



MADISON AVENUE MEDALIST
SEE PAGE 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

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THE HOPEFULLY INSPIRATIONAL ISSUE

Suspected tire thieves behind bars

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN, L.A. Two men suspected of stealing hundreds of tires and rims off newer model luxury vehicles throughout the Southland, including Santa Monica, were in custody Monday and scheduled to appear in court this week, authorities said.

The District Attorney's office filed 18 counts of burglary and grand theft against Vasily Polyak, 18, and Arsen Ovsepyan, 20, a week ago Monday, according to a Los

Angeles Police Department statement.

Polyak was being held at the North County Correctional Facility in Castaic while Ovsepyan was at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility in downtown Los Angeles, with bail for each set at \$420,000 and both men scheduled to appear in court in Van Nuys Wednesday, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

They were arrested Aug. 7, according to the sheriff's Web site.

Beginning in May, four LAPD divisions began getting numerous reports about tires and rims being stolen off newer model Mercedes-Benz and BMWs, according to the LAPD statement.

Detectives used video surveillance to identify Polyak and Ovsepyan, who were subsequently arrested. Several search warrants were served, resulting in more than 100 tires and rims being recovered, the statement said.

The items were being sold on Craig's List

and then resold on eBay, it said.

"It is imperative to know that when purchasing items on line, if the price seems too good to be true, then it probably is too good and is possibly a stolen item," the statement said.

Further investigation revealed that the two men were also randomly targeting vehicles in Marina Del Rey and Santa Monica, according to the LAPD.

news@smdp.com



HARD HAT WORK

Workers from Griffith Construction prepare the wood foundation for concrete on Second Street Monday morning in front of Hostelling International of Santa Monica. The construction is part of the downtown Santa Monica sidewalk beautification and improvement project from Colorado Avenue to Wilshire Boulevard.

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com



Playing a political guessing game

BY ALEXANDRA BISSONNETTE

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN The democratic process is cut and dry when it comes to the propositions. On Nov. 4, citizens will vote, and the majority will rule. It seems simple, right?

Wrong.

National politics — in this case the presidential election — will come into play, greatly impacting the outcome of each proposition, political pundits said. The only question is how.

"It's going to be a real smorgasbord on the ballot," said Allan Hoffenblum a veteran Republican political strategist. "It's going to be interesting."

That smorgasbord includes propositions regarding gay marriage, animal rights, a high-speed passenger train, abortion rights, renewable energy, and a host of other issues with real implications for California residents.

Hoffenblum's theory is that if presumptive Democratic nominee U.S. Sen. Barack Obama is shown to have a substantial lead in California at the time of the elections, many young people may not turn out to vote based on the assumption that their candidate is a shoe-in for the state's 55 electoral votes. This could mean a lower voter turn-out overall.

Dan Schnur, Republican strategist and former communications director for Sen.

SEE PROPS PAGE 8

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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Workouts for teens

3026 Nebraska Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.

O2 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.

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.

Write away

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 12 p.m. — 2 p.m.

Inspiration, guidance, direction, and support are offered for all writers every Tuesday at the Fairview Branch Library. For more information, call (310) 450-0443.

Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008

A time to heal

1844 Lincoln Blvd., 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Master Choa Kok Sui offers free sessions on Pranic Healing, an effective, no-touch, painless healing art that helps the body repair itself.

No appointment is required. For more information contact Isabel Lacayo at the Kathmandu Boutique at (310) 396-4036, or at isalacayo@yahoo.com.

Get lost in thought

1008 11th St., Noon — 1 p.m.

Stressed out at work? Then take an hour to revitalize by walking and meditating at the First United Methodist Church's new permanent labyrinth in Simkins Hall. The labyrinth is open every Wednesday until Sept. 10, 2008. For more information contact Mary Garbesi at (310) 393-8258, ext. 106 or via e-mail at mary.garbesi@santamonicaumc.org.

Kicking it with Kiwanis

1332 Sixth St., Noon — 1:30 p.m.

Join members of the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club for their weekly luncheon where guests connect and hear from a rotating panel of speakers. The club has been serving the needs of the community and its children since 1922. For more information, call (310) 613-1249.

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.



SM Pier movie series starts off with a buzz

BY CHRISTINA YOON

Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER With fall quickly approaching, the Santa Monica pier remains a spot to relish a few remaining summertime activities.

Beginning tonight at 7 p.m., locals and visitors can bring their blankets, picnic baskets and popcorn to the sixth annual Santa Monica Drive-In at the Pier movie series.

The five films in the series will run weekly through Sept. 19 and are free to those who pick up tickets on the Wednesday before the screening.

"When we started the movies at the pier six years ago it was an instant hit," said Ben Franz-Knight, the executive director of the Pier Restoration Corp. "The last time there were free movies shown on the pier before that, it was back in the '40s."

The Pier Restoration Corp. co-produces the Drive-In series with Arts Fighting Cancer, a nonprofit organization founded in 1999 to organize arts-related events to benefit those battling cancer. The event will offer folding chair rentals for \$5 and treats including kettle corn and hot dogs. All of these proceeds will benefit the Cancer Relief Fund.

As in past years, a maximum of 5,000 tickets will be available free of charge on the Wednesday prior to the film screening. Tickets are available at the Santa Monica Visitors Center on Main Street, the Convention and Visitors kiosk on Ocean Avenue, the Convention and Visitors cart on Third Street Promenade and Vidiots movie rental store on Pico Boulevard.

In past years, the movie audiences have averaged at around 3,000 people, and the ticket system is maintained to make sure that moviegoers can stretch out and relax.

"We want the event to be safe and also have enough room for people to be comfortable," Franz-Knight said.

This year's films range from the heartwarming, with tonight's screening of "Akeelah and the Bee," to the classic, with "Casablanca" showing on Sept. 5. The Drive-In organizers switched the films in September from Tuesday night to Friday night so that it would be easier for families with children to make it out for the event.

"We targeted the Friday nights to the



Photo courtesy news@smdp.com

BUSY LITTLE BEES: Students from the After School All Stars program in South Los Angeles will participate in a spelling bee tonight before a screening of 'Akeelah and the Bee,' the first film in the Drive-In at the Pier movie series.

families who need to be able to justify coming out to the pier at night," Franz-Knight said. "It's important that we make it as accessible as possible."

Tonight's film, a family-friendly flick about a girl from South Los Angeles who competes in the famous Scripps National Spelling Bee, will open with a real-life spelling bee moderated by the film's director, Doug Atchison. The competitors are middle schoolers from Edison Middle School in South Los Angeles and participants of the Los Angeles chapter of a national after-school program called After School All Stars.

The 20 competing students devoted their after school time to train for tonight's event, their first public spelling bee. In exchange, they will compete for the grand prize of a \$250 Target gift card.

"Generally speaking, with middle school kids, if they're not really interested in some-

thing, they're not going to willingly participate in it," said Ana Campos, the executive director of the Los Angeles chapter. "The kids were interested in preparing and studying for this voluntarily."

Campos said English is the second language for most of the students participating in tonight's spelling bee. The movie rings true for the students, as many of them live in the same area as the film's title character.

"It's important for our kids to be able to see that there are other young people who grew up in their community who have excelled," she said.

The After School All Stars program, founded in 2002 by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, provides on-campus after-school activities to middle school-aged children.

SEE MOVIES PAGE 8

Riding for a cause

Local bikes across the country to help build affordable housing

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

BOSTON In one year, Emily Josephs went from training wheels to cross-country cyclist.

The Santa Monica native and relative newcomer to the concept of pedaling recently accomplished what she would've considered an unthinkable feat just a few years ago, bicycling roughly 3,800 miles in a cross-country trip.

