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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 234

Santa Monica Daily Press

LAWMAKERS SUPPORT BAN
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE EYES OPEN ISSUE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

ROLLING: **A busrider boards a Metro Rapid bus at the corner of Fourth Street and Wilshire Boulevard headed for Los Angeles Tuesday morning.**

Supes OK sales tax hike

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN L.A. With the threat of $10 million in avoidable costs looming, the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday placed a half-cent sales tax increase on the November ballot, reversing an earlier decision that would've resulted in an extra and expensive election this fall.

The board last week voted against incorporating the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's sales tax proposal — which would pay for transit and highway projects — into the county's general election, supervisors Michael Antonovich and Don Knabe leading the opposition. Supervisor Gloria Molina's abstention defeated the motion 3-2, forcing MTA officials to consider holding a separate election on the same day as the presidential election, potentially costing taxpayers millions.

Upon learning the expenses associated with the special election, Knabe, who represents portions of the San Gabriel Valley and South Bay, decided to ask the board to reconsider.

The vote on Tuesday again ended up 3-2, but with the balance shifted in favor of placing the measure on the ballot, Molina this time casting a "nay" vote and Knabe in favor.

"(Knabe) was opposed to the burden for additional election costs being placed on taxpayers," David Sommers, press secretary for Knabe's office, said. "There is a chance there could be a lot of voter confusion on election day with this literally being run as a separate election with separate poll workers."

Knabe is still opposed to the measure itself and has promised to campaign for its defeat.

The proposal still has one more hurdle to overcome — state officials must pass legislation, AB 2321, that would lift the exist-

SEE TAX PAGE 9

Robbery may be linked to Westside spree

BY ALEXANDRA BISSONNETTE
Special to the Daily Press

ASHLAND AVE A man who robbed an elderly woman in her home here may be the same home-invasion robber wanted in connection with a string of similar crimes on the Westside, police said Tuesday.

"We are looking at all angles," said Sgt. Renaldi Thruston of the Santa Monica Police Department. "It's a possibility [that the crimes are linked], but we haven't confirmed that yet. But we confer with the LAPD because it is always possible."

The suspect and the details of the recent crime are markedly similar to those of about 14 other Westside robberies that have occurred in the homes of elderly women since May of this year, one of which happened in Santa Monica last month.

The latest victim is a woman in her 70s who lives alone in the 1200 block of Ashland Avenue. The suspect entered her house at 2:45 a.m. Friday, rummaged through her things and stole several personal items including cash and jewelry, Thruston said.

According to a press release issued by the SMPD late Monday, the suspect is described as an African American male, wearing dark clothing with a dark mask covering his face.

As of Tuesday afternoon, no arrests had been made. Police are warning residents to take extra precautions to ensure their safety.

Thruston is encouraging people to secure doors and windows during the nighttime hours — even if at home — and whenever leaving home, day or night. He is also urging residents to immediately report any suspicious persons or activities to the police.

Neighbors of the latest victim said they are concerned for their safety.

"The fact that this could happen in a safe neighborhood makes me nervous," said Suzanne Scott, who lives next door to the victim.

Another neighbor, Kelsey Liber, spoke with the victim on Friday morning just after the incident while the police were investigating the scene.

"She looked shaken up, but her daughters were with her," she said.

The elderly woman told Liber that she woke up with the intruder kneeling on her

SEE ROBBERY PAGE 8

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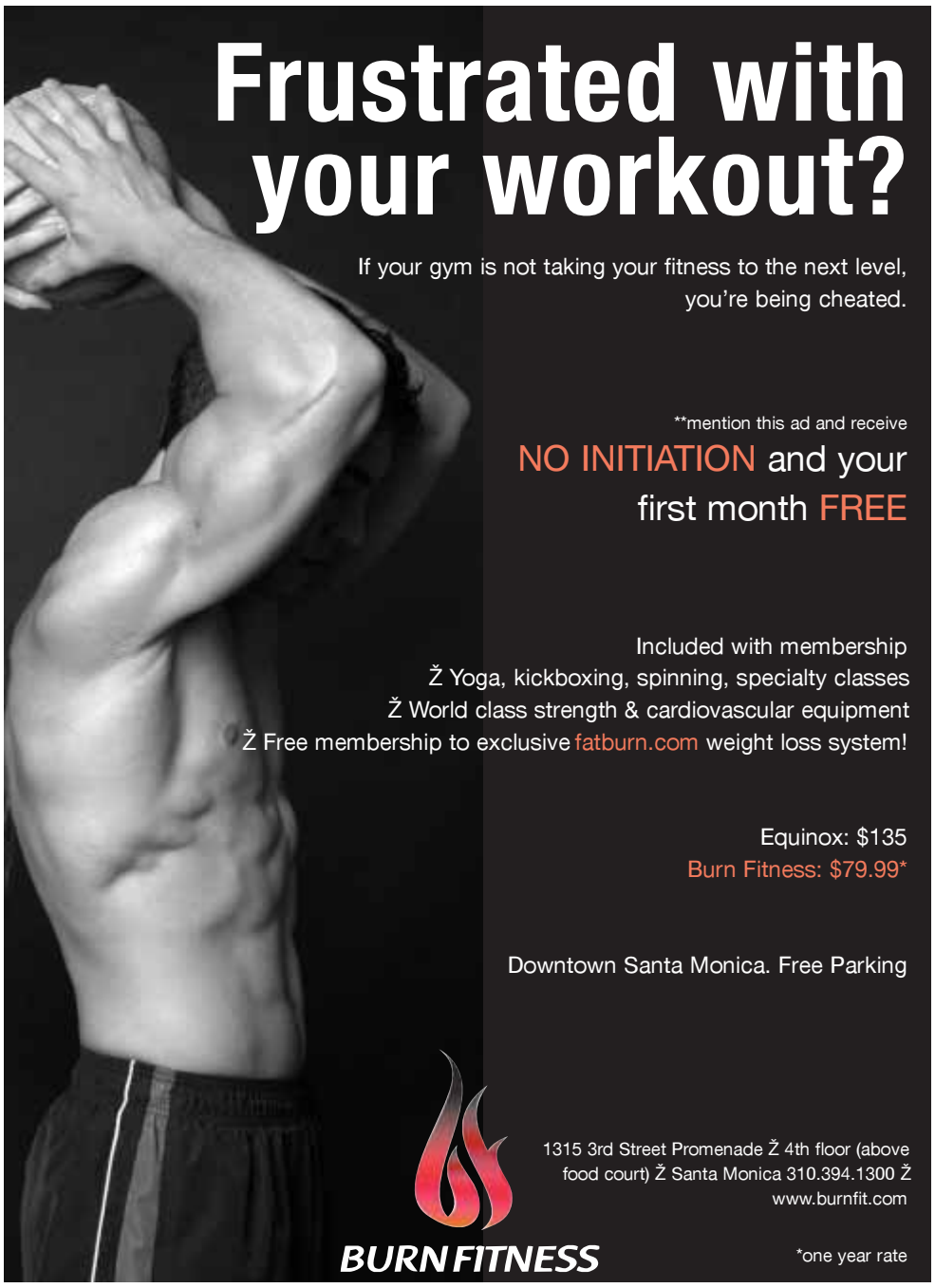

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

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.

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.

