

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

1, 16, 12, 22, 20

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 2, 1

Evening picks: 0, 2, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 03, Hot Shot

2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold

3rd Place: 01, Gold Rush

Race Time: 1:42.84



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Syracuse, N.Y., dungeonmaster John Jamelske, 68, sentenced to 18 years to life in July for holding a series of girls and women as sex slaves underneath his house (though all were eventually released), told the judge that he thought of the slaves as his "buddies," that he would get together with them in the "party room," and that he did not "kidnap" them because no ransom was requested. And in Doylestown Borough, Pa., in May, ex-pediatrician Alva Hartwright, sentenced to 15 to 30 years in prison for sexually abusing homeless teenage boys in his care, continued in May to insist that the many enemies he gave them were "medically necessary" and that the reason he had a huge cache of child pornography was because he found the pictures "aesthetically pleasing," in the same way as his other photos of landscapes and wildlife.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Middle age begins with the first mortgage and ends when you drop dead."

— Herb Caen



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Motel owner charged with operating 'a house of ill repute'

Charges reduced and referred to City Hall

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A local motel owner who was arrested three weeks ago for allegedly running a prostitution ring has yet to enter a plea in court.

The arraignment of Maurice Farzam was continued Tuesday for a second time. Earlier this month, the hearing was continued so he could retain an attorney.

On Tuesday, the hearing was again postponed so Farzam's recently hired lawyer, Richard Beada, could familiarize himself with the case.

Farzam, owner of the Holiday Motel located at 1102 Pico Blvd., is expected to enter a plea of not guilty next month. He faces eight misde-

meanor criminal charges, including allegedly running a brothel and accepting stolen property, as well as 91 building code violations.

"All this coming out has defamed me, ruined my name."

— MAURICE FARZAM
Owner of Holiday Motel

"Once you really go into it, you'll see I'm not the person they are painting me to be," said Farzam, an Iranian immigrant who lives north of San Vicente Boulevard and owns another residential property on Lincoln Boulevard. "There's no pimping going on. There's no ring of prostitutes. All this coming out has

See MOTEL, page 4

An accident waiting to happen



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A 'passage way' sign in the alley between the Promenade and Fourth Street has been loose for weeks. The metal bar, which should be attached to the pole, dangles several feet in the air and inches closer to falling each day while unsuspecting pedestrians walk beneath it.

Man found dead on local beach identified

But authorities aren't releasing name

By Daily Press staff

The man found dead along the shoreline of Santa Monica Beach Monday has been identified, but authorities haven't released his name pending notification of his family.

The man, believed to be Hispanic and in his late 40s or early 50s, was found by a passerby at about 5 a.m. lying face down in the sand just north of the Santa Monica Pier wearing socks, a T-shirt with a plaid shirt and blue shorts.

The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office will conduct an autopsy today to determine the cause of death and whether foul play is suspected.

Authorities said the man was found with a head injury, however Santa Monica Police, who is investigating the incident, haven't

confirmed that.

But Los Angeles County Lifeguard Capt. David Story and coroner spokesman David Campbell both said the man experienced trauma to his head.

"The purpose of the examination is to pinpoint what the trauma is," Campbell said, adding there were no other visible injuries. "We just don't know if it's from post-mortem or anti-mortem."

Story, who responded to the scene, said he didn't want to speculate on what may have happened before the man died. However, it didn't appear he had been swimming because he was clothed.

He may have fallen off of a boat and hit by a propeller. But the area north of the pier is not traveled heavily by watercraft, Story said. And the likelihood of the man falling off the pier is small because neither the current or tide were strong enough to carry him hundreds of feet, he added.

Attracting moviemakers is tougher these days

BY GLEN WARCHOL

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — After a day of meetings with film and television executives in Los Angeles, Leigh von der Esch took a break amid the sets in the Warner Brothers Studios back lot to make a quick call to Utah.

"I'm talking to these guys to find out what kind of things would attract them to Utah," the director of Utah's Film Commission says over a faltering cell phone. "Before we do anything else, I need to know what really makes a difference in their decisions."

Competing with other states and several countries for a shrinking

pool of movie and television productions, Utah may need something more to lure filmmakers than spectacular scenery and sunny weather.

"I'm talking to these guys to find out what kind of things would attract them to Utah."

— LEIGH VON DER ESCH
Director of Utah Film Commission

Among the top five states as a site for television, movie and

See MOVIES, page 5

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2003

You might want to hold on tight this year, as Murphy's law rules. You find partners to be unpredictable and their actions sometimes strange. Try not to pigeonhole others into certain images you have of them or to have expectations, and you will have an easier time. As a result, you will ride the roller coaster of life far more easily. Be direct with others, but don't force your view on them. Your ability to succeed and network serves as a sufficient model to others. If you are single, a relationship could drop on you any day. This person could be quite special and open many new doors in your life. If you are attached, you will bond far more tightly with a loved one or friend as long as you let him or her have his or her opinions and express his or her eccentricity. GEMINI is your pal.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ It would be wise to research the right words to say before they leave your mouth! You could easily be provoked by what is going on around you. Try not to close any doors, and keep talks moving. Tonight: Play it cool, for everyone's sake. Try a stress-buster.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You handle finances well, but right now you might feel as if everyone is sabotaging you in some way, shape or form. You might need to take a strong action in order to stay in control. Others could be reactive. Remember to keep yourself under control. Tonight: Pay bills.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You're happy-go-lucky. Keep on smiling, and you'll get through the many hassles that a superior could toss at you. Your attitude draws many and helps others work out their issues. Kick back and deal with the unexpected. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Take your time and go into your memory for answers. Read between the lines and do needed research. Your vision of what is possible could change your perspective. Be extra careful with spending. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Keep looking to the long term, and you will greet success. Aim for more of what you want, not allowing others to interfere. The unexpected occurs with financial matters. Just when you thought you had someone settled in, you find out otherwise. Tonight: Visit with your friends.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Take charge, as others seem to fall apart. You might not totally understand what is workable, but you will come to a quick conclusion or decision. Others respect your speedy actions and strong sense of confidence. Tonight: Work late.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Be honest if you're stressed out and cannot keep up the pace. Others will pitch in. Remember, you don't have to carry the whole burden by yourself. Others happily respond, adding to the possibilities. You gain as a result. Tonight: Mow the lawn or chose some other active chore to work off stress.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Where you thought you really understood a child or new loved one, you discover otherwise. You could be quite shocked by what comes up for you. Discussions with a trusted associate or partner take you in a new direction. Tonight: Take time with a favorite loved one.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might want to defer to others, as you sit in a state of confusion trying to figure out what's what. You also might be inordinately pressured by a family member. How you handle this person could make all the difference. Tonight: Go along with another's request.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ What you say could easily be misinterpreted. You might want to consider what needs to happen within an important relationship that often tests your patience. Most likely, you see a personal matter differently. Tonight: Get some exercise.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ The key lies in your creativity, but not in your risking. Consider your financial options. You still might discover an even better route. Review a heartfelt matter more closely. A little flirtation or wink goes a long way. Tonight: Romp and let off steam.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Extremes punctuate your behavior. Where someone thought he or she might know you, you give reason to question this idea. Understand more of what you want from a domestic situation or financial evaluation. Tonight: Happy at home.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wedding photographer to return to court

By Daily Press staff

A local wedding photographer who pleaded no contest to four counts of grand theft in May is expected to return to court today.

Juli Anne Armitage will meet with Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky and Public Defender Kerry Golub to discuss how much she owes her former clients in restitution.

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Office filed 17 counts of grand theft against Armitage in December, alleging she took an average of \$2,000 from dozens of local couples and failed to deliver their wedding pictures.

After missing a handful of court dates, Armitage was taken into custody on a bench warrant in April and spent 12 days in jail.

She worked out a plea that required her to return all the missing photos and precluded her from paying any money to the courts. Armitage, who had the four counts against her reduced to one because she cooperated with prosecutors, must now determine how much restitution she owes to her former clients.

Armitage has said she was unfairly targeted by the City Attorney's Office, who seized her property and refused to return it before filing the charges against her. She said she was a victim of bad bookkeeping and nothing more.

The case is being heard at the Santa Monica Courthouse by Superior Court Judge Bernard Kamins.

Learn about the costs of the Patriot Act

By Daily Press staff

Public officials and interfaith leaders will come together next month to hear the experiences of people who have been affected by the recently passed Patriot Act.

Organized by the Applied Research Center and dozens of churches, community organizations and labor unions, Los Angeles residents will discuss how they've been affected by new Homeland Security policies like the act, "special registration," and increased enforcement of the 1996 Immigration Act.

