

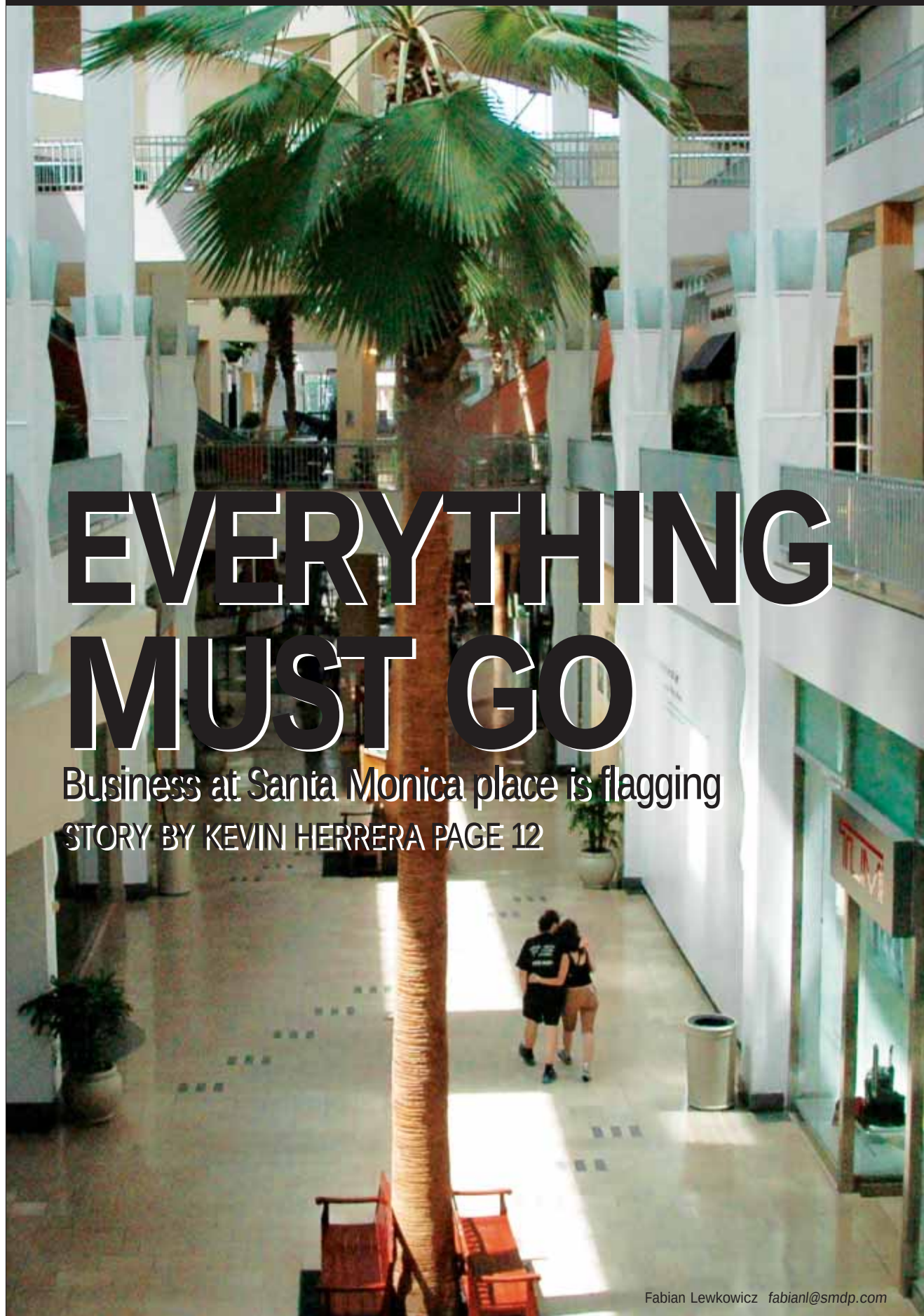
SWEET RIDES
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE MAKING PLANS, TAKING STANDS ISSUE

LIFESTYLE



EVERYTHING MUST GO

Business at Santa Monica place is flagging

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 12

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Lohan's troubles continue

Civil lawsuit emerges from actress' wild ride last month

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA COURTHOUSE Actress Lindsay Lohan was slapped with a lawsuit on Tuesday by a woman involved in the starlet's drunken car pursuit three weeks ago in Santa Monica.

In a seven-page document filed in Santa Monica Courthouse, Tracie Rice — who was riding in the vehicle allegedly chased by the actress and her entourage — accuses Lohan of assault and negligence, claiming the “Mean Girls” star intended to inflict emotional harm in the July 24 incident.

Lohan was booked for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a suspended/revoked license and possession of a controlled substance after Santa Monica Police officers received a call from a distressed woman who said she was being chased by an SUV.



LOHAN

Fresh out of rehab at the time, Lohan was driving the SUV that allegedly pursued a 2007 Cadillac Escalade, driven by the mother of her former personal assistant, Michelle Peck, of Santa Monica.

A call to Lohan's attorney was not returned on Tuesday.

The plaintiff is seeking an unspecified amount of damages.

“At this point, we don't know the full extent of damages,” said Paul Hoffman, Rice's attorney. “It's still early ... until we know how long this will have an impact on Tracie.”

Rice resides in Los Angeles County, but not in Santa Monica, according to Hoffman, declining to identify his client's city of residence.

The suit outlines details of the early morning

SEE LOHAN PAGE 13



Gary Limjap

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04/08

Calendar

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



UCLA goes global

11301 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
CALPIRG, a UCLA student group focused on Global Warming, will present an exhibition of global warming solutions on Bruinwalk, followed by a screening of "An Inconvenient Truth" at Ackerman Union.

'Grease' sing-along screening

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 12:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
The Main Library presents "Grease" as a sing-along event; the lyrics will be available on the screen so everyone can sing along. Seating is first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

'Unspeakable Joy'

1260 18th St., 1:30 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Community Church presents "Unspeakable Joy" with the Santa Monica College Emeritus Gospel Community Chorus in concert, followed by an art exhibit and refreshments. The event is free and the public is invited, with a special invitation to neighbors living in senior retirement homes and assisted care facilities.

Green Living Workshop #80

1744 Pearl St., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Learn how to save \$200 a year on utilities, cut landfill waste by 50 percent and brush up on the latest Eco-Info in this six-week course. Suggested residential donations are \$25 for Santa Monica residents and \$50 for Los Angeles residents. For more information or to register, call the Sustainable Works office at (310) 458-8716.

Mystery book group

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
The Main Library's Mystery Book Group discusses Harlan Coben's "The Woods." Group meets in the Community Meeting Room.

Montana Avenue Branch book club

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
The book to be discussed is Kiran Desai's "The Inheritance of Loss." The novel takes place in the Himalayas where a judge's retirement is upset by the arrival of his orphaned granddaughter.

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2007

'Santa Monica Farmers' Market: Making the Most of the Farmers' Market'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
A discussion with Nicholas Peter, chef/owner of The Little Door; Amelia Saltsman, cooking show host, food writer and author of "The Santa Monica Farmers Market Cookbook"; and Peter Schaner, farmer and market participant from Valley Center. Moderated by Amy Scattergood, Los Angeles Times staff writer. This program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and on a first arrival basis. For more information, call (310) 458-8600 or visit www.smpl.org.

Keith Hollis and the PO' BOYZ Organ Trio

1432 Fourth St., 9:30 p.m. — 1 a.m.
Organ trio Keith Hollis and the PO' BOYZ bring a taste of New Orleans funk sprinkled with some down-home blues to Harvelle's. \$5 cover charge with no drink minimum; 21 and over. Visit www.harvelles.com for more information.

Twilight Dance Series

Santa Monica Pier, 7:30 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Amoeba Music presents "An Evening with Patti Smith" at the 23rd Annual Twilight Dance Series.

Hitchcock in hindsight

1328 Montana Ave., 7:30 p.m.
The American Cinematheque presents a retrospective of Alfred Hitchcock's work. All screenings are at the Max Palevsky Theatre at the Aero Theatre. Guests subject to availability. Advance tickets available through www.fandango.com.

Fall prevention for seniors

2317 Broadway, 8 a.m. — 7 p.m.
Balance classes for senior citizens are available through the end of summer every Tuesday and Thursday at Clinicare. For more information or to make an appointment, call (310) 829-2225 or visit www.clinicaresantamonica.com.

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.





MEETING OF THE RIDES

A caravan of 50 Lamborghini automobiles made a visit to the Santa Monica Pier on Monday during the Annual Giro Lamborghini 2007 tour.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Trouble is brewing at UCLA

Self-admitted pedophile arrested after violating standing restraining order

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

WESTWOOD Self-professed pedophile Jack McClellan was charged Tuesday with violating a court restraining order after he was arrested one day earlier near a day care center at UCLA, and then again on campus hours later.

McClellan — who has posted photos of little girls on a now-disabled Web site, but has never been arrested for a sex crime — pleaded not guilty to the misdemeanor charge.

The 45-year-old, who has told reporters he is living out of his car somewhere near Venice, was jailed on \$150,000 bail and is due back at the Airport Branch Courthouse on Aug. 28 for a pretrial hearing, authorities said.

McClellan, who was spotted last month walking through the children's section of the Main Library in Santa Monica, was arrested twice on Monday by UCLA police after violating a restraining order barring him from stalking, photographing or getting within 10 yards of any children in California.

The first arrest was made around 1:40 p.m., when officers at the university were called to the Infant Development Program after McClellan was observed in the area in possession of a camera, said Nancy Greenstein, public information officer for the UCLA Police Department.

The Infant Development Center is



MCCLELLAN

Westside feels the pinch

Area home prices continue to go up with no end in sight

BY EMILY SKEHAN
Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE It's been a long time since Santa Monica was a moderately affordable city in which to live, but the past year saw

the city's real estate costs reach a whole new level.

The desirable beachside community was one of the top-10 cities in California with the highest median home price increase in 2007.

The average cost of a home in Santa Monica rose 18.7 percent in the past 12 months — an increase on par with other rapidly appreciating cities like Menlo Park and Newport Beach.

"Santa Monica is right on the beach," said Santa Monica and Brentwood real estate agent Simon Salloom, when asked

why the community might be so attractive to residents. "The schools are great. It's not crowded. Its just a beautiful, magical piece of land and people want to live here."

But the apparent increase in real estate prices, Salloom pointed out, might not be entirely accurate.

"Not that many homes are sold here because Santa Monica just isn't congested like other Westside cities," he said. "That means that average home price increase might not be an incredibly accurate figure."

SEE PRICES PAGE 14

SEE MCCLELLAN PAGE 13



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Save the shade
Editor:

(Re: “Ficus fiasco continues,” Aug. 14)
The complaint of sign blockage on Second and Fourth streets has a familiar ring. It is basically the same complaint landowners made when Third Street was being redeveloped: That the street must be open to traffic so that people driving by would see their signs. Now, Third Street is closed to traffic and major national retailers are competing to locate there.

Personally, I'm not fond of ficus trees, but they were the tree of choice of some city employee decades ago, and as a result, we have a plague of them, not just downtown, but on 20th Street, Yale (whose residents fought off the city's planned destruction of their trees) and elsewhere. We have invested decades and a considerable amount of the taxpayers' money in bringing up these trees, and now they are mature. One of the species' great virtues is that it does provide heavy shade. Ginkgos are OK with me, but this is not the time to cut down the ficus.