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 quests 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. 14, 2008

Venice Cabaret

132 Brooks Ave., 8 p.m. — 12 a.m.

A classic cabaret comes to Venice for a monthly series of incredible performances at The Venice Cabaret Theatre. The cabaret is a perfect combination for local singers and musicians to sing their songs and play their tunes while artists exhibit their work in an incredible setting reminiscent of the 1920's French cabaret. Food will be available for sale, along with complimentary refreshments. Tickets are $10 with a prepaid reservation, and $15 at the door. Visit www.BlankenshipBallet.com or call 1(866) 922-5538 for tickets or more information.

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 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 and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

GETTING COMFORTABLE: **David Bell (right), a tourist visiting Santa Monica with his family, unpacks his van in front of the Hotel California on Ocean Avenue. Bell and his family have traveled from their home in New Boston, Texas, to experience California's fabled beaches.**

Selective survival

Hotels are targeting niche travelers to weather economic storm

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN When it comes to filling rooms during trying financial times, all it takes is marketing to a specialized audience.

That's what a number of hotels in Downtown are doing in response to the recession-like conditions plaguing the national economy, the rise in gas prices and looming crisis in the airline industry expected to hit local tourism after the summertime bubble bursts.

Hotels like the Viceroy Santa Monica are offering promotional "staycation" packages starting next month, targeting Southern California residents who might not be able to afford a costly trip overseas, or even out of state, instead opting for one in their own backyard.

"Because of the price of gas and the price of fuel, people aren't flying as many places anymore," Kate Jerkens, spokeswoman for the Viceroy, said. "This (promotion) would target people in Los Angeles, Orange County or Santa Barbara who are close enough to get in a car for a quick hour or two drive."

The Viceroy's "Stay Put" package includes three nights of accommodations, valet parking, brunch for two at the hotel's Whist Restaurant and a $25 gas card. The promotion, which starts at $1,300, runs through the end of the year.

Similarly, Casa del Mar and Shutters on the Beach, both of which are run by the Edward Thomas Management Co., will be offering staycation deals. The packages fea-

SEE TRAVEL PAGE 10

Lawmakers support ban at SM Airport

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SACRAMENTO California lawmakers are supporting Santa Monica's attempt to ban corporate jets from the city's airport — including the one used by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

A legislative resolution passed Monday asks the Federal Aviation Administration to honor Santa Monica's request.

Bobby Shriver, a Santa Monica city councilman and Schwarzenegger's brother-in-law, says the 5,000-foot runway isn't long enough for the jets' safe landings and take-offs.

Senators approved the resolution on a 21-16 vote without debate. The Assembly passed it last month 73-0.

Schwarzenegger uses the airport to commute to and from the state capital almost daily. He can't veto the resolution because it does not have the force of law.

Schwarzenegger spokesman Aaron McLear says the governor will not take a position on Santa Monica's request but says he will follow the law if the regulations are changed.

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said the city is bound by federal law to keep its runways open to the types of planes landing there now.

"It's the FAA's position that Santa Monica lacks the authority to ban any aircraft at the airport," he said.

The ban was set to go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on April 24 but was suspended that day after the FAA filed a temporary restraining order, which was later granted by a U.S. District Court judge.

The order continued when the judge issued a preliminary injunction until the final results of the FAA internal review. The initial results of the review were released last month.

The Associated Press contributed to this report

L.A. County considers menu labeling to combat growing obesity problem

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Los Angeles County will draft an ordinance that would require restaurant chains to post calorie counts on their menus.

The idea was submitted Tuesday at the county board of supervisors' meeting as a way to combat obesity.

The ordinance would affect restaurant chains with at least 14 outlets and would only be required in the county's unincorporated areas.

The California Restaurant Association says it opposes the proposal because local ordinances would create a "patchwork" of rules for restaurants.

Tony Bell, a spokesman for Supervisor Michael Antonovich, says a draft of the ordinance will be presented to the board within 30 days.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Votes should come with perks

Editor:

After reading, "SMRR opts to wimp out" (Aug. 11, page 4), I realized that us Santa Monicans are all wimping out. Having attended Santa Monica College before transferring on to get my bachelor's degree, I found that getting classes you need and dealing with parking was a big problem for us broke students, working and paying our way through school.

As land-owning, Santa Monica bond-paying residents, we must demand special treatment for residents of Santa Monica. Residents of Santa Monica should get special, free parking permits to Santa Monica College right next to the faculty/staff parking as well as priority on all class registration before non-residents of Santa Monica. A bond paying-resident of Santa Monica should always get the class they want. The fact is, the majority of the students attending Santa Monica College are not from Santa Monica. Every other year the college taxes the citizens of Santa Monica with a bond. In 2002 it was for $160 million dollars, 2004 it was $135 million, in 2006 they scrapped a $175 million bond and this year they are doubling up and asking for $295 million.

They are looking to raise over a half a billion dollars in six years and at this rate should pass $1 billion by the end of the decade. It is safe to say this will not be the last bond measure we will see from our billion-dollar college. With that in mind the least they can do is be nice to the people that are footing the bill and toss us some perks. Come on SMC, pander to the bond-paying voters a little bit and buy our votes.

David Alsabery
Santa Monica

Red Cross concern

Editor:

The (Residents' Initiative to Fight Traffic) admirably seeks to preserve the quality of life that Santa Monica residents desire and deserve. In his Aug. 7 letter to the editor, Jeff Segal makes note of several nonprofit organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Club, which will be excluded from this Initiative. Unfortunately, many other nonprofits are not so lucky. As the CEO of one of those organizations which will be impacted, I must express my concern.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica has been providing services to the community for over 92 years. But the service demands have changed in nature and scope, especially since Sep. 11, 2001. Those demands coupled with the inevitability of a major earthquake in our future have required us to invest a great deal of time, money and energy into expanding our disaster response capability to ensure that we can meet the needs in Santa Monica. Thus we have had to consider a variety of facility upgrades and renovations for our aging infrastructure. The RIFT initiative would appear to delay or prevent such improvements and potentially impair our ability to deliver essential services when they are most needed.

Other nonprofits might be similarly affected. As a disaster response professional with over 34 years of experience, I can assure your readers that the human services needs in Santa Monica would change, literally overnight, should a major earthquake or other disaster occur. The RIFT ballot proposition seems to make no provision to accommodate these or other emergent needs in the nonprofit sector.

While the Red Cross sincerely supports goals the initiative seeks to address, we oppose the arbitrary nature with which it protects some nonprofits but not others. We encourage more thoughtful consideration so that our residents might also receive security in the event of more serious problems.

John M. Pacheco
Red Cross, Chief Executive Officer

Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Is our kids learnin'?

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, CALIFORNIA, which is the fifth largest global economy ahead of France and ranked 47th in the U.S. in book smarts is, according to the National Education Association, actually dumber than Alamab … Alabast … Alabama? We be real intellimagent. This glaring inequity comes on the heels of the California's 2006-07 budget agreement that has, "… increase[d] … education funding by over $3 billion, to nearly $50 billion…" including racial grievance mongered "… set-asides …" ? Also, according to the NEA, while we have the second highest paid teachers in the U.S., we lag 29th in per student expenditures at $10,325 per kidlet. We are also numero uno in the country for combined state and federal "edumacational" revenues totaling $63 billion. More money doesn't seem to solve this conundrum.

Do the math — no fair using your fingers.

A recent California "report card" exclaimed that 1 in 4 of your precious little Justins and Ambers are being transmogrified by a fetid sub-culture of bureaucrats masquerading as teachers into dimming light bulbs of sufficient wattage to barely illuminate a cash register at Pinkberry.