The "Public's Truth" is a community forum to share real stories of how the war on terrorism and national security have impacted the lives of immigrants, refugees and communities of color.

The event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the First AME Renaissance Center, located at 1968 West Adams Boulevard, Los Angeles.

Personal testimonies provided by (partial list):

- A Korean family whose father died in detention after arrest for visa violations.
- A Muslim leader whose mosque was targeted for surveillance by the FBI.
- A Somali man whose family was separated by "special registration" requirements.
- Mexican workers fired based on use of national security procedures.
- Pakistanis who made exodus to Canadian border due to fear of persecution.
- Punjabi high school student forced to switch schools to escape hate crimes.
- A Japanese American minister reminded of conditions that led to WWII internment.

The panel includes:

- Maxine Waters, U.S. House of Representative
- Martin Ludlow, Los Angeles City Council
- Rev. Chip Murray, First AME
- Maria Elena Durazo, Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 11
- Sheriff Lee Baca, Los Angeles County
- Bishop Charles Blake, West Angeles COGIC

The Applied Research Center is a public policy research and advocacy institute focusing on issues of race, racism and racial justice. Founded in 1981 as an initiative to bridge efforts between analysts and activists, ARC has worked with a wide variety of social change organizations, key activists, researchers and policy advocates.



surf report

Look for the wind swell to steadily back down today and into Thursday as it mixes with only background energy from the South.

Most spots will be in the knee- to waist-high range.

OUTLOOK: A fun SW looks like it will set up head-high waves in the first week of September.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

70°

Sunrise: 6:24 a.m.
Sunset: 7:43 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	6:32	0.8	7:00	2.0	12:01	4.9	1:02	4.7
SUNDAY	6:59	1.4	8:04	2.0	12:45	4.2	1:37	4.7
MONDAY	7:26	2.0	9:33	2.0	1:41	3.6	2:18	4.6
TUESDAY	7:54	2.5	11:17	1.7	3:19	3.1	3:12	4.6
WEDNESDAY	8:42	2.9	N/A	N/A	6:24	3.0	4:21	4.7
THURSDAY	12:34	1.2	(10:41)	3.2	8:00	3.3	5:29	4.9
FRIDAY	1:23	0.8	12:07	3.1	8:30	3.6	6:24	5.3

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The Q-Line

An elderly Santa Monica woman who broke her hip on the Big Blue Bus last year recently lost a lawsuit against City Hall.

In the lawsuit, the woman claimed City Hall should compensate her for medical bills, as well as for pain and suffering because it does not require its drivers to wait for elderly passengers to be seated before they begin driving.

Jury members said they had compassion for the elderly woman but that there

were too many questions raised by city attorneys to rule for her.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Should Big Blue Bus drivers wait for elderly people to be seated before they take off on their routes?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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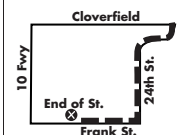
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Neighbors complained for years about hotel

MOTEL, from page 1

defamed me, ruined my name. People that know me can't believe it."

Farzam faces two counts of allegedly knowingly and willfully running a house of ill repute, two counts of creating a public nuisance, one count of accepting a stolen credit card and three counts of using a stolen credit card to obtain money, said Chief Deputy City Attorney Betty Haviland.

The 91 building code violations cover everything from broken smoke detectors to bad plastering in the Pico Boulevard hotel, authorities allege.

Police served search warrants and arrested Maurice Farzam on July 30. Five agencies were involved in the investigation, which was prompted by a history of resident complaints involving alleged prostitution, illegal drug activity and nuisance violations. Over the past four years, police received more than 150 calls pertaining to the hotel's activities, said Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega.

Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, said Farzam was not pursued for pimping and pandering — a felony with mandatory jail time — because the DA's office did not have enough evidence.

Instead, the case was referred to the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office.

"It is rare, given the allegations, that the DA would pass on a case of this kind unless there were some substantial problems," Beada said. "They just don't pass on those kind of cases, not if they've got it."

Haviland, who oversees City Hall's criminal cases, said the evidence against Farzam is comprehensive. Each of the



File photo

The Holiday Motel on Pico Boulevard has been called by authorities a 'brothel.'

eight criminal charges carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail and \$3,000 in fines. The building code violations each carry a maximum fine of \$1,500.

After Farzam's arrest, neighbors described the Holiday Motel grounds as an eyesore and said prostitutes have been seen there for years.

But Farzam denied any wrongdoing and said what his guests do is not his business. He said the investigation was prompted by an incident when a handful of rowdy guests that used drugs and ordered prostitutes refused to leave.

Farzam, who also owns the American Motel at 1243 Lincoln Blvd., was originally charged with 103 counts but now faces 99.

Beadá said he was pleased Haviland amended the charges to reflect the evidence.

"I'm picking up ground already," Beada said.

LA airport plans based on nonexistent technology

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mayor James K. Hahn's proposed \$9 billion modernization plan at Los Angeles International Airport depends on security technology that doesn't exist or is in the conceptual stage, it was reported.

Hahn's plan, which would take more than a decade to complete, deals with airline safety by separating and expanding runways and seeking to improve security while limiting passenger growth.

To meet heightened security demands as a result of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, city officials based much of the plan on new technology that doesn't exist

and they could drive up costs, the Daily News of Los Angeles reported Tuesday.

Among the items unavailable are facial recognition, license plate readers, intelligent surveillance cameras, face-in-the-crowd software and nonintrusive vehicle and cargo inspection systems.

"The answer is that not all we want is available today," Airport Commission President Ted Stein said. "If, today, I could magically add water and everything will be there, I would do it. But, with saying that, the equipment we have today would be able to do the job we need. And, having a separate facility for passengers and luggage will increase security tremendously."

Fire trucks have to slow down

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For the first time, city fire engines will have speed limits and can't race around stalled traffic under new rules that aim to reduce accidents.

The Fire Department is expected to implement the changes this year. They were drafted after an internal review showed fire vehicles were involved in 824 accidents from 1999 through 2001.

Officials said they believe most involved motorists who failed to yield to fire engines.

"On every run, there is someone who

doesn't stop" and pull over as required by law, said paramedic Janet Morris. Her ambulance has been struck twice, she said.

Under the new rules, fire trucks can go only 10 mph faster than a street's posted limit, and trucks only can travel 20 mph when driving into opposing traffic lanes or through intersections.

Meanwhile, police and fire officials plan a crackdown on disobedient motorists. This fall, motorcycle officers will drive next to the trucks during emergency calls and will pull over drivers who fail to yield.

NATIONAL



Tax incentives translate into revenue for state

MOVIES, from page 1

commercial productions, Utah's status has begun to slip, despite the exposure gained by the 2002 Winter Games and the annual Sundance Film Festival.

Meanwhile, the public's taste for reality television has made the networks' one-time staple, movies of the week, rarer.

The importance of the industry to Utah became painfully obvious last year when CBS canceled "Touched by an Angel." For nine years, the show had not only supported a large in-state production team, it served as Exhibit A of Utah as the congenial, versatile and cheap filming location.

In a few months, Utah's small but experienced film industry may begin lobbying Utah's tightfisted Legislature for help in seducing new business.

At von der Esch's invitation, Angela Miele, Washington, D.C.-based state tax policy expert for the Motion Picture Association of America, briefed leaders of Utah's film industry on tax breaks and other incentives that competing states offer filmmakers.

The economic impact of movies, television and commercial productions on Utah's economy was estimated at more than \$135 million last year, but it is getting increasingly harder to woo productions when other states — and worse, foreign nations — offer Hollywood ever more opulent tax breaks and outright cash rebates.

"Touched by an Angel," which employed 90 percent of its crew locally, alone pumped \$200 million into the economy during its nine-year run.

"It could blow a big hole in our economics, if we can't find something to replace 'Touched,'" says von der Esch.

Many Utahns who worked for the popular show that chronicled the earthly adventures of a group of angels are still hoping for another steady gig. Set construction coordinator Ben Hoopes recently snagged work with some commercials and a Hallmark Entertainment production, but misses the steady pay and health benefits that "Touched" afforded his family. "I was with it from the beginning," Hoopes says. "We got used to the steady work."

For now Utah continues to cash in on its scenery, winning scenes from major motion pictures such as "Hulk," Wendover Air Field and Kanab, and "Legally Blonde II," the state Capitol, to still photo shoots for dozens of automobile ads ranging from Land Rover to Cadillac.

