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FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 236

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

OLYMPICS ON THE MIND
SEE PAGE 5

THE LOOKING FORWARD ISSUE

Future leaders or future losers?

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

ELECTION 2008

CITY HALL For 26 residents, the campaign season officially begins.

That is the number of candidates who qualified to run for the four local races after submitting nomination papers by the Aug. 8 deadline, fighting for a combined 13 open seats on the City Council, Board of Education, Rent Control Board and Santa Monica College Board of Trustees.

The race for the school board took an interesting turn on Wednesday when Judith Meister, the former PTSA president at Santa Monica High School, dropped out more than a week after failing to win an endorsement from Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, the most influential political group in the city.

Incumbents Maria Leon-Vazquez and Ralph Mechur, and UC Regent Ben Allen all received a SMRR endorsement during the group's convention earlier this month. Jose Escarce, who narrowly failed to win an endorsement during the convention, received the support from the group's steering committee less than a week later during a closed-door meeting.

Meister, the long-time educational advocate, said she feels she is one of the most qualified candidates, but conceded that the political climate was not favorable.

"It just didn't appear to be my time," she said.

Nearly all incumbents will be running for re-election, the exception being Malibu resident Kathy Wisnicki, who after serving on the school board for four years decided to pursue other opportunities.

Among the candidates defending their seat is Mayor Herb Katz, an architect who has served on the council since 2000.

Katz said he is running because of unfinished business, including completing the Land Use and Circulation Element, the general plan update.

The mayor said he is in the process of getting his campaign organized, meeting with his manager and getting his fundraising in order.

"I understand the city," he said.

The council race will be the most crowded of them, featuring 13 candidates, including several who have ran in the past but never succeeded.

The ficus tree controversy and development issues, which have boiled over in the past year, figure to play a significant role in the council race, which features several residents who were outspoken on both matters.

Jerry Rubin and Susan Hartley, who both served as leaders of the Santa Monica Treesavers, which sued City Hall over a ficus tree removal plan, both qualified for the council race. Rubin has ran several

SEE RACES PAGE 9

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

STANDING UNITED: **Members of the Santa Monica High School football team huddle following a training session at the school on Thursday.**

Putting it together

Samohi football takes a new look into the '08 season

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI With 12 spots to fill with new players, it's easy to think that head football coach Zach Cuda and his Vikings are weathering through a rebuilding year.

Gone is star quarterback Ryan Katz, whose departure to Oregon State will surely give the squad a new look come fall. While the loss of the team's on-field leader and most stalwart performer would appear to be a crushing blow to the team's prospects, Cuda believes that he still has the horses to run the Ocean League this season.

"We're filling a lot of spots, that's true," Cuda said, "but three of the four returnees [on offense] are offensive lineman. Last year

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 8

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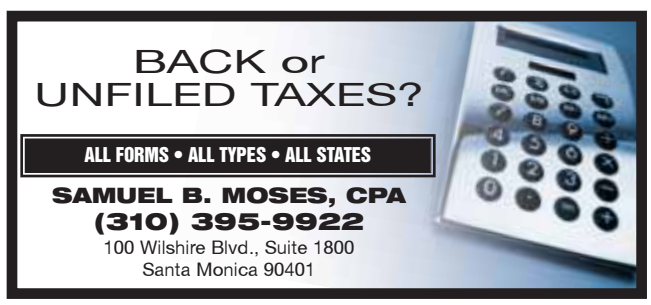

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Salsa the night away

1334 Lincoln Blvd, 7:15 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Beginners and experienced salseros alike can pick up new moves at Isabelle Pampillo's Friday Socials in Santa Monica. The night consists of a 90-minute class followed by a social hour of drinks and dancing where dancers can practice their dips and turns. There is a $20 charge for the class, dancing and drinks. For information, call (310) 392-3493.

Calling all gymnasts

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

Saturday, Aug. 16, 2008

'Mujaan'

2601 Main St., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Director Chris McGee presents his award-winning short documentary "Mujaan," focusing on a nomad who builds his home on the distant steppes of Mongolia, using only simple tools, strength and ingenuity, much the way his ancestors have for the past 1,000 years. For more information, contact Jamie Watson at (310) 458-8638, or the library at (310) 392-3804.

'Excuse for a swordfight'

1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m. — 9:45 p.m.
A. F. Cronin presents his hysterical new comedy, "Excuse for a Swordfight," a delightfully funny and a bitingly satiric look at the blind ambition and thoughtless formulas that dominate our entertainment industry. To purchase tickets or get more information, go to TheatreforaSmallSpace.com. or call (310) 393-3018

Workouts for teens

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

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

NEW GARB: **Big Blue Bus driver Ahdi Reddy (right) stands with his attorney David Myers earlier this week. Reddy, who is originally from Fiji, filed a civil rights lawsuit against City Hall after he was told he could not wear his turban while on the job. The City Council recently settled the case.**

Fight for the right

Big Blue Bus driver sues to wear his turban while on duty

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN When asking Big Blue Bus driver Adhi Reddy to spell his name, it became clear that it wasn't just a matter of putting one letter before another. It was about using one name over another.

He preferred to use his last name only, something which can be traced back to Reddy's roots in the island of Fiji, where his grandfather was transported as a slave from southern India to work on sugar plantations.

Reddy, 48, a bus driver for the last 19 years in Santa Monica, identifies strongly with his culture and his religion, which is why he prefers to use his last name. It let's people know what tribe he's from.

It's also the reason why Reddy filed a lawsuit in August of last year against City Hall and BBB, fighting to change the bus company's strict dress code so that he could wear his turban while on the job, even if filing the civil rights lawsuit meant exhaust-

SEE **SUIT** PAGE 9

Budget battle causing some to worry on local level

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE The political battle in Sacramento over the budget is causing some apprehension locally, those relying on state funding fearing the fallout from a seemingly never-ending delay.

Public sectors like City Hall and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District passed their finance plans long before the fiscal year commenced on July 1. But city and school officials are nevertheless keeping a close eye on affairs in the Legislature, wary that any changes in the budget proposal could ultimately have an impact on the projected funding they would receive from the state.

"Until we know what direction they're taking, we are not making any changes in our estimates for the coming year," Jan Maez, the chief financial officer for the district, said.

For the school district, which is estimated to receive $30 million from the state this year, the most troubling effect of the budget delay — now entering its 46th day — is it creates cash flow issues, possibly delaying the SMMUSD's scheduled allowance of $4 million next month.

The district receives a payment every month from September through June, the state funding formula based on factors that include the amount of money the community collects through property taxes and the average daily attendance of students.

While a postponement in the apportionment could cause problems, once the state budget is passed, the district will be fully reimbursed.

"It's a timing issue for us rather than a budget issue," Maez said. "We still have payrolls to meet throughout the year and bills to pay."

Such cash flow problems might not present themselves to Santa Monica College, which has built up a healthy reserve in the past few years, according to spokesman Bruce Smith.

"Fortunately we have enough of a reserve

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A vote against RIFT

Editor:

Your Aug. 7 issue contained a letter from Jeff Segal, a proponent of (The Residents' Initiative to Fight Traffic), challenging certain statements made by Debbie Mulvaney in her letter in the Aug. 5 issue. In reality, it is Mr. Segal who makes several incorrect and misleading statements.

First, Mr. Segal contends that potential new development by the Boys and Girls Club and the Pico Youth and Family Center would not be affected due to an exemption in RIFT for "child or adult day care facilities." However, these facilities are not day care facilities, but would most reasonably be considered "offices and meeting rooms for charitable, youth, and welfare organizations," a non-exempt use under RIFT. Both of these extremely valuable organizations, as well as other important community non-profit uses, such as the Santa Monica Red Cross, would have to compete with commercial development for square footage allocations under RIFT.