The same article also accounts that the L.A. County bonehead quotient implodes to 1 in 3. Now your kids are eminently qualified to operate a squeegee in the parking lot of Chinois on Main. If only they could read the street signs to get to work. But stop scapegoating teachers for the evanescent event horizon at the black hole of your own intellect. Some of them obviously don't know either.

Additionally, don't blame Bush for "No Child Left Behind" as the senator from Chappaquiddick, Teddy Kennedy, was holding Dubya's hand when Dubya signed it.

A recent 2007 CDC analysis, citing an Annenberg Public Policy study, demonstrated that your average kid engages in 4.5 hours of electronic media interaction a day. This includes video games and Internet usage on top of watching Nickelodeon.

While it is called a "boob tube" for a reason, think of it as a baby-sitter with one big blue eye. Now factor this into a recent headline blaring of parental complaints that kids have too much homework.

Parents are complaining? I thought the kids were supposed to complain. Or are mommy and daddy too embarrassed to inform their clueless Clarence that their own academic account is also squalidly overdrawn at the brain bank to provide a modicum of assistance in his "History of Evil Dead White Males" class?

In the same article, some joker with a masters of education intoned from his ivory tower that total homework should follow a rate of 10 minutes for every grade the child has achieved. An example was provided that a sixth grader should reasonably have one meager hour of homework a day.

This informs me that it must not have been very taxing for Mr. "Ed" to acquire an advanced degree in education if those same criteria were applied in the post-secondary milieu of his field. His secretary should inform him that the cure for intellectual hypoxia is to loosen one's necktie.

… DON'T BLAME BUSH FOR 'NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND' AS THE SENATOR FROM CHAPPAQUIDDICK, TEDDY KENNEDY, WAS HOLDING DUBYA'S HAND WHEN DUBYA SIGNED IT.

How about 4.5 hours of homework and one hour of TV a day, hmmm? It's obviously working in China and India.

I haven't owned a TV since 1993. Friends have given me one in the past. Eventually I give them away as it makes more room for my books. My kids grew up without a TV in the house.

My former wife and I both read voraciously, for information and entertainment. Our exquisitely bright children picked up the habit. Nathan left Venice High and enrolled at Santa Monica College at 16. Megan left an LAUSD magnet school at 14 and home schooled until graduation at 16.

Her LAUSD advisor had never had a child turn in seven to nine book reports every two weeks. He said he was lucky to see two to three per month from any other of his charges.

Nathan, courtesy of the U.S. Navy, is in a self-directed and self-taught long-distance learning program through Columbia University in Environmental Engineering. While he has been recently stationed in Iraq during his tour of duty on an EOD bomb squad in Basra, the success of the surge has allowed the peace and quiet for my son to complete classes in physics, chemistry and calculus with A's.

He's awaiting the results for his basic engineering principles course.

And his real time experience as a Navy Seabee in the field of mechanics and construction combined with his own academic acumen make him a very valuable asset for the future in environmental strategies to ensure U.S. hegemony in the world.

Folks, your kids, according to the U.S. Constitution, have no right to an education nor should a bloated and inept school system carry the Waters of Wisdom to your children. You need to bring your own bucket. Children imitate what they see and follow reasonable suit. Do your kids look like you?

STEVE BREEN'S Republi-kids are smarter and better looking than the average and is "still the best looking mailman in the U.S. Post Office"

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Trial of Salim is a sham

I WAS LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY ON that September morning seven years ago when the world changed forever. From the constant rumble of rescue vehicles passing my Brooklyn apartment building on their way to the Battery Tunnel, to the fine layer of ash covering my neighborhood like a grim snowfall, to the smell of smoke that lingered well into spring, terrorism had gone from a foreign concept to a daily reality for me.

So I've been paying very close attention to the first trial of one of the co-conspirators who supposedly helped make the events of that day possible. The proceedings are now over and I'm forced to conclude that just like the administration which coined the phrase, the "global war on terrorism" is a joke.

Salim Hamdan was picked up by Afghan forces in November of 2001 riding in a car with four other alleged al-Qaida members and two surface-to-air missiles. Hamdan was handed over to the U.S. military, who sent him to join "the worst of the worst" at Guantanamo Bay.

Because he was Osama bin Laden's driver and bodyguard, the administration was (wrongly) convinced he was part of al-Qaida's inner circle and decided that his would be the first case brought to trial in the new system of quasi-military "justice" the Pentagon had concocted. This is how the first American war crimes proceeding since World War II began and from the beginning, I should have known it was a sham.

The deck was stacked against Hamdan from day one. According to the administration, he had no legal rights — including those guaranteed by the Geneva Conventions.

He could be held without charges until the end of the "global war on terrorism," he couldn't have his case heard in a civilian court and instead would be subject to a newly created system over which the president rules like an emperor. Unlike a regular court proceeding, the new "military commissions" allowed secret testimony by secret witnesses to whom the defense may or may not have been given access.

Also, evidence was admitted despite being obtained by what the administration calls "coercive measures," but the rest of the world rightly refers to as "torture." I guess they figured since they had Osama bin Laden's driver and bodyguard (an al-Qaida member) in Afghanistan (a war zone) with missiles that could be used to kill Americans, it was an open-and-shut case. They couldn't have been more wrong.

First the Supreme Court ruled that Guantanamo detainees have rights under the Geneva Conventions. Then it ruled that they have the right to challenge their detention in courts — in addition to striking down the military commissions the administration created to make an end-run around the justice system. But the President had Congress in his back pocket, so they passed a new military commissions law that took the Supreme Court's ruling into consideration. After replacing the chief prosecutor (who quit after being told that these trials could not produce acquittals), Hamdan's case was back on track.

Keeping in mind that all charges of providing material support for terrorism had been dropped a year earlier, he was on trial for conspiracy to support terrorism and for providing material support (himself) to al-Qaida.

The decision came down last week and Salim Hamdan was not convicted of conspiring to kill Americans in the African embassy bombings, the USS Cole bombing, or the hijackings of 9/11. Instead, Osama bin Laden's driver and bodyguard was found guilty of being Osama bin Laden's driver and bodyguard. Stop the presses.

The administration counted on our buying that "worst of the worst" crap when it came to the people held at Guantanamo. They couldn't have counted on the first defendant becoming a sympathetic (if not pathetic) figure to the jury during the course of his prosecution.

Hamdan is a man with a wife, two daughters, and a fourth-grade education who left Yemen to go to work for Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan for $200 a month. It became clear that Hamdan didn't know everything his boss was up to and when he found out, he was visibly shaken. He basically said he thought bin Laden had gone crazy and that innocent people did not deserve to die. Some radical fundamentalist he turned out to be.

So after all was said and done, he was sentenced to 66 months and given credit for 61 months served. The two most telling statements came from the mastermind of the 9/11 hijackings who said Hamdan "was not fit to plan or execute" and from the judge in the case who said, "I hope the day comes that you are able to return to your wife and daughters in your country." He then added the words "God willing." In Arabic.

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

The Q Line

Paying to ride

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is considering a half cent sales tax to pay for county-wide transit projects including a light rail line to the Westside.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:
Would you be willing to pay the half cent sales tax increase to improve the county's mass transportation infrastructure?