One of Utah's biggest advantages is that it is easy to get out of. Salt Lake City International Airport puts West Coast-based crews and actors a couple hours from their families.

But right now, Utah's only legislated incentive is a room tax rebate on stays of 30 days or more. And that was not written specifically with film companies in mind.

Von der Esch says the state's film industry is in the early stages of "formulating a strategic plan" to take to lawmakers in January. The first step is to find out what will seduce television and film heads. She recognizes the state's recent budget woes will raise the bar even higher.

"We want to look at what the traffic will bear," she says. "I want to do what is realistic for the Legislature and what will really affect the decision making of the production companies."

Forty-one states offer tax incentives of various types, including corporate income franchise tax refunds and credits, sales tax rebates or exemptions, wage and production cost rebates, and even direct investments or loans.

"Legislators don't see all the below-the-line workers who benefited from a movie."

— ANGELA MIELE

State tax policy expert for the Motion Picture Association of America

New Mexico, which competes directly with Utah in offering spectacular desert and mountain locations, Western sets and American Indian culture, offers filmmakers one of the most extensive inducement packages:

■ Sales tax exemption on all production costs.

■ A 15 percent refundable income tax credit on film production expenses.

■ State investment/loans to cover costs up to \$7.5 million for qualifying productions.

■ Waivers on lodging taxes for extended productions.

Louisiana's economic development agency also recently sweetened its film-incentive package to include an employment tax credit and an expanded investor tax credit for in-state film and television businesses.

"Tax incentives are not handouts," Miele says. "They result in tangible dollars coming into the state."

Such tax breaks can pay for themselves through attracting more film work, which will pump money into the state and expand the local film-production work force, she said.

If nothing else, a package such as New Mexico's is a formidable marketing tool to get a foot in the door to sell a state as a filming location.

"I'd like to have something in my toolbox," von der Esch says. "It really helps in television more than features (films). Television is more bottom-line driven."

Von der Esch and Miele are the first to acknowledge Hollywood's multimillion-dollar box-office grosses, glitzy awards ceremonies and Arnold Schwarzenegger's latest salary package can work against a campaign for tax breaks.

But every shoot in Utah pays the wages of dozens of support workers, including carpenters, drivers and makeup artists, Miele says. "Legislators don't see all the below-the-line workers who benefited from a movie."

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Santa Monica Daily Press



LETTERS

Mentally ill on street aren't going away

Editor:

Leaders of this country, city and county need to make a list of issues that need to be corrected. Not all homeless people are guilty of disgusting public behavior. The homeless who care about the areas we rest in, clean up after ourselves. We are not responsible for the ones who don't care and make life hard for everyone.

The mental problem does need to be addressed in a serious meeting with results. I apologize to the public who have brief encounters with their public nuisance and rude, selfish behavior. I shall not bore you with the endless time we have to spend with them. We are hated and type-cast as being just like the mentally insane. This is wrong, yet we endure so much every day.

There is a solution. It's called a meeting of the minds. Enough name calling and finger pointing, it's time to act while morals and ethics still exist. The mental health issue should be at the top of the list of priorities. Changes for the better are what most of us hope and pray for. Officials are elected to make communities and people safe for all.

Marie Stone
Santa Monica

Wealthy Neanderthals enter the race

Editor:

Concerning the recall of Gov. Gray (soon to be black and blue) Davis, sufficient it is to begin thus: Even a moron knows a "train wreck" when they see one.

As of Sept. 12, anyone with \$3,500 and the desire can "run" for governor of California — any fool, any misfit, any media freak (are you listening Jerry Rubin), any muscle-bound movie star, anyone.

Which leads directly to the following. If the intelligence level in the "Golden State" were half as high as it's physical beauty, it would be the most fantastic place on Earth. As it stands, it's like the Garden of Eden populated by self-serving, short-sighted and ignorant Neanderthals — wealthy, well dressed and sun-tanned Neanderthals to be sure, but barbarians nevertheless.

The "circus" has come to town and the "freak show" of all political "freak shows" is about to commence, confirming once and for all everything I have ever thought about politics — it is garbage to begin with and it goes downhill from there.

What the world is about to witness is either democracy in action or democracy destroying itself. My money is on the latter rather the former.

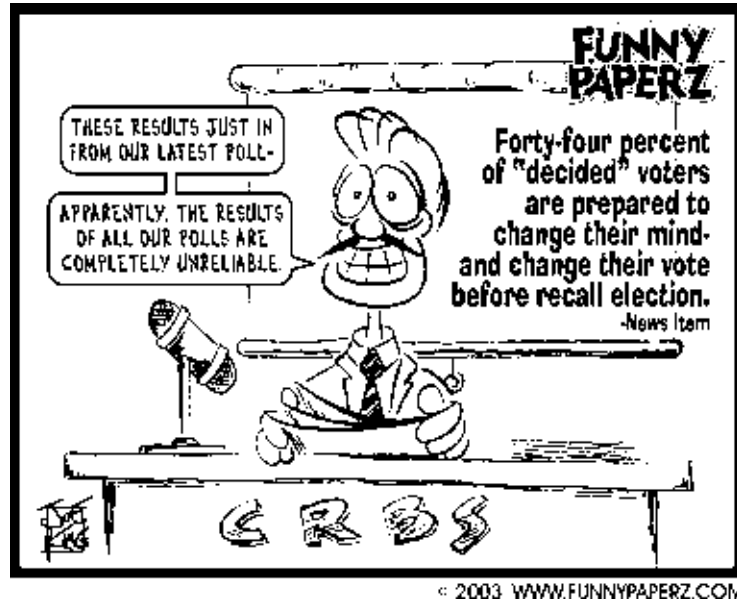
Leonard M. Kuras
Hollywood

Stop complaining about music

Editor:

Responding to S. Meric's letter (SMDP, Aug. 11, page 4) regarding the "noise" at Sunday's Farmers Market, I find this very interesting that S. Meric is not a resident of Ocean Park. I proudly am a resident of Ocean Park within visual and hearing distance of the market. Every Sunday I look forward to hearing the music and watching the people and children. I suggest that S. Meric shop on Saturday at the other two locations for fruits and vegetables, in silence. Our great city does give choices, living in a free society we have choices to make decisions if you want to have high energy and enjoyment or silence. Regarding S. Meric's statement "why do Americans" always have to have some noise going? Is that to imply that S. Meric is not an American, complaining about the very people of the country he/she is living in? Sorry S. Meric,

See LETTERS, page 7



Here's a partial list of people who should disappear



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

As I look at the world around me, I have become increasingly distraught at the evil of which mankind is capable. So I decided to write the following list of all those people the world would be better off without.

- Any leader who starts a war for power, territory, or wealth.
- Any religious leader who uses his or her position to sexually abuse children.
- Any religious leader who uses their position to cover up the above.
- Torturers.
- Any leader responsible for genocide.
- Any leader who sits back and allows genocide to occur because they don't believe the people being murdered are important enough to save.
- Terrorists, whether they be Middle Eastern, European, Asian, American or environmental.
- Those who knowingly supply

weapons, either directly or indirectly, to the above.

- Those who recruit suicide bombers.
- Leaders who support terrorism.
- HMO executives who create policy that decide life and death medical treatments based on profit rather than the patient's health.
- Doctors who conspire with the above.
- Any religious or political leader who subjugates any group based on race, religion, gender or alternate sexual orientation.
- Any religious or political leader who preaches hate against any group based on race, religion, gender or alternate sexual orientation.
- Any person who makes a film that incites hatred against any group.
- Any drug dealer who markets their product to children.
- Any tobacco executive who markets their product to children.
- Any politician who sells their office to the highest bidder at the expense of those who elected them.
- Anyone who murders for pleasure, greed, power or any type of personal gain.
- Rapists.
- All tyrants, brutal dictators and petty

despots.

- Lawyers who file class action lawsuits purely for personal gain.
- Corporate executives who gut employee pensions while enriching themselves.
- Corporate executives who falsify records to enrich themselves.
- Any person who cons the elderly out of their life savings.
- Serial killers and mass murderers.
- Insurance company executives who knowingly deny legitimate claims.
- Any person using disasters to profit whether it is selling water for \$50 a gallon after an earthquake or using a blackout to push a flawed energy bill.
- Those who invent hidden fees.
- Men who beat women or children.
- Women who beat men or children.
- Any industry executive who falsifies records and allows unsafe products to be sold.
- Those who proliferate weapons of mass destruction.
- Any leader who can imagine a scenario in which a nuclear bomb could be used as a strategic weapon.
- Anyone who has ever participated in a lynch mob.

