweeping their offices for bugs.

The suggestion that Mary Lou McFate was a double agent is contained in a deposition filed as part of a contract dispute involving a security firm. The muckraking magazine Mother Jones, in a story last week, was the first to report on McFate's alleged dual identity. The NRA refused to comment to the magazine and did not respond to calls Tuesday from The Associated Press. Nor did McFate.

The 62-year-old former flight attendant and sex counselor from Sarasota, Fla., is not new to the world of informants.

She infiltrated an animal-rights group in the late 1980s at the request of U.S. Surgical, and befriended an activist who was later convicted in a pipe bomb attack against the medical-supply business, U.S. Surgical acknowledged in news reports at the time. U.S. Surgical had come under fire for using dogs for research and training.

McFate resurfaced in Pennsylvania and has since spent years as an unpaid board member of CeaseFirePA and an organization called States United to Prevent Gun Violence. She also twice pushed unsuccessfully to join the board of the nation's largest gun-control group, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

"It raises some real concerns with the tactics of the NRA. If they've got one person, maybe they have more. If they've done this dirty trick, what else have they done?" said Paul Helmke, president of the Brady Campaign.

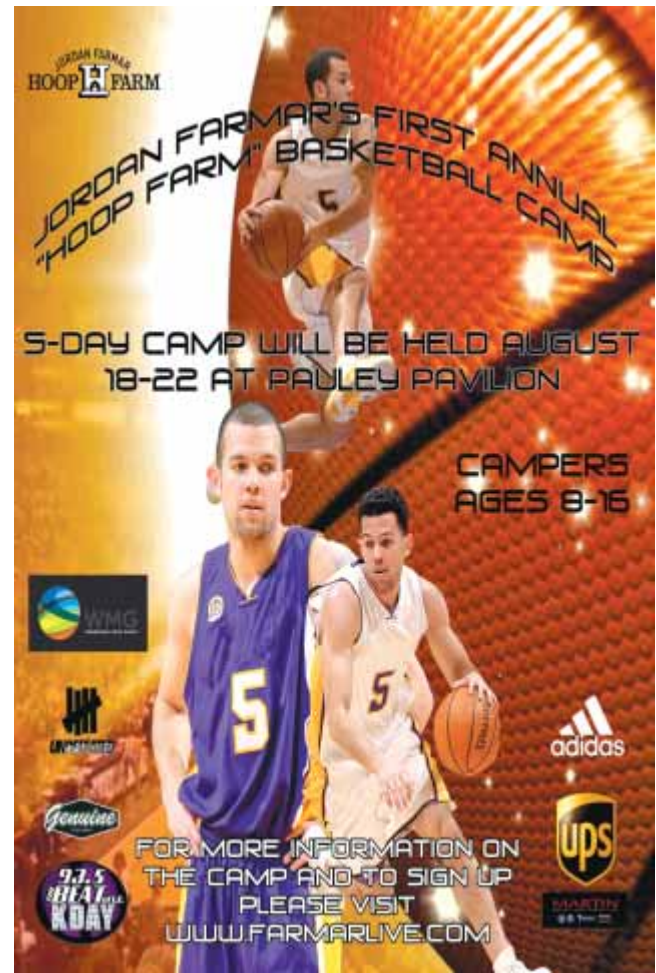
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### SURF REPORT