For a preview of what a clear-cut street looks like, visit Arizona Avenue between Third and Fifth streets around noon. It is bleak, broiling and uninviting. The picturesque old carobs were cut down last year (some, at least, were diseased) and have been replaced by Foxtail Palms. At a time when the Los Angeles City Council has ordered a stop to city planting of palms in an effort to provide more shade during what is likely to be many years of increasing temperatures, Santa Monica is ripping out shade trees and replacing them with palms – telephone poles with hair, as someone has called them. The result is very hot asphalt.

The city has persisted in taking a Band-Aid approach to this problem. It has, for example, required owners seeking building permits to provide passageways to the alleys, for example, the one at Borders (on Third Street). In any case, it hasn't worked. Few people want to go to alleys and a closed passageway is less inviting than a street. The current redevelopment scheme – mere streetscaping – is another Band-Aid. The real long-term solution is three new narrow traffic-less pedestrian ways from Second Street to Fourth Street, open to the sky, halfway down each block between Wilshire and Broadway. The city could create such walkways by exercising its right of eminent domain to condemn six lots, fairly compensating the landowners. Of course, it would be a major expense, but it would increase the value of land on Second and Third streets and be a permanent improvement in the city.

(The Daily Press') report reveals this project as, partly, another example of the city government's insatiable search for more money, in this case from the “Federal Transportation Enhancement Activities fund.” Mayor Bloom, echoing President Bush, tells us to stay the course. That is sensible only if the course leads to results we want. I do not know any Santa Monicans who are enthusiastic about the continuing mini-Manhattanization of downtown Santa Monica. City staff's idea of what the city should be like does not seem to coincide with that of the residents, and they have involved us in a vicious circle of development and congestion mitigation. I'm reminded of the City Manager who wanted to build an island with a hotel in the bay.

Perhaps it is again time for those who live and vote here to communicate their vision of the future Santa Monica more forcefully.

John Lord
Santa Monica

Cash dictates city's tree choices
Editor:

Please do everything you can to stop these trees from getting cut down. Prune them so they are not so top-heavy. I thought Santa Monica was known as the “City of Trees.” Why do these people who couldn't care less about Santa Monica always get their way?

These trees are part of Santa Monica. I would fathom a guess and say that somebody making a little cash here is the real reason they are so determined to cut them down.

What most disturbed me in your article today (“Ficus fiasco continues,” Aug. 14) is that they plan to use diseased trees in the compost. Does anybody know what they are doing here?

M. Miles
Santa Monica



Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rappers used to be delightful

FROM THE BEGINNING, HIP-HOP wasn't a noun, it was a verb. The basic elements of hip-hop culture are DJ'ing, MC'ing, graffiti art and breakdancing — and it was something you lived, not something you bought in a store. The people who did it and did it right (spoke perfect slang, wore the right clothes and were always in “the place to be”) were known as “B-Boys” and B-Girls.” That was me — Pumas with fat laces, Lee jeans and puffy down jacket, chillin' with the HBO (Home Boys Only) Crew at the Chez Vous Rollerway in Boston, calling everything and everyone “fresh.”

As a culture, hip-hop has its roots in poverty. When you can't get a venue, the party jumps off in the park. When you don't have a generator, you patch into the streetlights for electricity. When you can't afford a band and a singer, you get a DJ and an MC — the DJ will take the best part of a song and, using two copies of the record, literally spin them backwards on two turntables, so that part is repeated over and over and over again as the MC kept the party live, chatting back-and-forth with the crowd. Either that or there might be a few MCs on the mic, battling each other to see who the crowd likes more.

That's what MCs did: They kept the party live or they bested an opponent with mic skills. That's how rap music was born and it's been a part of my life since “Rapper's Delight” by Sugar Hill Gang and “The Message” by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five.

I will always listen to rap music and I will always love it. But unless they're on the mic MC'ing, I truly do not care what any rapper has to say, because the skill-set required to be a rapper (the ability to rhyme and count to eight) is learned in grade school and the rapper's worldview can be summed up in one phrase: “I'm the best.” Essentially, your average rapper is a 4th grader with an oversized ego and an enormous chip on his shoulder, and your average rapper couldn't MC if his life depended on it. But after RUN-DMC looped the best eight bars of Aerosmith's “Walk This Way” and took their version to No. 1, the record industry realized that rap music sells. And after Compton's own NWA showed that the “gangster rapper” sells more than any other kind, rappers have basically forsaken MC skills and have been trying to out-gangster and out-sell each other ever since.

Which brings us to this weekend's announcement by Mr. Curtis James Jackson III. That's his government name. You probably know him as 50 Cent. He's a

rapper (not an MC) who nobody had ever heard of until 2000, when he put out a tune called “How to Rob” on an underground mixtape. Since his debut album dropped in 2003, he's released two more and sold over 20 million records. Over the weekend, he bet his recording career that his next album would outsell Kanye West's next album, which is dropping on the same day.

IF HE'S MORE CONCERNED WITH HOW HIS ALBUM SELLS RELATIVE TO KANYE WEST'S THAN HE IS ABOUT USING THE MIC TO KEEP A PARTY LIVE, TELL A TRUE-LIFE STORY FROM HIS EXPERIENCE ...

“Put it this way, if Kanye West sells more records than 50 Cent,” he said, “I won't put out any more solo albums.” He also said, “The people who give out trophies pick him because he's safe.” He added that he, “sold 1.1. million records in four days and, I didn't get one trophy for ‘The Massacre,’ for the entire album. Then release ‘Get Rich Or Die Trying’ as a soundtrack, sell three million records of the soundtrack, and soundtracks are harder to sell than solo albums ... and then, no trophies for the soundtracks.”

Can a gangster get a tissue?
Just cut to the chase. Because of his investment in Vitamin Water about three years ago, he made \$400 million when Coca-Cola bought its parent company, Glaceau, so he doesn't really need to work. If he's more concerned with how his album sells relative to Kanye West's than he is about using the mic to keep a party live, tell a true-life story from his experience or demonstrate some kind of skills, then he's not really an MC anyway and can just go ahead and retire right now.

One more reason why I don't listen to rappers talk: The albums are scheduled to be released on Sept. 11.

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

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Guest Commentary

Charles Bierbauer

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Calling all builders to inspect bridges

"ON THE ROAD AGAIN." SING IT, WILLIE Nelson. "Just can't wait to get on the road again."

Willie and I must travel different roads, though we were together the other night tooling down US 25 in Georgia between Augusta and Savannah. I logged 460 miles on a two-day circle from Columbia, S.C., to Augusta to Hilton Head, via Savannah, and back to Columbia. In Georgia, there was lots of highway construction and little nighttime traffic. In South Carolina, there was rough road and plenty of sluggish traffic. Just couldn't wait to get off the road again.

You can't help wondering about the nation's infrastructure when we have a bridge collapse on the Interstate in Minneapolis, pipes erupting through the streets of New York and airports looking like refugee camps filled with stranded passengers. Each has separate causes and consequences. It is as though the throwaway society that we have become when it comes to plastic water bottles, cell phones and auto parts ("Nah, we can't fix that fuel pump. We'll have to replace it.") has led us to forget that some things must have fixing and routine maintenance. We tear down a 40-year-old building or stadium because it is no longer stylish and invest hundreds of millions of dollars in new ones so we can live, work and entertain ourselves in comfort. Yet, as in Minneapolis, you can't get to the ballpark when the bridge is out.

In this election season, I find myself turning to the presidential candidates to see if any have ideas, plans, solutions for our growing problems. Mindful that all problems are not federal matters — interstate highway maintenance is also a state responsibility —

I'd still like to have confidence in national leadership.

The Democratic candidates had an opportunity to show their insight and ingenuity on the infrastructure problem at this week's AFL-CIO sponsored debate in Chicago. For the most part, they disappointed.

Sen. Hillary Clinton proposes spending \$3.8 billion a year as a "down payment" on a \$1 trillion problem. (South Carolina alone has a \$3 billion backlog of highway work, the Greenville News reported this week, citing Department of Transportation figures.)

Gov. Bill Richardson said he was able to put \$1.5 billion into highway and bridge construction in New Mexico and called for a

federal/state/local partnership.

Sen. Chris Dodd said "putting our country back to work begins by cutting the funding for the war in Iraq."

The Democratic candidates generally described fixing the infrastructure in terms of jobs. Dodd: "For every \$1 billion we spend, 40,000 jobs can be created."

Jobs may be what moves the AFL-CIO audience, but how many bridges might \$1 billion restore? How many lives might it spare?

One thing that won't happen: A billion saved on the war in Iraq won't convert to a billion for infrastructure. As every senator knows, Congress doesn't work as a zero-sum game.

One thing that should happen, even though President Bush opposes a nickel a gallon gas tax increase: Congress should pass a 50-cent a gallon gas tax increase and devote half to repairing infrastructure and half to mass transit. Actually, that's what should have happened during the 1973 gas crisis. Had Congress worked that way, we might not be having this discussion.

The candidates' Web sites don't help much. Infrastructure doesn't usually make their issues lists. Sen. John Edwards continues to lament, deservedly, the slow pace of rebuilding New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Hillary Clinton has an "innovation agenda" that includes an increased "research focus on the physical sciences and engineering."

Sen. Barack Obama's Web site invites questions. So I sent an e-mail asking the senator's approach to infrastructure needs. And I got a prompt reply.

"Dear Charles, your priorities, experiences and perspectives are important to me," it started. After four paragraphs of campaign boilerplate, it concluded: "Although I am unable to address each of the concerns raised in these communications individually, you can be assured that collectively they are helping shape my vision of where our country should go."

Not what I was looking for, but nice to get a response. I almost can't wait to get on the road again.

CHARLES BIERBAUER covered presidential campaigns from 1984 to 2000 for CNN. He is currently dean of the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies at the



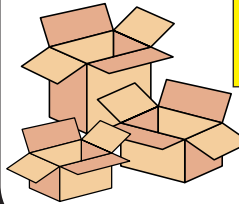
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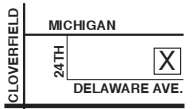
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The **Q-Line**

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Suspense is building

Rampant growth and a full-slate of development projects in the works has the City Council considering a moratorium on building until the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) is updated.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think the City Council should enact a freeze on all building or would such a measure be overkill?

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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Save Water Now

UC president to step down

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO University of California President Robert C. Dynes announced plans Monday to step down, ending a tenure in which he overcame budget troubles but also endured criticism for millions in perks given to administrators while student fees were being raised.

Dynes said his tenure as head of the renowned public university system, which began in October 2003, will end in June 2008. His decision was motivated by a desire to spend time with his wife, who he married in March, and by a feeling he'd accomplished what he could in the five-year time span he set for himself when he took the job, Dynes said at a press conference Monday.

He was not pressured to leave because of the controversy over executive pay that clouded the last year of his tenure, he said.

"I chose not to leave in the middle of that until we got it resolved," he said. "I feel we've come through that."

A well-known physicist before heading up the 10-campus system, Dynes plans to renew his focus on superconductivity research.

Under Dynes' leadership, the university system overcame budget troubles and ensured future state funding by forging a deal with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, university officials said.

"We were very pleased to stop the bleeding and put the compact in place," he said.

"The state has put much more money into the University of California than the compact envisioned."

But it's still not enough, and funding will certainly be a significant challenge facing his successor, he said.

Dynes also oversaw the inauguration of a new research campus in Merced, and the university system's sweeping of three Department of Energy national laboratory management competitions.

The governor praised Dynes' dedication to students and the state.



BOB HAS BEEN A GREAT PARTNER IN WORKING WITH MY ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS."