Second, he attempts to counter Mulvaney's assertion that important health care uses will be negatively impacted by RIFT by citing exemptions for hospitals and government facilities and arguing that no "medical building on property owned by UCLA or any other government agency" will be limited. RIFT does not exempt the many necessary hospital related facilities such as medical clinics, laboratories, medical suppliers and outpatient surgery centers that are a critical part of a hospital's health care delivery system. UCLA hospital supporting facilities that may not be on land owned by UCLA, and any non-hospital facilities owned by St. John's would have to compete for square footage allocations under RIFT.

In fact, under RIFT, a medical clinic for St. John's, the Boys and Girls Club, The Red Cross, and a developer considering a commercial use would all compete for the same square footage allocation.

Third, Mr. Segal misstates the economic impact of RIFT on our local public schools. Mr. Segal completely ignores the fact that an independent economic study projects that our schools will lose up to $1 million per year from reductions in direct property tax revenues if RIFT passes, without regard to funding from the city.

He then contends that the negative impact of RIFT to the general fund is only 1/13th of 1 percent of City Hall's budget, and that because of its $6,000 per resident budget, City Hall can easily continue to fund the public schools. While City Hall is currently fortunate to have a robust economy generating a substantial amount of tax revenue, the economic study demonstrates that under RIFT, revenues will be as much as $11 million per year (in 2008 dollars) lower by year 16. This reduction will result in more competition for the discretionary funding currently provided by City Hall – whether to schools or any of the many other valuable programs in our city.

It is these negative and unintended consequences of RIFT that underscore its weakness. Although these, and other negative consequences of RIFT may not have been intended by its authors, they make RIFT much too risky a proposition for Santa Monica.

Craig Hamilton
Santa Monica

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The Rand Stand

Alex Epstein

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Social Security is morally bankrupt

AUG. 14 MARKED SOCIAL SECURITY'S 73rd birthday, placing it 8 years past standard retirement age. But, despite the program's $10-trillion-plus dollar shortfall, no politician dares to suggest that this disastrous program be phased out and retired; all agree on one absolute: Social Security must be saved. While the program may have financial problems, virtually everyone believes that some form of mandatory government-run retirement program is morally necessary.

But is it?

Social Security is commonly portrayed as benefiting most, if not all, Americans by providing them "risk-free" financial security in old age.

This is a fraud.

Under Social Security, lower- and middle-class individuals are forced to pay a significant portion of their gross income — approximately 12 percent — for the alleged purpose of securing their retirement. That money is not saved or invested, but transferred directly to the program's current beneficiaries, with the "promise" that when current taxpayers get old, the income of future taxpayers will be transferred to them. Since this scheme creates no wealth, any benefits one person receives in excess of his payments necessarily come at the expense of others.

Under Social Security, every aspect of the government's "promise" to provide financial security is at the mercy of political whim. The government can change how much of an individual's money it takes — it has increased the payroll tax 17 times since 1935. The government can spend his money on anything it wants — observe the long-time practice of spending any annual Social Security surplus on other entitlement programs.

The government can change when (and therefore if) it chooses to pay him benefits and how much they consist of — witness the current proposals to raise the age cutoff or lower future benefits. Under Social Security, whether an individual gets twice as much from others as was taken from him, or half as much, or nothing at all, is entirely at the discretion of politicians. He cannot count on Social Security for anything, except a massive drain on his income.

If Social Security did not exist, if the individual were free to use that 12 percent of his income as he chose, his ability to better his future would be incomparably greater. He could save for his retirement with a diversified, long-term, productive investment in stocks or bonds.

Or he could reasonably choose not to devote all 12 percent to retirement. He might plan to work far past the age of 65. He might plan to live more comfortably when he is young and more modestly in old age. He might choose to invest in his own productivity through additional education or starting a business.

How much, when, and in what form one should provide for retirement is highly individual, and is properly left to the individual's free judgment and action.

Social Security deprives the young of this freedom, and thus makes them less able to plan for the future, less able to provide for their retirement, less able to buy homes, less able to enjoy their most vital years, less able to invest in themselves. And yet Social Security's advocates continue to push it as moral. Why?

The answer lies in the program's ideal of "universal coverage," the idea that, as a New York Times editorial preached, "all old people must have the dignity of financial security," regardless of how irresponsibly they have acted.

UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY, EVERY ASPECT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S 'PROMISE' TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SECURITY IS AT THE MERCY OF POLITICAL WHIM.

On this premise, since some would not save adequately on their own, everyone must be forced into some sort of "guaranteed" collective plan, no matter how irrational. Observe that Social Security's wholesale harm to those who would use their income responsibly is justified in the name of those who would not.

The rational and responsible are shackled and throttled for the sake of the irrational and irresponsible.

Those who wish to devote their wealth to saving the irresponsible from the consequences of their own actions should be free to do so through private charity, but to loot the savings of untold millions of innocent, responsible, hard-working young people in the name of such a goal is a monstrous injustice.

Social Security in any form is morally irredeemable. We should be debating, not how to save Social Security, but how to end it, how to phase it out so as to best protect both the rights of those who have paid into it, and those who are forced to pay for it today.

This will be a painful task. But it will make possible a world in which Americans enjoy far greater freedom to secure their own futures.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Laughing Matters
Jack Neworth
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Georgia on my mind, and the Olympics too

ONE WEEK OF THE OLYMPICS DOWN, one to go. If I'm still around in 2012, I absolutely have to get TIVO. For every hour of coverage maybe there's five minutes of action. With TIVO you could watch the entire two weeks in one day and be done before lunch.

So far, one thing is clear. Michael Phelps is a rather talented swimmer. All he's done is win more gold medals than any other athlete in history. This week he's won five and in all five he broke the world record. Phelps won a race with leaking goggles. If my goggles leak I immediately call Kings X (Time out).

Even Phelps' warm up routine is intimidating. Like a giant condor, he bends over and stretches his long arms behind his back then across his chest, over and over, like he's going to take off. He makes Cirque du Soleil performers look like they have arthritis. His size 14 feet are like flippers. Suddenly other swimmers start muttering, "Hey, second place isn't so bad."

Phelps is to swimming what Tiger Woods is to golf. NBC's first four nights averaged 30.4 million viewers. NBC isn't the only channel carrying the games. Others include CNBC, USA, MSNBC, OXYGEN (the paramedic channel?), TELEMUNDO, and UNIVERSAL HD. And of course, the games are on the computer. I know a number of people who have giant plasma HD sets in their living rooms and are watching the Olympics on their tiny computer monitor. Go figure.

The games have not been without controversy, starting with the opening ceremonies. It turns out some of those fireworks gloriously lighting up the sky above Tiananmen Square were computer generated. And perhaps even worse, the adorable 7-year-old girl with the pixie smile who sang "Ode to the Motherland," was lip-synching! (The Asian Ashley Simpson?) The beautiful voice belonged to another 7-year-old girl who wasn't considered good looking enough to be on TV (I've always felt potty-mouthed Rush Limbaugh isn't good looking enough to be on radio).

George and Laura Bush were at the games. Poor George. While watching the swimming, he proudly held up an American flag … backwards! It's actually quite fitting if you think about it.

There were many who suggested Bush shouldn't attend the opening ceremonies to protest China's poor human rights record and their policies in Tibet, Darfur and Taiwan. Bush thought about lecturing Chinese Premier Wen Jibe but was afraid he'd be handed a bill for what we owe the Chinese. I think he settled for no more lead in our toothpaste.

The USA men's basketball team beat the Chinese handily in a game watched by over 1.3 billion people. NBC plunked down $894 million for the rights to the Beijing Olympics. It already has surpassed $1 billion in advertising sales and still has commercial time to sell. That's a net of at least $116 million. Granted it's not Exxon profits, but it ain't chopped liver (That expression never makes sense to because I like chopped liver).

Along with swimming, and diving, another glamour sport is gymnastics. But I always feel sorry for the women gymnasts. I say women, but they are really little girls, none of whom seem to weigh over a hundred pounds. They're all so serious but not in a healthy way. When they lose it's devastating. The American girls came in second to the Chinese and you'd have thought they'd received a terminal diagnosis. And former coach Bela Karolyi reminds me more of Bela Lugosi.