#### SURF CONDITIONS

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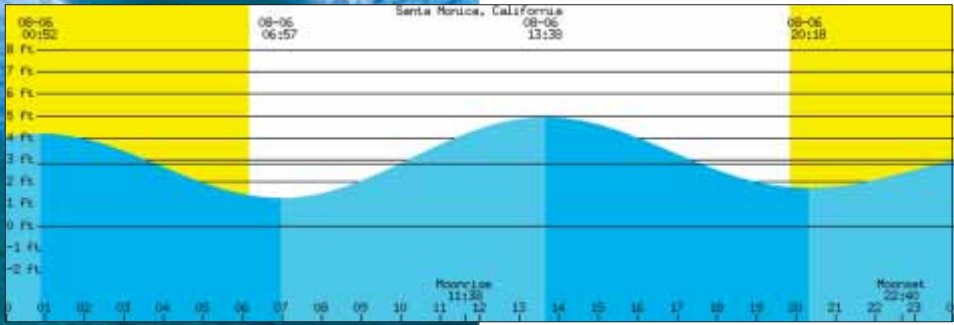
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The south swell should remain with at least chest high waves. No wind swell is expected, so west facing breaks are looking at knee+ conditions. Tide evens out more from previous days with moderate depths throughout the morning. Winds should be light in the early AM, but then approach 15 mph by noon or early afternoon.

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| QUICK STATS<br>(for the last 28 days)                                                                           | Number of sewage spills -- 0                           |     |                                                                                                                         |     |     |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                 | Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0    |     |                                                                                                                         |     |     |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                 | Number of wet days -- 0                                |     |                                                                                                                         |     |     |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                 | Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / 15      |     |                                                                                                                         |     |     |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                 | Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / 15 |     |                                                                                                                         |     |     |  |  |  |
| LOCATION                                                                                                        | DRY                                                    | WET | LOCATION                                                                                                                | DRY | WET |  |  |  |
| Los Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth                                                                | A+                                                     | ns  | Will Rogers State Beach at Bel 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 Pescadero State Beach, between Luchessa and Las Alitas creeks                                                | A+                                                     | ns  | Will Rogers State Beach at Tennessean Canyon drain                                                                      | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Escalante Canyon at El Matador State Beach                                                                      | A+                                                     | ns  | Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqui)                                                       | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Broad Beach at Francis 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                                                                              | B   | ns  |  |  |  |
| Walnut Creek, projection of Wildfire Rd. (private)                                                              | A+                                                     | ns  | Santa Monica Municipal Pier                                                                                             | F   | ns  |  |  |  |
| Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth                                                                | D                                                      | ns  | Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kanter 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  |  |  |  |
| Seleste Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach                                                                      | C                                                      | ns  | Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain                                                                         | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Powers State Beach at creek mouth                                                                               | A+                                                     | ns  | Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain                                                                                       | A   | ns  |  |  |  |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Powers Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.                                                   | D                                                      | ns  | Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain                                                                                     | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Sunridge Beach at Malibu Colony fence                                                                           | A+                                                     | ns  | Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south                                                                                    | A   | ns  |  |  |  |
| Sunridge Beach (beach location)- daily                                                                          | A                                                      | ns  | Venice Beach- projection of Topail St.                                                                                  | B   | ns  |  |  |  |
| Malibu Pier - 50 yards east                                                                                     | A+                                                     | ns  | Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- flagrant tower                                                                          | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Carlson Beach at Sweetwater Canyon                                                                              | A+                                                     | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth                                                                           | B   | ns  |  |  |  |
| Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)                                                         | A+                                                     | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain                                                                            | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Big Rock Beach at 18948 PCH stairs                                                                              | A+                                                     | ns  | North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach                                                                 | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Pine Creek at Las Tunas County Beach                                                                            | A+                                                     | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)                                                                | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Tuna Canyon                                                                                                     | A+                                                     | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain                                                                            | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Topanga State Beach at creek mouth                                                                              | A                                                      | ns  | Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant                                                                     | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach                                                                    | A+                                                     | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain                                                                              | A+  | ns  |  |  |  |
| Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach                                                                     | A+                                                     | ns  |                                                                                                                         |     |     |  |  |  |
| Will Rogers State Beach at 17280 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. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

ON THE MOVE: The Lakers' Jordan Farmar (right) is in Israel to teach young people hoop skills.

## NBA's only Jewish player visits Israel for workshop

BY ARON HELLER  
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM Los Angeles Lakers guard Jordan Farmar, the NBA's only Jewish player, showed his dribbling, shooting and slam-dunking skills at a clinic in southern Israel on Tuesday for Jewish and Arab kids.

