

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

THIS WEEK IS SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT WEEK

DAILY LOTTERY

1 32 36 42 53
Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: \$114M

24 41 43 44 46
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$9M

1 3 11 20 21

MIDDAY: 0 6 6
EVENING: 4 6 8

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:42:36

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **PEDOPHILES FIGHT BACK:** (1) Phillip Distasio, 34, told a judge in Cleveland in August (in preparation for his September trial on 74 charges) that he's been a pedophile for 20 years, that what he does can be therapeutic for the child, and that it's part of his Arcadian Fields Ministries religion, of which he is a friar. (2) Three men in the Netherlands announced in May that they have formed the Charity, Freedom and Diversity party and will field candidates for office, advocating freedom to be naked in public and a reduction in the age of consent for sex to 12. The new party, said one, will give them "a voice." "(P)oliticians can only talk about us in a negative sense."

■ James Filson was fired as a Big Ten conference football referee in 2005, following a reporter's disclosure that, after a bad accident and the installment of a prosthetic, Filson had been officiating games with one eye. Filson filed a lawsuit in July, pointing out that he had been refereeing well enough for the previous four years that no one noticed his condition, but the conference said that, now that the word is out, he would be a magnet for criticism on close calls.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What if nothing exists and we're all in somebody's dream? Or what's worse, what if only that fat guy in the third row exists?"

WOODY ALLEN (1935 -)

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UP AND UP

District test scores exceed state average

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS — Santa Monica-Malibu students once again proved they are among California's elite, scoring well above the statewide average on standardized tests for the second consecutive year, according to data released by the California Department of Education.

The district's Academic Performance Index, or API — which measures students' proficiency in English and math — climbed 11 points over last year's score to reach a new high of 817. The numeric index ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000. The statewide target for all schools is 800.

Schools across the district also reached targets set by No Child Left Behind, a sweeping federal education law that requires schools to improve student achievement annually or face consequences for several consecutive years of failure. Such consequences can include the transfer of students to other schools in the district and a complete reorganization of the administration and faculty at a campus.

"There's no doubt, Santa Monica-Malibu's growth ... is simply remarkable," said Superintendent Dianne Talarico.

Nine of the district's schools are now scoring above the 800 mark, with four SMMUSD schools — Franklin, Point Dume, Roosevelt and Webster — scoring above 900.

However, when dissected, the API scores reveal not all schools, nor all students, fared as well as others. At Will Rogers Elementary and John Adams

See **TEST SCORES**, page 12

Back in session

ANTICIPATION: Excitement, anxiety mark first day of school

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

LINCOLN BOULEVARD — Nancy Cruz walked quickly up the street toward Roosevelt Elementary School Wednesday, her eyes wide with excitement and anticipation for the start of the new school year — and she's not even a student.

"I'm ecstatic," said Cruz, who held her 9-year-old son Carlos' hand tightly as they passed scores of other parents — some with video cameras

— who were walking their children to school. "It's great to be getting back to the routine, getting him back in school. It was really fun getting him ready, buying him new school clothes. It brings back a lot of memories."

The first day of school can often be a bittersweet moment for parents and their children.

It's a day that many look forward to with so much anticipation that they can hardly sleep the night before — a chance to reunite with

friends and colleagues, start fresh and engage in new activities.

"I'm very happy," said Antonia Fuller, an energetic 8-year-old with blue streaks in her blonde hair who was sipping proudly on an iced mocha — her first coffee drink. "I get to see my friends, my teachers ... I'm not nervous at all."

However, the first day back in the classroom can also be a depressing time for those who can't let go of the

See **BACK TO SCHOOL**, page 9



FIRST-DAY JITTERS Nancy Cruz walks hand-in-hand with her 9-year-old son, Carlos, on Wednesday, the first day back at school for more than 11,000 Santa Monica-Malibu students. It was Carlos' first day at Roosevelt Elementary School. "I'm a little nervous," he said.

Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

Coroner: Man shot by police died almost instantly

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — A 21-year-old man who on Monday morning was shot and killed by Santa Monica Police officers after he reportedly turned toward them with a gun in

his hand died instantly from multiple gunshot wounds, according to a preliminary autopsy report released Wednesday by the Los Angeles County Coroner.

Lt. Fred Corral, a spokesman for the coroner's office, said it appears that there were multiple gunshot

wounds to more than one part of Christopher Hunter's body. While the preliminary report didn't contain information on the location or number of the wounds, witnesses to the shooting said they heard at least six shots fired.

Hunter, who lived in Los Angeles,

was pronounced dead at the scene.

A more detailed report, which will include the trajectory of the bullets fired into Hunter, is expected in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles

See **SHOOTING**, page 12

Izzy says,
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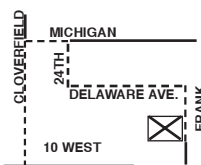
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Horoscopes

2

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2006

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TAURUS: Be with people

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★DYNAMIC ★★★★★ POSITIVE ★★★ AVERAGE ★★SO-SO ★DIFFICULT



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ While trying to stay clear of today's active Full Moon and Lunar Eclipse, you could see situations far differently. That fact might be A-OK, though a consequent change of attitude could shake others up. Know what you are creating. Take responsibility. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Events involve friends and loved ones. During next week, and in a month, you could view your relationships much differently. The bottom line is that what you might think is happening could be a totally different tale once you hear the other side. Tonight: Be with people.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Take charge and walk forward. You have a lot to be proud of, though often you don't give yourself credit. Think positively and step up to the plate. Establish your strengths and look at the possibilities. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Be willing to seek out answers and find solutions. You can have a different approach. Allow your creativity to flourish and come forth. Enjoy yourself as only you can. Listen to what others are saying. There is wisdom here. Tonight: Try a different approach.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Work with a partner, even if you don't agree with a developing money situation. Think in terms of gains, though at the moment you might have difficulty visualizing what that looks like. Trust in events and your intuitive ability. Tonight: Work with a partner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ An eclipse in your opposite sign allows for impending and needed changes to take place. Communication remains an important part of your interactions. Don't allow someone to slip by the wayside. Tonight: Observe.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Fatigue earmarks your actions. Understand that you might need to revamp your patterns and habits. Start building for the long run. Think carefully about what is happening. Evaluate news with an eye to processing. Tonight: Take care of yourself first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Your imagination will never leave you, though there are times when it can cause you a problem or limit your sense of reality. Think positively, and you will draw a very special opportunity. Tonight: Live it up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ You might need to deal with basics. You, as well as those around you, might be well-intended. Know when to say no. Extremes take you in a new direction, whether you want to go or not. Be sensible in the face of craziness. Tonight: Head home before you run into a problem.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your style of communicating could be subject to variety and change. What you thought was a given could radically change in the next few weeks. Don't try to hold on to what is untenable. Tonight: Meet a pal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Deal with your finances with kid gloves. You can see a situation in a different light when you get more information. Know what you can change. Think positively about someone you deal with a lot. Tonight: Gather your bills and pay them before you take on any more expenses.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You are personality plus and have difficulty dealing with many different people. You might want to reverse gears or do something totally different. Recognize that you are changing radically. Think positively. Tonight: Spontaneity is the name of the game.

BORN TODAY Singer **Buddy Holly** (1936), artist **Grandma Moses** (1860)

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bag your old computer

By Daily Press staff

Youth volunteers from the American Red Cross of Santa Monica will be collecting old electronics — stereos, television sets, telephones, computers and more — at the Wild Oats Natural Marketplace, 1425 Montana Ave. at 15th Street in Santa Monica, Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Consumer electronic recyclables will be collected in association with California Recycles, a private electronic waste management company. There is no charge to the public; however, a portion of the proceeds obtained from the electronic recycling will benefit Santa Monica Red Cross youth programs.