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

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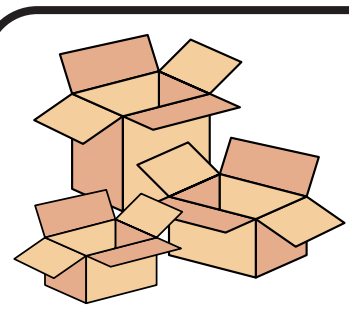
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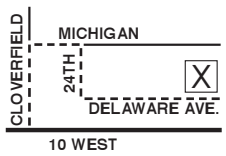

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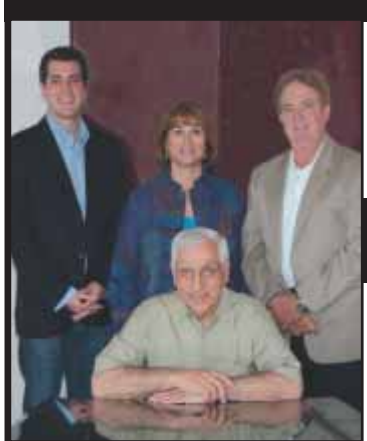
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Girls who blog: Innocent fun or potential danger?

BY AMANDA KWAN
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK On her blog, 12-year-old Tavi Gevinson posts photos of herself wielding a toilet plunger, posing in a room covered with newsprint and wearing a paint-splattered tutu inspired by Dolce & Gabbana's spring 2008 collection.

She's part of a young generation of fashion bloggers who display pictures of their outfits for all to see.

"Well I am new here," she wrote March 31 in her first post at Style Rookie. "Lately I've been really interested in fashion, and I like to make binders and slideshows of 'high-fashion' modeling and designs."

To some wary adults, she's in a world where she doesn't belong. Unlike a typical social network page, a blog can be seen by anyone. And at least one young fashion blogger says she's been recognized by strangers on the street — a worrisome turn for adults worried about privacy and predators.

For the young bloggers, it's a chance to keep track of their obsession, with input from friends or other fashion fans.

"I just kind of wanted to document my outfits, and it was just a random thing that wasn't in relation to anything," says Brooke Kao, the Washington-based blogger of The Fashion Void That Is DC. Kao recently turned 18, but she was 16 when she started writing posts about what she wore.

The Internet exposure concerns advocates like Parry Aftab, a lawyer who runs the online protection site WiredSafety.org.

"Parents have no idea what their kids are doing online," Aftab says. "Most parents have no idea what a blog is."

Concerns about internet safety for children have been fueled by such tragedies as the 2006 suicide of 13-year-old Megan Meier in Missouri. She hanged herself after receiving nasty online comments from a MySpace friend that turned out to be the creation of two acquaintances and a neighbor.

Although the federal government requires extra protection for Internet users who are younger than 13, not every Web site follows COPPA, or the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. Aftab notes that the social networking site Xanga.com was fined $1 million in 2006, accused of allowing preteens to create accounts without informing their parents. Some young bloggers are taking their own steps to protect their privacy. Kao crops her face from photos, while 16-year-old Stephanie Ullman erased an early blog because too many kids at her school found it.

"I'm not a very private person," she says. "I share a lot of information to people, I guess more than I probably should. But I just felt that I didn't want the people who are very close to me reading it because I guess I'm embarrassed about my writing sometimes."

It's that sharing of information with strangers that concerns mothers like Addie Swartz, CEO of the media company B-tween Productions and a mother of two teenage daughters. Swartz's company is launching a special social networking site for girls ages 9 to 12 because Swartz felt kids need "a safe place that lets them try out Facebook" without giving them opportunities to post personal data that blogs allow.

"I believe it's a great outlet if you're older and more mature, but you are opening yourself up to the world, and you have to be prepared for that," Swartz says. "I personally feel that it's not safe to have a child who's 12 or 13 have a blog and I wouldn't want my kids to do that."

Although Aftab isn't against blogging, she is worried about some photos the girls post and the potential for cyber-bullying by people they know.

"You are what you post online," she says. "Are you posing in a more provocative way? Is it how you want to be remembered when your next boyfriend sees it or your future mother-in-law sees it or your tuition scholarship person's going to review you for Dartmouth?"

Kao started cropping her face from photos at her parents' request when her sister informed them of the blog. She also blurs the names and faces of family or friends who show up in her photos.

"I felt like I had to protect the identity of people who don't know or aren't aware of the blog," Kao says.

Tavi's dad, Steve Gevinson, wasn't fully aware that she was blogging until she asked for permission to appear in an upcoming New York Times magazine story on the subject.

"I may have known, but to me it was a kind of a non-thing to know," Gevinson, a high school English teacher, says from his home in Oak Park, a Chicago suburb. "I didn't look at it. I wasn't terribly interested in seeing it."

Style Rookie went from a non-issue to a problem when in late July, New York magazine's fashion blog questioned Tavi's age, dissecting her precocious fashion sense and sophisticated taste in music. The resulting comments ranged from suspicious to nasty, with one reader claiming, "Anyone who actually believes she is 12 is an absolute idoit (sic)."

The Gevinsons were asleep at their vacation house in Michigan when Tavi checked her e-mail and found the post.

"She slept in the bed with us that night to get back to sleep," Gevinson says. The next night, "She woke up, and again woke us up, and said — and this is really heartbreaking — 'I just woke up crying and I don't even know why I'm crying.'"

Such negative responses are the reason why children shouldn't be blogging, Swartz says. "Whoever may comment and whatever feedback you may get — girls are very impressionable, especially girls in this age that we're ... talking about."

But Gevinson thinks kids like Tavi are stronger than parents believe. "I have a lot of confidence in her and in most kids, if not all kids, that they can figure it out if they have good guidance and caring people working with them," he says.

Tavi, after taking a short break in the wake of the attention, has returned to blogging with her father's blessing.

"I'd much rather have her decide to stop if she's going to stop than to tell her to stop," Gevinson says. "It would have been fine with me if she didn't pick it back up again. But I think it was healthy that she did. I think it would have been a bad thing for this to be the reason to stop blogging. She'll grow out of it — maybe, maybe not."

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SMDP0708

Creative couple

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

For those of you who dream of working artistically with your spouse look to Randall Miller and Jody Savin whose latest cinematic endeavor "Bottle Shock" may be the perfect example of creative synergy realized.

Like most married couples, Miller and Savin finish each other's sentences, an added benefit when your spouse is also your writing partner. Savin is an exuberant pixie; full of life and Miller is just as affable. Bill Pullman, one of the film's stars says, "They have an energy and enthusiasm about the storytelling that is infectious ... people feel good about working on their movies."

Savin and Miller met while at an American Film Institute event, but their collaborative journey to film success was neither easy nor was it Miller's first career choice – he was pre-med at UC Davis. Somewhere in his second year of organic chemistry, much to the chagrin of his doctor parents, he realized it wasn't his calling and dropped out, making his way to L.A. to act, landing roles in, of all things, beer commercials.

Meanwhile, Savin, a Princeton grad, was living in NYC with dreams of being a playwright/poet, when she decided to transition to the film biz. To get the ball rolling, one of her father's patients (he's a dermatologist) connected Savin to the head of music on soap operas and Savin was hired to do "overflow."

Miller adds, "They loved her," because Savin explains, "I was easygoing. I wasn't a conservatory trained musician, so when a producer said, 'I hate the music,' I wouldn't get offended, I'd say, 'Okay fine. Here are 12 other pieces that sound really great', and I would run down the hall and get them."

Though not her chosen medium she applied a high standard to her work, becoming an Emmy-nominated musical director. But at heart Savin was a frustrated writer, and so she applied to AFI's writing program.

Back in L.A., Robert Zemeckis ("Back To The Future") had been introduced to Miller's writing and took the aspiring actor under his wing, kindly suggesting USC Film School as Miller says, "A back up plan for the whole acting thing. It was like starting all over again, but at USC, I learned how to make movies."