The 21-year-old Farmar is the guest of the Peres Center for Peace, founded by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shimon Peres, now Israel's president, to encourage cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians. One of the ways the center tries to improve relationships is through children playing sports together.

Farmar is the first Jewish player in the NBA since Danny Schayes — son of Hall of Famer Dolph Schayes — retired in 1999.

“I’ve gotten a warm welcome from the whole country,” he told the Associated Press in a telephone interview during the clinic in Kiryat Gat, a desert town. “People seem to recognize me everywhere, and it’s been great.”

Farmar was a key member of a Lakers team that reached the NBA Finals in June,

losing to the Boston Celtics. In only his second pro season, the Los Angeles native and UCLA standout backed up veteran point guard Derek Fisher.

Farmar's parents divorced when he was a child. His mother is Jewish, and his stepfather is Israeli. He has visited here twice before with his family, but said this time has been different.

He said his heritage helped him relate to the Jewish and Arab basketball hopefuls he met in Israel. His father, former baseball player Damon Farmar, is black.

“When I go to the black neighborhoods, people relate to me, and when I go the Jewish neighborhood they relate to me, too,” he said.

Farmar is in Israel for an eight-day visit accompanied by his relative — former star Israeli women's basketball player Limor Mizrahi.

The Peres Center has hosted leading sporting figures in Israel before, including Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo, Cameroon national soccer team striker Samuel Eto'o and former New York Giants star football running back Tiki Barber.

## SUMMER OLYMPICS Ronaldinho motivated for Brazil's debut

BY TALES AZZONI  
Associated Press Writer

SHENYANG, China Lack of motivation will not be a problem for Ronaldinho at the Beijing Olympics.

One of the games' biggest stars, the two-time FIFA Player of the Year can't wait to get on the field and try to lead Brazil to its first Olympic title in soccer.

“What motivates me the most is the chance to make history in Brazilian football and win this first gold medal,” Ronaldinho said Tuesday, two days before Brazil's debut against Belgium.

“We all know that if we win this medal we will make history. It's an unprecedented title,” said Ronaldinho. Brazil's captain. “It's

a very important competition, just as important to us the World Cup and other big tournaments.”

The Olympic gold medal has eluded Brazil so far. It is the only significant title the five-time World Cup champions have never won. The Brazilians won the silver medal twice, at the 1984 Los Angeles Games and the 1988 Seoul Games, and bronze at Atlanta in 1996.

“Very few players have an opportunity to participate in two Olympics, and I'm glad I'm having this chance to win what we let slip away in the past,” said Ronaldinho, who was on the Brazilian Olympic team eliminated by Cameroon in the quarterfinals of the 2000 Sydney Games. Brazil did not qualify for Athens in 2004.