Recent changes in state law prohibit the disposal of old and used electronics, including batteries, in the trash. Consumer electronic items including electronic office equipment must be disposed of properly including recycling.

Items that can be recycled include CRT monitors and television sets, regular and cellular telephones, phone answering machines, cell phones and accessories.

Stereo equipment including loudspeakers, tape and cassette players and recorders, DVD and VCR players, computers and computer peripherals, scanners and fax machines, batteries, printer cartridges, audio and video tapes and floppy discs are all recyclable.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica is a publicly supported, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that provides health and safety education, youth services, CPR and first aid training, disaster awareness and disaster relief efforts. For additional information or to inquire about other programs or assistance, call (310) 394-3773 or go online at www.redcrossofsantamonica.org.

Local residents will lobby in support of cancer research

By Daily Press staff

The American Cancer Society named Santa Monica residents Ann Cochran, Vienna Hayes and Jenifer Metz to represent Santa Monica at Celebration on the Hill 2006, a nationwide advocacy event in Washington, D.C.

The trio on Sept. 19-20 will join 10,000 other ambassadors, cancer survivors and volunteers from every congressional district to encourage members of Congress to restore and increase federal funding for lifesaving cancer research and programs. Nearly 200 ambassadors will attend from Los Angeles County.

In 2006, nearly 1.4 million Americans, including 136,875 Californians, will be diagnosed with cancer. Of the estimated 564,830 cancer deaths in 2006 in the United States, 54,300 of them will occur in California. Surveys show that cancer is the No. 1 health concern of Americans.

During Celebration on the Hill, ambassadors will meet with lawmakers to demand that Congress make cancer a national priority by increasing federal funding for the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In addition, they will ask Congress to reauthorize and expand the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program to make it easier for states to reach eligible women who are most in need.

Participants also will converge upon the National Mall around a temporary Relay For Life Wall of Hope memorial constructed of 5,000 banners from each Relay For Life community in the United States to meet other ambassadors and share stories about how their lives have been touched by cancer.

Celebration on the Hill is a project of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). ACS CAN is the society's sister organization, a nonprofit, non-partisan advocacy organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major public health problem through voter education and issue campaigns aimed at influencing candidates and lawmakers to support laws and policies that will help people fight cancer.

Additional information can be found at www.CelebrationOnTheHill.org.



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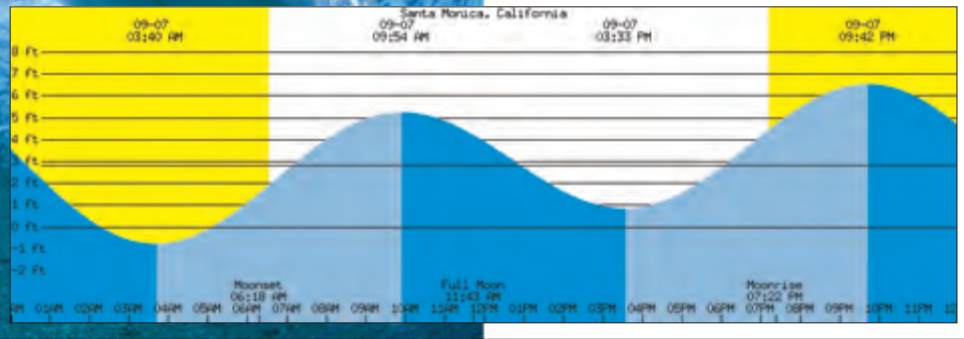
SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 69°**

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)
Southern hemi SW energy begins to build as NW wind swell remains constant. Overall, most all breaks are looking at chest high sets with the cleanest surf along south facing breaks--west facing spots can expect short-period wind swell.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
NW WIND SWELL OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS...
SW SWELL INCREASES LATE IN THE WEEK...
LIGHT SW DUE 11TH-12TH...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