"Bob has been a great partner in working with my administration to ensure educational excellence for our students," said Schwarzenegger. "He enhanced the prestige of California's world-renowned UC system."

Thinking back on his contributions, Dynes said one of the areas in which he wished he'd accomplish more was in diversifying the university system's student and faculty bodies.

"We've tried a variety of things, some of which worked some didn't work, but my successor will have to work very hard on

that," he said.

Criticism of Dynes began after it was learned that top administrators in the system were given millions in perks such as bonuses and housing allowances without proper disclosure to the public or to regents. The perks came at the same time student fees were raised significantly to offset state budget cuts.

Audits of executive compensation practices at the university system found scores of abuses over the years. One audit found 113 cases where senior managers were given pay

nation, including Republican State Sen. Abel Maldonado.

"The board of regents now has an opportunity to appoint somebody who will be accountable to the taxpayer," he said upon hearing of Dynes' decision to step down.

Maldonado became one of Dynes' most vocal critics after the pay discrepancies became public. Last year, he charged the regents with "sending a message that breaking rules is acceptable behavior at the University of California."

Dynes will spend his last few months as president pushing forward the university system's partnerships with industry in research and development, and will bolster UC's international presence by strengthening connections with universities in China, India, Mexico and Canada.

A consumer watchdog group spoke against Dynes' effort to straighten ties with industry, saying this results in the commercialization of the educational system.

"Under the Dynes watch, we've already seen UC Berkeley transformed into 'UC-BP' with the planned \$500 million research deal with oil giant BP," said John M. Simpson, consumer advocate with the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights. "We've already got Big Oil U. What's next? Tobacco U and UC Pharma?"

Before he steps down, he also will tour campuses around the state, as he did when he first took office, with the goal of discussing how the system can meet the state's needs, he said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, R-California

or benefits beyond those established in university policies.

University officials countered that their executives were paid less than their counterparts elsewhere, and the disparity made it hard to compete for top talent. Still, they acknowledged pay rules had been bent without authorization.

Dynes accepted responsibility for the irregularities and, following the controversy, voluntarily gave up a raise saying "the buck stops on my desk."

But three lawmakers called for his resign-

Researchers utilize high-tech methods to find dark matter

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES In deep underground laboratories around the globe, a high-tech race is on to spot dark matter, the invisible cosmic glue that's believed to keep galaxies from spinning apart.

Whoever discovers the nature of dark matter would solve one of modern science's greatest mysteries and be a shoo-in for the Nobel Prize. Yet it's more than just a brainy exercise. Deciphering dark matter — along with a better understanding of another mysterious force called dark energy — could help reveal the fate of the universe.

Previous hunts for the hypothetical matter have turned up nothing, but that has not deterred some two dozen research teams from plumbing the darkness of idled mines and tunnel shafts for a fleeting glimpse.

Dark-matter detecting machines today are more powerful than previous generations, but even the best has failed so far to catch a whiff of the stuff. Many teams are now building bigger detectors or toying with novel technologies to aid in the hunt.

"We're in the golden age of dark matter search," said Sean Carroll, a California Institute of Technology theoretical physicist who has no role in the experiments. "It's looking good for some breakthroughs to happen."

Scientists admittedly are still in the dark about dark matter. The prevailing theory is that it's made up of tiny, exotic particles left over from the Big Bang some 13.7 billion years ago. Dark matter, thought to make up a quarter of the universe's mass,

gets its name because it doesn't give off light or heat. Astronomers know it exists because of its gravitational tug-of-war with stars and galaxies.

Knowing that dark matter exists is a far cry from knowing what it is. Most experiments are searching for theoretical particles called WIMPS — or weakly interacting massive particles — the leading dark-matter candidate.

The underground custom-built machines are all waiting for the rare moment when a WIMP hits the atomic nucleus and causes an elastic recoil. Experiments have to run below ground to prevent cosmic rays from interfering with the results.

Dark matter researcher Neil Spooner of Sheffield University in England sums it up this way: "You have a needle in a haystack and you're trying to remove the hay. You need better technology to pull out the event you're looking for and reject the rubbish."

Subterranean experiments are humming in an idled iron mine in Minnesota and in caverns in Canada, England, France, Italy, Japan and Russia. Last month, the National Science Foundation chose the defunct Homestake gold mine in South Dakota to be the site of one of the largest and deepest labs of its kind in the world — bigger than six Empire State Buildings stacked below ground.

The competition is cutthroat and physicists spar over which technology works best.

The front-runner for the past several years, called CDMS for cryogenic dark matter search, uses ultracold silicon and germanium crystals each the size of a hockey puck to sift out telltale vibrations.

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Guard tasers man holding newborn

BY JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON In a confrontation captured on videotape, a hospital security guard fired a stun gun to stop a defiant father from taking home his newborn baby, sending both man and child crashing to the floor. Now the man says the baby girl suffers from head trauma because she was dropped.

“I’ve got to wonder what kind of moron would Tase an adult holding a baby,” said George Kirkham, a former police officer and criminologist at the University of California-Berkeley. “It doesn’t take rocket science to realize the baby is going to fall.”

The trouble began in April when Williams Lewis, 30, said he and his wife felt mistreated by staff at the Woman’s Hospital of Texas so they decided to leave. Hospital employees told him doctors would not allow it, but Lewis picked up the baby and strode to a bank of elevators.

The elevators would not move because wristband sensors on each baby shut off the elevators if anyone takes an infant without permission.

Lewis, who gave the video to The Associated Press, said his daughter landed on her head, but it cannot be seen on the video. He said the baby seems injured since the episode.

“She shakes a lot and cries a lot,” Lewis said, noting doctors have performed several MRIs on the child, Karla. “She’s not real responsive. Something is definitely wrong with my daughter.”

It was not clear whether the baby received any electrical jolt.

Child Protective Services has custody of the baby because of a history of domestic violence between Lewis and his wife, Jacqueline Gray. Agency spokeswoman Estella Olguin said the infant seems in good health.

The hospital and the Houston Police

Department did not immediately respond to calls seeking comment.

David Boling, an off-duty Houston police officer working security at the hospital, and another security guard can be seen on the surveillance video arriving at the elevators and trying to talk with Lewis. Lewis appears agitated as he walks around the elevators holding his daughter in his right arm.

Within 40 seconds of arriving, Boling is holding the Taser. He walks around Lewis and whispers to the other guard, who moves to Lewis’s right side.

About a minute later, Boling can be seen casually standing near Lewis, not looking in his direction, when he suddenly raises the Taser and fires it at Lewis, who was still holding his daughter.

Lewis drops to the floor. The other guard, who has not been identified, scoops up the baby and gives her to the child’s mother, who was standing nearby in a hospital gown.

The guard then pulls Lewis to his feet with his arms locked behind him. Lewis’s T-shirt has two holes under the left side of his chest where the Taser prongs hit him.

Lewis said he did not see the stun gun.

“My wife said we want to leave and then he just Tasered me,” Lewis said. “He caused me to drop the child.”

Lewis was arrested and charged with endangering a child. A grand jury in May declined to indict him on that charge, but charged him with retaliation, accusing him of making threats against Boling.

Lewis also has been charged with a second count of retaliation alleging he made a threatening call to Boling at his home.

Lewis denies both charges. He said he is considering suing the hospital but has not filed any legal papers.

Some 11,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies use Tasers, which have been officially listed as a contributing factor in about 12 deaths nationwide, according to Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Taser International Inc..

Judge tosses lawsuit that skirts raw-milk legislation

BY DAVID DISHNEAU
Associated Press Writer

HAGERSTOWN, Md. A judge threw out a dairy farmer’s lawsuit challenging a Maryland ban on “cow-sharing” agreements aimed at skirting a prohibition on retail sales of raw milk.

Kevin Oyarzo of Buckeystown had sought to let people buy into his herd and receive unpasteurized milk in return. Some states, including neighboring Virginia, allow such arrangements to help meet a growing demand for raw milk.

Frederick County Circuit Court Judge Julie Stevenson Solt rejected Oyarzo’s argument that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene acted improperly by issuing emergency regulations prohibiting cow-sharing after Oyarzo told the agency of his plans last summer.

Public health regulators say raw milk can contain harmful pathogens that are killed during pasteurization. Raw-milk proponents say the heat of pasteurization also kills healthful components in milk and degrades the flavor.

Oyarzo’s lawyer, Paul Walter, declined to comment on the ruling, saying he needed to first read it and then consult with his client.

At a hearing in July, Assistant Attorney General Lisa Barkin said cow-sharing deals are “sham agreements” designed to get around the 35-year-old sales ban.

Walter acknowledged during the hearing that Oyarzo’s plan was “possibly an avoidance” of the state law, but he said the new regulation amounts to an illegal ban on not just sales, but consumption, of raw milk.

Barkin said the state can’t stop people from drinking raw milk but that cow-sharing is something the General Assembly didn’t consider when it approved the statutory sales ban in 1971.

Raw milk was implicated in 18 cases of the bacterial infection campylobacter, which causes diarrhea and fever, in Utah in March. Regulators also blamed raw milk for two cases of salmonella in Pennsylvania in February.

Twenty-eight states allow sales of raw milk for human consumption, according to the Washington-based Weston A. Price Foundation.



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Veterans sway Iraq debate

BY ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Despite their opposing views on the war, soldiers Pete Hegseth and Jon Soltz have much in common, not the least of which is time spent in Iraq.

Both profess their love of the Army. They are young, athletic and clean-shaven, and they speak eloquently about honor and a sense of duty, as though plucked from central casting to play the role of the patriotic soldier. Above all, they draw heavily on their experiences in combat to justify their views on Iraq, hoping their message will resonate with voters because they — unlike most of America — have witnessed combat.

They also represent dueling activist groups that are fast becoming a powerful lobbying force on Capitol Hill. And to politicians trying to make their case in anticipation of a critical assessment on the war this

September, such groups have become valuable public relations tools in the deeply partisan, pull-no-punches Iraq debate.

"The Democrats, unfortunately, are trying to undermine the efforts of our troops and restrict the ability of our generals to carry out their mission," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said at a July news conference with Hegseth and other members of the group Vets for Freedom, which supports a continued U.S. presence in Iraq.

Later that week, Hegseth — a National Guard soldier who worked as a civil affairs officer in Samarra last year — stood behind President Bush in a news conference chastising Democrats for not passing a spending bill for the troops.

"These patriotic Americans who are behind us deserve an opportunity to be heard," McConnell said.

Democrats agree they should rely on the counsel of troops. They just opt to lis-

ten to Soltz, a captain in the Army Reserves who deployed logistics convoys in Iraq with the 1st Armored Division in 2003. His group, VoteVets.org, says Bush should bring troops home.

Politicians play on the expectation among voters that because the military is supposed to be apolitical and service members experience combat first-hand, troops will offer an unvarnished assessment of the war.

"Their status as combat veterans gives them an authenticity that politicians don't have," said Darrell West, political science professor at Brown University. "Voters will always see them as combat veterans first, not advocates."

Advocates they are, with extensive political ties and budgets for televised political ads.

Both Vets for Freedom and VoteVets.org are tax-exempt nonprofits, but they are not

charities. Such groups deliberately do not accept tax-deductible donations — making it tougher to raise money but giving them free reign to lobby on Capitol Hill.

Soltz' VoteVets.org also operates a separate political action committee and has officially endorsed six candidates for the 2008 elections. The group has spent about \$850,000 this year on political ads, including local spots during the Super Bowl aimed mostly at pressuring Republican senators into breaking with Bush on the war.