• Stock analysts who give a company a buy rating for no other reason than to create profit for themselves or their brokerage firm.

- Brokerage firm executives who support the above behavior.
 - Any leader who lies to start a war.
 - Anyone who falsely accuses another of a crime.
 - Those who commit any sort of crime under the name of God.
 - Anyone who enslaves another human being.
 - Drug company executives who knowingly release dangerous or worthless drugs.
 - Assassins.
 - Anyone who preys upon or steals from the poor.
 - Those who create bogus charities for their own profit.
 - And finally...
 - Who ever created Ben and Jerry's Chunky Monkey ice cream.
- There. Now we have a world that's worth living in. And so quiet, too.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer who is one of the few people still living in Santa Monica. He can be reached at edsincites@aol.com).

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

you must be kidding. How could you possibly be serious about complaining about an art? Be happy and enjoy life. Find a half full glass.

I. Baron
Santa Monica

Hang on when riding the bus

Editor:

Regarding "Elderly woman sues city (SMDP, Aug. 8), the lady is not thinking clearly. If the bus drivers have to wait until elderly passengers are seated, we'd wait forever for a bus.

I've ridden the No. 5 and the Big Blue buses and drivers are a real pleasure. I'm over 80 years of age and must use a walking stick, so I get on and hold on the rods or whatever until I'm seated. Her suit is totally unfair to drivers and riders.

Reeby L. Walker
Los Angeles

Compare your health plan

Editor:

New articles about a California Health Care Foundation survey confirm trends that Medicare HMO members are well aware of: Premiums are going up while benefits are being reduced. Many seniors might question their plan and wonder if it is really the best health coverage for them. I would like to recommend the "Personal Plan Finder" on the Medicare Web site (medicare.gov), which helps users compare plans based on eligibility and preferences. It includes detailed information about Medicare, Medicare HMOs and Medigap, and estimated monthly out-of-pocket expenses for each plan. I found it extremely helpful and easy to navigate. You can also call 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227) and a customer service representative can mail you this information. I hope others may also benefit from this service so they can get the best possible health coverage.

Peter Bauer
San Francisco

Please, no more SENSATIONALISM in the news



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

(Editor's note: Much to the dismay of columnist Lloyd Garver, his Modern Times column printed last Saturday didn't come off the way he wanted due to an editing error. The bold and larger type were omitted, and so were all hints of humor, irony and intelligence. What appeared in the paper was merely a straight diatribe, unlike anything he's ever written. The following is the way it should've appeared.)

The latest ratings are in, and they're down for news programs.

Analysts believe it's because the public has grown tired of so much serious news. Personally, I hope it's for the opposite reason — that we're tired of so much non-serious news.

I don't know about you, but I'm sick of sensationalism in the media. So many stories involve violence, celebrities, sex, or

"shocking surprises." It's not bad enough that they emphasize these stories, but they often mislead us as well. Last week, I heard a "tease" on the news that said, "Al Gore makes an important announcement about running for President in 2004." Of course, when they returned from the commercial, I learned that the "announcement" was that he had not changed his mind and still had no plans to run in 2004. In print, they use big and bold print to catch our eye. Presumably, some people don't read the entire article or column, but just skim to the bold print. And often, these are just teases, too. It's got to stop.

In California right now, a **porn star and Arnold Schwarzenegger are together** on the gubernatorial ballot. However, that doesn't mean that this woman deserves the same amount of attention that he does.

The Clintons are always in the news, whether they have done anything newsworthy or not. And when it comes to actors and actresses, the lurid trumps everything else. When Hillary Swank won an Oscar for her role in "Boys Don't Cry," some people weren't interested in her wonderful performance — they just wanted to **see Hillary naked**.

So much of the news we see, hear, and read is negative. President Bush is in great physical shape. He prides himself on running, and he's pretty fast. In fact, if he and the First Lady ever had a race, it certainly wouldn't surprise me if **George Bush beat his wife**. But we don't see many stories about the President's being in wonderful health. Instead, **America is flooded** by negative stories rather than positive ones.

Of course, many famous people love publicity, so it's understandable that sometimes the sensational aspects of their lives are emphasized. Because of his commercials, people **don't think of Bob Dole as a war hero** or public servant. Today, when people think of Bob Dole, they think of **Viagra and Britney Spears**.

From the play they get in the news, you'd think that **shark attacks are more common than stubbing your toe**. The reality is that shark attacks are quite rare, but unfortunately, this is the kind of sensationalized reporting that gets people to pay attention.

Right now, some news outlets are "all Kobe, all the time" even though all they've had so far is a preliminary hearing. What do people think — that **Kobe will confess**

before the trial begins? And why are people being so critical of the woman? Nobody has demonstrated that **the alleged victim wants publicity or her own talk show**. Shouldn't we leave them both alone, and just let justice take its course?

We are assailed by far too many "facts" about celebrities. I honestly wouldn't care at all if **Demi Moore's boyfriend is actually 40 years younger than she is!** And why is every financial and business detail about these people news? Who is really interested in learning that **Jennifer Lopez doesn't change her underwear as often as she changes her agents?**

There's only one way to trash trash news. If we all just turn off and turn away from it, I **guarantee that all media outlets will immediately stop giving us manipulative, sensationalized "news."**

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).

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EPA to set new rules for cleaner air in parks, wilderness

BY JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — In a court settlement with an environmental group, the Environmental Protection Agency agreed Tuesday to set new rules by April 2005 for reducing air pollution in national parks and wilderness areas.

The EPA would require states to set limits on air pollution from power plants and other sources whose emissions drift hundreds of miles and cause haze and visibility problems in remote areas.

Those limits, meant to improve visibility at 156 parks and wilderness areas, would be established according to EPA guidelines required by a court settlement with Environmental Defense, a group

based in New York. The settlement requires approval from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia after a 30-day public comment period.

The EPA would also be required to propose the new rules by April 2004. The rules would go into effect the following year.

"The importance of clean-air measures and clean air in our national parks is underscored by the millions of Americans who are right now visiting these treasured places with family and friends," said Vickie Patton, a senior attorney for the group in Boulder, Colo.

Her group sued to enforce 1977 Clean Air Act amendments that set goals for improving the visibility in 35 national parks, 120 wilderness areas and Roosevelt Campobello International Park near

Lubec, Maine, which is overseen by a U.S.-Canadian commission.

Some of the most popular parks — and residents living in regions nearby — would be affected, including Maine's Acadia, Montana's Glacier, Arizona's Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina, Virginia's Shenandoah, Yellowstone in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho and California's Sequoia and Yosemite.

The EPA had no immediate comment Tuesday.

In 1999, the EPA issued regional haze regulations to require states to develop visibility improvement plans. Along with requiring states to take the lead, the EPA also said certain groups of polluters contributing to regional haze should have to

install the "best available retrofit technology" to cut emissions.

But after a coalition of utilities, mining interests and the state of Michigan sued, claiming the regulations were arbitrary and unlawful, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered the EPA to rework part of its regulation.

The appeals court, however, upheld the EPA's fundamental goal of having the states put pollution controls in place to return parks and wilderness areas to "natural visibility" over 60 years.

The Bush administration's former EPA administrator, Christie Whitman, had endorsed the Clinton administration regulations requiring that visibility be improved by 15 percent each decade at each of the parks and wilderness areas.

Backpackers reach the Pacific after cross-country trek

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A husband-and-wife hiking team reached the Pacific Ocean after a 5,058 mile cross-country trek, becoming the first to backpack the entire official route of the transcontinental American Discovery Trail, according to the organization that helped establish the trail.

Joyce, 51, and Pete Cottrell, 55, of Whitefield, N.H., left their jobs at Wal-Mart and started the trek across 13 states on March 5, 2002. Eighteen months later, the sunburned but exhilarated couple dipped their toes in the Pacific Ocean at Point Reyes saying they'd do it all over again.

"We feel like a gift has been given to us, and we just can't say thank you enough," said Joyce Cottrell after she and her husband were welcomed on the beach by about 20 friends, hikers and other people he and his wife met along the way.

"This trail is just unbelievable. The places it goes through, and the people ... the people are the best part," said Peter Cottrell.

The Cottrells took leave of the Atlantic at Cape Henlopen, Del., and followed the American Discovery Trail, facing flash floods, forest fires, knee-deep snow and blinding desert sandstorms.

They nursed sunburns, sore muscles, ankle sprains, blisters, flu, and their two adult sons, who thought their parents had gone crazy.

But the Cottrells saw this as the adventure of a lifetime, and have no regrets.