A recent graduate of Brown University, Josephs, 22, spent the past two months trekking from Boston to Santa Barbara with a group of 30 other similarly-aged cyclists, all riding to raise money for affordable housing projects nationwide through a program called Bike & Build.

The team was among more than 200 cyclists who participated in the program this summer, spread out over seven different trips that took them coast to coast, including routes that went from Providence to Seattle and North Carolina to San Diego, all stopping at various Habitat for Humanity projects along the way to lend a helping hand.

All riders were required to raise \$4,000 each, part of which covered overhead costs, the majority being donated to various nonprofit organizations. The program overall ended up donating more than \$400,000 to various affordable housing causes.

It was an unexpected experience considering Josephs just learned how to ride a bike last summer while living in Germany.

"I didn't have any way of getting around the city except on a bicycle," Josephs, who taught herself how to ride, said. "I loved it so much."

She learned about the Bike & Build program through several Brown alumni who participated in previous rides, finding it an ideal opportunity to try and make her mark on the world.

Her parents, Bill and Zina Josephs, who is the president of the Friends of Sunset Park neighborhood group, were a bit nervous to learn about their daughters' lofty goals.

SEE BIKER PAGE 9



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What Social Security was made for Editor:

I read through [Alex] Epstein's article "Social Security is morally bankrupt," page 4, Aug. 15. When I got to the bottom of the article I find Mr. Epstein "is an analyst at Ayn Rand Institute, focusing on business issues."

It's clear to me the last thing Mr. Epstein is concerned about is the person paying into the system. If an individual no longer pays into the system, neither does the business. Seems to me, the business makes more money.

In my opinion, the employee contribution is likely to be spent at the market, gas station or something along those lines, not saved for retirement. Ask yourself what you would do with it. Does the Social Security system have issues to deal with? Of course. It's far from perfect.

Here are some simple facts right from the Social Security Web site, based on 2005 data.

"The average monthly payment ... in December 2004 was \$428. Those under 18 received the highest average payment at \$506, those 18-64 received an average payment of \$447, and beneficiaries aged 65 and older had the lowest average payment at \$352."

Social Security "is designed to help aged and disabled people. Social Security was never intended to be the sole source of income." Social Security recommends "a three legged stool of Social Security, pensions and savings. Benefits are expected to be payable on a timely basis until 2041." As the system stands now, "if nothing is done, a person 101 years old in 2082 would have the benefit cut by 25 percent. In 01-1940, Ida May Fuller was the first to receive a monthly check. It was for \$22.54."

Social Security was never intended to "provide financial security" or anything else Mr. Epstein is shouting from the rooftop. There is no shortage of information on the Social Security Web site, read it yourself and draw your own conclusions.

Alan Pinho
Santa Monica

Say what?

Editor:

I had to watch the YouTube video to believe U.S. Sen. John McCain actually said this. In his recent response to the Russia-Georgia conflict, McCain claimed: "In the 21st century nations don't invade other nations." Has he already forgotten his own support for President Bush's invasion of Iraq, a needless invasion that cost over 4,100 of our troops their lives? Now that is a true death tax. The invasion of Iraq, which McCain still supports, has also claimed the lives of at least tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians. Are we surprised that Iraqis and the Iraq government are so fed up with our lingering occupation of their country that they want us to get out? How would we feel toward a country if they killed our loved ones as Bush and McCain have done in Iraq?

Now McCain thinks other nations will take him seriously when he tells them not to invade each other.

The invasion of Iraq was a major event. If McCain can't even remember the most deadly Bush blunder of the 21st Century, what other things is he going to forget?

Doug Long
Rio Rancho, NM



What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Wait until your father gets home

I JUST RETURNED FROM A QUICK ROAD trip to Northern California, and along the way we visited a few truck stops, and of course there was the Andersen's Pea Soup stop. I love their coffee, and it's a great tourist watching location.

We had breakfast with a couple of friends and the topic turned to his kids, and then to parenting in general. He said that the problem was that no one taught him how to be a dad, and it got me to thinking about families and their dynamics.

Throughout the trip home, I was watching how families interact, how they relate to each other, and how they take on an identity. There's the healthy family, the indulgent family, the angry family and the obese family. Watching many of these families I was bothered by how detached many of the fathers seemed to be, in regards to their family as a whole.

When a man is first told he is going to be a father, naturally the expectations of what the future will look like pop into his head. He may think of fishing trips and baseball games, ballet recitals and happy holiday memories being created.

At first he and mom are getting along great, they both agree on what needs to be done to properly raise a child. Mom is in charge a lot, at first, because of the necessity to breastfeed, attend to the endless needs of a newborn and her own maternal instincts. This works at first, but it also sets a pattern for dad's relationship with the child. Mom's in charge and dad does what mom says to provide for the growth and well-being of the newborn.

That pattern continues, and hopefully in healthy relationships the parties begin to equalize as the baby becomes a toddler and mom can back off and dad can take on a stronger role.

But not always. Sometimes, the relationship stays imbalanced. Those are the ones I think I was seeing this weekend — the detached fathers who have stepped back from an active role in their family, and that's a shame. They should be contributing and directing the growth and setting the boundaries for their children as much as Mom, if not more.

Sometimes a divorce happens. Then the parties have to come up with a written agreement on how to parent their child. Most parents don't have too much conflict over this. Thanks to a common heritage, or

at least a common set of desires, the Parenting Plan can fairly easily be agreed to. Mom gets Mother's Day, dad gets Father's Day, they alternate the big holidays, etc.

Sometimes though, there is the Grand Battle Royale. Where one parent doesn't want to share the child. Usually it is mom, who is too attached to her child, and she feels that dad is a bad influence, lacks parenting skills, is too indulgent, or too strict, "he never shows up on time, he never returns the child on time," and the most common complaint is that "he has a new girlfriend who is inappropriate."

This is where the Parenting Plan becomes the road map of your relationship, not only with your child, but with your ex. The Parenting Plan will determine when you as a father have time with your child. If you have a cooperative ex, this can be a very flexible agreement, as simple as, "we'll share the kids." Other times you need to have an excruciatingly specific plan. This plan will determine how much, how long and how often you have to interact with your ex and your child. If she's still angry and bitter, the more specific the plan, the easier it will be to have a court, or the police enforce it, and that means the fewer headaches dad will have.

Married dads don't get to spend a lot of time with their kids, divorced dads get even less. There are few years in which a father has the opportunity to have any long lasting positive effect on his children. He should spend what few hours he has really making a difference. That's why I think that more fathers should step up to the plate and take a stronger role in their children's lives. It should be mandatory that if you divorce and have kids, you automatically have the kids 50 percent of the time.

That will not be popular among many divorced moms, partly because they are still angry, and for some, because they don't want to see a reduction in their child support. But the reality is that, as a society, we need to have more men, acting like men, and teaching their children what it means to be a man, and that includes their daughters, so that they know what to expect of their future spouses.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

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The Quackers

Phyllis Chavez

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The ocean is not a toilet

Meet the Quackers, three young surf ducks, born and raised in the canals of Venice. Their passion in life: surfing and saving the earth. Their mission: To spread the word about protecting the environment by cleaning up pollution and stopping global warming.

MY BROTHER RUSTY'S PHILOSOPHY IS "Every day is a good day as long as you can make it to the beach." I don't always agree with him, on this, I must. Pressed for time yesterday, we set out early seeking our "good day."

It was barely light when we arrived. Already the warm, golden light from the rising sun had kissed the day. The three of us stood there mesmerized, watching the current weave abstract designs through the dark, cobalt blue water.

The sky was opening to a softer, lighter blue, streaked with yellow at the horizon. Three perfect, white clouds drifted by. Silently, gulls glided overhead riding the air currents.