MOVIE TIMES

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AERO THEATRE</b><br><b>1328 Montana Ave.</b><br><b>(323) 466-FILM</b><br><br><b>A Thousand Years of Good Prayers (NR) &amp; Dim Sum: A Little Bit of Heart 1hr 25min</b><br>7:30<br><br><b>AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4</b><br><b>1441 Third Street</b><br><b>Promenade</b><br><br><b>The X-Files: I Want to Believe (PG-13)</b><br>1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 7:05, 9:25, 9:35<br><br><b>Hancock (PG-13) 1hr 32min</b><br>1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00<br><br><b>The Wackness (R) 1hr 35min</b><br>2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40<br><br><b>Wanted (R) 1hr 48min</b><br>4:40, 10:10<br><br><b>Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13) 1hr 50min</b><br>1:50, 7:20<br><br><b>AMC 7 SANTA MONICA</b><br><b>1310 Third St.</b> | <b>(310) 289-4262</b><br><br><b>WALL-E (G) 1hr 37min</b><br>2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50<br><br><b>Step Brothers (R) 1hr 35min</b><br>12:05, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 5:10, 7:20, 9:50, 10:30<br><br><b>Journey to the Center of the Earth - 3-D (PG) 1hr 32min</b><br>12:20, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:05<br><br><b>Swing Vote (PG-13)</b><br>1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15<br><br><b>Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor, The (PG-13) 1hr 54min</b><br>1:15, 2:25, 4:10, 7:00, 7:40, 9:45<br><br><b>LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX</b><br><b>1332 Second St.</b><br><b>(310) 394-9741</b><br><br><b>American Teen (PG-13) 1hr 41min</b><br>1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00<br><br><b>Bottle Shock (PG-13) 1hr 50min</b><br>1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55<br><br><b>Brideshead Revisited (PG-13) 1hr 40min</b> | 12:45, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00<br><br><b>Tell No One (Ne le dis a personne) (NR) 2hrs 05min</b><br>1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10<br><br><b>MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE</b><br><b>1313 Third St.</b><br><b>(310) 395-1599</b><br><br><b>Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min</b><br>10:30am, 11:30am, 1:50, 3:00, 5:05, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00<br><br><b>The Pineapple Express (R) 1hr 45min</b><br>10:50, 11:50, 1:30, 2:30, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:40, 12:30am<br><br><b>Sex and the City (R) 2hrs 15min</b><br>4:20, 7:20, 10:30<br><br><b>Get Smart (PG-13) 1hr 50min</b><br>11:00am, 1:40<br><br><b>Mamma Mia! (PG-13) 1hr 48min</b><br>11:10am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:10 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

For more information, e-mail [news@smdp.com](mailto:news@smdp.com)

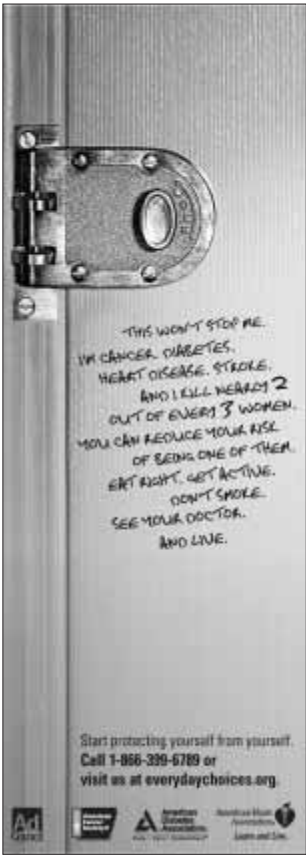
Stay focused, Sagittarius

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ARIES (March 21-April 19)</b><br>★★★★★ Though you might feel more gently about an associate or person in your daily life in the next few weeks, it does not mean your incredible drive will vanish. You still want what you want. You have a lot on your back. Why not delegate? Tonight: In the thick of life. | <b>LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)</b><br>★★★★★ You are in the pink and can move mountains (well, nearly). Use your well-known charm, and you'll make headway. Listen to news with care. Not everyone understands what needs to happen. Tonight: Doing your thing.                                                                                |
| <b>TAURUS (April 20-May 20)</b><br>★★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision and do something very different for a loved one. Think in terms of growth and new beginnings. You see life with renewed interest and energy. Tonight: Make an effort to make another feel comfortable.                               | <b>SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)</b><br>★★★ You might have your share of fires to deal with. Just when you believe a situation has chilled or a resolution had been reached, the next episode occurs. Roll with the punches, but do not try to mend what clearly is not mendable. Tonight: Run away. Lock your door. Do not answer your phone. |
| <b>GEMINI (May 21-June 20)</b><br>★★★★★ Your creativity with a stronger and more focused sense of caring add much more interest and excitement to different situations. Your actions carry a deep sense of concern and caring. Be aware. Tonight: Happy at home.                                                   | <b>SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)</b><br>★★★★★ Though YOU know what you want, you could be taken aback by some of the chaos and unexpected reactions of others. Be careful when pushing others – even if you feel the behavior could be appropriate – unless you want to deal with their reactions. Tonight: Stay focused.                  |
| <b>CANCER (June 21-July 22)</b><br>★★★ Your efforts need focus, and your choice with personal security and long-term desires. Investigate new ways to start conversations. Be smart, study and understand what is motivating you before committing to an idea. Tonight: In the whirl of living.                    | <b>CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)</b><br>★★★★★ Others look to you to assume responsibility. Most likely, you will, but on the other hand, you might be in the process of discovering how much you have to deal with. Unpredictability and a sudden change might force you to rethink a situation. Tonight: Out late.                          |
| <b>LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)</b><br>★★★★★ If you ever questioned your security, you probably won't after today. You might want to respond to someone who could fill up your voicemail if ignored. You might be surprised by what heads your direction. Tonight: Another is testy (to say the least).                   | <b>AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)</b><br>★★★★★ Stay tuned to your higher self. Avoid and do not get into tussles with an associate or someone who has very different ideas. You will be much happier. This situation might not pass immediately. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.                                                    |
| <b>VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)</b><br>★★★ What could be a great day could fall to the wayside if you do not express your anger in an appropriate manner. In fact, an already unpredictable relationship could blow up in your face, leaving you sad and confused. Tonight: Gather bills.                              | <b>PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)</b><br>★★★★★ You are emotional, as you could easily demonstrate today. Someone could push far too hard for your taste, forcing you to rethink a decision. Tonight: Work with a friend.                                                                                                                        |