Its board of advisers includes retired Gen. Wesley Clark, a Vietnam veteran who sought the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, and former Democratic Sen. Bob Kerrey, also a veteran of the Vietnam War. It's affiliated with the Americans Against Escalation in Iraq, a coalition of anti-war groups that includes the partisan MoveOn.org, which backed Democratic challengers in the last election.

Crews expand cleanup of nuclear weapons site

By the Associated Press

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho Crews have begun excavating Cold War-era weapons waste from a second burial site at the U.S. Department of Energy's Radioactive Waste Management Complex in the eastern Idaho desert.

Cleanup work at the facility, located within the 890-square mile Idaho National Laboratory, began in 2005. So far, the recovery project has focused on excavating radioac-

tive and hazardous wastes, repackaging the materials, then shipping them in trucks for permanent disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

The majority of the waste material came from the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant near Denver. From the 1950s through 1970, the waste materials were shipped in drums to Idaho and buried in a 97-acre section of the INL facility, said Amy Lientz, spokeswoman for the Idaho Cleanup Project.

For the last two years, workers have concentrated on

wastes buried in a single pit about 20-feet below the desert surface. Earlier this month, crews expanded the recovery to a second pit nearby, she said.

"We're not quite finished with the first burial pit, but we have enough resources and plans in place to begin doing retrievals from both areas right now," Lientz said.

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China bridge collapse kills 22

Popular tourist attraction was currently under construction

BY ALEXA OLESEN | Associated Press Writer

BEIJING A bridge under construction in an ancient Chinese city collapsed as workers removed scaffolding from its facade, killing at least 22 people and leaving 44 missing, the government said Tuesday.

At least 57 people were rescued, including 22 who were injured when the 880-foot bridge spanning the Tuo River in central China's Hunan province collapsed Monday, the Hunan Administration of Work Safety said. The cause of the collapse was under investigation.

The 140-foot-high bridge in Hunan's Fenghuang county had four decorative stone arches and was scheduled to open as a tourist attraction at the end of this month, the administration said. It collapsed as an estimated 123 workers were removing scaffolding from its facade, it said.

China Central Television showed bulldozers plowing through the rubble, overturning chunks of stone and concrete mixed in a tangle of steel reinforcement bars.

Hunan Governor Zhou Qiang was at the scene overseeing rescue efforts, the official Xinhua News Agency said. News photos showed weeping villagers waiting for news on their loved ones on the bank of the river.

Most of the people working on the bridge were local farmers, the agency said.

"I was riding a bike with my husband and we had just passed under the bridge and were about 50 meters (160 feet) away when it collapsed," said a witness, who would only give her surname, Wu. "There was a huge amount of dust that came up and didn't clear for about 10 minutes."

The safety administration said the bridge was

designed by the Hunan Huagang Transportation Design Institute in the provincial capital of Changsha.

Xinhua said the bridge was a \$1.6 million project by the Fengda company of western Hunan, without giving the company's full name.

An employee of a Fengda Road Construction Company in Fenghuang said he was not clear if the bridge project was his company's or not. He refused to give his name.

Xinhua identified the contractor as the state-owned Hunan Road and Bridge Construction (Group) Ltd. Co., or RBC.

RBC construction manager Xia Youjia and project supervisor Jiang Ping were detained for questioning, it said. Phone numbers listed on the company's Web site rang unanswered Tuesday.

Engineering, as saying many of the country's new bridges were being built too quickly and were poorly designed.

Xiao also said China should "learn a lesson from the Mississippi bridge and accelerate the inspection of unsafe bridges," referring to the Aug. 1 collapse of a major interstate bridge in Minneapolis that killed nine people and left four others still missing.

Surrounded by lush mountains and rice paddies, the ancient city of Fenghuang is a well-known tourist spot and home to the Miao and Tujia ethnic minorities. It is also famed for traditional stilt houses lining the Tuo River.

The Fenghuang bridge collapse was among China's worst in recent memory. On June 15, a bridge in south China's Guangdong province collapsed when a cargo vessel loaded with sand rammed into it, killing nine people.



I WAS RIDING A BIKE WITH MY HUSBAND AND WE HAD JUST PASSED UNDER THE BRIDGE AND WERE ABOUT 50 METERS (160 FEET) AWAY WHEN IT COLLAPSED, THERE WAS A HUGE AMOUNT OF DUST THAT CAME UP AND DIDN'T CLEAR FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES."

Anonymous, Witness to the collapse

Construction accidents in China are frequent, with contractors often opting for shoddy materials to cut costs and using migrant laborers with little or no safety training.

In its annual report on road safety last year, the Ministry of Communications categorized 6,300 of the country's bridges as dangerous because of serious damage to their "structural components," the China Daily newspaper reported Tuesday.

The newspaper quoted Xiao Rucheng, secretary general of China's Institute of Bridge and Structural

That bridge was built in 1988 and spanned the Xijiang River, a major tributary of the Pearl River.

In January 1999, a pedestrian bridge spanning the Qi River in southwestern China's Sichuan province collapsed three years after it was built. Forty people died and another 14 were injured.

Following the accident, a local county deputy party secretary was sentenced to death for accepting a bribe from a childhood friend in exchange for the bridge-building contract.

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Newsroom employees continue paper debate

BY GARY GENTILE | AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES The yearlong fight between newsroom employees at the Santa Barbara News-Press and its wealthy owner now centers on the firing of eight employees, some of whom urged subscribers to cancel their subscriptions as part of the dispute.

Testimony was scheduled to start Tuesday in what is expected to be a monthlong hearing on federal charges that the newspaper illegally fired employees for attempting to form a union.

The National Labor Relations Board has charged the paper with improperly firing eight reporters, six of whom hung a sign over a highway overpass in February urging passers-by to cancel their subscriptions.

The six were protesting the earlier firing of two reporters for union activities, according to the NLRB.

The eight reporters are asking to be reinstated with back pay.

Newspaper officials have defended their actions.

The 41,000 circulation daily that covers the wealthy coastal community of Santa Barbara has been embroiled in newsroom controversy since last July, when several top editors quit, saying that millionaire owner Wendy McCaw meddled with news coverage.

The paper countered that the former employees had let their personal opinions influence news decisions.

Newsroom employees voted overwhelmingly last September to form a union, but the workers and the paper

have been clashing since then over the legitimacy of the vote.

The hearing that begins Tuesday centers on 15 unfair labor practice charges the NLRB has levied against Ampersand Publishing LLC, the paper's corporate parent. McCaw herself is expected to testify at some point.

"They have their facts wrong and are misapplying the law," Barry Cappello, an attorney representing Ampersand, said Monday.

A call to the attorney representing the union was not immediately returned.

The hearing, in front of an administrative law judge, is scheduled to conclude Sept. 14 with time off for the Labor Day holiday. The judge's conclusions will then be presented to the full NLRB for action.

The turmoil at the News-Press has turned bitter at times, with the union distributing lawn signs that say, "McCaw, Obey the Law," and "Banish the Bias."

In April, the paper published a story saying that pornographic images had been found on a computer used by former editor Jerry Roberts, who left the News-Press last July. Roberts denied any wrongdoing and demanded a retraction.

Last December, the paper sued a reporter for the American Journalism Review, claiming her article, entitled "Santa Barbara Smackdown," defamed the paper and was a "biased, false and misleading diatribe."

More than 40 newsroom staffers have resigned or been fired over the past year, according to savethenewspress.com, a union Web site that keeps tabs on developments.

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The event was hosted by "Days of our Lives" star James Scott, and attended by Stephen Nichols, Diedre Hall, fighting champ Michael Katsidis and James Lynch from Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, among others.

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EMILY SKEHAN

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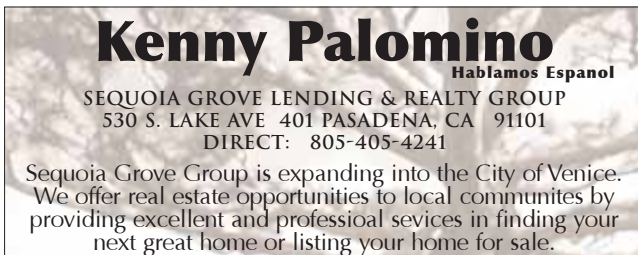
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More toys made in China recalled

BY NATASHA METZLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Toy-making giant Mattel Inc. issued recalls Tuesday for about 9 million Chinese-made toys that contain magnets that can be swallowed by children or could have lead paint.

The recalls includes 7.3 million play sets, including Polly Pocket dolls and Batman action figures, and 253,000 die cast cars that contain lead paint. The action was announced on the company's Web site and at a news conference here by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Nancy A. Nord, acting CPSC chairman, said no injuries had been reported with any of the products involved in the new recall. Several injuries had been reported in an earlier Polly Pocket recall last November.

"The scope of these recalls is intentionally large to prevent any injuries from occurring," she told the news conference.

It was the latest blow to the toy industry, which has had a string of recalled products from China. With more than 80 percent of toys sold worldwide made in China, toy sellers are nervous that shoppers will shy away from their products.

The recall involving lead paint was Mattel's

second in two weeks. Earlier this month, consumers were warned about 1.5 million Chinese-made toys that contain lead paint.

"There is no excuse for lead to be found in toys entering this country," Nord said. "It's totally unacceptable and it needs to stop."

Toys recalled Tuesday include 253,000 "Sarge" cars, because the surface paint could contain lead levels in excess of federal standard. The 2 1/2-inch, 1-inch high car looks like a military jeep.



THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR LEAD TO BE FOUND IN TOYS ENTERING THIS COUNTRY.

IT'S TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND IT NEEDS TO STOP."

Nancy A. Nord, Acting CPSC chairman

Also recalled were 345,000 Batman and "One Piece" action figures, 683,000 Barbie and Tanner play sets and 1 million Dottie Day Care play sets.

In full-page ads Tuesday in The New York Times and other newspapers, Mattel said it was "one of the most trusted names with parents" and was "working extremely hard to address your concerns and contin-

ue creating safe, entertaining toys for you and your children."

The Consumer Product Safety Commission, which negotiated details of Mattel's recalls, reported that since its recall of Polly Pockets play sets in Nov. 11, three children had been injured by swallowing more than one magnet. All three suffered intestinal perforations that required surgery.

If more than one magnet is swallowed, they can attach to each other and cause

intestinal perforation, infection or blockage, which can be fatal.

Last March, another toy company, Mega Brands Inc., recalled 3.8 million Magnetix magnetic building sets after one child died and four others were seriously injured after swallowing tiny magnets in them.

Two weeks ago, Mattel's Fisher-Price division announced the worldwide recall

of 1.5 million Chinese-made preschool toys featuring characters such as Dora the Explorer, Big Bird and Elmo. About 967,000 of those toys were sold in the United States between May and August.

Mattel discovered the latest problem while they were investigating the earlier recall, Nord said.

Mattel officials maintained that a European retailer discovered the lead in some of the lead-covered Fisher-Price products in early July. On July 6, the company halted operations at the factory in China that produced the toys and launched an investigation.

Days after the Fisher-Price recall, Chinese officials temporarily banned the toys' manufacturer, Lee Der Industrial Co., from exporting products. A Lee Der co-owner, Cheung Shu-hung, committed suicide at a warehouse over the weekend, apparently by hanging himself, a state-run newspaper reported Monday.

Lee Der was under pressure in the global controversy over the safety of Chinese-made products, and it is common for disgraced officials to commit suicide in China.