The big political story during the games was the Russian invasion of Georgia. A majority of Fox viewers thought this would be trouble for the Atlanta Falcons' football season. Vladamir Putin (whom Bush nicknamed Pooty-Poot) still runs the show in Russia. Remember when Bush looked into Putin's eyes and "saw the soul of the man?" Whenever I look at Putin's photo I'm convinced he doesn't have a soul. Then again Bush looked into Brownie's eyes and saw "a heckuva job," and he looked into Harriet Myers' eyes and saw a legal scholar. He obviously shouldn't look people in the eyes.

The Russian invasion seemed quite serious but Condi, bless her heart, didn't even cancel her vacation. Maybe she's not a Falcons' fan? Then again, during Katrina she was buying shoes. It's a little puzzling because Russian affairs are supposed to be her specialty, other than shoes that is.

John McCain jumped in feet first and blasted the Russians for the outrageous act of invading a sovereign country. Wait a minute, isn't that what we did in Iraq? Ever bellicose, the presumptive Republican nominee continued saber rattling at the Russians. That may look good on TV but somebody should tell McBush, thanks to W, we don't have any sabers left.

When he isn't glued to the TV watching the Olympics, JACK can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Paying to ride

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

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

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

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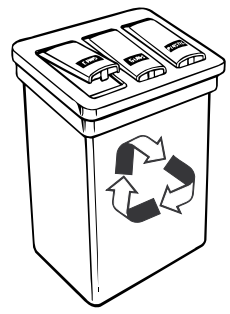
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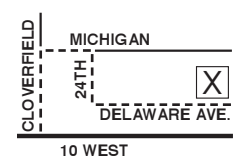

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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Juicing the cafe

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

FRIDAY, AUG. 8, AT 12:20 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 200 block of Broadway – Interactive Cafe – regarding a suspect who refused to pay for juice he consumed. Officers made contact with the suspect and asked him to pay his bill. The suspect allegedly refused and was placed under arrest for defrauding an innkeeper. The suspect was identified as Donnie Albert, 49, a transient. His bail was set at $3,000.

MONDAY, AUG. 4, AT 8 P.M.,
Police officers responded to a location in North Hollywood after receiving a call regarding a kidnapping that occurred in the 1500 block of Ocean Avenue. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who said she and her boyfriend were involved in an argument in Santa Monica a day earlier that turned violent when the boyfriend began beating her. The boyfriend then dragged her out of the apartment and drove her to a location in North Hollywood. When the suspect let her out of his site, she ran to a phone and dialed 911. LAPD officers detained the suspect and notified SMPD officers, who placed him under arrest for domestic violence, kidnapping and violation of probation. The girlfriend was transported to an area hospital with facial injuries. The suspect was identified as Luis Navarro Hernandez, 22, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $100,000.

TUESDAY, AUG. 5, AT 3 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 100 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a report of a man causing a disturbance. Officers made contact with the suspect, who appeared to be under the influence of a drug. Officers questioned the suspect, conducted a field sobriety test and arrested the suspect for being under the influence of a central nervous system stimulant. He was transported to the Santa Monica Jail and booked for being under the influence and for violating of probation. The suspect was identified as Jessie Cruz, 22, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $10,000.

MONDAY, AUG. 4, AT 10:50 P.M.,
Officers responded to a report of a fight in the area of Third Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. When officers arrived they spoke to one of the parties involved who displayed signs of public intoxication. During the investigation, the suspect allegedly tried to punch one of the officers. After a brief struggle, the officers were able to place the suspect in custody. She was later booked for being drunk in public, assault on a police officer and resisting arrest. Her bail was set at $20,000. The suspect was identified as Lisa Maria Axe Luckman, 31, of Santa Monica.

THURSDAY, AUG. 7, AT 6 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1400 block of Wilshire Boulevard – Bank of America – regarding a report of someone trying to cash a check which a bank employee believed was fraudulent. When officers arrived, they placed the suspect in custody and spoke with the bank employee who said the suspect was trying to cash a check worth $17,000. Officers learned that there were alleged accomplices in a vehicle parked in the bank parking lot. Officers arrested those suspects as well for attempting to pass a fraudulent check. The suspects were identified as Sheika Mechelle Hurd, 20, of Riverside; Torion Deandre Calhoun, 20, a transient; Phillip Jordon Betts, 18, a transient; and James Lewis Ward, 21, of Riverside. Bail was set at $20,000 for each suspect except Calhoun, who was booked for possession of marijuana, false impersonation and four warrants. His bail was set at $87,500. Ward was also booked for possession of marijuana in addition to burglary, police said.

MONDAY, AUG. 11, AT 7:10 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1100 block of Pacific Coast Highway regarding a report of a vehicle burglary. Witnesses told the officers that they observed a suspect break a window of a parked car in one of the beach lots and remove a bag from the inside. The suspect ran away with the bag, but dropped it after he saw witnesses calling the police. The suspect was apprehended by officers and booked for auto burglary. The suspect was identified as George Anthony Figueroa, 37, a transient. His bail was set at $20,000.

TUESDAY, AUG. 5, AT 8 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 300 block of Colorado Avenue – Macy's – regarding a shoplifting suspect in custody. When officers arrived, they made contact with store security who said the suspect walked into the store, grabbed several shirts and removed price tags and censors and then placed them in a backpack. As he tried to exit the store, store security detained the suspect and notified police. The suspect was placed under arrest for petty theft. The shirts, valued at $199, were recovered. The suspect was identified as Dimitry K. Ivanchuck, 20, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $1,000.

SUNDAY, AUG. 3, AT 11:20 P.M.,
Police responded to the 3100 block of Pico Boulevard after receiving a report of a domestic dispute in the area. When officers arrived, they spoke to the alleged victim who said she and her ex-husband were involved in an argument that turned violent. The ex allegedly pushed the woman to the ground and tried to drag her into a hotel room. The ex-husband was arrested and booked for kidnapping and domestic violence. His bail was set at $100,000. He was identified as Aleksey Chergivayev, 60, from St. Louis, Mo. His bail was set at $100,000.

SUNDAY, AUG. 3, AT 6:45 P.M.,
An officer was on routine patrol in the 2800 block of Barnard Way when he noticed a vehicle with a broken taillight. The officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop. When the officer ran the vehicle's license plate, the officer discovered that they car was stolen. The officer placed the driver under arrest for grand theft auto. The suspect was identified as Tommy Roycelle Wyms, 42, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $55,000.

Editor in Chief Kevin Herrera compiled these reports. news@smdp.com

Budget impasse could hit SM nonprofits hard

FROM **BUDGET** PAGE 3

that it should cover at least through the summer and into September if necessary," Smith said. "We should be in good shape, but hopefully the legislature will pass the budget in the next month or so."

The college receives approximately 70 percent of its budget from the state.

"We're kind of prepared for a lot of different (budget) scenarios," Smith said.

Some of the budget discussions that have taken place in the state capitol have made City Hall nervous, concerned in particular by potential reductions to Redevelopment Agency funding and loss of money from property taxes.

One of the suggestions that has been mentioned would be to permanently shift $200 million in Redevelopment Agency money from the communities to the state, taking a total of about $3 million away from City Hall, which uses the funding to support open space, Downtown infrastructure projects and affordable housing. RDA projects generate $32 billion in economic development activities statewide, $1.6 billion in state and local taxes and creates $310,000 jobs, most of which are in construction, according to Carol Swindell, the director of finance for City Hall.

"By taking money to solve a structural deficit in the state, they are impacting many local economies and impacting economic development opportunities," Swindell said.

Swindell also raised concerns about a suggestion for the state to borrow 8 percent of the statewide property tax, taking away about $5.4 million from City Hall.

"For some cities in the state, that kind of borrowing could mean the difference between them being able to function adequately or not," she said.

There have also been discussions on potential cuts to transportation funding, which would result in a $2.1 million slash to Big Blue Bus operations, Swindell added.

The total loss to City Hall if all the suggestions are incorporated into the budget could come out to be more than $10 million.