The QLine

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The school year begins this week for public schools in Santa Monica and Malibu. The school district in recent months has gone through several changes, including getting a new superintendent and a few new principals. There are many issues facing public education throughout the state and locally. So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"What do you think are the biggest challenges facing local students and parents? How should they be addressed?"** Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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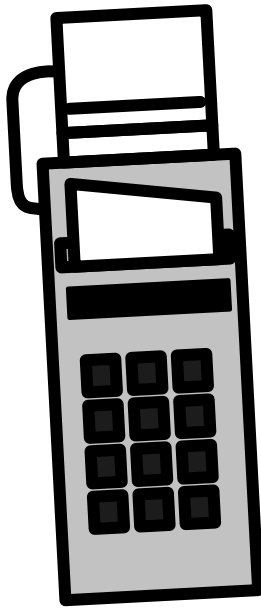
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GUEST COMMENTARY BY KELLY RAYES-HAITT

Being flashed in Fallouja

Back when it was just another angry Iraqi city and months before it became the major flashpoint in US-Iraqi relations, I toured Fallouja.

I was investigating war damage at a water treatment plant there, several weeks after “mission accomplished,” when a man exposed himself to me. He had been brushing close against me as I walked along the narrow sidewalks that separate the water treatment ponds, the folds of his shoulder-to-ankle robe commingling uncomfortably with my long skirt in the 115-degree heat. I pulled my purse in front of me, defensively elbowing space between us.

Later, while we were attentively hearing the water district manager’s searing account of her staff’s heroic efforts to keep the water flowing during the first onslaught of war, this strange man squatted unobtrusively in a doorway, caught my eye and lifted his dishdasha, displaying how Allah had been very, uh, generous to him.

I was shocked! And awed.

Talk about weapons of mass distraction. What’s a white girl in a war zone to do? Being flashed in Fallouja isn’t covered in the human rights’ handbook. I could ignore him. I could give him my number.

I knew from his quietly creepy behavior that he was violating standards. But, do I speak up and risk offending my hosts? Besides, the town was pretty edgy. Later that afternoon, I would be warned that Falloujans had vowed “to kill an American a day” in retaliation for the troops’ gunfire exchange with locals who had taken refuge in a school. Schools are revered in Iraq, and blanketing one with bullets had further ignited this rebellious community.

But, I was always taught that bullies bank on us staying politely silent.

“That man exposed himself to me!” I pointed to the man as stiffly as he had to me.

My male translator looked at me, confused. This gentle man, whose religious practice kept him from even touching a member of the opposite gender, repeated something in Arabic to the water treatment workers gathered around us. Meanwhile, the exhibitionist had lowered his dishdasha and skulked out.

Well, I had no idea I would cause such a stir. Workers ran after the man, mortified that his aberrant behavior might reflect on them. They made such a fuss with their apologies, I began to feel guilty.

“It was no big deal,” I offered, rolling my eyes. “Really, it was no big deal,” I lied.

I guess one of the men understood English, because he burst out laughing, breaking the tension.

We lose so much in war, and humor is right there with truth and humanity among the first casualties. Standing there in battle-scarred Fallouja, a stranger and I started the rebuilding by bonding over a worn pun.

I learned that when we rebuild our humor and speak out, what really gets exposed is our humanity.

Let’s call the White House.

(Kelly Rayes-Haitt is a Santa Monica resident and runs a local public relations firm.)

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

Big Brother and Google are listening to all of us

“The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. Any sound Winston made, above the level of a very low whisper, would be picked up by it.”

George Orwell, 1984

In George Orwell’s vision of the future, Big Brother was always watching and the Thought Police were always listening. Little did Orwell realize when his futuristic book was published in 1949 that his conception of an eavesdropping technology would one day become a reality.