After Mattel announced the recall of its Fisher-Price toys, it launched a full-scale investigation into all of its factories in China.

REAL ESTATE

New home how-to show adds a little heat to tube

BY MELISSA RAYWORTH
Associated Press Writer

Here's the thing about home improvement how-to shows: The wallpaper always hangs straight, the tiles interlock perfectly and nobody every loses a finger. In other words, things always turn out like they should.

But what if someone added a little drama?

In September, the DIY network will unveil its first "docu-soap" — a quirky reality series called "Under Construction," which offers an oddly appealing mix of narrative pathos and how-to instruction.

DIY, which stands for "do-it-yourself," normally offers programming similar to that of its sister networks, HGTV and Food Network. "Most of their shows are straight-to-camera, with hosts teaching you how to do things," says Michael Morrissey, creator and executive producer of the new series.

"This is the first time where it's really a documentary style," Morrissey says of his show, which follows the lives of John DeSilvia and John Palanca, two buddies from Brooklyn struggling to run a small construction company.

The show's one-hour pilot will air on Sept. 2, and the series is slated to begin its regular run in January.

In some ways, you've seen this kind of drama before: Two longtime pals with a small but thriving business have hit a crossroads.

DeSilvia, known as Johnny D., is the big thinker. He's a risk taker with a hot temper, currently focused on the company's first development project — a small building with four condominium units, which he's desperately trying to construct on a budget despite setbacks.

"Let go of the small stuff," Johnny D. repeatedly urges his partner.

Palanca is the dedicated one, the sweet teddy bear of a guy who radiates dependability. The small jobs "are your bread and butter, buddy," he says, like a wise older brother counseling a headstrong kid.

But in between the drama, the pause momentarily to teach viewers the finer points of hanging drywall or selecting high-quality lumber. Using voiceovers and on-screen demonstrations, they talk viewers through projects while pointing out tactics a less reputable contractor might use to cut corners.

It's an interesting premise: Scrappy characters trying to get ahead, plus shots of gleaming bathroom tile, mahogany doors and custom-made marble countertops. It's sort of like reading "Martha Stewart Living" while

watching "Ugly Betty."

But as likable and authentic as Palanca and Johnny D may be, will it offer enough instruction for core network fans — and do viewers really want to see yet another group of "real" people wrestling with the mundane challenges of daily life?

According to pop culture guru and Syracuse University professor Robert Thompson, it all comes down to casting the right people and editing their daily lives into a compelling narrative.

"You could take a show about someone who ran an accounting firm and make it interesting," Thompson says. "if you chose the right person and you got enough footage of them to edit into something good."

And Thompson believes that our fascination with all things home may be enough to support yet another half-hour of reality television.

"You may have one wall of a cubicle at work, but there are very few places we can exert our tastes, our creative energies and our control over, as we can in the home," Thompson says. "The home is the one place we can constantly express our need to reinvent ourselves, and that goes at least as far back as the pilgrims. So these programs are tapping into something that runs deep, deep in the American mindset."

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Everything must go at mall

Can a new retailer revive a sinking Santa Monica Place?

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PLACE With few customers coming into All Sports Pro to purchase jerseys and baseball caps, clerk Sandra Garcia passes the time with a magazine as she sits near the dormant cash register.

"It's dead around here," Garcia said Tuesday morning, as she looked out onto a sales floor that was littered with merchandise but devoid of any customers. "When I started here five years ago, this place was crowded. But now, it's really, really slow."

Across the way at Hot Topic, a clothing store that specializes in rock attire, clerks Shayan Dourmohamad and Adam Hamilton echoed Garcia's sentiments about the unpopular Santa Monica Place mall, which has seen retailer after retailer relocate in recent years, leaving storefronts empty and glass windows covered in black.

It's an eerie experience for those shoppers used to the hustle and bustle of a typical Los Angeles mall.

"It was a good mall, a place where everybody used to go and hang out," said Hamilton. "Now, there's really no reason to come here."

Hamilton's co-worker believes gossip hasn't helped things at the flagging mall.

"Ever since rumors started to spread like five years ago about the mall closing or being redeveloped, people have just stopped coming," Dourmohamad said. "Now, people mainly just stick to the first floor. The only people who really come around are tourists who are browsing. Everyone else is at the (Third Street) Promenade."

"I think it's unfair to the mom-and-pop stores," Dourmohamad said.

Shoppers and merchants feel competition from the promenade has hurt the mall, but not as much as its owners — Santa Monica-based Macerich Co. Ever since the third largest mall operator in the country announced its plans to redevelop, and later, remodel the Frank Gehry-designed structure, merchants have slowly packed up and moved on.

Of the 73 stores that have stayed, some have suffered from declining sales as the mall and its empty storefronts become increasingly less attractive.

The mall is said to be suffering a slow death, causing some to doubt if it can ever regain the popularity it once had after a significant remodel, expected to begin this spring. Officials with Macerich are confident that a new concept for the mall, one that includes tearing off the roof and relocating the food court to the third floor to take advantage of ocean breezes, will reinvigorate the shopping center as it becomes more integrated with the popular promenade.

But that is still more than a year away.

WHAT'S IN STORE

In the meantime, Macerich is very excited about the arrival of Steve & Barry's, a casual apparel retailer. The company is best known for introducing two of the most high-profile product lines — BITTEN, by "Sex and the City" star Sarah Jessica Parker, and the Starbury Collection, from NBA point guard Stephon Marbury. Marbury received a lot of media attention last year when he launched his line because it featured, for the first time, basketball shoes that sold for \$14.98, a bargain compared to other popular brands that sell for as much as \$150.

Robyn Young, communications director for Macerich, said Steve & Barry's and Macerich are close to finalizing a lease agreement.

"We are really excited about this opportunity," Young said. "Steve & Barry's could bring a lot of fun and excitement to the center and we are just excited about the potential of them coming."

The retailer, which could open as early as September, would occupy space in the old Robinsons-May building, which is now sitting vacant at the corner of Broadway and Second Street. Robinsons-May was a major anchor for the mall, but since its' departure last year, the space has become somewhat of a blemish. Stores around it have left, leaving the western side of the mall relatively vacant. Young said the arrival of Steve & Barry's demonstrates



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GHOST TOWN: Foot traffic (above) at Santa Monica Place is bordering on being considered dead. An artists' rendering of what the mall will look like following construction.

to shoppers and merchants that Macerich hasn't forgotten about Santa Monica Place. The company is still planning to do promotions in the fall and the holiday season.

Steve & Barry's would be forced to vacate the mall during construction, along with all other merchants, including those in the food court, Young said.

"We have been very open with all of our retailers about where we are in the approval process and that we plan to close the mall during the development," Young said. "We wanted to give retailers all of the information so they could make good business decisions."

For some, that meant relocating somewhere else. Young could not say if those businesses that left would be returning once the remodel is complete. Currently, Macerich officials are still studying what type of retail mix they would like to offer shoppers. That could mean some retailers would be welcomed back, while others would not.

"We are really excited about the new design, having an open air center that connects better with Third Street and downtown, but part of this is to bring a really fresh retail mix, which is something residents have been asking for," Young said.

Shoppers have been asking for more options, especially now that the mall is missing staples like Gap or Banana Republic, which were two of the main reasons why Theresa Forster visited Santa Monica Place. The 20-year resident of Santa Monica said the mall was the place to shop when she first moved to town, but has since taken a back seat to the promenade and other venues in the Los Angeles area, such as The Grove.

"I think it can be revived, especially if they make it an extension of the promenade, but offer different attractions," said Forster, who stopped at the mall with her son to buy lunch and check out video games. "Maybe they could put in an IMAX or provide more things for kids to do, like an arcade or a play area. They could also offer some educational activities as well."

Forster and other shoppers said the biggest draw for the mall now is the food court. Other than serving as a shortcut to the promenade for those parking on



Photo courtesy Macerich

Colorado Avenue, many shoppers said the food court is what causes them to visit Santa Monica Place.

Young said the food court is booming, so much so that operators have requested to stay open an hour later than the mall on Sundays to accommodate the demand.

But does that mean customers will return to the mall after it's been remodeled?

"People know Santa Monica Place," Young said. "When people see the drawings and the potential, and knowing what we plan to do with the center, I think any negative perception will be gone."

"It's really a shame," London native Priscilla Newton said about the mall's emptiness. "I was just thinking 'Oh dear, I really want to go to Payless, but because it's on the third floor where nothing else really is, do I want to make the effort?' It's just so strange to see it empty like this," Newton added.

"I think it's a great mall. I really don't understand why it's like this, but then again, in London, we really don't have anything to compare it too."

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✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Plaintiff feared being carjacked

FROM LOHAN PAGE 1

encounter, beginning around 1 a.m., as Peck began parking her Escalade near her home when an SUV — facing the wrong side of the road — pulled up “grill to grill.”

“The SUV had its high beams on, blinding (Rice), and its engine was racing as though the SUV would crash into Ms. Peck’s car,” the lawsuit states.

Neither driver nor passenger had any idea who was operating the SUV and believed they were being carjacked. Whenever Peck attempted to maneuver the car to escape, the SUV would make a “corresponding aggressive move in an effort to block their escape,” according to the lawsuit.

The suit goes on to state that a stranger jumped out of the SUV and charged toward Peck’s car in a “threatening manner,” reaching into his pocket for what the two women believed was a gun. Rice began dialing 9-1-1 as the two women headed toward the Santa Monica Police Department, Peck speeding up and Lohan allegedly responding accordingly with an extra push on the gas pedal.

The pursuit finally ended at the Civic



Photo courtesy Ron Batzdorff

SCREEN TIME: Lindsay Lohan's most recent film role was in TriStar's 'I Know Who Killed Me.'

Center parking lot, where the plaintiff states that Santa Monica Police officers approached them with their guns drawn, but soon real-

ized the two women were the victims.

The two women, described by Hoffman as friends, were returning to Peck’s home

after grabbing a cup of coffee. According to news reports publishing interviews with the three men who were in the car with Lohan, the actress had come from a party in Malibu and was chasing her former personal assistant, losing her along the way. Lohan headed toward Peck’s Santa Monica home believing the assistant was with her mother.

“They had absolutely nothing to do with Lindsay Lohan that night,” Hoffman said. “As far as they were concerned, they were about to be carjacked. They had no idea who was in the car, they had no idea why this person was driving aggressively toward them and revving the engine.

“They thought they were going to die.”

Dante Nigro, Jakon Sutter and Ronnie Blake have also threatened lawsuits against Lohan, alleging the troubled young actress had jumped in the driver’s seat while the three men were sitting in the car outside the party, essentially holding them hostage and putting their lives in danger as she drove at high speeds to Santa Monica. The men also claim that, at times, Lohan boasted her celebrity status as a reason why she wouldn’t be reprimanded.

A trial has yet to be set in the civil case.

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Self-admitted pedophile McClellan violates restraining order

FROM MCCLELLAN PAGE 3

essentially a day care center for children anywhere from 3 months to 3 years old, Greenstein said.

McClellan was arrested without incident for violating the restraining order, which was issued on Aug. 3. McClellan was released on his own recognizance and ordered to appear in court on Sept. 13. He was also given a stay away order for UCLA.

Additionally, local police agencies, including the Los Angeles School Police, were advised of his presence in the area, Greenstein said.

The second arrest came a few hours later, around 10:20 p.m., when McClellan held press interviews on the UCLA campus, a violation of the stay away order. He was booked for willfully and knowingly reentering the campus within seven days after being directed to leave. McClellan was taken to the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station for booking.