"At this point … cities throughout the state are very troubled by the fact that these proposals are even being considered and are being very vocal in their opposition to them," she said.

Assemblywoman Julia Brownley (D-Santa Monica) said the cuts are not being considered under the budget proposal being presented by the Democrats.

"I'm well aware of how important these two funding sources are to local cities like Santa Monica and all the local cities throughout my district," Brownley said. "It is not something that we as Democrats want to do."

Democratic leaders said on Thursday that they intend to bring the budget to a vote on Sunday, though they have yet to reach a compromise with Republicans or the governor.

"It's very frustrating that our counterparts in the Assembly and Legislature have not provided a proposal," Brownley said.

While the battle brews up north, the delay continues to cause concern locally, including in the nonprofit sector.

John Maceri, the executive director of OPCC, said the hold-up is giving him flashbacks of a previous budget impasse that lasted months.

The organization, which provides homeless services, relies on state funding to help run the domestic violence program, which is already slated to receive 10 percent less from the state this year.

The impasse, which occurred several years ago, went on for so long that the state began issuing vouchers to OPCC instead of payment.

"We bill retroactively (to the state) so we're already in the rears waiting for money," Maceri said.

Others nonprofits, like the CLARE Foundation, are waiting to see what the outcome will be.

"Right now the stalemate in the budget is not impacting us," Nicholas Vrataric, the executive director of the CLARE Foundation, said. "But we are concerned about the budget and outcome specifically because it would come out of our recovery treatment program."

Maceri said that in times of budget crisis, nonprofits are the most vulnerable.

"We don't know where we're going to land and it doesn't look very good," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
melodyh@smdp.com

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Rosenblum cuvee zin $7.99
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Amavi cab (walla walla valley) $22.99
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Vikings have high hopes for season

FROM **SAMOHI** PAGE 1

we were experienced at the skill positions and young up front. This year, it's the opposite."

The extra year of experience on the field and in the weight room are invaluable to the coach.

"I think that's something that you can't account for," he said. "The older and more experienced they are; the weights they've lifted the more battle tested they are."

With the strength of the team residing in the trenches, Cuda is confident that this season will be anything but a rebuilding year.

"We're gong back to what we do best," he said. "We'll be running the ball between the tackles. That will be a huge factor for us."

With Katz at the helm last season, the team employed a spread offense with three or four wide receivers often in the formation. With junior Garrett Safron behind center, Cuda said that he'll look to run the ball as much as possible to keep his young starter from being forced to carry the team with his arm.

"We're certainly not trying to put too much pressure on him," Cuda said. "We have two outstanding tailbacks that will lighten the load."

The coach thinks that once Safron grows accustomed to the speed of the varsity game he'll prove that he has rightfully earned the starting spot.

"I'm really confident in what he is going to do. He's had a great spring and an even better summer," he said. "His being a smart QB is going to be a good thing for us this year."

Returning senior running backs Vince Lawrence and Christian Ross split time at starting tailback last season and Cuda expects them to share the load this season.

"They both could potentially go for 1,000 yards this year," he said. "We'll put a fullback in front of those guys as much as we can."

Cuda has decided to run an I-back formation on offense for the most part, but has a few tricks up his sleeve if defenses get too comfortable.

"We can run a lot of play action off of that set," he said. "We'll still have the spread set to change things up."

The defensive side of the ball will also see a few changes. Defensive coordinator Conrad Cuda is leaning toward a base 4-4 alignment with four down lineman and four linebackers.

The team spent much of last season in the 4-3 in large part because most of the teams in the Ocean League operate out of the spread offense, with three to four wide receivers on the field at all times.

"We would consider either of those two [defenses] our main look," Zach Cuda said. "The defensive coordinator has been working on making it so we could get in and out of those looks without replacing personnel."

The team begins implementing the coaching staff's changes Aug. 25, when the team straps on pads for the first time this off-season. To date, the team has been spending their days doing conditioning training and lifting weights.

Returning senior starter Amar Pal hopes all the work pays off when the team finally hits the field.

> **AS LONG AS WE STAY HEALTHY AND STAY STRONG, WE CONTROL OUR OWN DESTINY."**
>
> Terry Wilson
> Samohi senior cornerback/wide receiver

"We've been working a lot in the weight room," he said. "Most of the guys' numbers went up over the summer."

He's proud to report that he's bench pressing 335 lbs. and squatting 435. Both are impressive numbers for the player who will be depended on to play both on the offensive and defensive lines.

Another major change the team will experience in the upcoming season will be the renovated field at Santa Monica College's Corsair Field, the team's home. The college is currently replacing the sod surface with artificial turf. Zach Cuda sees it as a boon for his team that was forced to play on a field that was often less than perfect.

"We're really excited," he said. "The field was miserable after the Venice (High School) game. They just kept sanding it to make it a playable surface every week.

"We're happy that we'll have a surface that will be able to take the wear and tear the whole year."

LOOKING AHEAD

The Vikings tied for second place in the Ocean League last season earning the team a playoff berth, but Samohi failed to advance out of the first round. Even with a high-powered offense and star gunslinger, the team finished the season 6-5. The head coach believes that the team's strength at the offensive line should help his squad get over the hump and cause waves in the Ocean League.

"I think we really have our sights set on a league championship," Zach Cuda said. "This year could be the year we put together a run in the playoffs."

His players echo his sentiment, hoping to dash the memory of last season's postseason disappointment.

"As long as we stay healthy and stay strong, we control our own destiny," said Terry Wilson, a senior cornerback/wide receiver who is a senior captain. "A league championship is within our reach."

Wilson wasn't pleased with his personal performance last season and looks to this season to redeem himself.

"I want to put up some big numbers," he said. "I want to do whatever I can to make a run in the playoffs."

The team begins play Sept. 12 at Corsair Field against Leuzinger High School.

daniela@smdp.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**

Council race will be crowded

FROM **RACES** PAGE 1

times for the seat, dropping out at least once. Hartley, a lawyer who serves on the Airport Commission, has also been an outspoken supporter of the Residents' Initiative to Fight Traffic (RIFT), a ballot measure that seeks to cap commercial development in the city.

Another RIFT supporter, Recreation and Parks Commissioner Ted Winterer, has qualified for the council race. Winterer serves as the president of the Ocean Park Association.

Perhaps one of the more interesting races will be the school board, which has been criticized the past few years for a series of controversies, including issues in the special education department and financial accountability.

Two newcomers will be battling it out for the four open seats — Chris Bley, a history teacher at the Brentwood School, and Allen, both of whom grew up in Santa Monica and attended local schools.

Allen recently received an endorsement from the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association.

"I'm going to get out and meet people all over town in Santa Monica and Malibu," Allen said. "I'm hoping to get out there and meet as many people as I possibly can."

Two seats on the Rent Control Board will be battled between three candidates, including incumbent Joel Koury, Christopher Braun, and Robert Kronovet, a realtor in the Pico Neighborhood. Both Koury and Braun have received the support of SMRR. Kronovet previously ran unsuccessfully in 2004.

The college board will feature three incumbents and one newcomer — recent SMC alum Heidi Hoeck — battling it out for three seats. Hoeck served as the president of the Associated Students at SMC.

The election will be held on Nov. 4

melodyh@smdp.com

A TOTAL OF 26 RESIDENTS HAVE QUALIFIED TO RUN FOR FOUR LOCAL RACES

City Council:
Richard Bloom
Linda Armstrong
Ken Genser
Jerry Peace Activist Rubin
Ted Winterer
Susan Hartley
Jon Louis Mann
Herbert Silverstein
Herb Katz
Linda M. Piera-Ávila
John Blakely
Bobby Shriver
Michael Kovac

Rent Control Board:
Christopher Braun
Robert Kronovet
Joel Koury

Board of Education:
Jose Escarce
Ralph Mechur
Maria Leon-Vazquez
Chris Bley
Ben Allen

Santa Monica College Board of Trustees:
Margaret Q. Quiñónez-Pérez
Susan Aminoff
Rob Rader
Heidi Hoeck

BBB modeling dress code after MTA

FROM **SUIT** PAGE 3

ing his savings.