There was not much wave action but we decided to paddle out and wait. There is something infinitely peaceful about just sitting in the water, waves or no waves.

There we were, three decidedly handsome ducks sitting on our boards enjoying this lovely, but almost flat ocean, longing for some waves to ride.

Rusty was on his board, lying on his back with his wings tucked behind his head. He pointed his bill to the sky and started belting out some old Beach Boy tunes. He says their songs make him feel happy. I can't say he is a really good singer.

I will say he is a very loud and enthusiastic one. If he happens to forget the actual words to a song, he just inserts a series of quacks and keeps on going.

Richard had paddled close by and was talking about, you guessed it, plants. Give him a minute and he will plan, map and offer to execute a garden design for you.

If you don't have room for that he will tell you how to pot a mini-garden in your window. He read about the "Guerrilla Gardeners," that group that goes around beautifying neglected areas of the city, and immediately joined them.

I think he also likes dressing like a ninja for their night time gardening forays. I can just see him rubbing his wings together with delight thinking, "Today Santa Monica, tomorrow Mar Vista!"

Richard doesn't like it when we say he is obsessed with plants and growing things.

He prefers "extremely focused." We do wonder about him though when even clouds look like flowers, vegetables or trees to him. I hope he never has to take a Rorschach test!

I had shared with Richard an article about the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch." You know, that swirling, gigantic garbage dump floating around between Hawaii and California. He thought I was kidding or crazy.

He couldn't imagine millions of pounds of toxic, floating trash in our ocean and nothing being done about it. I told him, "Dude, it is twice the size of Texas and growing!" He was shocked that most of it came from the shore not from ships. The fact that it was mostly plastic and not biodegradable really concerned him. He felt sick when I told him that over time it became increasingly toxic and was a threat to the entire food chain. He went from not believing, to horrified.

So, I was not surprised when his boredom led him to counting the debris he noticed floating by. Unfortunately, there was no shortage. At that moment, he vowed to bring something with him next time to collect the trash and get it out of the water. He counted empty cups and popsicle sticks.

An invasion of jellyfish turned out to be discarded plastic bags! He saw plastic lighters, plastic spoons, paper, some things he just couldn't identify and an old Band-Aid.

There was so much trash he used up all the feathers on his right wing counting, then all the feathers on his left wing. Both feet had been exhausted in the count too.

He had nothing left to count with. How could there be so much trash anywhere and most importantly what was it doing in the ocean?

His frustration was building. When he finally bellowed, "Enough! That is enough!" He was quacking and sputtering angrily under his breath.

He said, "Richard, our beloved ocean is becoming a trash can, no, a toilet!" He was fuming. Deeply frustrated, he cupped his wing tips to his bill, took a deep breath and screamed toward the shore, "HEL-LO over there! I guess you know this doesn't flush!"

Phyllis and the Quackers may be reached at Phyllis@phyllischavez.com

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The Q-Line

Good service

Mixed-use development with businesses located on the ground floor has become all the rage in Santa Monica, Downtown especially.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you consider this a good thing? Are these businesses truly neighborhood serving?

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.



Kate Bransfield
Estates Director

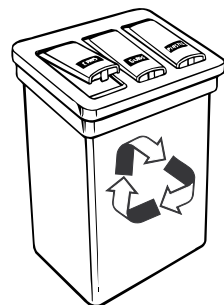
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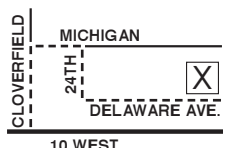
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Tornante
Steve Parker

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

They stole what?

ONE MAJOR FACT OF LIFE WHICH COMES with living in Santa Monica: There's a lot of overnight on-street parking. Which means that for thieves, it's a paradise on wheels.

And in this column we'll tell you some of the surprising things car/truck thieves are stealing, how they're doing it and why (the reasons aren't always obvious).

All our cars, trucks and motorcycles are dressed from head to toe in ever more-expensive add-ons, including (steal-able) custom wheels (rims), HID, or High Intensity Discharge headlamps (those blue-tinted ones coming at you, blinding you, late at night), custom "ground effects" kits of all types which can make vehicles look fast standing still, and are easily removed. And all that's just on the outside.

In the engine bay and trunk, things can get serious and expensive, with sporty cars sporting turbochargers and/or superchargers, nitrous oxide kits (sometimes for the car, sometimes for the driver) which can add an instant 100-or-more-horsepower at the touch of a button, oil and transmission oil coolers and the electronics, and often some of the speakers, for on-board audio/video systems.

And your neighborhood thief hasn't even looked inside your car or truck yet. From Wilton wool carpet "floor mats" to illuminated headliners which challenge the Griffith Observatory and Laserium (Oh, to be young again and on a date ...), from racer-like seats by Recaro to add-on gauge packages and classic skull gear shift knobs, it's become a normal, expected part of the Great American Automotive Love Affair to shower our moving objects with only the best, most expensive and most exotic.

SEMA, the Specialty Equipment Market Association, is a Diamond Bar-based automotive after-market lobbying/trade association and says Americans spend somewhere around \$40 billion every year on personalizing our modest modes of transport with every item imaginable.

If you must park overnight on the street and own one of the more popular vehicles, including a Honda Civic or Accord, Toyota Camry, Saturn SL, Nissan Sentra or Acura Integra, you don't have much to worry about when it comes to individual items being stolen from your car or truck. In your case, thieves just take the whole thing, "part it out" into its individual pieces, ship some overseas but sell most of the parts to repair shops, parts stores and dealerships.

For a long time, stereos (now called "audio systems") were thieves' item-of-choice. Easy to steal and fence. I had a 1974 Triumph Spitfire convertible which might as well have been the British version of Al and Ed's.

Want to find a stolen stereo, maybe yours? Visit a local swap meet.

When airbags became standard in the mid-'80s, it opened entirely new vistas for both the thieves and their customers who trade with "Midnight Auto Supply."

Thieves still find it easy to heist the airbags and sell them for 10 percent or 15 percent of their actual value. Initially, only driver's side airbags were standard (car-makers figured the driver needed to be saved so they could buy a new car; no one cared about the passenger).

Today, there are almost as many airbags on cars and trucks as cupholders. Sometimes more.

Finally, to those insecure enough to need a "raised" truck.

Thieves had been limiting themselves to ripping-off emission-reducing catalytic converters from under those trucks, stealing and re-selling them (see above: airbags), but precious metals inside the cats including platinum, palladium and rhodium are also valuable. If a thief breathes fumes from or gets these metals on their skin, just direct them to the nearest ER. It's not pretty.

TODAY, JUST DRILL OR PUNCH A HOLE IN THE BOTTOM OF THE TARGETED TANK AND COP \$50 OR MORE BUCKS OF HIGH-TEST IN 2 OR 3 MINUTES. IF YOU TRY THIS STUNT BECAUSE YOU READ ABOUT IT HERE AND BLOW YOURSELF UP, THAT'S YOUR OWN DAMN PROBLEM.

Some cat thieves eschew their profession's standard-issue knives, files and pliers and travel with welding equipment: Easier to cleanly remove the converter.

Recently, thieves have been getting under those big trucks with their big gas tanks and stealing gasoline right out of the tank (many trucks conveniently have dual gas tanks, making for sort-of an "added-value" theft). And none of that tried-and-true "cut a length of hose, breath in, spit out and pour" method mastered in high school, either.

Today, just drill or punch a hole in the bottom of the targeted tank and cop \$50 or more bucks of high-test in 2 or 3 minutes. If you try this stunt because you read about it here and blow yourself up, that's your own damn problem.

Check-out the Grossman Burn Ward; it's in Sherman Oaks.