On the Eastern coast they frequently pitched their tents in backyards because of suburban sprawl. In the Midwest, the midsummer humidity wore them down. But it was the vast, dry stretches of the western states that proved to be the greatest challenge.

The American Discovery Trail Society, an organization that pushed for the establishment of the trail and now promotes it, provided support along the way, making water drops in Utah and Nevada which the Cottrells found using global positioning satellite signals.

Society spokesman Dick Bratton said the Cottrells

were the first hikers to cover the entire trail.

After reaching Colorado in November, they stopped hiking until February, taking job as Wal-Mart cashiers to wait out the winter and raise the money needed to complete the trip.

Through it all, they relied on the kindness of those they met, who welcomed them into their homes and treated them to meals along the way.

"People are the best part of the hike, more so than the scenery. It took us by surprise to know the American people are so generous," said Joyce Cottrell.

1,000-year-old tree falls, crushes vehicle

By The Associated Press

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK — A 200-foot-tall giant sequoia tree fell along Sequoia National Park's main road, crushing a vehicle into a pile of crumpled metal, park officials said.

In nearby Yosemite National Park, a landmark Jeffrey pine tree that was perched atop Sentinel Dome fell to the ground sometime in the last week, Yosemite National Park officials said Monday.

The giant sequoia, believed to be

about 1,000 years old, fell Sunday afternoon along the Generals Highway several miles east of the Giant Forest Museum, park spokeswoman Alexandra Picavet said.

No one was injured but the Jeep Grand Cherokee was destroyed, Picavet said Monday.

The vehicle was parked in a turnout alongside the road.

"They had hiked to a waterfall close by. They said they heard this huge crash, like a sonic boom, and they saw the top of a tree going

over," Picavet said. "They didn't put it together until they got back and saw it had fallen on their car."

Picavet said the tree had previous fire damage, and was half dead, contributing to the collapse.

Picavet said the road was closed for about 15 minutes while park crews and firefighters cleaned gas and oil from the road and cleared tree fragments.

She said park officials will leave the tree where it fell.

The vehicle's owner had driven to California from Florida.

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Working class people are priced out of the market



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

Rumor has it California needs nearly 1 million new residences to house all of the citizens in the Golden State.

This year is seeing the construction of approximately 180,000 new homes — the most since 1989. Yet, in many cases, the cost of these new properties will be beyond the reach of the average working class family.

In Santa Monica, a city of approximately 84,000 residents, about 65 percent of residents are renters while 28 percent are homeowners. The median household income in Santa Monica is \$50,714 with 12 percent making \$150,000 or more and 16 percent making less than \$15,000. Condo prices around town start in the \$200,000 range while the least expensive house currently on the market in Santa Monica is a vintage condition two-bedroom, one-bath by the freeway selling for close to \$550,000.

What's a working class individual to do?

This is not just Santa Monica's problem or California's problem. On a

national scale, many of the nation's elementary school teachers, police officers, licensed nurses, retail salespeople and janitors don't qualify to purchase a median priced home, according to the National Housing Conference's (NHC) "Paycheck to Paycheck: Wages and the Cost of Housing in America."

One of our local industries — the Rand Corp. — orchestrated the study which found that nationwide the median annual salaries for each of the five above-mentioned occupations fell short of the nearly \$50,000 necessary to qualify for the median priced home of \$156,000 — not to mention the more than \$500,000 bottom line in the local marketplace. And we're not the worst marketplace — the Bay area qualifies as the priciest area nationwide. San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose are the most expensive markets.

"While there is a growing understanding of the housing challenges we face as a nation, this new data prompts us to take an even closer look at the affordability concerns for working families, as well as the related social and financial implications for our communities," observes NHC Executive Director Conrad Egan. "We need to continue to develop policies at both the local and national level that recognize the challenges faced by police officers, firefighters, licensed practical nurses and

others who provide vital services, yet they are unable to find affordable housing."

California's housing crisis can be attributed to our great climate, as well as the state's fondness for litigation. In 2002, California's legislature has enacted major changes in the California Civil Code that affect construction defect litigation. Known as SB 800, the code affects residential property sold as of 2003. Passage of landmark construction dispute reform has led builders and insurers to take another look at new condo construction, though insurers haven't yet been convinced that the reforms of SB 800 will be sufficient to stop losses due to excessive litigation.

Other factors slowing construction of lower cost housing are fees charged by local governments that can add between \$20,000 and \$30,000 to the cost of a new home. Other hot button issues are the growing shortage of land available for building, lawsuits filed to block development and the long time needed to gain government approvals.

A new Ocean Park resident who is currently remodeling a home offered a microcosm look at the inefficiency of the system.

"The planning department bureaucracy forced us to delay the process approximately seven weeks and there were so many types of fees I can barely remem-

ber," he said. "For our little remodel we were issued three separate building permits. Every time we went in for additional changes, they just issued a brand new permit. We paid so many fees. And that was without the whole party of permits that go with new construction."

Robert Rivinius, chief executive officer the California Building Industry Association, suggests local governments take a number of steps to encourage the production of new housing for lower- and moderate-income families, including reforming state environmental laws to reduce excessive litigation, encouraging higher-density development in existing communities, reducing development fees and resisting urban limits, growth control and other policies that drive up the cost of housing.

According to the Rand study, affordable housing is critical to the economic and social well being of a community — access to a suitable labor pool is one of the top three considerations in business location decisions.

Other studies have shown the benefits of home ownership include reduced crime, higher education and a better overall quality of life.

(If you would like to more information of interest to property owners, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call at (310) 309-4219).

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Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:
07/17/2003	1,135	\$675,000	2	07/17/2003	1,048	\$659,000	2	07/22/2003	1,502	\$499,000	2
Lot Size: 6,499	Sold Price: \$630,000	Bath: 1.50		HOD: \$571	Sold Price: \$650,000 /Pool/	Bath: 1.75		HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$515,000	Bath: 3.00	
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Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:
07/21/2003	1,311	\$699,000	4	07/16/2003	1,977	\$815,000	2	07/15/2003	675	\$289,000	1
Lot Size: 6,756	Sold Price: \$688,000	Bath: 1.75		HOD: \$325	Sold Price: \$810,000	Bath: 2.50		HOD: \$137	Sold Price: \$289,000	Bath: 1.00	
SOLD — 2401 29TH ST., SANTA MONICA 90405				SOLD — 1320 PRINCETON ST. #203, SANTA MONICA 90404				SOLD — 954 14TH ST. #4, SANTA MONICA 90403			
Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:
07/18/2003	968	\$695,000	2	07/16/2003	1,448	\$440,000	3	07/16/2003	1,700	\$747,000	2
Lot Size: 5,998	Sold Price: \$690,000	Bath: 1.00		HOD: \$240	Sold Price: \$424,000	Bath: 2.00		HOD: \$256	Sold Price: \$767,000	Bath: 2.50	
SOLD — 1401 GRANT ST., SANTA MONICA 90405				SOLD — 311 HILL ST. #2, SANTA MONICA 90405				SOLD — 3219 COLORADO AVE. #1, SANTA MONICA 90404			
Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:
07/15/2003	1,200	\$649,900	3	07/17/2003	1,279	\$630,000	2	07/15/2003	905	\$330,000	2
Lot Size: 6,913	Sold Price: \$625,000	Bath: 1.00		HOD: \$225	Sold Price: \$631,000	Bath: 2.50		HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$320,000	Bath: 2.00	
SOLD — 721 23RD ST., SANTA MONICA 90402				SOLD — 2628 KANSAS AVE. #5, SANTA MONICA 90404				SOLD — 201 OCEAN AVE. #509B, SANTA MONICA 90402			
Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:
07/15/2003	N/A	\$2,995,000	5	07/22/2003	955	\$289,000	2	07/22/2003	N/A	\$570,000	3
Lot Size: 8,698	Sold Price: \$0	Bath: 5.50		HOD: \$199	Sold Price: \$315,000	Bath: 2.00		HOD: \$747	Sold Price: \$550,000 /Pool/	Bath: 2.50	
SOLD — 1517 ASHLAND AVE., SANTA MONICA 90405				SOLD — 1530 18TH ST. #6, SANTA MONICA 90404				SOLD — 1425 STANFORD ST. #6, SANTA MONICA 90404			
Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:
07/22/2003	1,504	\$805,000	2	07/18/2003	996	\$398,000	2	07/15/2003	1,499	\$435,000	2
Lot Size: 10,506	Sold Price: \$805,000	Bath: 1.00		HOD: \$198	Sold Price: \$412,650	Bath: 1.50		HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$427,500	Bath: 2.50	
SOLD — 201 OCEAN AVE. #1501P, SANTA MONICA 90402				SOLD — 311 HILL ST. #4, SANTA MONICA 90405				SOLD — 1730 FRANKLIN ST., SANTA MONICA 90404			
Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	Acreage:	List Price:	Bed:
07/15/2003	1,745	\$1,095,000	2	07/15/2003	1,279	\$659,000	2	207/18/2003	4.512	\$490,000	N/A
HOD: \$3,267	Sold Price: \$1,095,000 /Pool/	Bath: 3.00		HOD: \$225	Sold Price: \$630,000	Bath: 2.50		Lot Size:	Sold Price: \$425,000	Bath: N/A	
SOLD — 323 SAN VICENTE BLVD. #1, SANTA MONICA 90402				SOLD — 2663 S CENTINELA AVE. #402, SANTA MONICA 90405				Jodi Summers, Boardwalk Realty			
Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	Date Sold:	SqFt:	List Price:	Bed:	310.392.1211			
07/15/2003	1,830	\$829,000	2	07/16/2003	1,750	\$458,000	2	jodis@boardwalkrealty.com			
HOD: \$395	Sold Price: \$829,000 /Pool/	Bath: 2.50		HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$430,000 /Pool/	Bath: 2.50		Prepared For: SMDP			