"It was never about the money," said Reddy, a fast-talking, friendly man with a bushy beard and thick, u-shaped earrings in both lobes. "This was about my heritage, my beliefs, which make me who I am. It was about self respect. If I cannot be who I am and respect the things I believe in, than I am losing everything.

"How am I going to teach my children about their culture If I cannot express it?"

In a city known for being tolerant and progressive, it seemed strange that BBB officials would not allow Reddy to wear his turban, a critical part of his religion (Reddy said that when he dies, he will be cremated with his turban on, as is the custom). It was even more odd considering the state's Fair Employment and Housing Act as well as the Civil Rights Act seemed to be on his side.

Nevertheless, when Reddy donned his turban for two weeks last year, he received notice from his superiors that he either had to remove it, or find another job.

Instead, Reddy, who moved to the United States in the late 80s after spending much of his life on the same sugar plantations his grandfather was forced to work, hired a lawyer and filed suit.

"For 19 years I have tried to wear it, but each time I asked, I was denied," Reddy said. "When I was hired, they told me to take it off and to shave my beard or I couldn't work. I needed the job to support my family, so I agreed."

When he became a U.S. citizen, Reddy became more familiar with his rights and the law, which emboldened him.

"HOW I AM GOING TO TEACH MY CHILDREN ABOUT THEIR CULTURE IF I CANNOT EXPRESS IT?"

Ahdi Reddy
Big Blue Bus driver

The City Council recently decided to settle the case, granting Reddy the religious freedom he was seeking. As part of the settlement, Reddy must wear his turban consistently. In exchange, no monetary damages were awarded. Both sides agreed to pay their own legal fees, with Reddy's attorney, David Myers, choosing to represent his client free of charge.

It was Myers who made the settlement possible after he noticed a driver for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority sporting a turban while behind the wheel. He brought this information to Deputy City Attorney Carol Rohr and an agreement was reached.

"We investigated it and that was found to be true, so we said, 'OK, you can wear your turban.' Simple as that," said Rohr, who described the settlement negotiations as friendly.

Council members approved the settlement unanimously. For many, it was an easy decision to make.

"It was about whether or not wearing his turban was going to affect his job or not," said Mayor Herb Katz. "He wasn't harming anybody."

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom said settling the case was "the right thing to do."

"Whether or not someone should be allowed to wear religious head coverings is something I have strong feelings about," Bloom said. "Not only because of my own experience in having relatives who wear religious head coverings, but I really think it is important for people to be able to express their religious traditions.

"Unless there is some way in which wearing a head covering makes it dangerous or is inappropriate , I don't think it's reasonable to have a restriction."

Neither does the MTA, which allows drivers to wear religious attire, including turbans, yarmulkes, and other religious headgear. BBB is currently looking at the MTA's dress code and is looking to incorporate aspects of it into its rules, said Dan Dawson, marketing and public information coordinator for the BBB.

Currently drivers are allowed to wear only clothing approved by BBB, which includes pants, shorts, shirts, sweaters and berets issued by the bus company.

Thanks to Reddy, turbans have been added to that list.

"I'm much happier now," he said as he stood at the corner of Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street on Wednesday, waiting to start his shift. "It feels like a huge weight has been lifted. Hopefully this will make it easier for other people who may be afraid to express their religious beliefs."

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

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- **Submission Deadline is September 17, 2008 at 3:00 PM PACIFIC TIME.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Kimberlie Nimori at the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-2211, or by e-mailing your request to kimberlie.nimori@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

DATE/TIME: August 18, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- ARB 08-052, 525 Broadway: Mixed-Use
- ARB 08-262, 331 Santa Monica Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB 08-272, 933 Eleventh Street: Multi-Residential
- ARB 08-279, 1660 Euclid Street: Industrial
- ARB 08-287, 2700 Pennsylvania Avenue: Industrial
- ARB 08-346, 1555 Second Street: Public Parking Garage #8
- ARB 08-347, 1502 Fourth Street: Public Parking Garage #7

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). Call 310-458-8341 or TTY 310-450-8896 for disability accommodation requests. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9, serve City Hall.

SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp: 67°**

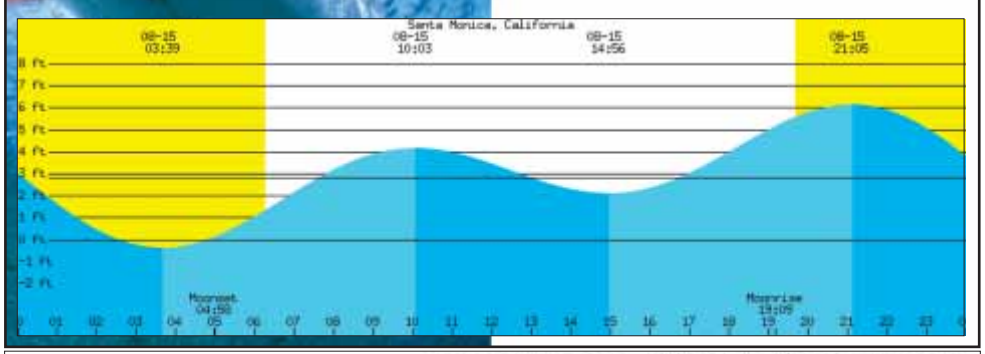
Swell Forecast (1-2 FT)

A weak southern hemi and NW wind swell making for waist high waves max around most breaks. Standout south facing breaks might see some chest high pluses at times. Tide is moderate, although it will be quite shallow around dawn, and reach a 4-foot high around 10:00 AM. Tide will be well over 6 feet in the evening. Winds on Friday look light and variable early with the afternoon onshores reaching 9-13 mph.

Long Range Synopsis

Tuesday the 19th is likely to see some NW wind swell ...

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

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

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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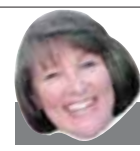

Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Miller obsesses mysteriously in 'Some Kind of Love Story'

BECAUSE ARTHUR MILLER IS CONSIDERED one of the very best playwrights of the 20th century, and rightly so, it may come as something of a surprise to discover that during his long and prolific career he wrote a number of plays that are almost unknown and almost never performed.

One of these is "Some Kind of Love Story," a one-act play written in 1982 and meant to be paired with another short play, "Elegy for a Lady" and presented together in an overall production called "Two Way Mirror."

Now, for the first time on the West Coast, The Hayworth Theatre is presenting "Some Kind of Love Story," starring Beege Barkette and Jack Kehler and directed by Michael Arabian.

It seems to be something of a departure for Miller: a convoluted murder mystery set in a suburb of Boston in 1962. Jack Kehler plays Tom O'Toole, an Irish private investigator, an ex-cop, who has been chasing a murder case for nearly five years. The man convicted of the crime, Felix Epstein, is, Tom believes, innocent, and he has been hired by the Epstein family to prove it.

For the past five years he has been pursuing Angela (Beege Barkette), who apparently knows more about the murder than she is willing to tell.

The fact that Tom and Angela had an affair earlier, however, may have loosened her conscience, but it hasn't loosened her tongue. ("If I told you what I know, when would I ever see you again?" she asks plaintively). Now, though, she has called Tom to her apartment late at night under the pretext of telling him more about the murder. In actuality, she is just lonely, frightened, and horny.

Dressed in a sexy black negligee and peignoir, she begins her attempt to seduce him almost as soon as he walks through her door. Though sorely tempted, he resists her advances. He knows from long experience that if he gives her what she wants, she will not give him what he wants: namely, what she knows about the murder. "You've still got a lot of priest in you," she taunts.

And so they begin their game of cat and mouse, with her teasing him with inconclusive pieces of information and him angrily threatening to leave. These ploys go on for quite a while and are annoyingly repetitive.