Yet if Google succeeds in its pursuit of a new Internet technology that would enable your computer to “listen” to what’s being watched on your TV, that reality may happen sooner than you like. The prototype software for the ambient-audio identification technology, which was described in a research paper presented by Google officials earlier this year, would be a boon for marketers and advertisers.

According to Technology Review, the new technology “uses a computer’s built-in microphone to listen to the sounds in a room. It then filters each five-second snippet of sound to pick out audio from a TV, reduces the snippet to a digital ‘fingerprint,’ searches an Internet server for a matching fingerprint from a pre-recorded show, and, if it finds a match, displays ads, chat rooms or other information related to that snippet on the user’s computer.”

The idea is that Google would be able to attract more advertisers by providing them with direct access to consumers’ wants. As the Technology Review article explains, “Nicole Kidman fans, for instance, might enjoy knowing what dress she’s wearing on a broadcast of “Extra!” or where they can buy a similar outfit. Or ads for Cooper Minis might appear whenever the car showed up in TV rebroadcast of The Italian Job.”

Recognizing that this new technology will cause a flood of privacy concerns, Google insists that the only information revealed from your listening computer would be your TV-watching preferences. In fact, according to Google, the “fingerprinting technology” used to monitor your TV watching makes it impossible to eavesdrop on other sounds in the room such as personal conversations. But do they really think we are that naïve?

Google’s track record when it comes to protecting freedom has not been all that stellar. Lest we forget, it was Google that agreed to censor its search services in China in order to gain greater access to China’s fast-growing market. However, this agreement to restrict access to thousands of sensitive terms and Web sites means that Google is collaborating with an authoritarian regime to further repress the Chinese people.

The reality is that Google’s listening apparatus is merely the latest in a series of yet-to-be revealed invasive snooping

devices. Indeed, using a personal computer to listen in on your TV habits is only a small step away from audio software that can record your living room small talk or, even worse, webcams that would videotape everything that goes on in the comfort of your own home.

Make no mistake about it: This is a privacy nightmare. And it is especially true in light of AOL’s recent security breakdown that resulted in the accidental release of more than 600,000 of its members’ search records.

Moreover, it is widely believed that existing Internet software already puts Google and other search engines in your living room today. As Technology Review points out, “Google probably already knows what search terms you use, what Web pages you’re viewing, and what you write about in your e-mail.”

Danny Sullivan, the editor of Search Engine Watch, an observer of the various search engine providers, confirms this. He notes that search engines retain records detailing all the Web sites that people visit, along with the search terms they use to find the Web sites. Even more troubling, these search terms and Web sites are directly traceable to you, the user.

Yet despite the modern capabilities of search engines to delve into Americans’ psyches by monitoring their Internet search habits, recording sounds from one’s living room raises the bar. This is especially true considering the skill of modern computer hackers.

“Pretty soon the security industry is going to find a way to hijack the Google feed and use it for full on espionage,” one commentator observed, adding, “We should think that ‘spyware’ might take on an extra meaning if someone less scrupulous decided on a similar piece of software.”

Perhaps the most frightening aspect of this technology is that it comes at a time when government agencies are attempting to find as many ways as possible to eavesdrop on citizens, including demanding the search records of Internet users. For example, in 2005, the White House attempted to subpoena the search records of millions of Americans, including those used by Google. And, of course, this is in addition to government attempts to bypass laws designed to protect Americans’ private phone calls.

In an era marked by stealthy and vaguely ominous attempts to detect and stamp out perceived terrorists, the government will only become more aggressive in its efforts to eavesdrop on Americans through their phones and computers.

So the next time you start flipping through television channels, you may need to worry more about who is listening in on you than what you are watching.

(Constitutional attorney and author **John W. Whitehead** is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.)

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Intel Corp. restructuring displeases investors wanting deeper cuts

BY JORDAN ROBERTSON
Associated Press Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. — When Intel Corp. Chief Executive Paul Otellini announced an exhaustive review of the company's unprofitable divisions in April, rumors began swirling about scorched-earth job cuts to reverse sinking profits.