REAL ESTATE

Being flexible is key during an unpredictable market



IN YOUR SPACE

By Christina S. Porter

In this unpredictable commercial real estate market, is it time to buy or sell?

The answer is both. After a very informative session of listening to the "experts" in commercial real estate, at a forum sponsored by Los Angeles Commercial Realty Association (LACRA) I have the following information to report.

Most of the panelists confirmed my suspicions. This is a great time to sell and buy, but as always there are many factors to consider and the weight of certain factors changes as the market changes. Although the issues mentioned below are always of concern when purchasing commercial real estate, it would be prudent to consider them more carefully due to the current market conditions which include low interest rates, low cap rates (more money to the seller) and high lease vacancy rates.

■ You must look at the longevity of the demand of the product type in which you are investing in relation to the market you are buying in.

■ Take into account the sustainable quality of and, most importantly, any possible upside in the lease rates or vacancy for the building you are considering. These factors could play an important role in your "exit strategy."

■ Speaking of exit strategy, unless you have a SBA Loan, one thing to bear in mind when taking advantage of these wonderfully low interest rates is what will happen when your debt matures. How do you plan to continue to maintain a decent return on your investment, or keep your monthly payments down if you are an owner/user (the original reason to purchase was to beat the lease rates), when it is time to refinance after three to 10 years?

■ It is anticipated by most of us that interest rates have nowhere to go but up. Unless you are looking at your commercial investment like you do your house, it is important to have a well defined exit strategy.

In addition to the suggestions above, one possibility might be to pay off as much principal as possible prior to the end of the current loan term to offset any increase in interest rates that are sure to materialize by

the end of your loan term.

It appears that most of the panelists agreed that including the cost of money (part of your debt service) in your investment decisions is an absolute necessity to be in the game when analyzing the return on your investment. There is an old axiom that you do not include debt service when analyzing an investment. However, it makes sense that along with reaction to the roller coaster ride that the stock market offers, the 45-year low in interest rates is a major dynamic behind the low cap rates on assets being purchased.

It's not only a great time to sell because of the unbelievable prices buyers are willing to pay, but also because the demand for owner/user properties will go down as interest rates go up. Additionally, demand for property may ease up a bit because capital gains taxes have been reduced from 20 percent to 15 percent, taking some pressure off of the "trade buyers" (1031 exchangers) who have played a major role in the increase in investment property values.

The lack of product continues to be a problem all over Los Angeles and the above-mentioned factors will take time to have a noticeable effect. So when considering selling your property, be sure to have a replacement in mind, or at least have a clear idea of what kind of return on your investment is possible in this market. The answer to that question is that there are things on the market selling with a capitalization rate as low as 5 percent and not many in the 8 percent range (at least in Santa Monica). A very simple definition of capitalization rate is the ratio between the first year's net income and the sales price.

In general I get the feeling that there has been, and is, a bit of an excited rush in the whole commercial real estate community to take advantage in any way possible of such cheap money. It is clear that none of the experts think it will last.

The truth is that nobody has seen a market quite like this and nobody knows what will come of it. The dynamics are many and the results are surprisingly unpredictable. A couple of things we can be sure of is that change is constant and faster, making flexibility more important than ever before.

(Christina S. Porter is a senior associate at NAI Capital Commercial Real Estate, specializing in leasing and selling office and industrial buildings.)

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NATIONAL

Archaeologists may have found Donner Party camp

By The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Archaeologists believe they may have found the site where the Donner Party camped during their fateful journey through the Sierra Nevada more than 150 years ago.

Scientists also said they may have uncovered the first physical evidence that the group engaged in cannibalism to survive the harsh winter of 1846 that trapped them in the mountains 30 miles west of Reno.

Using ground-penetrating radar, archaeologists located what they believe to be a campfire pit in the area of Alder Creek near Truckee, Calif.

They also found a bone fragment of a large mammal that bears the butcher marks of an ax. If human, it would provide the first physical evidence of cannibalism linked to the Donner Party, the Reno Gazette-Journal reported.

Scientists probed the Alder Creek area as part of a Discovery Channel program called "Unsolved History," scheduled to air in October. They plan to use DNA tests to provide other answers to Donner mysteries — including linking the possible human remains to the descendants of the Donner family survivors.

"This is a very exciting find," said Frankye Craig, a Donner Party researcher in Reno. "Even though some people don't think that's the Donner campsite, Donner descendants have been going there since the 1960s, and they always thought it was the place."

"To them, Alder Creek is sacred ground, and the new research seems to prove that. I hope it triggers more investigation."

The Donner Party traveled across the continent by wagon train in 1846, and early snowstorms in October and November trapped them in the Sierra Nevada range west of Reno.

Survivors reported that the trapped pioneers at Alder Creek were unable to hunt and survived by eating small animals, boiled leather, and, after several months, the flesh of their companions who died.

About half of the 81-member party perished.

In 1984, archaeologists found many artifacts at Donner Lake, where several families endured the winter in three cabins. The lower camp, where the George and Jacob Donner families stayed in hastily built huts about six miles southeast of the lake, has yielded some 1840s artifacts but little proof of a long-term occupation — until now.

"We found the possible remains of a hearth, fire-cracked rock, pipe bowl fragments, fragments of bone, including charred bone, lead balls and ceramic fragments," said Julie Schablitsky, an archaeologist with Portland State University in Oregon.

"Some of the large pieces of bone could be human, but we'll have to test to

be sure. Nothing is conclusive yet, but we're looking at multiple lines of evidence that point to it being the Donner camp," she added.

She said pottery fragments, a link from a woman's gold chain, bits of bottles and plates, and other 1840s-era artifacts have been found at the Alder Creek site, where the Donner families are said to have suffered for five months until winter ended.

"We found the possible remains of a hearth, fire-cracked rock, pipe bowl fragments, fragments of bone, including charred bone, lead balls and ceramic fragments."

— JULIE SCHABLITSKY

Archaeologist, Portland State University

Although it has been marked as "Donner Camp" since the 1920s, some historians theorized that the area is too far from the pioneer trail and the true site probably lies beneath Prosser Reservoir.

It's believed 10 men, six women and 12 children lived at the site in three to five separate campsites. Most of the adults died; most of the children eventually were rescued. The other members of the party were at separate camps.

Archaeological digs by University of Nevada, Reno teams at the lake camp in 1984 and the Alder Creek site in 1990-93 unearthed 1840s artifacts, but provided few answers to Donner mysteries.

Schablitsky said the recent inquiry builds on the work of UNR archaeologist Donald L. Hardesty and takes advantage of new technology.

"Ten years ago, we didn't have the technology we have today," she said. "Ground-penetrating radar wasn't common and DNA analysis wasn't being used for archaeology. We can do so much more now."

Hardesty said the recent finds bolster his theory that the Donner campsites are in the Alder Creek meadows, but not at the exact spots where tradition says the shelters once stood.

"This absolutely adds more credibility to the interpretation that this is where the Donner families camped," he said. "The artifacts they found are similar to what we found in 1990 and 1993."

"If the fire pit is there, and if the bones with the suspected ax marks turn out to be human, this would be a pretty important find," he said.