Happy birthday

What you can achieve comes via your excellent ability to communicate and to help others feel at ease. This year, this skill comes to the forefront, but so do your listening skills. You might be overwhelmed by a very hectic but social pace. Many new friends could come into your life, and if you are single, you could be surprised by what moseys down your path. In the first half of next year, the right person could appear. If you are attached, the two of you might need to separate hot issues out of the relationship. Separate accounts and responsibilities. The division of power will not separate you as much as end some quarreling. LIBRA loves to swap news with you.

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



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**City of Santa Monica**  
**Ordinance Number 2267 and 2268 (CCS)**  
**(City Council Series)**  
  
The following are summaries, prepared by the City Attorney, of Ordinance Numbers 2267 and 2268, which were adopted by the City Council on July 23, 2008.  
  
Ordinance Number 2267(CCS) sets the fiscal year 2008-2009 tax rate for the 1990 and 2002 Library general obligation bonds. The rates are \$.008149 per \$100 assessed valuation for the 2002 bonds and \$.002956 per \$100 assessed valuation for the 1990 bonds.  
  
Ordinance Number 2268 (CCS) is an interim ordinance amending the current fence, wall and hedge interim ordinance to modify the review process for pending appeals taken under the ordinance. Prior law assigned the appeal hearings to the Planning Commission. The new law reassigns the pending appeals to an independent hearing examiner designated by the City Manager.  
  
Both of these ordinances became effective upon adoption. Their full text is available upon request from the office of the city Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica; phone (310) 458-8211.

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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

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**EVENT #3: THE RELAY**

TELL MORRIS TO TELL HARRIS TO TELL THE BRUNETTE THAT I THINK HER FRIEND IS CUTE

TELL HARRIS TO TELL THE BRUNETTE THAT MARSHALL THINKS HER FRIEND IS CUTE

TELL THE BRUNETTE THAT MARSHALL THINKS HER FRIEND IS CUTE

MY BUDDY MARSHALL THINKS YOU'RE CUTE, AND I'D LOVE TO MEET YOUR FRIEND

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FOR A SWIM WITH ME?

NO.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY SOME FRISBEE?

DEFINITELY NOT.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JUST SIT HERE AND CHAT?

SURE.

PHIEW. FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GAY.

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

The Other Coast

IT'S GADOIT FLAMBEAU'S MOST PROVOCATIVE WORK. IT'S CALLED "DINNER AT CAFÉ ESCARGOT."

IT'S BOLD. IT'S POWERFUL. IT'S DARING.