But the restructuring plan unveiled Tuesday by the world's largest chip maker — including the elimination of 10,500 jobs, or about 10 percent of Intel's work force — failed to please investors.

Intel shares fell 68 cents, or 3.4 percent, to close at \$19.31 Wednesday on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

Chip industry experts say the bruising was fueled by increased skepticism and a lack of clarity about Intel's strategy to boost profits and win back market share from smaller rival Advanced Micro Devices Inc.

"People don't think it's enough," said Nathan Brookwood, an analyst with the research firm Insight 64. "They were expecting bigger cutbacks and other changes in terms of writing off some inventories that could be a problem for the company over the next quarter or two, and none of those were addressed. It's a good start, but I don't know if this is going to be enough to solve Intel's problems."

The move was the largest streamlining maneuver yet by Otellini, who became chief executive in May 2005 and oversees a com-

pany whose head count had swollen to more than 100,000 workers around the world.

He inherited a thorny challenge: The near-monopoly Intel had enjoyed in its core business — making the chips that function as the brains of computers — was dissolving under pressure from AMD.

Many of AMD's advances came during the tenure of former Intel CEO Craig Barrett, when the company was criticized for being too slow to react to the 2003 launch of AMD's critically acclaimed Opteron and Athlon 64 chips for servers and desktop PCs.

AMD slowly began gaining market share, and over the past year has taken about 5 percent of Intel's share of the combined market for server and PC chips, according to Mercury Research.

Intel still holds a commanding lead with about 72.9 percent of that market. But Eric Ross, an analyst with ThinkEquity Partners, said the company is expected to continue losing ground.

"Paul Otellini has been dealt a bad hand, and whether he's a good CEO or not, we'll be able to tell that in five years," Ross said. "They fell behind AMD in a big way, and that's why they're having problems."

Analysts were reluctant to blame any executive specifically for Intel's problems, noting that the company led for many years by management icon Andy Grove has endured large but strategic cuts before.

In the mid-1980s, Intel eliminated about 7,000 jobs as it exited a business it helped cre-

ate — making dynamic random access memory chips widely used to store information in computers — to focus on microprocessors.

The company famously avoided layoffs after that. But the dot-com crash did prompt the elimination of about 11,000 jobs — largely through attrition and buyouts — in less than two years. Head count was reduced to about 79,000 in 2002, then ballooned to about 103,000 this year.

In April, Otellini said the company was undertaking a comprehensive review of staffing levels and money-losing business groups across all of its operations.

Later in the summer, Intel announced the layoff of about 1,000 managers, and the elimination of about 2,000 jobs through the sale of two underperforming divisions.

Including those positions, a total of 5,000 jobs have already been eliminated or will be cut this year as part. Those are included in the 10,500 cuts announced this week.

But analysts predicted that as many as 5,000 more unannounced jobs cuts could come this year through the sale of underperforming business groups.

One possible target for sale or spinoff is the division that makes so-called NOR flash chips, a type of memory that stores information in cell phones.

Flash memory chips are invaluable in mobile devices because they retain data even after the device is turned off.

Intel has bet big on NOR flash technology, but analysts have criticized the unit's disap-

pointing returns as wireless companies have gravitated toward a cheaper but less effective type of memory known as NAND flash.

NAND is the type of memory used in the hottest consumer electronics from iPods to digital cameras and other portable gadgets.

Though vowing to stick by its NOR flash division, Intel itself signaled a shift toward NAND development with a partnership announced in November 2005 with Boise-based Micron Technology Inc. to produce the memory chips.

Dean McCarron, an analyst at Mercury Research, said Intel likely wanted to give investors concrete data about its restructuring before announcing any sale or spinoff plans.

"Intel's preference is to give investors very tangible information — they don't want to be too aggressive," he said. "The cuts are very focused and targeted in areas where they think they can withstand some reductions. This is kind of a stake in the ground in how they're managing things."