Some of his thesis film scripts were produced but Miller was never asked to direct. In fact, one of his bombastic teachers commented, "Directors are born, and you were not born a director." Fortunately Miller had the good sense to know, it was time to move on.

He applied and was selected into AFI's director program where he made three shorts, amongst them, "Marilyn Hotchkiss' Ballroom Dancing & Charm School." His big break came from AFI alumnus Ed Zwick who saw it and had him direct an episode of "Thirtysomething."

Savin had been at AFI for almost a year when she saw Miller's first short and recognized his potential. But the film was as Miller says, "About a guy who dates three women simultaneously; completely misogynistic." Savin told him, "Finally there's somebody with talent at this school, and you're wasting your talent on drivel." Miller hated her.

Then one night they were at a Hollywood bar chatting when Miller kissed her and says, Savin, "We've been together ever since." The pair then began working exclusively as a writing team. They both admit to the occasional conflict, Miller explains, "The arguments over writing can get very personal ... such as, 'you always put that same joke in everything.'" They both laugh good-naturedly when he makes this point.

The duo outlines extensively in coffee houses, which forces them as Miller says, "To keep the swearing at a minimum."

They are together every single day, six hours a day writing. "Then," says Miller, "One of us starts a draft. Then the other one gets the draft, and you can't even come into the room while the other one has the draft ... we don't write well in rooms together."

In "Bottle Shock" they had checks and balances. "The rule is," says Miller, "you can't go back to a previous joke or line, you have to keep evolving it," of which they both concur, "It took years to come up with this particular plan."

The original "Bottle Shock" script, written by Ross Schwartz, son of Sherwood Schwartz (creator of "Gilligan's Island") was intriguing.

"We knew," says Savin, "That suddenly at some point in the 1970s people weren't embarrassed to drink California wine, but we didn't know what was the catalyst for that sea change in thinking."

The film depicts the story of real-life heroes of viniculture, Jim and Bo Barrett and the groundbreaking 1976 competition that forever changed the world's perception of California wines.

Miller and Savin did a lot of research, eventually crafting their own version. The most significant changes are several fictionalized characters added to provide conflict and to handle exposition, such as "Maurice," Dennis Farina's character and "Sam" the "Heidi Barrett" composite.

"Bottle Shock" has been a festival pick, since it debuted at Sundance. Next up for the duo is "Nobel Son," a dark piece, starring Alan Rickman, coming out in October.

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Tailfish@roadrunner.com

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Elderly woman victim of robbery

FROM **ROBBERY** PAGE 1

back. He had no gun or other visible weapon, but he did strike her and grabbed her by the neck.

The intruder ordered the victim to sit in a chair while he ransacked her home, Liber said.

"She was actually very brave," she said of her neighbor. The victim told Liber that the man used a screw driver to break in and then left it on the bed.

"She poked him in the belly with it," Liber said.

He tied her hands and feet with an electrical cord and pulled all the phone cords out of the wall.

"He got some jewelry and some cash she had in the house," Liber said. "He went through everything so meticulously that he found things she didn't even know she had."

The suspect left with two pillowcases full of jewelry and cash, Liber said.

SMPD's Thruston could not comment on specifics of the incident because it is still under investigation.

While the police hunt for a suspect, the victim's neighbors are left to wonder about who may have brought crime to their area.

"I noticed one man a few months ago," Scott said, thinking of people who may have been watching her neighborhood. "He was on a bike, just looking at houses."

Scott didn't think much of the event at the time, but following the robbery, her husband suggested she tell the police.

"My initial reaction was just that it seemed kind of weird," Scott said.

But now, she is very aware of who may be watching the streets and following her own routine, having heard that robbers pay attention to individuals who have daily patterns.

Alexandra Bissonnette *news@smdp.com*

DRAWING A CROWD: **News crews turned out on Tuesday to report on the latest in a series of robberies targeting elderly women living on their own. The victim in this case is an elderly woman in her 70s living in the 1200 block of Ashland Avenue. She was not harmed during the incident.**

The victim's other next door neighbor, Alex — who would not give his last name — has lived in the neighborhood for 35 years.

"I have a dog, and I also have lights and motion detectors as well," he said. He was confident that he would not become a target.

As for the victim, neighbors say she will be staying with her daughters for the time being.

Scott just hopes that her neighborhood does not see more of these crimes.

"I hope it doesn't become too much of an issue," she said.

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Separate election would've cost L.A. County $10 million

FROM TAX PAGE 1

ing tax cap.

The reversal came as good news to local transit activists who have long bemoaned the lack of adequate funding to make transportation projects, like the Subway to the Sea, a reality.

The measure, which would increase the county's sales tax from 8.25 to 8.75 percent, would raise approximately $40 billion over the next 30 years, funding initiatives that could go a long way toward alleviating congestion.

The proposal must get a two-thirds vote in order to pass.

The MTA board in July voted to place the measure on the ballot.

"I'm glad they made the practical and most cost-efficient decision," Pam O'Connor, the past MTA chairman and Santa Monica city councilmember, said.

The motion's defeat last week caught some by surprise, including Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who represents communities on the Westside.

"I think (Knabe) was struggling with it last week too and I think he recognized that there was a consequence to not consolidating the election," Yaroslavsky said.

Yaroslavsky noted that the county has never failed to consolidate an election and the law is clear that the board must approve one unless there are certain findings that would make it unfeasible. The current proposal didn't present such findings, he said.

The MTA last week filed a lawsuit asking the court to order a consolidated ballot. The agency will now ask the judge to dismiss the lawsuit.

Yaroslavsky said that he will support the sales tax.

"This is a once in a generation opportunity to make a dramatic positive impact on public transportation in Los Angeles County," he said. "Traffic has gotten exponentially worse."

> **"[KNABE] WAS OPPOSED TO THE BURDEN FOR ADDITIONAL ELECTION COSTS BEING PLACED ON TAXPAYERS."**
>
> **David Sommers**
> Press secretary for supervisor Don Knabe

The separate election could've had an impact on the voter turnout for the second ballot, though transit activists say they are unsure whether it would've been positive or negative.

"There could be as much as a 30 percent drop (in votes cast) from the top of the presidential ticket to the last item on the ballot," Denny Zane, the co-chair of the Subway to the Sea Coalition, said. "No one can say for sure because being a supplemental ballot in a way calls out to voters — they might check out the first five items on the county ballot and go to the supplemental ballot to check out what it is."

Bus riders in Santa Monica seemed receptive to a sales tax hike.

"If the tax increase builds a subway to Santa Monica, that would be great because it takes more than two buses right now to go anywhere," Judi Madrid, a Santa Monica resident who relies on the bus for transportation, said.