PROACTIVE POLICING

McClellan first started making news in March with his pedophile advocate Web

site, “Seattle-Tacoma-Everett Girl Love.”

At the time, McClellan lived with his parents in Washington and was known by law enforcement throughout the western part of the state as someone who visited fairs, parades and parks to photograph children. However, he never broke any laws and had no arrest record. His Web site, which was described as a “how-to” manual for pedophiles, has since been shut down.

Santa Monica Police Chief Timothy Jackman issued a bulletin in late July warning parents to be on the lookout for McClellan after he was spotted by a parent at the Main Library. McClellan told reporters that he was thinking of suing the SMPD for issuing the bulletin, which included two headshots, his license plate number and a description of his car.

The circulation of the flyer was seen as an unusual step since McClellan was not under investigation at the time. The flyer is careful to simply warn parents of McClellan’s presence in Santa Monica and that he has given numerous interviews in

which he admits to being a supporter of pedophiles and an advocate for reforming laws prohibiting adults from having sexual relationships with minors.

Since the flyer was released, stories about McClellan have been featured in national news outlets such as CNN and The New York Times.

In the interview with the Times, McClellan told a reporter that he moved to Los Angeles, where he was born, because he had been run out of Washington state.

He also said Southern California had many “world-class children’s attractions ... (like) Disneyland, festivals and what-not,” according to the Times.

McClellan refers to himself as a pedophile, but says he has never actually sexually touched a child.

Groups are working to have laws changed so that anyone who posts a picture of a child on a Web page with sexual content could be prosecuted.

Anthony Zinnanti, one of the attorneys who filed for the restraining order, said that he’s angered by McClellan’s latest venture



MCCLELLAN

and planned to file for a contempt of court.

“Mr. McClellan is a sick man,” said Zinnanti, who filed the case along with his partner on behalf of their young daughters. “This latest incident shows that Mr. McClellan is dangerous and has no impulse control. He needs to be stopped.”

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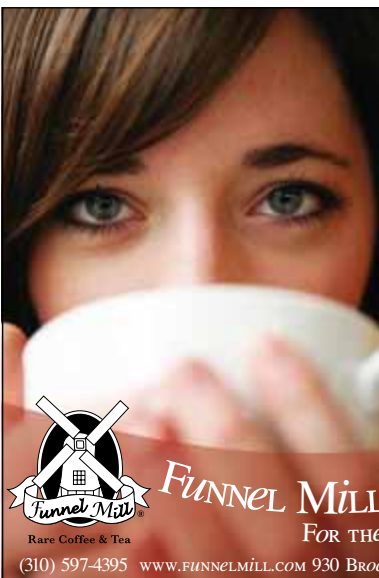
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Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

ON THE UP TICK: For sale signs are common around Santa Monica despite the fact that prices continue to rise unchecked.

Real estate prices continue to rise in Santa Monica

FROM PRICES PAGE 3

"If in one year more homes are sold in the North of Montana area than in, say, Sunset Park, then it's going to look like there's been a huge jump in cost," he explained. "It would be more accurate to evaluate the price increase within each zip code."

Close to 190 single family homes and 280 condos were sold last year in Santa Monica.

Most single family homes in the community cost around \$730,000 — a whopping \$400,000 more than the average price in Los Angeles County, and about \$600,000 more than the average home in the United States.

These skyrocketing prices might explain why more than half the city's residents are renters, and why only about 30 percent of Santa Monicans own the property in which they live.

"Santa Monica has everything it needs for people to want to move here," said San Fernando Valley resident Walter Brandt, "except lower prices."

Brandt, who is considering moving with his wife Katie to Nashville — in part to seek out more affordable housing — says he would love to live in Santa Monica.

"I'd love to live here, but the price is outrageous," he said.

"If we moved here from the Valley, we would be getting much less square footage, and we probably couldn't afford a place with a yard. It just wouldn't make a lot of sense."

Locals might flee Santa Monica looking for cheaper shelter, but they should plan on going a little farther than outside city limits for the real deals. The city of Los Angeles is still far from affordable, and is getting worse at a similarly rapid rate. In 2001, a household earning average American income could afford to live in about 40 percent of the housing units in Los Angeles, but by 2007 only 3 percent of homes in Los Angeles were economically feasible for the same income bracket.

Even in such an expensive area, Santa Monica stands out as a particularly far reach financially.

"If I win the lottery, I'll definitely consider moving here," Brandt laughed.

news@smdp.com

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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TRAIN OF TRASH CANS

Clarence McKelry, who works on the pier cleanup crew, pulls an extraordinarily long convoy of trash bins along Santa Monica Beach on Monday.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Council to examine SM Airport pollution

Residents who live adjacent to Santa Monica Airport are finally hearing news from the Los Angeles City Council that must be music to their ears.

The LA City Council voted unanimously on Tuesday to support CA legislation AB 700, effectively forming a committee to examine how to lessen the air pollution impact from Santa Monica Airport's operations.

The legislation to form the committee was authored by Assemblyman Ted Lieu and co-authored by Assemblywoman Julia Brownley. The council motion was introduced by LA City Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

"This vote sends a clear message to Sacramento that we must mitigate the air pollution impacts from Santa Monica Airport," Rosendahl said.

As a next step, money for the committee will be allocated at the next CA Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on Aug. 20.

GERRY SHIH

Bulking up bridges

The Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously on August 14 to support CA legislation AB 700, a move that would effectively form a stakeholders' advisory committee to analyze pertinent studies and advise on how to mitigate the air pollution impacts from Santa Monica Airport operations.

The legislation was authored by Assemblyman Ted Lieu and co-authored by Assemblywoman Julia Brownley. The council motion was introduced by LA City Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

"This vote sends a clear message to Sacramento that we must mitigate the air pollution impacts from Santa Monica Airport," Rosendahl said.

AB 700 will be heard at the CA Senate Appropriations Committee on August 20.

GS

Bridges get extra attention

After the collapse of a Minneapolis interstate bridge last week, Los Angeles is checking up on the safety of local bridges. City Councilmembers Bill Rosendahl and Wendy Greuel introduced a motion calling for the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation to provide a status report on the city's bridges and the programs that exist to repair, retrofit, and maintain them.

"This is an issue of public safety," Rosendahl said. "The Minneapolis tragedy was a

wake-up call for us. We want to have a clear understanding of our bridge system and any safety issues that need to be addressed within our infrastructure. I would rather be safe than sorry."

There are more than 500 bridges in Los Angeles and many are considered historic. Some of the city's bridges, such as the Vincent Thomas Bridge in San Pedro, serve as the only roadway connecting two areas of the city.

Last Wednesday in Minneapolis, the 40-year-old 35W bridge, which crosses the Mississippi River, collapsed during the evening rush hour, killing at least four people and severely injuring countless others.

The motion was referred to the City's Public Works Committee and is expected to be heard this month.

THE DAILY PRESS

Watch out for West Nile

The Department of Public Health is reporting the first confirmed human West Nile Virus (WNV) case in the county for the 2007 season. The patient is a middle-aged man living in western San Fernando Valley. He reported fever, headache and fatigue in mid-July, was briefly hospitalized with West Nile meningitis, and is now in recovery at home.

As of August 3, WNV has been detected in nine dead birds and 14 mosquito pools by Public Health and the mosquito abatement districts. Most of the infected birds and positive mosquitoes were found in the San Fernando Valley area.

WNV is spread from humans from the bite of an infected mosquito; mosquitoes can become infected by biting a bird that carries the virus. Most mosquitoes do not carry the virus and most people bitten by a mosquito have not been exposed to the virus. The virus is not spread by person-to-person contact or directly from birds to humans.

In most cases, people who are infected never become sick or have only very mild symptoms that include fever, headache, nausea, body aches, and a mild skin rash. Symptoms of West Nile Virus could appear within three to 12 days, after infection.

People can decrease their risk of infection by avoiding mosquito-infested areas at dawn and dusk, using repellents like DEET and wearing long sleeves, and not allowing water to stagnate in flowerpots, swimming pools, birdbaths, pet bowls, etc. The county public health department has established a toll-free information line (800 975-4448) that will provide callers with updated information on West Nile Virus within the county.

EMILY SKEHAN



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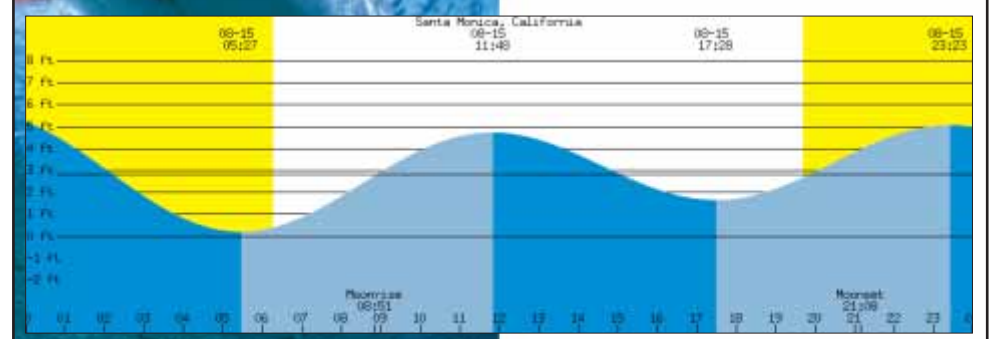
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Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 15

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 15

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LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerrillo 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 Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Luchessa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Tennessee Canyon drain	A	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqui)	A+	ns
Bread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection at Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Venice storm drain	A	ns
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	ns
Larigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Selkirk Canyon at San Blocker County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	C	ns
Panero State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Panero Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Woodward Ave. drain	C	ns
Surfider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	F	ns
Surfider Beach (beach location) - daily	A	ns	Venice Beach - projection of Topsoil St.	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - Wriggler tower	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	C	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (paint zero)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 15948 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunos 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 Hypanion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	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 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns			

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

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

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Mom and dad help gymnasts

BY NANCY ARMOUR
AP National Writer

SAN JOSE It used to be that gymnasts were frequent fliers, crisscrossing the country in search of the best coaches.

Now, three of the top U.S. women don't have to go beyond their front door. The best coaches for them are the same people they see every day at the breakfast table, the folks who tucked them into bed when they were small.

Former world champion Chellsie Memmel now trains with her father, Andy. Two-time U.S. champ Nastia Liukin works with her dad, Valeri, a double gold medalist at the 1988 Olympics with the Soviet Union. And world silver medalist Jana Bieger is coached by her mother, Andrea, who was an Olympic gymnast for West Germany.

"It's pretty easy for us. I love having my mom as my coach," Jana Bieger said. "We get along well and we communicate well. She knows me as well as anyone can or anyone would."

Elite gymnasts spend six to eight hours a day in the gym and, unlike in some sports, the athlete-coach relationship is intense. These coaches don't simply put their athletes in the pool and tell them to swim 100 laps. They're there all the time: watching, teaching, correcting, sometimes even getting out there and doing it themselves.

Now try being the parent, too, and it can make for some hard times.

"That's why we sent her away at the very first. Because she was younger, and I wanted to be just the parent," said Andy Memmel, who took over as Chellsie's coach three years ago at her request.

"Could I do it? And would I disappoint her?" he said when asked what his biggest fears of coaching his daughter were. "Because she did look up to me as a father. I

didn't want to disappoint her at two different levels, as a coach and as a parent."