IT'S THE TABLECLOTH.

By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

LOOK, FLOWERS! LIZ SENT ME FLOWERS!

IS THAT EVEN LEGAL?

BETTER DRAW THE BLINDS

By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE STOLEN THE COON CAT'S CATNIP!

HA! HA! HA! HA!

THAT SOUNDED FUNNY!

A ONE-HUNDRED POUND CAT WANTS TO WEAR YOU AS A MITTEN, AND YOU'RE AMUSING YOURSELF WITH ALLITERATIONS. GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!

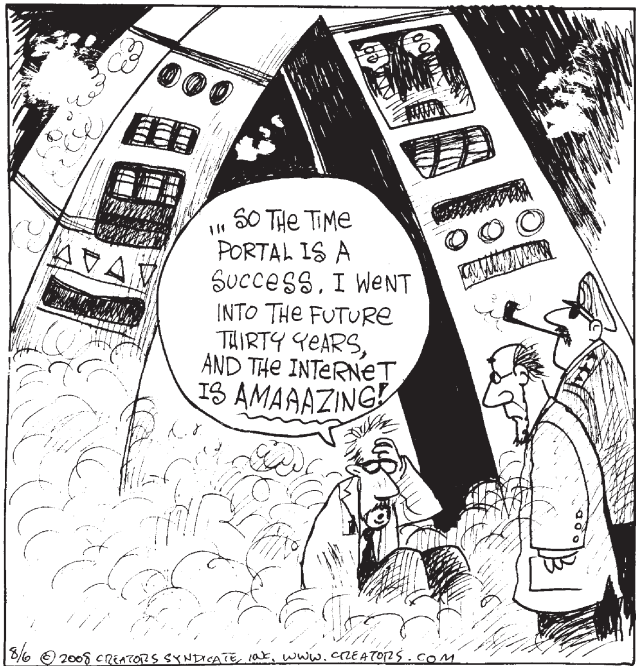
By Brian Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



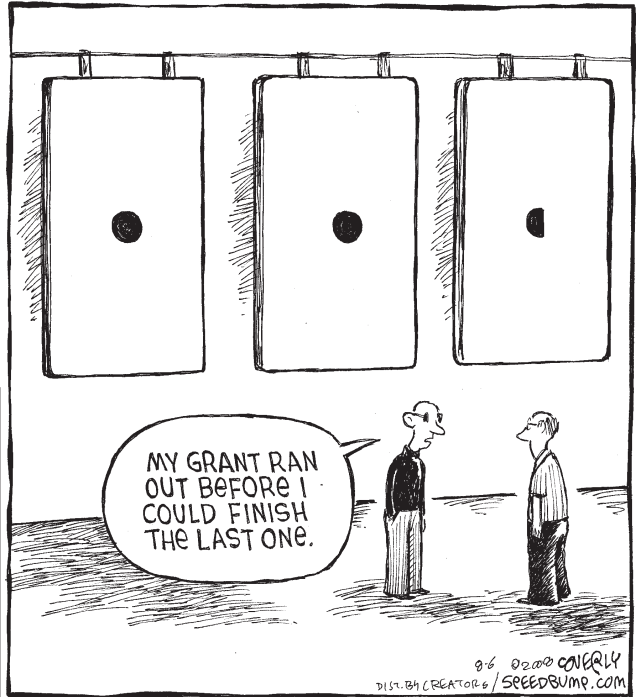
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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

Soraya Danesh [news@smdp.com](mailto:news@smdp.com)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 June honorees  
5 Carnival section  
11 Neighborhood  
12 Infuriate  
13 Edict  
14 Eats away  
15 Small bit  
16 Terminate  
17 Toy plane material  
19 Braille unit  
22 College head  
24 Painter Rivera  
26 Authentic  
27 Ump's call  
28 Western  
30 Helped out  
31 Hosp. workers  
32 "That would be great!"  
34 Take wing  
35 Musical ability  
38 Portions out  
41 Crimson Tide school  
42 Social service  
43 Cyclotron bit