In future columns we'll tell you how to stop thieves from taking your car, truck or motorcycle for granted, either piece-by-single-piece or even as a whole item.

STEVE PARKER has covered the world's auto industry for over 35 years. He's a two-time Emmy Award-winner and a consultant to the NBC-TV show Whipnotic and the show's companion Web site, www.Whipnotic.com. He created, writes and moderates all-automotive blog on The Huffington Post at www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-parker. Contact Steve through his own automotive issues Web site at www.SteveParker.com.

Docs can't withhold care to homosexuals

PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO California's highest court on Monday barred doctors from invoking their religious beliefs as a reason to deny treatment to gays and lesbians, ruling that state law prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination extends to the medical profession.

Justice Joyce Kennard wrote that two Christian fertility doctors who refused to artificially inseminate a lesbian have neither a free speech right nor a religious exemption from the state's law, which "imposes on business establishments certain antidiscrimination obligations."

In the lawsuit that led to the ruling, Guadalupe Benitez, 36, of Oceanside said that the doctors treated her with fertility drugs and instructed her how to inseminate herself at home but told her their beliefs prevented them from inseminating her. One of the doctors referred her to another fertility specialist without moral objections, and Benitez has since given birth to three children.

Nevertheless, Benitez in 2001 sued the Vista-based North Coast Women's Care Medical Group. She and her lawyers successfully argued that a state law prohibiting businesses from discriminating based on sexual orientation applies to doctors.

The law was originally designed to prevent hotels, restaurants and other public services from refusing to serve patrons because of their race. The Legislature has since expanded it to cover characteristics such as age and sexual orientation.

"It was an awful thing to go through," Benitez said. "It was very painful — the fact that you have someone telling you they will not help you because of who you are, that they will deny your right to be a mother and have a family."

Benitez has given birth to three children through artificial insemination — Gabriel, 6, and twin daughters, Sophia and Shane, who turn 3 this weekend. She is raising them in Oceanside with her longtime partner, Joanne Clark.

Jennifer Pizer, Benitez's attorney, said that the ruling was "a victory for public health"

and that she expected it to have nationwide influence.

"It was clear and emphatic that discrimination has no place in doctors' offices," Pizer said.

The ruling was unanimous and a succinct 18 pages, a contrast to the state Supreme Court's 4-3 schism in May legalizing marriage between same-sex couples.

Robert Tyler, one of the lawyers for the clinic, said the ruling advanced the Supreme Court's "radical agenda" and would help the campaign supporting a November ballot initiative that seeks to once again ban gay marriage in California.

"The Supreme Court's desire to promote the homosexual lifestyle at the risk of infringing upon the First Amendment right to free exercise of religion is what the public needs to learn about," said Tyler, who leads the nonprofit Advocates for Faith and Freedom in Murrieta, Calif.

The Supreme Court did order a trial court to consider whether the Christian doctors were allowed to refuse inseminating Benitez because she was unmarried. The Legislature in 2006 amended the law to bar discrimination based on marital status, but it's unclear whether the doctors could legally withhold treatment in 2000.

The case drew numerous friends of the court briefs from a wide variety of religious organizations, medical groups and gay civil rights organizations.

The American Civil Rights Union supported the Christian doctors, siding with the Islamic Medical Association of North America, the Christian Medical & Dental Associations and anti-abortion groups.

The California Medical Association reversed its early support of the Christian doctors after receiving a barrage of criticism from gay rights activists, joining health care provider Kaiser Foundation Health Plan to oppose the Christian doctors.

The American Civil Liberties Union, California Attorney General Jerry Brown, the National Health Law Program and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association filed papers backing Benitez.

Associated Press writer Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

SoCal home sales climb in July, prices fall

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO Southern California home sales surged to a 16-month high in July as prices kept falling and bargain-hunters snapped up foreclosed properties, a research firm said Monday.

A total of 20,329 homes and condos — including new and existing models — were sold during July in the six-county region, up 13.8 percent from July 2007 and up 16.7 percent from June, MDA DataQuick said.

It was the highest monthly tally since March 2007, when 21,856 homes were sold, and the first annual increase since September 2005, the firm said.

"What we're looking at is a fire sale of properties in newer affordable neighborhoods that were bought or refinanced near the price peak with lousy mortgages," said John Walsh, president of MDA DataQuick.

Sales were helped as the median price in the region dropped to \$348,000 last month,

down 31.1 percent from the market peak of \$505,000 in July 2007 and down 2.2 percent from \$355,000 in June. Distress sales have yet to reach older, more expensive neighborhoods, Walsh said.

Foreclosures accounted for 43.6 percent of all resold properties in Southern California last month, up from 7.9 percent in July 2007 and a revised 41.8 percent in June. Foreclosures were at record highs and continue to be the dominant factor driving sales, MDA DataQuick said.

The trends were most evident in Riverside County, east of Los Angeles, one of Southern California's more affordable areas. Foreclosures accounted for 64.4 percent of sales of existing homes in the county last month. Sales of new and existing homes surged 48.6 percent from July 2007.

Doug Shepherd, who owns a Coldwell Banker office in Riverside with 40 brokers, said 90 percent of his sales last month were foreclosed homes, up from about half a year earlier.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON PROPOSED VACATION OF A PORTION OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ON HIGH PLACE IN THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

The Community Corporation of Santa Monica proposes to develop a project that includes two components: a 45-unit condominium development (High Place East) and 47-unit rental housing on the adjacent site (High Place West), "Project". The project requires the vacation and incorporation into the project of the existing High Place between Virginia Avenue and Santa Monica Freeway.

On July 23, 2008, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 10328 (CCS) declaring its intention to order vacation of a portion of public right-of-way on High Place, to allow for this development and set a public hearing for September 9, 2008 at 5:45 p.m. The Drawing No. 4726 of the portion of High Place proposed to be vacated is on file and is available for review in the office of the City Engineer located at 1437 4th Street, Suite 300, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Pursuant to Part 3, Chapter 3, "General Vacation Procedure", of the California Streets and Highways Code, the City Council directed the City Clerk to set a public hearing on the proposed vacation proceedings as follows:

DATE & TIME: 5:45 p.m. on September 9, 2008, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: City Council Chambers
1685 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Santa Monica, CA 90401

All persons interested in or objecting to the proposed right-of-way vacation may appear before the City Council at the public hearing to offer evidence in relation thereto.

For more information contact City of Santa Monica at (310) 458-8721.



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National elections dictate outcomes

FROM PROPS PAGE 1

John McCain's presidential campaign in 2000, also believes that the presidential race may impact the outcome of the propositions.

"There has been an ongoing argument about whether ballot initiatives drive voters to the polls," said Schnur, who is the director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics. "But it seems more likely that a presidential election will affect the outcome of these initiatives."

Contrary to Hoffenblum, Schnur believes that the front runner drives turn-out.

"If you think your candidate is going to lose, you don't care as much," he said.

According to this theory, it is likely that Obama supporters will turn out in greater numbers in California — a historically liberal state — in order to be a part of his victory.

No one will really know how the presidential race will affect individual initiatives until election day, when all the votes are counted — but that won't stop people from guessing.

Proposition 8, which advocates a ban on gay marriage — possibly the most contentious issue on the ballot this fall — could be drastically affected by voter turnout in November.

"Prop. 8 is an excellent example of how an imbalanced electorate could change the outcome for an initiative," Schnur said, adding that it is likely to be a close vote. "If current polls are accurate, you can assume that Obama supporters will turn out in greater numbers than McCain supporters ... That could have a huge impact on Prop. 8."

Hal Dash, president of Cerrell Associates, a political consulting firm, believes that Prop. 8 will likely be overturned if Obama maintains his lead in California, what Dash

calls a "true blue state."