The Associated Press and Christina Yoon contributed to this report

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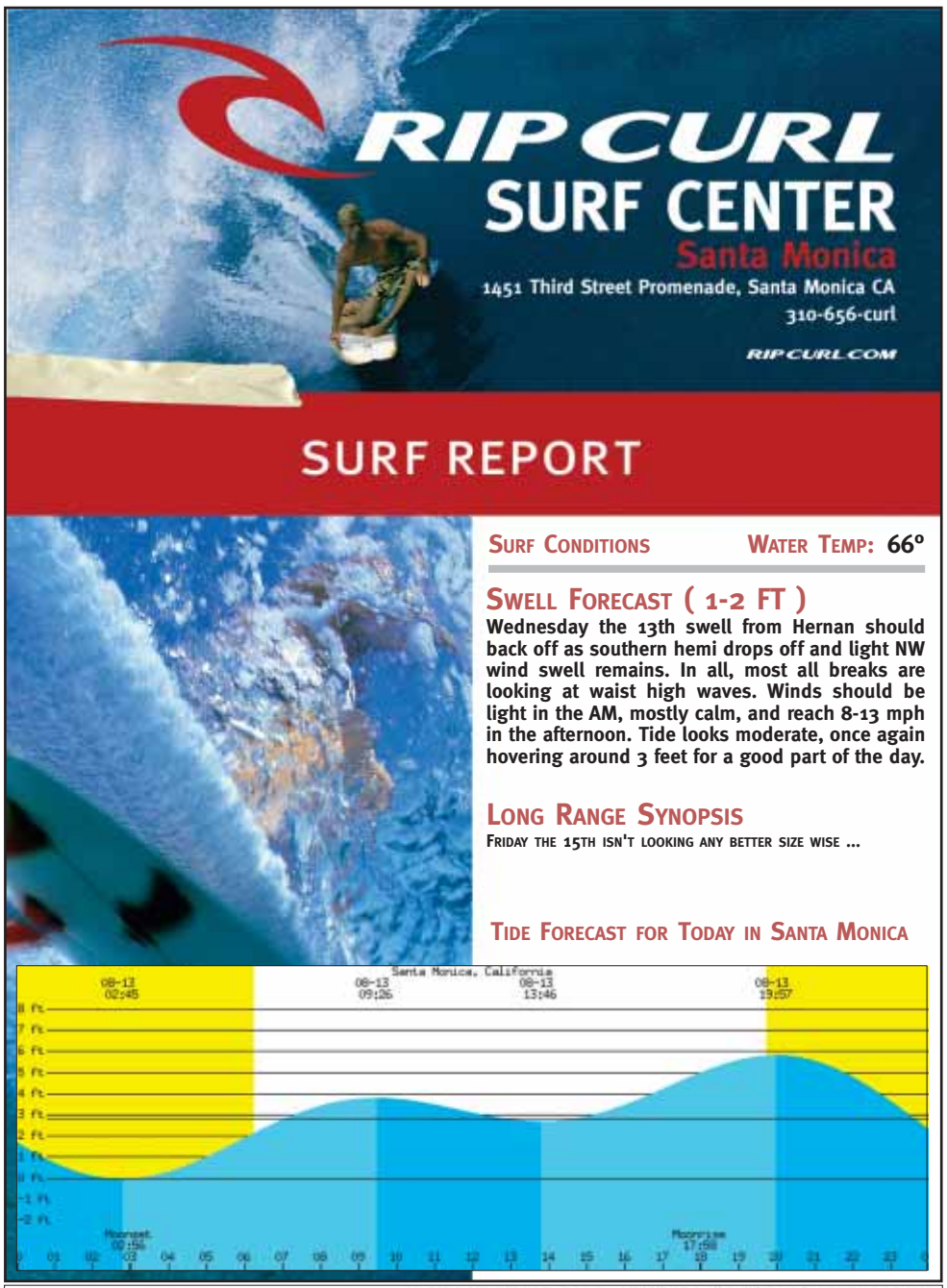

Overseas travelers benefit from dollar's current slump

FROM TRAVEL PAGE 3

ture oceanview rooms at Casa del Mar for $675 and includes $50 in hotel credit every day. The package at Shutters runs about $750 a night.

While the two beachfront hotels are experiencing their strongest summers to date, that success might dwindle in the coming months, said Scott Evans, the vice president of sales and marketing for Edward Thomas.

"We anticipate the economy is going to affect business travel as well as the airlines," Evans said. "We hope that we're wrong but we think that is going to cause a bit of downturn for business."

The high-occupancy trend the past few months holds true in many of the local hotels, the summer traditionally being one of the strongest seasons.

But, with fuel costs rising and airlines announcing cuts to the amount of flights, times could soon get worse for tourism on the Westside.

"How deeply are we affected? No one knows that yet," Misti Kerns, the president and CEO of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, said. "The economy and consumer confidence are at record lows and when people think we're in a recession, they don't spend as much money."

Yet while economic conditions are keeping more and more Americans at home, some hotels are reporting seeing an increasing percentage of overseas travelers whose countries are thriving financially.

The Holiday Inn is currently offering special deals to international clients who book through select travel agents, making it more inexpensive to upgrade a room or stay longer.

"We are trying to make it more easy to be able to sell the product," Jonathan Go, an accounting specialist with Holiday Inn who deals with foreign tourism, said.

The influx can be attributed to the strength of certain foreign currencies, making the relatively inexpensive prices in the United States a reason to visit.

"Gas and everything else is cheaper here than in Canada," Julie Magnam, a visitor from Montreal who stayed at the Georgian Hotel for her honeymoon, said. "Due to the lower dollar value, it's much easier here. It's a place I can go without worrying about the money."

> **"BECAUSE OF THE PRICE OF GAS AND THE PRICE OF FUEL, PEOPLE AREN'T FLYING AS MANY PLACES ANYMORE."**
>
> **Kate Jerkens**
> Spokeswoman, Viceroy

Klaus Billep, the owner of Universal Travel System, said that prices are usually double in Europe than in the United States, particularly gas, many Europeans finding the $4 average in California to be a bargain.

"In Europe, it's $9.50 a gallon," Billep said.

While the larger hotels could experience a drop in occupancy during the coming months, those offering mid-to-low budget accommodations could be immune.

The Travelodge and Pacific Sands Motel in particular are seeing 100 percent occupancy year round, according to owner Michael Farzam.

"Because we're in the limited amenity, affordable price range, we haven't seen a change this summer," Farzam said.

The Ambrose, which is located about 20 blocks east of the beach, is expecting to see an increase in business executive clientele, the mid-priced boutique hotel normally attracting managers and middle-level employees.

The hotel has also experienced a strong summer.

"We might see a shift in who is staying with some corporations cutting their travel budgets," Megan Kelly, the sales manager with the Ambrose, said. "We might see more of the high-profile people just because some corporations aren't willing to spend as much as they used to."

melodyh@smdp.com. Alice Ollstein contributed to this report

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **August 5, 2008**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) 1hr 36min
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

The X-Files: I Want to Believe (PG-13)
12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

Hancock (PG-13) 1hr 32min
1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:05, 10:20

The Wackness (R) 1hr 35min
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Transsiberian (R) 1hr 51min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

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

WALL-E (G) 1hr 37min
12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45

Step Brothers (R) 1hr 35min
11:50am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20

Journey to the Center of the Earth - 3-D (PG) 1hr 32min
12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

Tropic Thunder (R) 1hr 47min
12:00, 1:30, 2:35, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00, 7:50, 9:40, 10:30

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor, The (PG-13) 1hr 54min
1:15, 4:05, 6:45, 9:30

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2, The (PG-13) 1hr 57min
1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

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

Elegy (R) 1hr 48min
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

Bottle Shock (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55

Brideshead Revisited (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

Tell No One (Ne le dis a personne) (NR) 2hrs 05min
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15

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

Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:30am, 1:40, 3:00, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00

The Pineapple Express (R) 1hr 45min
10:50am, 1:30, 2:30, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 7:50, 9:50, 10:30

Hell Ride (R) 1hr 23min
12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20

Mamma Mia! (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:10am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:10