For these top American gymnasts, though, it works. The three already have a slew of medals from the national and world championships, and they're among the favorites when nationals begin Wednesday in San Jose, Calif.

Not to be left out, men's defending champion Sasha Artemev is coached by his father, Vladimir.

While the Americans may make the family affair look easy, it has taken considerable work. The relationship between a parent and child is complicated enough—especially in the teenage years—without adding in a coach's demands and the pressures that come with world-class competition.

The key, the parents said, is to make sure what happens in the gym stays separate from life at home.

"We try not to talk gymnastics at all. We don't want to burn her out," Valeri Liukin said. "She's having a regular, normal life at home. She loves to be on the computer talking to her friends, she loves to read. She goes upstairs to her bedroom and we don't see her anymore."

And for Jana and Nastia, they've worked with their parents for so long, they really don't know any different. Nastia Liukin had other coaches—including her mother, Anna, briefly—but she's worked with her father since she was 8; she's now 17. Andrea Bieger began coaching her daughter after they moved to the United States 11 years ago, and the partnership just kind of continued through the years.

"I have to admit, as a mother, when she got to the higher level, I thought, 'Do I really want to do this with her?'" Andrea Bieger said.

Sharapova plans first trip back to Chernobyl in years

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

CARSON Maria Sharapova travels the world as the highest-paid female athlete, cocooning in fancy hotels, dining at swanky restaurants and indulging her love of shoes.

Yet there's one place the 20-year-old tennis superstar's journeys have never taken her—the region devastated 21 years ago by the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster.

Sharapova's mother, Yelena, was pregnant with her only child when the plant in Ukraine exploded and spewed radioactive clouds over the western Soviet Union and northern Europe.

"A lot of families were moving, but not a lot of them could because they didn't really know where to go," Sharapova told The Associated Press. "My mom's dad happened to be working in Siberia, so that's why we had a sense of direction."

Sharapova's father, Yuri, and her mother fled the city of Gomel in Belarus—about 80 miles north of Chernobyl—shortly before she was born in Nyagan, Siberia.

Gomel was one of the areas most affect-

ed by radiation. Sharapova said she still has family there, including grandparents.

Sharapova plans to visit Chernobyl as a United Nations goodwill ambassador, perhaps after Wimbledon next July.

"It's in the beginning stages of what exactly I'm going to be doing," she said. "But I want to visit the facilities that they're building right now for the children—computer labs and hospitals."

Sharapova started hitting tennis balls at age 4. Two years later, she was discovered by Martina Navratilova at a Moscow exhibition. At 9, Sharapova and her father moved to Florida, beginning a two-year separation from her mother because of visa restrictions and limited finances.

She's never forgotten her roots.

In 2004, Sharapova won the season-ending WTA Championships and received a car worth more than \$56,000. She donated the money to those affected by the Russian school hostage crisis in Beslan in which 334 people died, more than half of them children.

In February she donated \$100,000 to help recovery in the Chernobyl region.

Going public

Court considers motion to open Spears' divorce papers

A court commissioner said Tuesday he would consider a motion by a magazine and a TV station to unseal documents in the **BRITNEY SPEARS-KEVIN FEDERLINE** divorce case. "They're appropriate participants in here," Superior Court

Commissioner Scott M. Gordon said of the request by KNBC-TV and People magazine. Spears and Federline weren't present for the hearing. Gordon scheduled another hearing for Sept. 14 to give their attorneys time to make their case for

keeping the documents under seal. After the hearing, Federline attorney Mark Vincent Kaplan said the documents contain information about the schedules of the couple's children and other details that could put them in jeopardy.

"It would be best for the children that they not be exposed," Kaplan said. He gave no specific examples of threats to the children. Spears' divorce from Federline became official July 30. Since February, Spears,

25, and Federline, 29, have shared joint custody of their sons, 22-month-old Sean Preston and 10-month-old Jayden James. Kaplan said Federline is seeking additional custody, but declined to elaborate.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GANDOLFINI FOLLOWS UP

JAMES GANDOLFINI will follow up his role as fictitious mobster Tony Soprano by playing real-life corporate sports scout Sonny Vaccaro in an HBO film. HBO spokeswoman Angela Tarantino confirmed the project is in development with HBO Films. The Vaccaro film won't be Gandolfini's first appearance on HBO.

AP

Mel Gibson meets with Guatemalan President, visits archaeological dig

MEL GIBSON dined with Guatemala's president and admired Mayan murals in the capital's cultural palace after a weekend jungle visit. The 51-year-old actor-director visited the Palace of Culture on Monday, where President Oscar Berger showed him con-

temporary murals portraying aspects of Mayan life and the Spanish conquest. Afterward, the two men had lunch at the presidential palace. Gibson has visited the country many times as a tourist, said Krista Kepfer, a spokeswoman for Berger.

"He is very interested in Guatemala as a tourist destination and in the culture," she said. Over the weekend, Gibson visited the Mayan ruins of El Mirador deep in the northern Peten jungle, Kepfer said. The visit was private and neither Gibson nor

Berger made any statements to the news media. Gibson, 51, starred in the "Lethal Weapons" movies and directed of "The Passion of The Christ" and "Apocalypto." He won best director and best picture Oscars in 1996 for "Braveheart."

AP

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

A close encounter, Aquarius

Happy Birthday!

You make a difference this year. Demonstrate your strength and commitment with a willingness to grow and let go of what is no longer working. You pioneer a new area in your life. If you are single, you are blazing a new trail and are likely to meet very different people. Learn and grow as your "type" changes. Through 2007, romance can appear easily. If you are attached, commit to a common hobby or interest after the New Year. VIRGO can push your buttons.



Born Today

Chef Julia Child (1912)
Composer Jimmy Webb (1946)
Actor Ben Affleck (1972)

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

★★★★ Your willingness to transform and revisit situations and issues defines the quality of your day, if not weeks and months. If you resist, much will seem too difficult. Process and walk forward; you will have reason to smile. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ What doesn't resolve itself will become a challenge. You have fun working with a special or respected individual. Though you might need to relinquish a comfortable role to achieve results. Tonight: Choose a favorite person and a favorite happening.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You could be hard-pressed to stand up to or challenge someone. The smart, long-term successful action would be to pull back and make decisions from this spot. Check out an investment. Tonight: Happy at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You are able to move in a new direction. Realize what you want but also what it will take to make your desires so. Listen to your inner voice. Make sure you get what you want. Think positively. Tonight: Hang out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Your possessive streak points you in a new direction. Learn to let go of a need to control through feeling more secure. This process won't happen overnight, but taking the first step is smart. Listen to your inner voice. Tonight: Treat yourself!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Though you might sense some tension, you are on top of your game. Focus on a personal or domestic matter with an eye to growth and change. Be the initiator. You can be sure that in this case it is easier to be the leader. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Stepping back might feel more comfortable and is definitely the correct approach. Understanding points you in a new direction. Think, reflect and plan, but don't act. The timing might not be right just yet. Tonight: Do a vanishing act.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Friendship plays a substantial role in what occurs in the next few days. You might not be able to have everything as you would like, but teamwork might be more important. Expenses could be out of whack. Tonight: Only where people are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might be far more challenging than you realize. Some people might actually back off or pull away. Understanding others' limits could be essential. A harsh reaction from someone might have merit. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You ponder your choices more carefully than in the past. The decision you made yesterday might not work today. Update your thinking, understanding that everyone and every situation changes. Tonight: Think of a getaway, if only for a few hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Let a trusted associate or partner take the lead. What might have felt OK before could be close to overwhelming now. Be willing to revamp your goals, keeping them practical. Tonight: A close encounter.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision, as a partner or several friends could be in your face about your choices. Knowing when enough is enough could be more critical than you realize. Tonight: Listen to what others would like, then decide.

MOVIEGUIDE

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1328 Montana Avenue
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Check theatre for showtimes

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

Bourne Ultimatum, The (PG-13) 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:50
BRATZ (PG) 1:35, 4:20
Daddy Day Camp (PG) 1:20, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
Simpsons Movie, The (PG-13) 1:00, 3:25, 5:55, 8:15, 10:25
Transformers (PG-13) 7:00, 10:10

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

The Bourne Ultimatum (PG) 11:00am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:35
Hairspray (PG) 11:20am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30
No Reservations (PG) 11:45am, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50
Ratatouille (G) DLP-Digital Projection
11:25am, 2:25, 5:10, 8:05, 10:40
The Simpson Movie (PG-13) 11:35am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40
Stardust (PG-13) 11:05am, 2:00, 5:00, 7:55, 10:45
Underdog (PG) 11:10am, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:00, 10:15

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Talk to Me (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
This Is England (NR) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00

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

2 Days in Paris (Deux jours a Paris) (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55
Becoming Jane (PG) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
La Vie en Rose (La Mome) (PG-13) 1:20, 4:45, 8:10
The Ten (R) 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00

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

El Cantante (R) 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 10:10
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13) 12:10, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50
Hot Rod (PG-13) 12:00, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (PG-13) 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:20
Live Free or Die Hard (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:10
Rush Hour 3 (PG-13) 11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30

More information email news@smdp.com

ARE YOU ENTERTAINING?

THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS IS CURRENTLY **LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND INTERNS** TO HELP US AUGMENT OUR **ENTERTAINMENT COVERAGE**. EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD IS GREAT, BUT WE'LL TALK TO ANYONE WITH **A FRESH VOICE AND A WILLINGNESS TO WRITE ORIGINAL AND, AHM, ENTERTAINING COPY**. GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

CONTACT ASSOCIATE EDITOR **DANIEL ARCHULETA AT DANIELA@SMDP.COM**.



Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

I STILL CAN'T GET OVER A REF RIGGING NBA GAMES

WHAT KIND OF SELF-RESPECTING HUMAN BEING STOOPS SO LOW JUST TO MAKE A FEW EXTRA BUCKS?

HEY, BRADLEY, LEAN BACK A LITTLE. I'M HAVING A TOUGH TIME SEEING HARRIS' CARDS

8/15

© 2007 Girls & Sports Comics. Distributed by Creators Syndicate

girlsandsports.com

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ODD THAT SOME PEOPLE, LIKE DREW, ALWAYS SEEM TO BE IN RELATIONSHIPS?

WHILE OTHERS, LIKE US, ARE NEVER IN RELATIONSHIPS?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

I THINK BEING ALONE IS IN OUR GENES.

I KNEW THERE HAD TO BE A GOOD REASON.

8/15

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By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

The Other Coast

JUST LOOK AT YOURSELF, KOKO. DROOLING AND SNOOZING THE DAY AWAY.

NO INITIATIVE. NO DRIVE. DOGS ARE JUST HAIRY COUCH POTATOES.

FACE IT, DOGS WILL NEVER BE LIKE HUMANS.

ANOTHER BOMB WENT OFF IN...

FINE BY US.

8-15

© 2007 Hair Dog Productions, Inc. Dist. by Creators Syndicate, Inc.

theothercoast.com

By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

FRIDAY NIGHT?...YOUR TREAT?...THAT SOUNDS GREAT!

WOW! LIZ ASKED ME OUT ON A DATE!

IS THAT ALLOWED?

BETTER CHECK THE RULE BOOK

8-15

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By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS, DOUG?

IT'S NATIONAL GIVE ICE CREAM TO DOGS DAY!

WELL, IT SHOULD BE!!