"Californians should turn out enthusiastically for Obama, and I think that will be very beneficial for Prop. 8 in terms of defeating it," Dash said.

That is just one example of how the presidential election could sway the outcome of California's 12 propositions.

Proposition 1 could also be impacted by the upcoming election.

If passed, Prop. 1 would authorize California to sell \$9.95 billion in general obligation bonds to fund the construction of a high-speed passenger train. Schnur believes the outcome of the initiative could be influenced because "Democrats are generally more willing to spend government money."

Dash disagrees.

Despite the fact that Democrats are known to be more liberal in terms of funding, Dash thinks that the economy will have much more clout with voters at the polls than party affiliation.

"Eighty percent of Californians think the state is going in the wrong direction," Dash said, citing a recent field poll. "People are squeezed economically, California has been hardest hit by the mortgage crisis, the market is very uneven and people are nervous."

The economic mood of the state has led Dash to conclude that propositions increasing taxes or spending will "probably be defeated."

"I can vote yes on Obama and no on taxes very easily," Dash said. "People will be very cautious about anything involving money."

Despite all of the uncertainty, Hoffenblum thinks that one thing is for sure.

"With such a smorgasbord on the ballot, there must be something to motivate you to go out there and vote."

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Free outdoor movies return to pier

FROM MOVIES PAGE 3

"These kids were in essence getting lost in terms of having things to do after school," Campos said. "Most of their families are working, so they would either walk home alone or just hang out somewhere. The program started because there was an overarching concern about the safety of these kids in their neighboring communities."

Thirteen-year-old Silvina Zamorano, who will participate in tonight's competition, has been a part of the All Stars program for three years. This is her last year with the All Stars, as the program ends when she goes on to high school.

"(The teachers) treat me like a little sister," she said of the program. "They take care of me."

Zamorano volunteered to enter tonight's spelling bee to learn new words and plans to buy school supplies with the gift card if she wins. She has been studying a vocabulary list for a week in preparation, although she feels fairly confident about her chances.

"Some of the words are really easy," she said of her study list.

The other movies shown on the pier will have corresponding interactive events as well, although some are surprises and some are still in the planning process.



**WHEN WE
STARTED THE
MOVIES AT THE PIER SIX
YEARS AGO IT WAS AN
INSTANT HIT."**

Ben Franz-Knight

Executive director of the Pier Restoration Corp.

"We always like to have a little extra flair to get the evening going," Franz-Knight said.

Although 3,000 people camped out in front of a 20 by 30 foot screen can get cramped, organizers said that the crowds have traditionally been happy to share the space, often singing along to well-known songs in the movies or reciting lines.

"First and foremost, it's a really respectful audience," said Franz-Knight. "Santa Monica is a great community and everyone here really loves to celebrate that community."

A full list of ticket locations, film screenings and dates can be found at www.santamonicipier.org

news@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Bill Josephs

FINISH LINE: Emily Josephs celebrates the end of her 66-day cross-country bike ride with parents Bill and Zina Josephs in Santa Barbara on Aug. 14. The younger Josephs recently completed a 3,800 mile transcontinental trip from Boston to Santa Barbara as part of the Bike & Build program, which aims to raise money for various affordable housing causes.

Former Santa Monica resident completes 66-day bike trip

FROM BIKER PAGE 3

"When Emily told us about the trip, we admired her for selecting a worthy goal but were a bit apprehensive," Zina Josephs said. "Now that she's home, safe and sound, we're relieved and very proud of her, both for the mental and physical fortitude it took to complete the journey and for doing her part to repair the world."

In her final semester in college, Josephs began training for the trip by taking spinning classes. She took her workout regimen to the road when she purchased a bike in April, riding around Providence where the university is located.

One week before the trip, she tested herself on a 50-mile ride.

"I was really nervous about doing the trip beforehand since I was new to cycling," she said. "It seemed daunting to bike such a long way."

The Boston-Santa Barbara leg kicked off on June 11, the cyclists making their way west, sleeping on the floor of churches and community centers along the way.

The route in which the cyclists would travel was selected by four team leaders, the majority of whom had done previous rides.

"We really drew a line on the map and tried to make it go through interesting places," Kyle Magida, a 22-year-old recent graduate of Harvard University, said. "We tried to hit major cities that could have good places to stay, but also be different areas of the country."

Once the team got to St. Louis, they generally followed the old Route 66, enjoying its quirky sights, including a giant blue whale that sits in a pond in Oklahoma and the shoe tree in Amboy, Calif.

It was a trip that exemplified the scenic diversity in the United States, from the heavily forested Berkshire region of Western Massachusetts to the deserts in the southwest.

"It was pretty amazing to see," Josephs said.

Each route included a cluster of "build days" with various Habitat for Humanity projects, the cyclists spending entire days assisting in various capacities, whether it was painting a house or putting up walls. Josephs' team ended up contributing more than 2,000 volunteer hours.

"One day we just moved bricks, which we laughed about, but it was something that needed to be done," she said.

For Josephs, the most challenging aspect of the trip presented itself in the first two weeks when her body was still getting used to the long eight-hour rides.

It was in Pittsburgh, a fortnight into the trip, that she finally got acclimated.

"I realized, 'Hey, I could do this,'" she said.

On the 66th day of the trip, the team reached their destination in Santa Barbara, each cyclist celebrating the end with a dip in the Pacific Ocean.

It was a moment — after the nights sleeping on floors, rides in 120 degree temperature and cycling on highways among cars traveling at 80 mph — they had all talked about.

"It was almost like it was choreographed," she said. "We took off our shoes, people took their cell phones out of their pockets, and went into the ocean."

"I never felt so elated to just be somewhere and with this group of people."

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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

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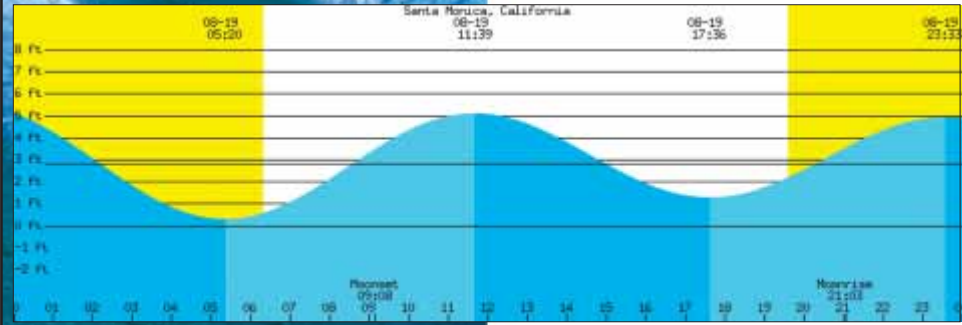
SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

The southern hemi SW remains weak, no NW ground swell is expected, and only minor NW wind swell is anticipated. In all, most all breaks are looking at waist high waves. Winds should be a bit calmer from Monday, but the onshores are still looking to pick up by mid or late morning to 10 mph, and then 15 mph in the afternoon. Tide is near zero an hour before sunrise, and hits a 5-foot high before noon.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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August 12, 2008

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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 -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by

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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 Cleanup and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Camille Beach, at Arroyo Sepul 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 Palga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Locks and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Tenesca Canyon drain	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsworth)	A	ns
Broad 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	B	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wilshire Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	D	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)	B	ns
Laguna Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Selester Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	D	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Puente State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	ns
Marin Canyon storm drain at Puente Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Surfside Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	ns
Surfside Beach (beach location)- daily	A	ns	Venice Beach- projection of Topaz St.	C	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard 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 (joint zero)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	B	ns
Big Rock Beach at 18048 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DOW 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 Hygienic Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns			
Will Rogers State Beach at 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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The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of these areas surveyed. Our swimmers are happy.