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

Stay out late, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ If you attempt to avoid a situation, you will walk smack into it, causing the opposite effect. Perhaps giving this person the space to simply do and be might be the least controversial stance. Tonight: Out as late as is necessary.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Others could find you challenging, as your thoughts are deep into something else. The problem remains that someone sorely needs and wants your feedback. You might be stunned suddenly by what you see happening around you! Tonight: Do not take someone personally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Working with one other person draws the kind of reaction everyone dreams of. You seem to communicate your ideas, but also impart a great deal of enthusiasm at the same time. Tonight: Do not forget your special person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others dominate. Hop out of the way, and you will be, by far, much happier. Your way of handling a problem changes radically if you relax. Someone might not get the truth of your words or cannot hear your message. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Emphasize productivity, but at the same time do not forget about you. Schedule a checkup. Consider a new exercise or diet program. It's your call. Spending some money on yourself might be very important. Tonight: The diet starts tomorrow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Where is that twinkle in your eye coming from? Perhaps you are seeing someone differently, or you are amused at the scenario that surrounds you. Romance and/or creativity bubble forth. Someone finds you to be amazing. Tonight: Start acting like it is Friday night!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ If you can call in, do. Everyone, be they a child or an adult, loves to play hooky. Why not you? Put on your answering machine and share your time with a closed loved one. There is nothing wrong with opting to be alone, either. Tonight: Vanish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your words could turn around a situation. A meeting could be swayed by your thoughts. Be willing to put yourself on the line and make happen what you need. Often, you take a backseat. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Deal with finances by manifesting your natural strength and intelligence. You might not be able to control another's decision, but you can rein yourself in or choose a strong response. Tonight: Explore options.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You hit a peak few days. What might be the smart action is to re-arrange your schedule ASAP for anything that is very important. You make a good impression. Try to cut some of the judgments, OK? Tonight: Ask, and you shall receive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Understand that even you need to cut back some. You cannot always have 'things" your way. Pull back. In fact, taking a day off or simply closing your door and not answering the phone could revive you. Tonight: Mull over a situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Friends surround you. You do not need to test the waters; rather, trust in your desirability, and listen with a stronger sense of self. It might be hard to create exactly what you see, but a joint project could be successful. Tonight: Where your friends are.

Happy birthday

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

You are one of the most determined signs. This year, you will learn the wisdom of bending or trying another path. Face facts. You cannot be right every time, all of the time. An opportunity for growth occurs in your daily life and possibly in your work. You also might develop a sweet tooth if you are not careful. You could witness an expansion of your waistline if you are not careful. If you are single, most likely you will meet someone in your day-to-day travels. The second part of this birthday year could have you socializing a lot. If attached, the two of you grow through a mutual hobby or interest. CAPRICORN makes a great healer for you, as well as a co-worker.

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And show up to work in peaceful mood.

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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 ★★★

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

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

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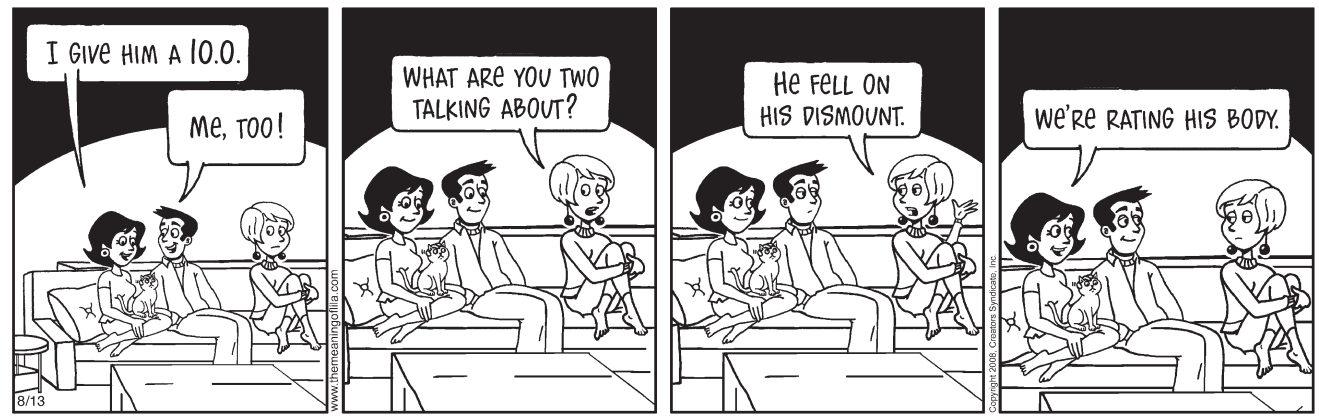
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

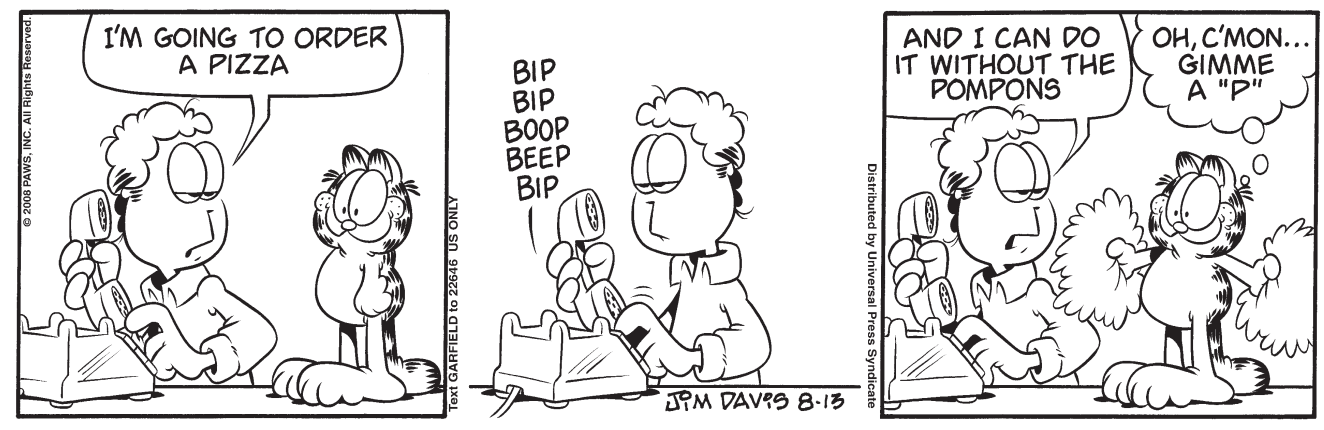


The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

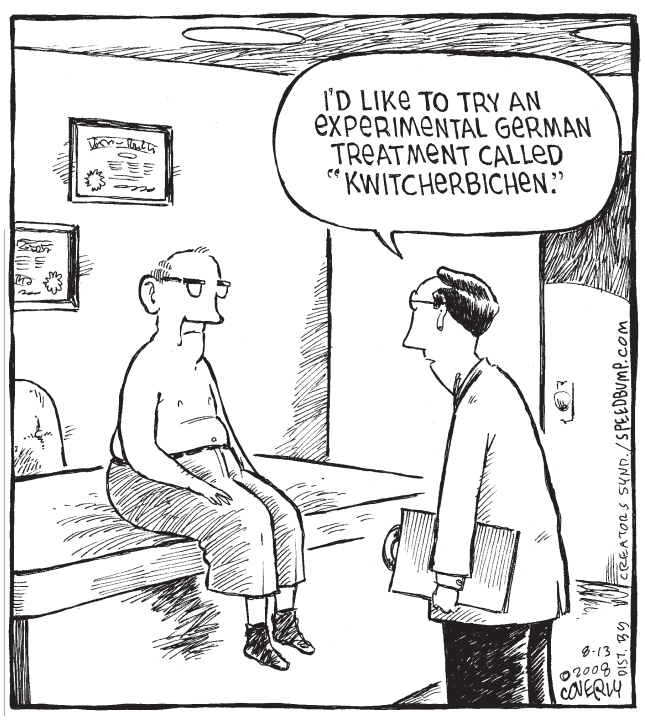
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