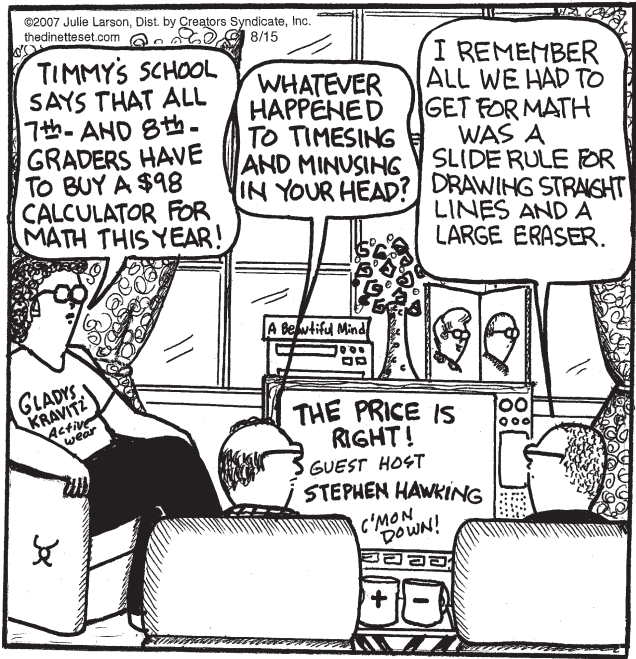
8/15

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dogeatdoug.com

By Brian Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



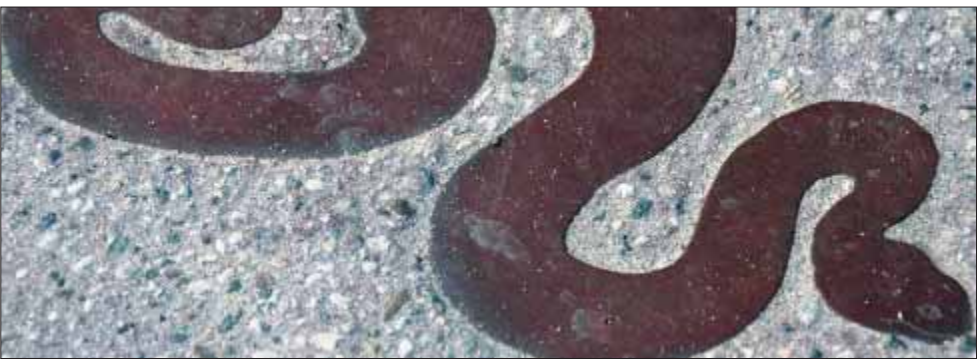
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SSSS-SPOTTED:

Terry Kamibayashi is the winner of the most recent Mystery Photo contest, being the first to identify that this shot was captured embedded in the beach walk outside the Casa del Mar hotel. Kamibayashi has won a prize. Look for a new Mystery Photo in Thursday's edition.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Tuna sandwich
- 5 Nanny or billy
- 9 Detached
- 11 Fancy shell
- 12 Women's mag, for short
- 13 Quartz variety
- 14 Fitting
- 15 Informed about
- 17 Eccentric folks
- 19 Museum contents
- 20 Impassive
- 21 Day pts.
- 22 Flat form
- 24 Colleen
- 26 Clinic worker
- 29 Set the pace
- 30 Audio-ophile's storage
- 32 Wowed by
- 34 Old auto
- 35 Kick off
- 36 "The Waste Land" poet
- 38 Gala, e.g.
- 39 Disprove
- 40 Colleen
- 41 Presidential power

DOWN

- 1 Showy parrot
- 2 Waives one's rites?
- 3 Went bonkers
- 4 Singer Waits
- 5 Disco
- 6 Equal (with)
- 7 Cast members
- 8 Larceny
- 10 Restaurant fan
- 11 "Memory" musical
- 16 "Wish I could help"
- 18 Tumble

- 21 Zeus' wife
- 23 Board rider
- 24 Red Cross location
- 25 Wise sayings
- 27 Manuscript copier

- 28 Scrape by
- 29 Defamatory writing
- 30 Minimal money
- 31 — voce
- 33 Takes the title
- 37 Book after Exod.

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10		11		
12						13		
14				15	16			
17			18				19	
	20					21		
			22			23		
	24	25			26		27	28
29				30				31
32			33				34	
35					36	37		
38					39			
40						41		

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLION 5 8 90 24 34
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: \$122M

Super LOTTO 2 8 16 23 42
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: \$65M

Fantasy 5 1 16 20 23 36

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 0 7 2
EVENING: 6 4 3

DAILY DERRY 1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:41.69

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Ohio inmate Keith Bowles may spend the rest of his life in prison just because a federal judge miscalculated Bowles' deadline for appealing his case. Bowles was convicted of murder in 1999, and his federal petition for a writ of habeas corpus was denied in 2004. However, the federal judge wrote "Feb. 27" as the deadline for appealing (mistakenly, because federal rules gave Bowles only until Feb. 24). Bowles' Feb. 26 appeal was dismissed as too late by the U.S. Court of Appeals and, in June 2007, by the U.S. Supreme Court.

■ In June 1995, Gordon Wood, who would subsequently be charged with Caroline Byrne's murder in Sydney, Australia, arrived at the morgue shortly after her body did, identified himself as her boyfriend, asked to see the body, and also asked, according to the attendant, "Do you mind if I look at her tits?" (The attendant, according to a police report reviewed by a judge during a June 2007 court proceeding, refused, and Wood was charged shortly afterward with having thrown the woman off a cliff.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1309 The city of Rhodes surrenders to the forces of the Knights of St. John, completing their conquest of Rhodes. The knights establish their headquarters on the island, and rename themselves as the Knights of Rhodes.

1914 A male servant of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright set fire to the living quarters of the architect's Wisconsin home, Taliesin, murdered seven people, and burned the living quarters to the ground.

1947 India gains independence from the United Kingdom and becomes an independent nation within the Commonwealth, Jawaharlal Nehru addresses the nation with the Indian Declaration of Independence and takes office as the first Prime Minister of India.

1965 The Beatles play to nearly 60,000 fans at Shea Stadium in New York City, marking the birth of stadium rock.

1977 The Big Ear, a radio telescope operated by The Ohio State University as part of the SETI project, receives a radio signal from deep space; the event is named the "Wow! signal" for notation made by a volunteer on the project.

WORD UP!

commensurate \kuh-MEN(T)-uhr-it; -shuhr-, adjective: 1. Equal in measure, extent, or duration. 2. Corresponding in size or degree or extent; proportionate. 3. Having a common measure; commensurable; reducible to a common measure; as, commensurate quantities.

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Miscellaneous

A+ POOL HEATERS - FACTORY Direct: Solar, Heat Pumps or Gas. Complete do-it-yourself pool heater kits. Phone Quotes. 1-888-754-2821. la1.SolarDirect.com

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

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DIRECTV SATELLITE Television, FREE Equipment, FREE 4 room Installation, FREE HD or DVR Receiver Upgrade and \$100 cash back. Programming Packages from \$29.99/mo. Call 800-380-8939.

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REALISTIC \$100 - \$3500 + DAILY POTENTIAL! Use OUR money to generate THOUSANDS from Home! Guaranteed Proven Program! 24/7 recorded message: 1-800-706-0106, ID# B1033

Employment

\$1200 WEEKLY, Assembling Toys from Home. 1-866-332-9887, www.toyimport1.com

CASHIER / RETAIL SALES Seeking energetic individuals. F/T including Sat. Some experience, a plus. Bldg Materials location. Will train. Apply in person: Bourget Bros. 1636 11th St. Santa Monica, CA 90404

MALIBU ELDER caregiver/live-in 2+days. English speaking, (310)457-7997

Employment

SECURITY OFFICERS

Make a change for the better NOW!
Lantz Security has great jobs in the beach area, all shifts. Guard card preferred. Apply online www.lantzsecurity.com or call (800) 870-4357

CO-OPPORTUNITY NOW HIRING!

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

DISPATCHERS NEEDED. Towing company is hiring dispatchers with previous experience. Be familiar with SM area. Please contact (310)923-8888

FAST FOOD deli person needed Mon-Fri SM area. (310)925-0777 or (310)449-1896

FIT FEMALE MODEL WANTED FOR FIGURE DRAWING BY ARTIST. No experience necessary call. (818) 501-0266

FREE CASH GRANTS/PROGRAMS! \$700 - \$800,000++ **2007** NEVER REPAY! Personal/Medical Bills, Business, School/House. Almost Everyone qualifies! Live Operators! AVOID DEADLINES! Listings, 1-800-270-1213, Ext. 281

FULL TIME operator/office assistant. Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. Reliable and friendly. \$10/hr. + benefits. Call Susan (310)998-2200.

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

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737

Employment

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the Environmental Services Department. Looking for part time housekeepers/floor techs. Hospital Experience preferred. Call (310)829-8431 for interview.

JANITOR

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

LOOKING FOR A GREAT PART TIME JOB?

A leading Market Research Company is looking for Hosts/Hostesses for its Los Angeles Focus Group facilities located in Santa Monica. Must have previous experience in Hospitality, Hostessing, Hotel or Wait Staff or in Market Research or related field. Interested applicants must be computer literate, responsible and flexible, well spoken and have previous experience with direct client interaction both in person and on the telephone. Job responsibilities include greeting clients, meal serving/clearing, audio & video recording as well as basic office and reception duties. Please email with "CSR Position" in subject line for consideration to mnorris@focuspointeglobal.com.

MOVE-IN COORDINATOR

Ocean House, an upscale retirement community, is looking for an ideal candidate to work part time as a Move-In Coordinator. Job duties include assisting new residents moving in with all required paperwork, making sure apartments are ready, giving tours of the community and assisting as necessary with the sales and marketing efforts. This position is part time, 3 days per week. Prior experience in an assisted living facility is a plus. If you are interested, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave., SM, 90405 or fax a resume to (310) 314-7356.

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

MYSTERY SHOPPERS! Earn up to \$150 daily. Get paid to shop pt/ft. Call now 800-690-1272.

PERRY'S BEACH Club - Now Hiring! Work at the beach and get paid.

Hiring: Bike Rental Attendants
Bike Mechanics
Café Cashiers
Café Line Cooks
Pizza Rollers

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

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

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Employment

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

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RECEPTIONIST

OCEAN House, an upscale retirement community, is looking for an ideal candidate to work as a receptionist at our front desk. Job duties include answering phones, greeting residents and visitors and responding to inquiries. Some light clerical work is also involved. This is a full time position and benefits eligible after 90 days. If you are interested, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave., SM, 90405 or fax a resume to (310) 314-7356.

SALES POSITIONS inside/outside sales and telemarketing, hourly plus commission. Must have car and pleasant manners. Call Bob (310)337-1500

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Needs to be: Creative, hard working, and possess a can-do attitude with problem solving skills. Must have: Two years sales related food experience, Strong organizational/computer skills, excellent verbal/written communications. Must be sales/relationship driven and meet aggressive sales targets. Work independently and as part of a team! Commission plus salary. Some fun travel involved. Patty@pattyspiza.com

TOW TRUCK drivers needed. Towing company is hiring drivers, will train. Must be able to pass drug and alcohol test with clean driving records. 2200 Centinela, Los Angeles, Cross st. Olympic. Please contact (310)923-8888

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20071533056 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as RAVISHING SHAPES, 16461 VENTURA BLVD. UNIT-6. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : LISA RACITI, 707 HARDING AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90022 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: LISA A. RACITI
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 6/26/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/25/2007, 8/1/2007, 8/8/2007, 8/15/2007

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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* Rates subject to change * As of August 15, 2007 ** Denotes an interest only loan *** Denotes Neg Am



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