MLS Bruce Arena hired as Galaxy coach, GM

BY KEN PETERS
Associated Press Writer

CARSON Former U.S. national team coach Bruce Arena was hired Monday as coach and general manager of David Beckham's Los Angeles Galaxy, who haven't won a game in over two months.

Arena was to be introduced at a news conference after guiding the team through practice for the first time. He will make his debut as the Galaxy coach Thursday night against the Chicago Fire — when Beckham and forward Landon Donovan will be missing because of national team duty.

Arena, who will oversee the Galaxy's soccer operations, succeeds Ruud Gullit, who resigned last Monday for personal reasons. President and general manager Alexi Lalas was fired the same day.

The Galaxy, in danger of missing the playoffs for the second straight year, are 6-8-6 with four losses and four ties in their last eight matches. Cobi Jones, in his first year as

an assistant coach, guided the team to a 2-2 tie against Chivas USA last Thursday night.

"Bruce is the best coach for the Galaxy and certainly one of the best coaches in the history of the league," said Tim Leiweke, president of AEG, the team owner. "We have always felt that the Galaxy should aspire to be the club that sets the pace and tone in Major League Soccer. I believe Bruce sees it the same way and will put us back in that position."

The 57-year-old Arena was dismissed as coach of the national team after the Americans were eliminated in first round in the 2006 World Cup. He was hired as coach of the New York Red Bulls this summer, then was forced out last November after they were eliminated from the first round of the MLS playoffs for the second straight year.

Arena has a 77-51-10 regular-season record and a 14-5-2 postseason mark as an MLS coach. And he was the most successful head coach in national team history with a 71-30-29 record.

Can Phelps make it big outside of the pool?

BY EMILY FREDRIX
Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE Visa Inc. popped out ads almost as quickly as he swam his laps. Pizza Hut is giving Michael Phelps and his teammates free pizza and pasta for a year for him beating Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals in one Olympics.

The makers of a new sports drink are embarking on their first national advertising campaign, banking on his most recent swimming glories.

Phelps — the biggest Olympic athlete in years, if not ever — is everywhere this summer. And companies want to share in his fame. They're taking out ads, pitching endorsements and giveaways.

The 23-year-old from Baltimore has proven himself in the pool, but will he sink or swim as a long-term pitchman on Madison Avenue?

"He is in the top tier of athletics and now he's going to get his tryout as a personality," said John Sweeney, director of sports communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. "And Tiger Woods sure passed, but Mark Spitz didn't. And there are plenty of people who they try to develop the whole persona around and two years later it's gone."

Phelps has won 14 gold medals, the most of any Olympian ever. Eight of those were at the Beijing Olympics, which end Sunday. His achievements at this Olympics broke American swimmer Spitz's record of seven golds at the 1972 Olympics in Munich for most won in at one time.

Phelps already has top endorsements — from companies like Visa, Speedo, Omega, Hilton, and AT&T. And he's certainly got a big fan base — or Phans as they call themselves. On the online networking site Facebook, more than 795,000 people have

officially declared themselves fans of Phelps. That's a boost of more than 120,000 just on Monday.

That's a lot of people — with a lot of buying power.

His agents at Octagon know it. Peter Carlisle, who leads the Olympic and action sports division there, told The Wall Street Journal in a story Monday he expects Phelps' current earnings of between \$3 million and \$5 million a year should at least double, or more, because of his performance in Beijing.

"What is the value of eight golds in Beijing before a prime-time audience in the U.S.?" Carlisle told the paper. "I'd say \$100 million over the course of his lifetime."

Visa, which has had a long-standing relationship with Phelps, was quick to put out new ads celebrating his big feats — when he won his tenth career gold medal, which made him the winningest Olympian ever, and later, when he won his eighth gold at Beijing.

Phelps already has been one of the focal points of Visa's 'Go World' campaign, which uses rich sepia tones and slow, focused shots to tell stories of athletes and the Olympics.

As soon as he hit the two milestones, Visa aired the new ads at the very next commercial break. The company also took out print ads over the weekend and on Monday.

In the television spots, actor Morgan Freeman narrates as pictures of Phelps swimming stream past:

"One gold medal is amazing. Two is ... well ... incredible. Three? Practically unbelievable. But eight? Eight gold medals? That's ... that's well ... well, we're going to need some new adjectives for whatever that is. Congratulations, Michael," said one ad.

Kevin Burke, head of Visa's global consumer marketing, says the company is proud to have Phelps affiliated with the brand and wanted to recognize his achievements. Visa declined to say what it was paying Phelps, and it's not clear yet where the pairing will go.

MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM	Step Brothers (R) 1hr 35min 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05	1hr 40min 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
Call Theather for information	Journey to the Center of the Earth - 3-D (PG) 1hr 32min 12:05, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20	Tell No One (Ne le dis a person-ne) (NR) 2hrs 05min 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade	Tropic Thunder (R) 1hr 47min 12:10, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599
Mirrors (R) 1hr 50min 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55	The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor, The (PG-13) 1hr 54min Noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20	Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min 12:15, 3:40, 7:10, 10:30
Henry Poole Is Here (PG) 1hr 40min 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05	Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2, The (PG-13) 1hr 57min 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15	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
Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) 1hr 36min 12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741	Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) 1hr 38min 11:40am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Transsiberian (R) 1hr 51min 2:00, 4:35, 7:30, 10:10	Elegy (R) 1hr 48min 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50	Fly Me to The Moon 3-D (G) 1hr 30min 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:00
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262	Bottle Shock (PG-13) 1hr 50min 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55	Mamma Mia! (PG-13) 1hr 48min 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
WALL-E (G) 1hr 37min 1:50, 4:30, 6:45, 9:20	Brideshead Revisited (PG-13)	

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

Treat yourself, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could feel distinctly different from how you have of late. Avoid getting in a tussle, as you adjust to some very different and possibly explosive energy. If someone suddenly seems more assertive, admire and respect that quality rather than let it irritate you. Tonight: As you like.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ If you feel as if you have been doing too much, pull back and relax. You easily could be overwhelmed by all that is happening. You also might need to do much more for yourself, whether it is eating better or exercising more. Tonight: Head home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Emphasize what you want. Allow greater-quality communication and brainstorm accepting different ideas. You can merge wants, creativity and good communication. Tonight: Hang with your friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Pressure builds, and you expect a lot more from yourself. Listen to your inner voice if you suddenly feel as if you are on overload. Think positively. Understand what needs to happen within a bond. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Possibilities mark your thoughts, and you are determined to make them so. If you are feeling a bit intimidated or tired, take a break. You do not always need to be in fifth gear. Listen to feedback from someone who plays a strong role in your daily life. Tonight: Join friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could want to rethink a potential offer, which could impact your finances. Just do not commit to spending more than you really would like. There is nothing wrong with the word "no." Tonight: Let someone else make the suggestions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You have more energy than you have had in a long time. Realize when the same old interaction repeats, as you are likely to express your disdain now, where previously you didn't. Do not be surprised by the reactions that head your direction. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You could be overworked. If you find that you are somewhat frustrated or irritated, you could be tired or drawn beyond your norm. Do what you must, and do not overextend yourself. Tonight: Do for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your fiery creativity turns a lot of heads, but it could draw a combative reaction from someone. Understanding gives you insight, but you might not care. Avoid a hassle if possible. Tonight: Leap into fun mode.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might want to check on an investment or deal with a matter involving property. Ask questions; follow through on digging up more information. A boss or a higher up could be very pushy. Tonight: Do not take another's anger personally.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You have a lot to say, but on the same hand, you might not want to overwhelm others. News from a distance encourages some dynamic new changes. You also might be suddenly overwhelmed. Tonight: Relax with a friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Expenses could be a bit much, especially as a partner is demanding a lot. Know when you have had enough, and say so. Only you can make a difference in your personal financial situation. Tonight: Your treat.