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page 2



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NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL

WORLD BRIEFLY

Peace accord in Liberia offers hope

By The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — A peace accord signed by Liberia's government and rebels offered hope of ending 14 years of vicious war and aimed to lead the violence-shattered African nation to elections in two years.

Monday's signing of the accord came in a fast-paced week of momentous events in Liberia, beginning with warlord-president Charles Taylor's resignation and Aug. 11 departure from Liberia under pressure from rebels, West African leaders and the United States.

The accord, signed in Accra, Ghana one week after Taylor's flight into exile, ended a three-year insurgency. It calls for a two-year transition government meant to lead into elections.

The two rebel movements — Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia — signed, along with representatives of Liberia's post-Taylor government.

In Monday's peace deal, rebels and government officials alike waive any claim on the top posts in the interim government — yielding control to noncombatants for the first stretch of rebuilding.

Moses Blah, Taylor's designated successor, is to resign in October to make way for the power-sharing government.

Victims buried, police getting advice

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Two victims of a gunman apparently stalking the Charleston area were buried on the same day authorities said they were getting "good advice" from investigators who helped crack last year's Washington-area sniper spree.

"We have the agents that worked that particular case," Kanawha County Sheriff Dave Tucker said Monday. "They're on board with us and giving us some good advice, which we're following."

The three West Virginia shootings echoed the killings that terrorized Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., last fall.

The three West Virginia shootings happened outside convenience stores, where the victims were hit in the head or neck from at least 30 yards away as they pumped gas, talked on a pay phone or paid for milk at a walk-up window.

Private funerals were conducted Monday for Jeanie Patton, 31, and Okey Meadows Jr., 26, both of Campbells Creek. They were killed 90 minutes and 10 miles apart Thursday night. Their deaths came four days after Gary Carrier Jr., 44, of South Charleston, was fatally shot while talking on a pay telephone outside a Charleston Go-Mart.

Police have not released the caliber of the weapon or said whether all three fatal shots were fired from the same weapon. No arrests have been made and authorities were sifting through leads.

Ashcroft goes on the offensive with Patriot Act

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General John Ashcroft is launching a campaign-style offensive aimed at countering criticism from leading Democrats and civil liberties advocates about the anti-terrorism Patriot Act.

Following an opening speech Tuesday at a conservative Washington think tank, Ashcroft goes on a road trip Wednesday and Thursday with remarks to law enforcement audiences in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit and Des Moines, Iowa. The first three cities are in states that are key to President Bush's re-election chances.

Among the dozen or so future stops are Salt Lake City and Boston, officials said. The Justice Department is putting up an Internet site to reinforce the pro-Patriot Act message and all 94 U.S. attorneys are being encouraged to hold town hall-style meetings to stress the law's benefits in fighting terrorism.

The central theme is that the Patriot Act deserves a large measure of credit for the failure of terrorists to conduct a major attack on U.S. soil since Sept. 11, 2001. The law was passed by Congress a few weeks after those attacks.

The law has become a political punching bag for the Democratic presidential candidates and other top party members.

Poll shows Americans don't like gay couples

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than half of Americans favor a law barring gay marriage and are opposed to allowing civil unions that could provide gay couples with the same benefits as marriage, an Associated Press poll found.

The survey also indicated presidential candidates could lose the backing of some voters if they support gay marriage or civil unions.

The poll, conducted for the AP by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa., found 52 percent favor a law banning gay marriages, while 41 percent oppose such a law.

About four in 10 — 41 percent — support allowing civil unions, roughly the same level found in an AP poll three years ago. But 53 percent now say they oppose civil unions, up from 46 percent in the earlier survey.

The increase came largely from people who previously were undecided, the poll suggested.

Close to half of those surveyed said they would be less likely to support a presidential candidate who backs civil unions (44 percent) or gay marriage (49 percent), while only around 10 percent said they would be more likely.

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

BASEBALL

■ **ORLANDO, Fla.** — Criminal charges won't be filed against two of Ted Williams' children who were accused by their brother-in-law of forging a note stating the slugger wanted to be frozen after death.

A laboratory analysis of the note determined Williams' signature appears to be genuine and there is no way forgery could be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, concluded Assistant State Attorney Mark Simpson.

He also said the note didn't fall into any category specified by law about which documents can be considered for a criminal forgery charge. In such a case, someone must be injured or defrauded and there was no victim in the Williams complaint, Simpson said.

TENNIS

■ **NEW YORK** — Andre Agassi and Kim Clijsters were seeded No. 1 for the U.S. Open.

Agassi counts the 1994 and 1999 Opens among his eight major titles, while Clijsters is seeking her first Grand Slam victory. They top the current rankings.

The 1998 Open champion, Lindsay Davenport, is No. 3, followed by 2000-01 champion Venus Williams, Amelie Mauresmo and Jennifer Capriati.

After Agassi — at 33, the oldest man ever ranked No. 1 — Wimbledon champion Roger Federer is seeded second, with French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero third, and Andy Roddick fourth.

Neither defending champion is entered for the first time since 1971 (Margaret Smith Court, Ken Rosewall). Pete Sampras hasn't played at all since beating Agassi in last year's final, while Williams' younger sister Serena is out after left knee surgery.

■ **COMMACK, N.Y.** — Michael Chang was ousted from the TD Waterhouse Cup by South African qualifier Rik De Voest.

The 31-year-old Chang, who will close out his career at next week's U.S. Open, was beaten 6-2, 6-3 in the opening round at The Hamlet Golf & Country Club.

Chang, winner of the 1989 French Open for his lone victory in four Grand Slam finals, also was given a wild card into this tournament. He was a finalist here in 1993, but lost to Marc Rosset of Switzerland.

GYMNASTICS

■ **ANAHEIM** — A second Cuban male gymnast defected at the World Championships, joining a teammate who left the Cuban delegation a day earlier.

Charles Leon Tamayo joined teammate Michel Brito Ferrer, whose uncle Ramon Ferrer brought Brito Ferrer to his Los Angeles home Sunday.

ANAHEIM, Calif. — China made its preliminary round look like child's play at the World Gymnastics Championships. And despite completely overhauling the team that won gold two years ago, Romania proved it's again a threat to win a sixth straight title.

The Chinese finished with 148.671 points, taking a half-point lead over the Romanians going into the final round of preliminaries. The United States, which bumbled and fumbled through its prelims, is almost a point back at 147.697.

Russia, the silver medalist at the last three worlds, is fourth.

The top eight teams advance to Wednesday's finals, and the top 12 secure spots in next year's Athens Olympics.

FOOTBALL

■ **DENVER** — The Denver Broncos have given coach Mike Shanahan a three-year contract extension, tying him to the franchise through 2008.

Team spokesman Jim Saccomano confirmed the extension, which was first reported in The Denver Post. He said Shanahan would not be available for comment until the team's evening practice.

■ **ST. LOUIS** — A sideline official was taken off the field on a stretcher after being struck in the left temple by a kicked ball before a preseason game between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and St. Louis Rams.

Marvin Williams, a member of the chain gang, was down for several minutes just outside the 20 after being blindsided by the ball. Among those attending to him were the Rams' team physician and assistant trainer.

The stretcher was used as a precautionary measure, a Rams spokesman said. X-rays of Williams' neck were negative.

BASKETBALL

■ **DALLAS** — The Dallas Mavericks acquired Antawn Jamison in a nine-player trade with the Golden State Warriors.

The Mavericks also got Danny Fortson, Jiri Welsch and Chris Mills from the Warriors for Nick Van Exel, Avery Johnson, Evan Eschmeyer, Popeye Jones and Antoine Rigadeau.

The 6-foot-9 Jamison has averaged 20.2 points a game in his five NBA seasons, and has been the Warriors' top scorer the past four seasons.