So, to heighten the action a little, Miller has written Angie as a crucible of multiple personalities, and she suddenly morphs into a foul-mouthed prostitute, Leontyne, then a thumb-sucking child, and finally, a scornful, aristocrat with a British accent. It's an acting coup for the very talented Ms. Barkette, but it doesn't do much to advance the story line, which, in the end, turns out to be all about crooked cops and drug conspiracies and who framed who and why.

Tom is what you might term an Irish schlemiel.

He keeps falling for her acts and, as she slowly dribbles out the secrets of the murder, he (and the audience) are left with multiple questions: is she really schizophrenic? Is she delusional? Is she fantasizing? Are all the many characters that she introduces as part of the murder story really involved in the activities that she says they are? Is she?

As is well known, many, or most, of Miller's plays are about Miller, his life and convictions. So, even though he wrote this play in 1982, he set it in 1962, the year after he ended his five-year marriage to the legendary Marilyn Monroe.

It is hard not to read Marilyn into the beautiful blonde hooker of "Some Kind of Love Story." And the put-upon, frustrated detective could easily be Miller's version of himself in that tortured relationship.

John Iacovelli has put the two protagonists into a lush bedroom, bouncing around on a huge bed with lavish silken sheets, and Traci McWain has designed appropriate costumes for both of them. But if you're still wondering if Marilyn is the intended role model for the tragic Angela, her final costume has to give you pause. After receiving a phone call from an admirer, she agrees to meet him at a local hotel. A few minutes later, when she returns to the bedroom dressed for her date, she is wearing a replica of Marilyn's famous white dress from "Seven Year Itch."

"Some Kind of Love Story" will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. from Aug. 16 through he end of the month. The Hayworth Theater is located at 2509 Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles. For reservations, call (323) 960-4442.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

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MOVIE TIMES

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AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Mirrors (R) 1hr 50min
11:25am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25

Henry Poole Is Here (PG) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) 1hr 36min
12:25, 3:00, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35

Transsiberian (R) 1hr 51min
11:05am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 Third St.
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WALL-E (G) 1hr 37min
11:20am, 1:50, 4:30, 6:45, 9:20

Step Brothers (R) 1hr 35min
12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10

Journey to the Center of the Earth - 3-D (PG) 1hr 32min
11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00

Tropic Thunder (R) 1hr 47min
11:00am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor, The (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:40am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2, The (PG-13) 1hr 57min
11:15am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20

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

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

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

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

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
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Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
12:15, 3:40, 7:10, 10:30

The Pineapple Express (R) 1hr 45min
10:50am, 11:50am, 1:30, 2:30, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) 1hr 38min
11:40am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

Fly Me to The Moon 3-D (G) 1hr 30min
12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:00

Mamma Mia! (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10

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

Ever playful, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Others drive a hard bargain – they want you and only you. A meeting might give you great feedback. Confusion surrounds friendship, goals and a romantic or budding relationship. A child also might figure into the picture. Tonight: In the thick of things.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You are on a roll and clearly know where you are going and what needs to happen. Allow greater give and take, while remaining open to the many possibilities in your life. Do not allow someone to drain you. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. Your ability to sort through information could be off. As a result, your perceptions could be cloudy. Defer to someone else. You are anchored and direct. Tonight: Hop on the computer or find an expert.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Work with individuals, avoiding meetings if possible. You are able to see situations differently, and imparting that knowledge needs to happen slowly. People might have a hard time "getting" it. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Touch base with others. You hear a situation from another side. You might find that you have a lot to swallow. Also, you might not be able to view the big picture. Think positively. Tonight: Sort through offers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might feel as if everyone drops his or her work or project on your lap. Getting out of work and starting the weekend could be difficult. Consider skipping lunch and heading out at a normal time. Tonight: Know when enough is enough.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Knowing what to do and when could separate you from many. Someone might be pulling a number on you as this person tries not to give you the scoop, be it personal or about or a situation. Commit to taking your time. Make that clear to others as well. Tonight: Ever playful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Pressure builds, and with it, you are less likely to hear the total story. When you are able, close your door or, if possible, work from home. Someone keeps pushing for your time and feedback. Listen more completely. Tonight: Screen calls and relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Though you might not be exactly sure of details, confirm what you think is happening. With another person, you finally put a face on a project, event or meeting. A boss could be very hard on you. Tonight: Speak your mind ... diplomatically.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Expenses could be adding up. Also, there might be a less-expensive way. Ask questions and get feedback. News from a distance could be more important than you think. Listen well to news. Tonight: Take off as soon as possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You are all smiles. You certainly have on rose-colored glasses. Someone might be trying to break through your walls. Realize your limits with a partner. Don't even try to manipulate this person. It won't work, and it could cause more of a problem. Tonight: Start the weekend well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Take your time before you start down a path. You might want to do your own investigating or thinking. You discover that if you say less, you learn a lot more. Tonight: Get some extra sleep. You will need the extra rest.

Happy birthday

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

You have a lot to be optimistic about this year. The fruition of many of your dreams becomes a possibility, especially because of better networking and interactions in general. You see what a difference socializing and expanding your universe makes. You could be surprised by the variety of opportunities that spin off from the many good people in your life. If you are single, recognize that it will be your choice to maintain that status. Be realistic about someone who knocks your socks off. If you are attached, the two of you might not see each other clearly. You also may not care. AQUARIUS remains a loyal friend.

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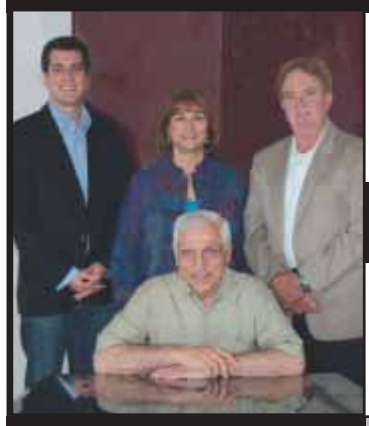
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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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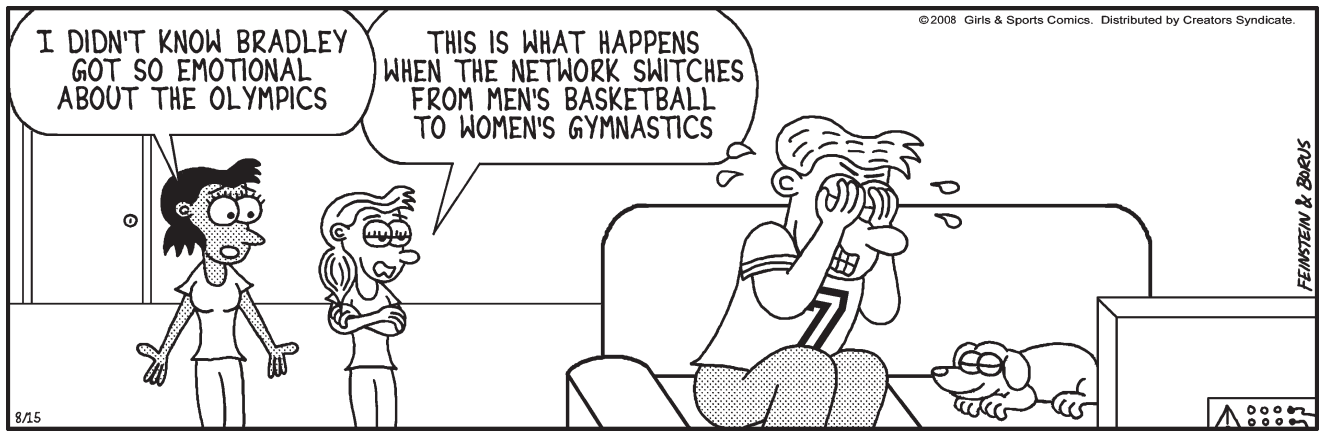
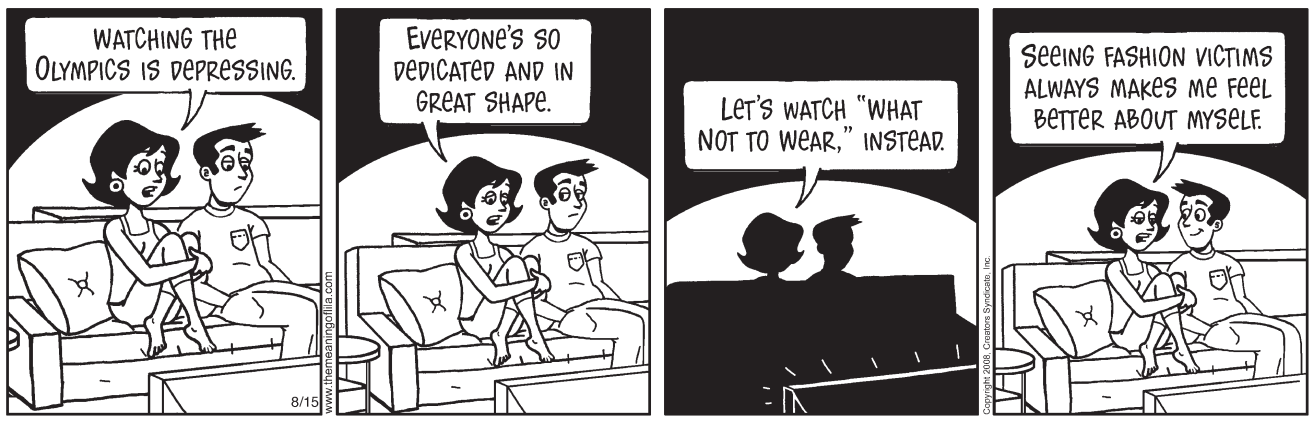
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