DOWN

- 44 Pal of Pooh and Piglet  
45 Calls for  
1 Silly  
2 Verdi piece  
3 They never pay  
4 Used a couch  
5 Convenes  
6 Progress  
7 Plunge  
8 Hunk of gum  
9 Grow older  
10 "Sure thing!"  
16 Shrewd  
18 Truck part

- 19 Ties in races  
20 Gawk at  
21 Informed  
22 School event  
23 Enjoy a novel  
25 Sacred bird of Egypt  
29 Mob member

- 30 Melody  
33 Squander  
34 Mediocre  
36 In a frenzy  
37 St. Louis team  
38 Pigged out  
39 Writer Harper  
40 Put down  
41 Cote cry

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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 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 43 |    |    |    |
| 44 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 45 |    |    |    |

DAILY LOTTERY

|                      |                                                                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MEGA MILLIONS</b> | 9 13 17 18 56<br>Meganumber: 2<br>Jackpot: \$34M                                    |
| <b>Super LOTTO</b>   | 1 3 6 12 47<br>Meganumber: 22<br>Jackpot: \$7M                                      |
| <b>Fantasy 5</b>     | 10 14 15 23 24                                                                      |
| <b>DAILY 3</b>       | MIDDAY: 7 6 9<br>EVENING: 3 7 0                                                     |
| <b>DAILY DERBY</b>   | 1st: 10 Solid Gold<br>2nd: 02 Lucky Star<br>3rd: 06 Whirl Win<br>RACE TIME: 1:47.07 |

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD  
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In July, the Utah Supreme Court ordered a new trial for Erik Low, now 40, ruling that a jury should have considered the possibility of a lesser crime than manslaughter in the 2003 shooting death of a man who had just 15 seconds earlier during a fight given Low what was described as a violent wedgie.

■ In June, a 20-year-old window cleaner on Australia's Gold Coast survived a nine-story plunge, suffering only a broken arm and, from falling on his harness, a super wedgie.

■ In May, NASA sought subjects for a study into the effects of microgravity on the human body and offered each participant \$17,000 to lie in bed for 90 straight days.

■ In April, England's University of East Anglia advertised for subjects for a study of whether a natural compound found in cocoa could cut the risk of heart disease among diabetic women; the participants must be willing to eat chocolates every day for a year.

TODAY IN HISTORY

**1806** the Holy Roman Empire went out of existence as Emperor Francis II abdicated.

**1825** Upper Peru became the autonomous republic of Bolivia.

**1890** convicted murderer William Kemmler became the first person to be executed in the electric chair as he was put to death at Auburn State Prison in New York.

**1926** Gertrude Ederle of New York became the first woman to swim the English Channel, arriving in Kingsdown, England, from France in 14 1/2 hours.

**1926** Warner Brothers premiered its Vitaphone sound-on-disc movie system in New York with a showing of "Don Juan" featuring music and sound effects.

**1962** Jamaica became an independent dominion within the British Commonwealth.

**1965** President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.

WORD UP!

**vituperate** (vy-T00-puh-rate, -TY00-, vi-), *verb*: To find fault with; to scold; to overwhelm with wordy abuse; to censure severely or abusively; to rate.

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CASHIER, P/T for busy car wash in Culver City. \$12.50/hr. FAX resume to (310) 313-1455 or email to patricia.riley@hotmail.com.

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

|                            |   | Single Family Homes | Condos & Townhomes |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| Santa Monica Canyon        | = | \$ 2,844,333        | \$ 5,730,000       |
| North of Montana           | = | \$ 4,189,120        | \$ 2,158,923       |
| Between Wilshire & Montana | = | \$ 3,672,875        | \$ 1,026,066       |
| South of Wilshire          | = | \$ 973,564          | \$ 673,163         |
| Sunset Park                | = | \$ 1,387,339        | \$ 751,300         |
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