Happy birthday

This year, you are even more of a bundle of energy, which frequently comes out in your daily life. You have a lot to share, and often you will dominate conversations. Use your strengths this year to achieve key goals. Be careful not to overwhelm others, as often they cannot integrate all your many ideas. You will need to feed information, ideas and concepts piece by piece. If you are single, you meet people with ease. The person you hook up with could, at first, be on a collision course with you. If you are attached, the two of you often debate your different ideas. Respect your differences. Make it OK to disagree. ARIES always has a new way of looking at a situation.

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



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Santa Monica Daily Press

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On the Santa Monica Pier



Wednesday, August 20, 2008

5pm to 11pm
\$25/person this includes admission on all Pacific Park rides, one free meal, one free game, one free round of mini-golf and your choice of popcorn or cotton candy!
Proceeds from this event will benefit Police Activities League (PAL)

Advance ticket sales required call now (310)458-8988!

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 ★★

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

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

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Girls and Sports

8/19

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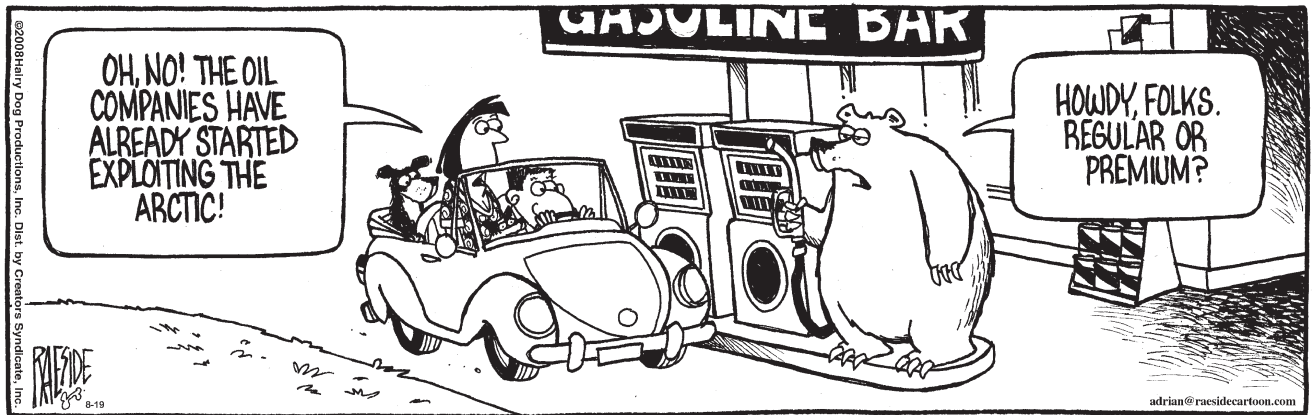
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila



By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

The Other Coast



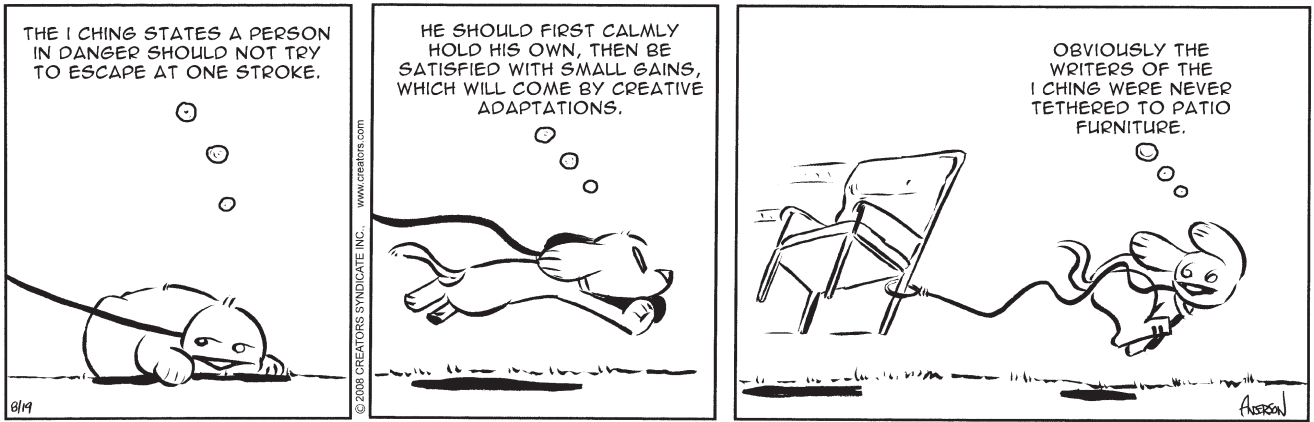
By Adrian Raeside

Garfield



By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug



By Brian Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

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

Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Might
- 6 Fashionably dated
- 11 Japanese cartoons
- 12 Singer Neville
- 13 Pretend to feel a certain way
- 15 Fire remnant
- 16 Choose
- 17 Eastern "way"
- 18 Cornered
- 20 Seer's deck
- 23 Metal fastener
- 27 Way to go
- 28 Coffee, in slang
- 29 Take exception
- 31 Solitary sort
- 32 Climber's spike
- 34 Poseidon's home
- 37 Church seat
- 38 "— your loss!"
- 41 Not accept willingly
- 44 Got up
- 45 Cherish
- 46 Lassoed
- 47 Ryan's daughter

DOWN

- 1 One of a bear trio
- 2 Burden
- 3 Accompanied by
- 4 Aussie bird
- 5 School paper
- 6 Ceiling support
- 7 Lobe spot
- 8 Easy gait
- 9 Writer Jaffe
- 10 Aware of
- 14 Gibbon, for one
- 18 Add
- 19 French city
- 20 TV's Danson
- 21 Woodsman's tool

- 22 Edge
- 24 Big truck
- 25 Holiday lead-in
- 26 La Brea goo
- 30 Muscular, in slang
- 31 Yogurt choice
- 33 Hot drink
- 34 Ship pole

- 35 Franc replacer
- 36 Resting on
- 38 "— Plenty O' Nuttin' "
- 39 By way of, informally
- 40 Goblet part
- 42 Purpose
- 43 Film's Lupino

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, 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			42				43			
44						45				
46						47				

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS	8 23 29 30 53 Meganumber: 7 Jackpot: \$81M
Super LOTTO	6 16 25 26 36 Meganumber: 19 Jackpot: \$9M
Fantasy 5	2 7 28 30 33
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 9 2 0 EVENING: 8 5 6
DAILY DERBY	1st: 09 Winning Spirits 2nd: 03 Hot Shot 3rd: 05 California Classic RACE TIME: 1:47.36

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ School custodian Anthony Gower-Smith, 73, was awarded the equivalent of about \$75,000 in June in London's High Court after suing Britain's Hampshire County government when he hurt himself falling off a 6-foot stepladder. Gower-Smith claimed that he had not been properly "trained" on how to use it, despite his long-time experience with such ladders, and despite his signed acknowledgment that he had indeed received training, and despite his having blamed himself just after he fell. (He disavowed the self-blame by saying that, at the time, he was woozy and didn't remember what he said.)