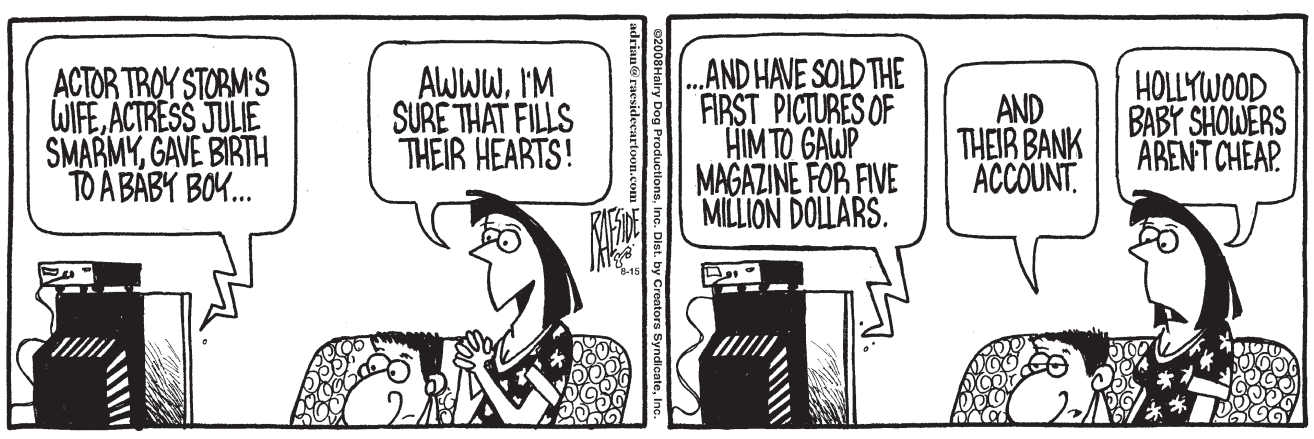
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



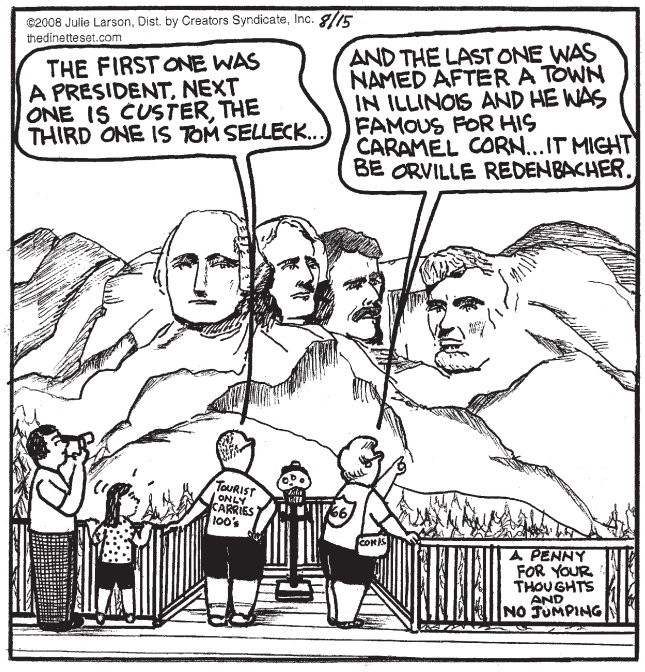
Garfield

By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

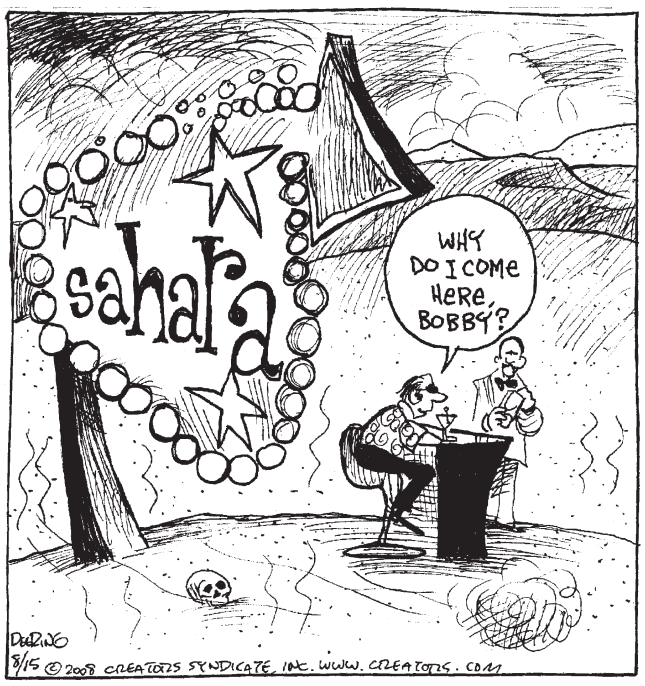
By Brian Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Make rugs
6 Block
11 Fashionably dated
12 Laughable
13 Orange shade
14 Trig topic
15 Metric meas.
16 Form a jury
18 Put away
19 Spot
20 Snaky shape
21 Moistens
23 Harness races
25 "Give — rest!"
27 Enjoy Alta
28 Muffler
30 Low boat
33 Excellent, in slang
34 Pot brew
36 Cal. heading
37 Sources
39 B & B
40 Country dances
41 Mermaid home
43 Cove
44 "Q & A" star
45 Hands over
46 Church official

DOWN

1 Tom of NBC
2 Quote from memory
3 Game setting
4 Hot blood
5 Day in Hollywood
6 Nursery supply
7 "The King and I" role
8 The Earth has one
9 Except if
10 Disrobes
17 Got together
22 RR stop
24 Sanctions
26 Gallery VIPs
28 Calm
29 Swamp
31 Florid
32 Trophy recipient
33 Column type
35 In harmony
38 Merriment
42 Gen.'s underling