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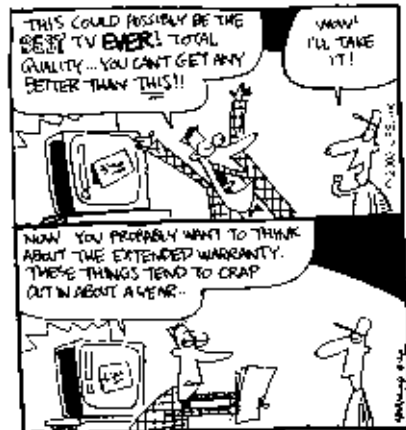
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- 13 Mickey's mult
- 14 Finish
- 15 Admitted an error
- 17 Is furious
- 19 Broker's advice
- 20 Ski resort
- 21 Tantrum
- 22 Wise words
- 24 Cambridge sch.
- 26 Book jacket quote
- 29 Moral no-no
- 30 Seductive look
- 32 Very many
- 34 Swiss peak
- 35 Grinder
- 36 Motherless calf
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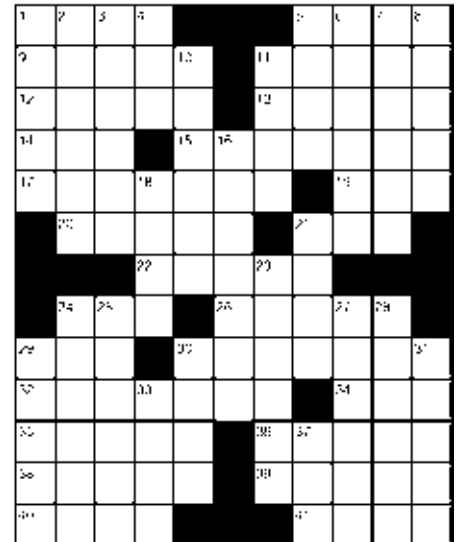
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- 25 Fair

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Yesterday's answer

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- 29 Recap
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SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401
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Houses For Rent

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RESPONSIBLE FEMALE seeking apartment or house to share/rent in Santa Monica North of Wilshire max \$800/mo.(Allergic to Cats).call: (310)902-7656.

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Daily Press Classifieds

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Compiled by Natalia Aivazova

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2003

EVENTS

Appetizers from Italy

Learn how to surprise your guests with the perfect prelude to a meal; the Italian appetizer. Here Venice native Nadia Frigeri will teach you everything you need to know about this small, yet important part of the eating experience.

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Watch a puppet show at the Santa Monica Puppet and Magic Center. This is a great place to take the kids and to unwind after a long day.
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(310) 656-0483

CULTURE

The Getty Center

Perched on a mountain top just nine miles from Santa Monica, this museum offers a variety of exhibitions from ancient sculptures to the Impressionism of Monet and Van Gogh. Visitors can also enjoy panoramic views from the many balconies. The museum even offers an introductory

video for first time visitors. Current exhibitions include: "Illuminating the Renaissance: The Triumph of Flemish Manuscript Painting in Europe", Strange Days: Photographs from the Sixties by Winogrand, Eggleston, and Arbus, "Picturing the Natural World", and "The Making of a Medieval Book"
The Getty Center (310) 440-7300
1200 Getty Center Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1679

ENTERTAINMENT

Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate Martinis, a Gingirtini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. Tonight the stage will be packed with Katia Morales and Diana Moreira at 9:45, Renni Flores and the Swinguiera Baiana at 10:45 followed by Badaue at 11:45. Admission is \$10.

1026 Wilshire blvd. Santa Monica
(310) 393-6611

Harvelle's

The oldest Blues club on the Westside Harvelle's has been in service since 1931. Though the club is famous for its blues it plays everything from R&B to Funk. Here you can find a little bit of the "Big Easy" near the Pacific ocean. Tonight Gary Primich will perform on the Harvelle stage.
1432 4th Street Santa Monica CA.
For more information call (310) 395 1676

Zanzibar

Created by the people behind Temple Bar this bar offers a casual and comfortable atmosphere. It has a modest yet fun dance floor and a stage which is often occupied by local bands. Tonight "Cultura" will perform at 10.
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MOVIE °GUIDE

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1332 2nd Street
Whale Rider PG-13 — 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35,
The Magdalene Sisters — 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00,
American Splendor — 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
The Secret Lives of Dentists — 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
All About Eve — Sat&Sun only 11:00 a.m
Songs From the 2nd Floor — Sat&Sun only 11:00 a.m

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Le Divorce PG-13 — 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Swimming Pool R — 1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 10:00
LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS
1441 Third Street Promenade
Freddy vs. Jason R — 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
Grind PG-13 — 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
Seabiscuit PG-13 — 11:00, 2:15, 6:05, 9:10, also 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
American Wedding R — 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
Bad Boys II R 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15
Finding Nemo G — 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:30, 9:55
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life PG-13 — 1:00, 4:00, 7:50, 10:30
Spy Kids 3D: Game Over PG — 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45
Freaky Friday PG — 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Open Range R — 12:20, 3:45, 7:05, 10:20
MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS
1313 Third Street Promenade
Johnny English PG — 11:40, 2:15, 4:40,
The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen PG-13 — 7:00, 9:35 (both p.m.)
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 — 11:45, 3:15, 6:45, 10:10
S.W.A.T. PG-13 — 10:30, 11:00, 1:30, 2, 4:15, 4:45, 7:05, 7:35, 10, 10:35, 12:40
Passionada PG-13 — 11:30, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30,
Uptown Girls PG-13 — 11:15, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50,

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Judge to rule on Streisand's invasion of privacy case

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — A ruling on whether online photos of Barbra Streisand's Malibu estate violate the entertainer's privacy is expected at a later date, a lawyer in the case said.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Allan Goodman had promised a decision by Monday. Attorneys in the dispute between Streisand and photographer Kenneth Adelman completed closing arguments in the case last month.

Adelman's attorney, Richard Kendall, said the judge may fax his decision to attorneys later. The judge's clerk gave no indication when the ruling would come.

Streisand filed a \$10 million lawsuit against Adelman in May. The 61-year-old singer claimed the retired Silicon Valley entrepreneur has potentially worsened an existing problem with stalkers by posting photos of her estate on the Internet. The photos allegedly include details that aren't visible from a public vantage point.

Adelman says he posts the photos, taken from a private helicopter, for scientific research on the coastline. He has posted more than 12,000 photos on his California Coastal Records Project Web site.

■ **MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich.** — Lawyers for Eminem asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit alleging that the rap superstar slandered a former schoolmate in one of his songs.

Macomb County Circuit Judge Deborah Servitto said Monday that she'd read arguments from both sides before deciding how to proceed with the lawsuit DeAngelo Bailey filed in 2001.

Attorneys said they expected the judge to rule within

several weeks, according to reports in Tuesday's Detroit Free Press and The Macomb Daily.

Bailey, a 32-year-old sanitation worker, seeks \$1 million from Eminem, 30, whose real name is Marshall Mathers III. He alleges Eminem slandered him in the song "Brain Damage" from his 1999 disc "The Slim Shady LP."

The lyrics include: "I was harassed daily by this fat kid named DeAngelo Bailey. An eighth-grader who acted obnoxious, 'cause his father boxes. So every day he'd shove me into the lockers."

Bailey's lawyer, Byron Nolen, denied during Monday's hearing that his client assaulted Eminem.

"When asked if he's ever even touched Mr. Mathers, he (Bailey) has said, 'Well I'm sure I bumped into him' at the school," Nolen said.

Eminem's lawyer, Peter Peacock, said he has police and hospital records that support the rapper's claim he was assaulted.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Former "CHiPs" star Erik Estrada has sued a movie production company for \$75,000, claiming it reneged on paying him when it decided against making a proposed movie.

Estrada, 54, was to have appeared in a movie tentatively titled "Four Corners of the Mafia," which White Tiger Films was going to produce, according to the Los Angeles Superior Court lawsuit.

He was to have received \$25,000 a day for three days' work, regardless of whether the movie was made, according to the lawsuit filed Monday.

The "pay or play" provision is standard in many actors' contracts to prevent them from losing income

after committing to a failed film project.

White Tiger Films told Estrada on July 25 that the movie would not be made, but has not "honored contractual responsibilities," the lawsuit says.

White Tiger Films couldn't be reached for comment. There was no phone listing for the company in Los Angeles and a Sacramento-area number on its Web site was disconnected.

Estrada, who starred in the 1977-83 NBC series about the California Highway Patrol, also is popular for his appearances on a Spanish-language soap opera called "Two Women."

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Olivia Newton-John has postponed a Thursday concert at the Greek Theatre to be with her ailing mother in Australia.

The singer flew to Melbourne to join family members at her mother's bedside Monday, according to a spokeswoman for Nederlander Concerts, which operates the Greek.

The Greek Theatre show will be rescheduled.

There was no information on the health of her mother, Irene Newton-John, the daughter of Nobel Prize-winning physicist Max Born.

Newton-John's show at Sandia Casino in Albuquerque on Tuesday also has been canceled. She's scheduled to wrap up her summer tour Aug. 29 in Jacksonville, Ore.

The 54-year-old singer successfully battled breast cancer in the 1990s. Her hits include "I Honestly Love You," "Hopelessly Devoted to You" and "Physical." She co-starred with John Travolta in the 1978 hit movie "Grease."

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