■ Shannon Hyman, now 24, filed a lawsuit in July against the Green Iguana Bar & Grill in St. Petersburg, Fla., for medical bills and lost wages when she was badly burned four years ago drinking a "flaming shot" of Bacardi 151-proof rum (which normally is consumed without incident, but Hyman had spit out the drink, spreading flames to her head and upper torso). Hyman told the Tampa Tribune: "I'm suing because I should not have been let in (because she was under 21 at the time). If I weren't let in, none of the events would have happened."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1807 Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat arrived in Albany, two days after leaving New York.

1918 "Yip! Yip! Yaphank," a musical revue by Irving Berlin featuring Army recruits from Camp Upton in Yaphank, N.Y., opened on Broadway.

1929 the radio comedy program "Amos 'n' Andy" made its debut on the NBC Blue Network.

1934 a plebiscite in Germany approved the vesting of sole executive power in Adolf Hitler.

1942 during World War II, about 6,000 Canadian and British soldiers launched a disastrous raid against the Germans at Dieppe, France.

WORD UP!

knell \NEL\, verb:
1. The stroke of a bell tolled at a funeral or at the death of a person; a death signal; a passing bell; hence, figuratively, a warning of, or a sound indicating, the passing away of anything.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out **www.smdp.com** for more info.

Obituaries

PATSY BRIONES,



PATSY BRIONES, a longtime resident of Santa Monica, CA and currently of Stockton, CA, age 85, passed away on August 13, 2008. She was born on August 3, 1923 in Veracruz, Mexico, and moved to Los Angeles in 1941. In 1947 she was married to Genaro Briones, and they made their home in Santa Monica, CA. They moved to Stockton in 2006.

Patsy worked as a seamstress for over 40 years, and in recent years worked with her husband in the asphalt and paving industry before retiring in 2006. She enjoyed knitting and keeping up with politics.

She is survived by her husband, Genaro "Sinaloa" Briones of Santa Monica; daughter and husband, Lillian (Dr. Antonio Arredondo) Arredondo of Stockton; son, Manuel Meneses of San Diego; and six grandchildren.

Funeral service will be held on Tuesday, August 19th, 1:00 p.m. in Evergreen Chapel at Cherokee Memorial Park, Hwy 99 & Harney Lane in Lodi. Committal will be private.

Visitation will be on Monday, August 18th, 1:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Cherokee Memorial Funeral Home, 831 Industrial Way, near Beckman Road, Lodi, CA 95240.

Cherokee Memorial Funeral Home, telephone 209/334-9613, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Employment

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MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 212 1bdrm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. \$1150/mo on site manager (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. \$1475/mo \$300 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #206 \$1225 1 1bdrm/1bath upper, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, on-site laundry, wall AC, ceiling fan, garage parking, intercom entry no pets. (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

VENICE 2206 Brenta Place unit 5 3bdrm/2bath stove, fridge, dishwasher, carpet, blinds, balcony, laundry, fireplace, kitchen w/ceramic tile 2 car garage 1 single garage intercom entry no pets, West of Lincoln.\$2875 (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA \$1875/MO near Bundy/SM Blvd. Spacious, bright 2 bedroom 2 bath upper.new carpet, large private balcony, large closets, fireplace, appliances, laundry, parking.Attractive smaller building, no pets.(310) 828-4481

Roommates

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Commercial Lease

WEST LA: 2 office spaces for rent. 2566 Overland Ave, 90064.Seven story, class "A" reflective glass bldg.Prime loc.Right off 10 & 405 fwys.\$785-1200/month.7th flr facing ocean.Contact:Adriana@davis-stirling.com 310-945-0280

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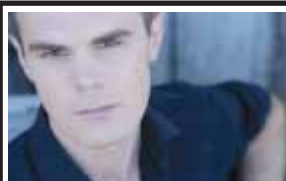
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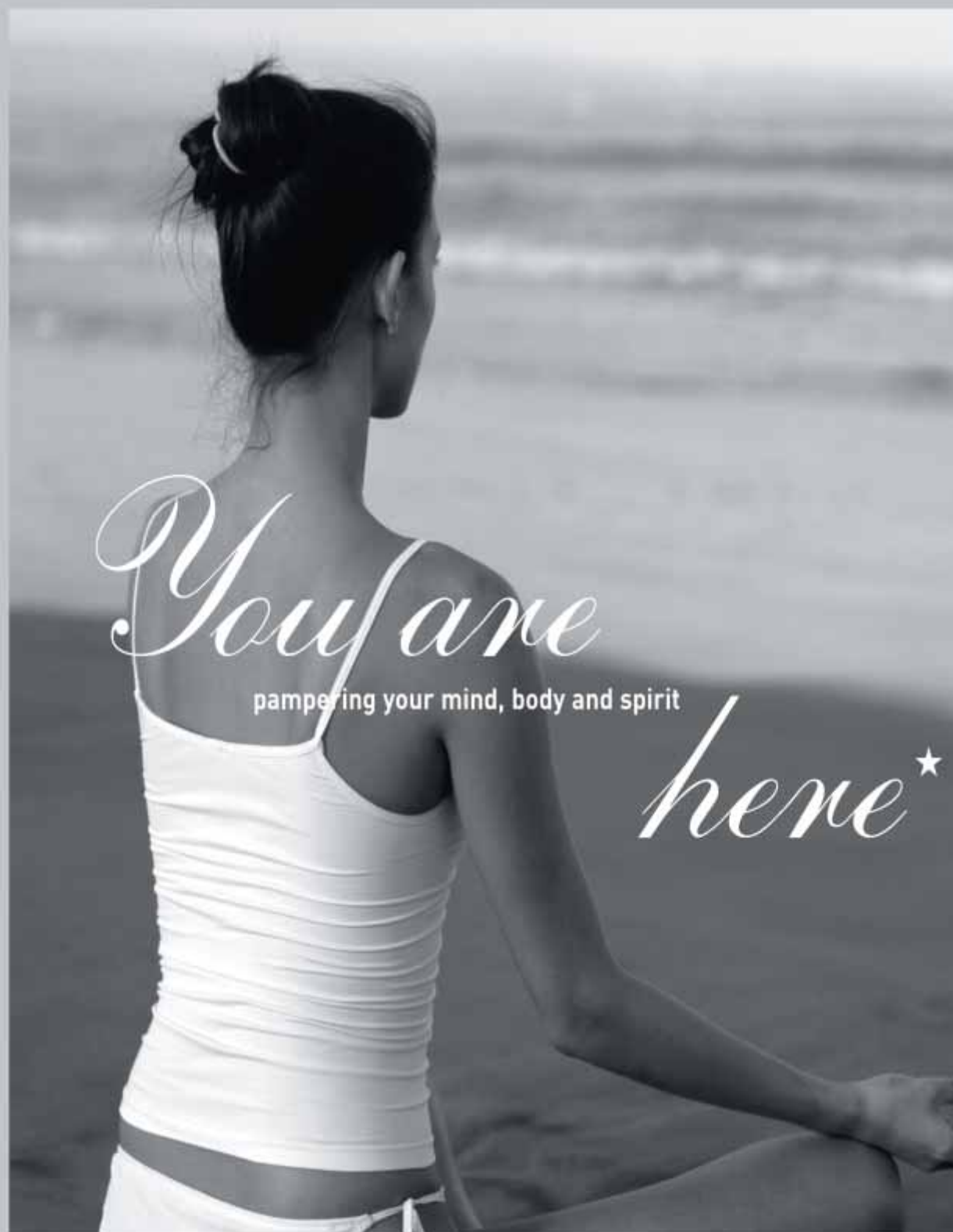
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Average Price of All Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Mid August 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 3,035,917	\$ 5,730,000
North of Montana	=	\$ 4,043,783	\$ 2,081,679
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,640,875	\$ 1,017,856
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,103,217	\$ 714,058
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,376,828	\$ 730,700
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,639,846	\$ 1,271,696

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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