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

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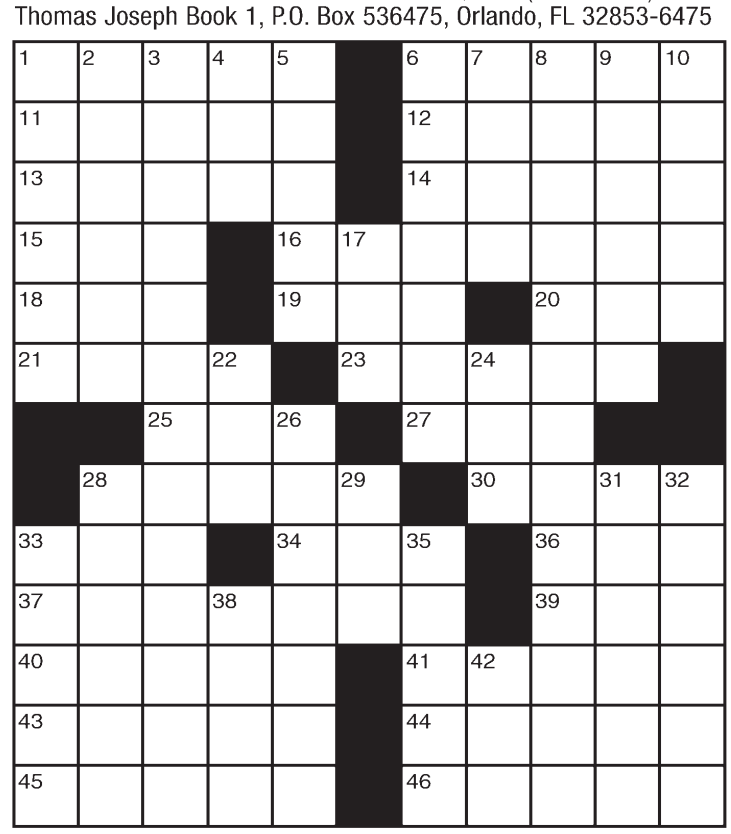

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ "(A) person with a sneeze fetish can find erotic pleasure in those few seconds," according to the ABC News Medical Unit, in an April report, when "the eyes close as the body prepares to forcefully expel air," but "experts are stumped as to why." An Internet "sneeze fetish forum" allows members to wax rhapsodic ("She has the cutest sneeze ever") and recall pleasurable experiences (such as the thrill of discovering that one's new college roommate has allergies and will be sneezing frequently), and many use language and suggest visions that mimic sexual behaviors.

■ The man who tried to rob the Cafe Treo in Salt Lake City in April likely told the employee to "fill" the bag, but when the employee reached over and earnestly started to "feel" the bag (according to police), the robber said, "You've gotta be kidding me" and ran out of the store.

■ Another man who came away empty-handed had tried to rob a Walgreens in Port Richey, Fla., in July, handing a clerk what appeared to be a holdup note, except that nothing was written on it. The clerk, sensing the forgetful robber's cluelessness, boldly dialed 911 right in front of him, causing the man to flee.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1057 Macbeth, King of Scots, was killed in battle by Malcolm, the eldest son of King Duncan, whom Macbeth had slain.

1769 Napoleon Bonaparte was born on the island of Corsica.

1914 the Panama Canal opened to traffic.

1935 humorist Will Rogers and aviator Wiley Post were killed when their airplane crashed near Point Barrow, Alaska.

1944 during World War II, Allied forces landed in southern France in Operation Dragoon.

1947 India became independent after some 200 years of British rule.

1948 the Republic of Korea (South Korea) was proclaimed.

WORD UP!

lackadaisical \lack-uh-DAY-zih-kuhl\, *adjective*:
Lacking spirit or liveliness; showing lack of interest; languid; listless.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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CDL? Tuition Reimbursement! www.JoinCRST.com 1-800-781-2778. (Cal-SCAN)

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INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE Representative: Earn supplemental income placing and supervising high school exchange students. Volunteer host families also needed. Promote world peace! 1-866-GO-AFICE or www.afice.org (Cal-SCAN)

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PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING. Volunteer Host Families needed for International High School Exchange Students. Open your heart, open your home. 1-866-462-3423 or www.afice.org (Cal-SCAN)

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Was: $99,900. Now: $79,900. 160AC w/New Log Cabin Was: $199,900. Now: $149,900. 208AC w/Huge Storage Barn Was: $299,900. NOW: $249,900. Affordable financing, discounted prices. Absolutely beautiful land. Call 877-229-7840. Visit www.WesternSkiesLand.com While we talk! (Cal-SCAN)

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310-395-3712

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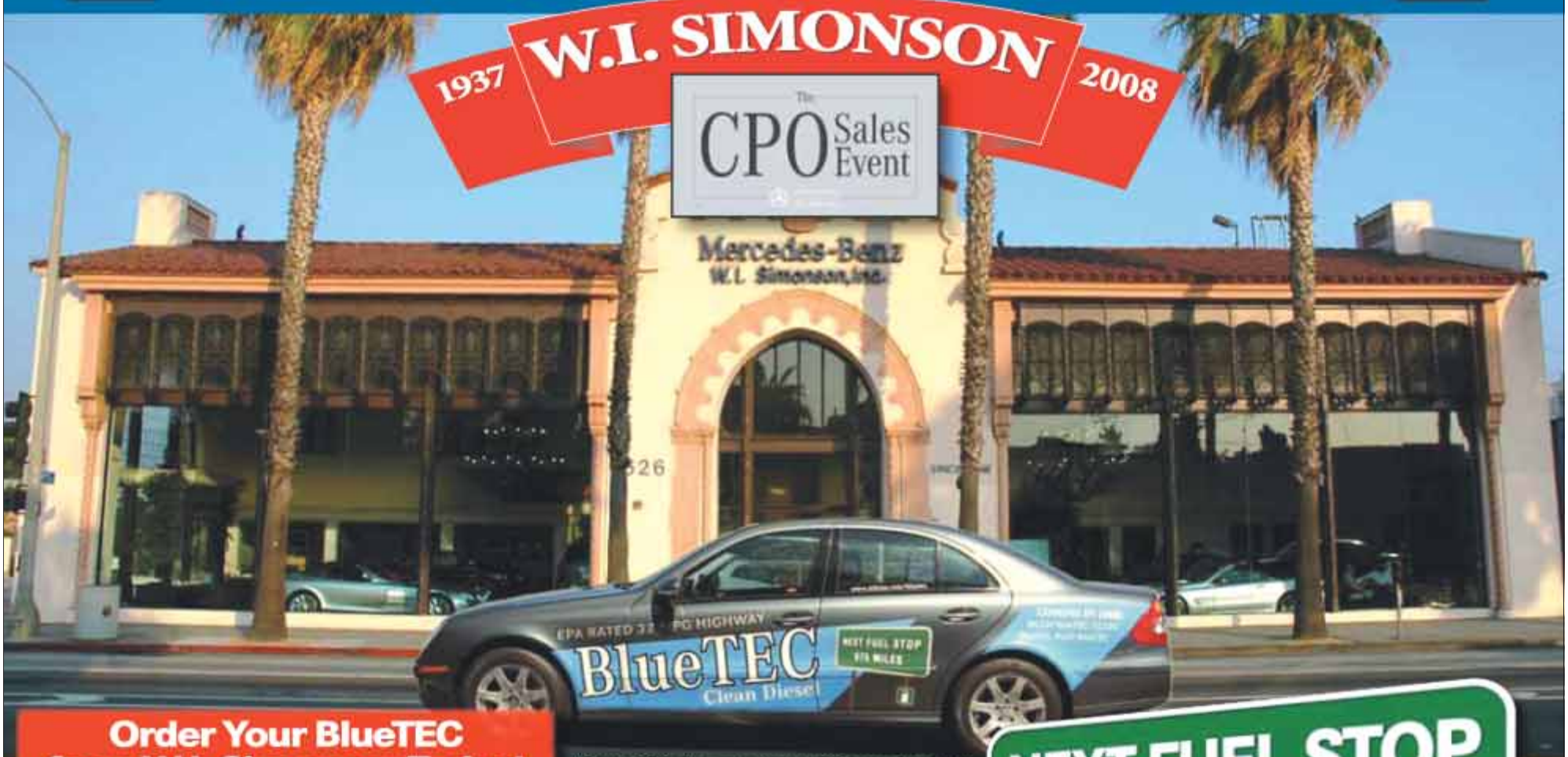

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