Strange Brew

By John Deering

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Soraya Danesh *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Boston orchestra
5 Like lemons
9 Caper
11 Gallantry
12 Rome's river
13 "You don't say!"
14 Not to mention
15 Drink cooler
17 Agitated
19 Checkers side
20 Beer mug
21 Garden plot
22 Stage player
24 Lass
26 Acropolis sights
29 Jo's sister
30 Hot cereal
32 Doing well
34 Compete
35 Configuration
36 Start of a Dickens title
38 Makes smooth
39 More broad
40 Pert talk
41 Knee protectors

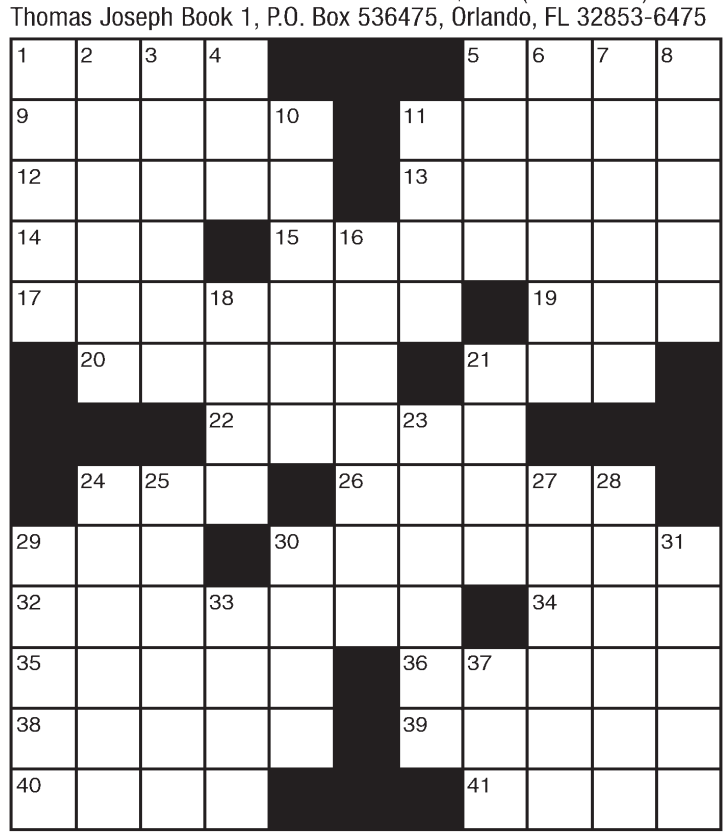
DOWN

1 Page of music
2 Burger toppers
3 Small military vessel
4 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
5 Powder base
6 Charm
7 Held up
8 Cornered
10 Arts writer
11 Behold
16 Middle
18 Ornamental stamp
21 Hat part
23 Desperado
24 Red Cross headquarters
25 Some marbles
27 "Bonanza" setting
28 Went to sea
29 Role for Heston
30 "Clumsy me!"
31 Lewd looks
33 Diamond scores
37 Service reward

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



8-13

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 11 17 28 32 50
Meganumber: 33
Jackpot: $56M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 9 11 14 24 39
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5: 13 14 27 28 35

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 9 8 6
EVENING: 9 4 1

DAILY DERBY
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1.44.58

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Police, including SWAT officers, were called to an apartment in Mesa, Ariz., in June after neighbors reported a fight between a man and woman that included yelling and breaking things inside. When they arrived, they found only a 21-year-old man, conducting the fight by himself, alternating a high-pitched voice with a low-pitched one. He was referred for a medical exam.

■ Ontario's recent law against street-racing snared two noteworthy drivers in April: a 26-year-old man who was cited when he passed a marked police car while doing 178 km/hr (106 mph) and the driver of a garbage truck, racing at 112 km/hr (double the posted speed limit).

■ A 3-year-old girl was seriously injured in Huntsville, Ala., in May in a collision caused, said witnesses, by a speeding contest between two men, both employees of Comcast Corp., driving company vans.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1521 Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez captured Tenochtitlan, present-day Mexico City, from the Aztecs.

1624 French King Louis XIII named Cardinal Richelieu his first minister.

1704 the Battle of Blenheim was fought during the War of the Spanish Succession, resulting in a victory for English-led forces over French and Bavarian soldiers.

1846 the American flag was raised for the first time in Los Angeles.

1889 William Gray of Hartford, Conn., received a patent for a coin-operated telephone.

1910 Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, died in London at age 90.

1932 Adolf Hitler rejected the post of vice-chancellor of Germany, saying he was prepared to hold out "for all or nothing."

1934 the satirical comic strip "Li'l Abner," created by Al Capp, made its debut.

WORD UP!

enervate \EN-ur-vayt\, *transitive verb*:
1. To deprive of vigor, force, or strength; to render feeble; to weaken.
2. To reduce the moral or mental vigor of.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Obituaries

EUGENE EDWARD Ellspermann, Jr

EUGENE EDWARD Ellspermann, Jr. suddenly passed away, Tuesday, July 22, 2008.

Born November 8, 1930 in St. Louis, MO he relocated to the Santa Monica, CA area with his family at a young age. "Genie" was a Santa Monica graduate of Class of '50. He then joined the US Army where he held the ranking of private, US Army 1953 6th Inf. Div. Fort Ord, CA. At base, he enthusiastically worked as a truck mechanic and assisted his unit in the early testing of atomic bombs in Nevada.

After marriage and three children, he enjoyed his time bartending at multiple Santa Monica restaurants including: Cheerio's, Broken Drum, Penquin's and Casa Escobar. He also got pleasure from playing cards and tending bar at his local Moose Lodge.

The 1994 Northridge earthquake prompted him to relocate to Summerlin, an area just north of Las Vegas, NV where he met his best friend – his dog Bear. There he worked proudly as an employee of Wal-Mart for many years until his passing.

Preceded by death are his parents Josephine Louise and Eugene Edward Ellspermann, Sr. and his sister Kathleen.

Surviving are his sister Mary Jane Jorgenson; son, Greg Ellspermann and wife Susana; daughters, Lisa Ellspermann-Ramos, and husband Edward; and Jackie Gonsier; six grandchildren, Samantha, Jessica, Jennifer, Ben, Gabriella, Jasmine; and nieces and nephews.

Gene – You will be truly missed. Keep an eye on us all. We love you dearly.

Graveside Services will be held at 1:00pm, Friday, August 15th at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are appreciated. Help honor his name by supporting the American Heart Association.

Miscellaneous

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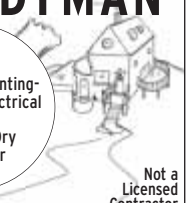

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Average Price of **All** Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Mid August 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 2,932,308	$ 5,730,000
North of Montana	=	$ 4,253,385	$ 2,188,769
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 3,653,375	$ 977,389
South of Wilshire	=	$ 1,178,744	$ 662,327
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,402,016	$ 768,222
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,695,000	$ 1,407,273

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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