Analysts said they were pleased by the higher-than-expected savings the job cuts were expected to generate — about \$3 billion annually by 2008. But many expressed disappointment about the lack of clarity on a larger strategy.

"People are looking for a clearer description of the direction the company's headed — how they are going to compete in the future, the focus on the bottom line," said Doug Freedman, an analyst with American Technology Research.

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Google expands online news index, channels

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Google Inc. is expanding its online news index to include stories published years ago, continuing the Internet search leader's recent efforts to create new sales channels for long-established media while it strives to make its own Web site even more useful.

The news archive to be unveiled Wednesday includes old articles provided by a long list of media, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Time magazine and The Washington Post.

Other leading information storehouses like LexisNexis, Factiva and HighBeam, also have opened up sections of their databases to Google's expanded index.

Until now, Google's 4-year-old news search service has focused primarily on stories posted on the Web during the past 30 days.

The new archives feature will only share excerpts from stories related to users' requests, which are expected to range from seminal moments in history to minutiae about sports and science.

To see the full stories, Google's visitors will be sent to the Web sites that own the content. Those referrals figure to provide media outlets with more opportunities to charge for access to the full stories — a common practice when people want to read historical information.

"This is going to be a very good thing for

us," said Vivian Schiller, senior vice president and general manager of NYTimes.com. "There is a tremendous hunger out there for our archives."

Google won't collect any commissions for the sales referrals, hoping instead to make money indirectly from increased usage of its own site — the hub of a vast advertising network that accounted for most of the company's \$1.3 billion profit during the first half of this year.

The arrangement marks Google's latest attempt to demonstrate the value of its search engine to the traditional media, a segment that has sometimes railed against the Mountain View-based company for profiting from the display of content owned by others.

The friction triggered a copyright infringement lawsuit by one major news organization, Agence France-Presse, which is seeking at least \$17.5 million in damages. Google has denied the allegations.

Signs of a more cordial relationship with major media have emerged during the past month as Google announced separate business deals with The Associated Press and Viacom Inc.'s MTV Networks. The search engine also is aggressively promoting a video service that allows television networks and movie studios to sell content.

The news archive service represents "a perfect example of how we can work with content providers to realize their business goals," said Jim Gerber, Google's content partnerships director.

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Vintner uses aloe vera to give grapes a spritz

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

RUTHERFORD — Grapes that get too much sun face the same problems as humans. Tan today; wrinkle tomorrow.

Which is why winemaker Aaron Pott, taking a cue from sun-worshippers, has started spraying his grapes with a compost "tea" that includes small amounts of aloe vera and yucca, known for their abilities to soothe over-sunned skin.

The result has been vines that came through the intense bursts of heat that hit California this summer largely unscathed, says Pott, winemaker at the Quintessa winery in the Napa Valley.

Quintessa also uses conventional forms of heat relief, such as managing the "canopy" — the way leaves are trained to grow, determining how much shade the grapes will get — and misting vines with cool water at critical times.

The compost teas are part of an approach

known as biodynamics, a type of farming that bans use of artificial pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, and promotes crop and wildlife diversity to curb pests.

The creator of biodynamics, Austrian philosopher Rudolph Steiner, didn't know much about California summers, but his work did give Pott and his colleagues the idea of working with drought-tolerant plants.

The theory is that if a plant is resistant to problems like drought or insects "there's something in that plant that causes that resistance. So you just take that, you make a tea out of it and spray it on whatever you want that you want to have that resistance, and you often get that very resistance because of some unknown quality in that plant," said Pott. "We're really just hitting the tip of the iceberg with these kind of treatments."

The vines aren't lathered up like a wrinkle-phobic lifeguard. Rather, Pott uses about two to three ounces of yucca per acre and about four to five ounces of aloe vera gel per

acre, each mixed in with a compost spray. Because the spray is so diluted, by the time grapes are picked there's no residue.

Pott isn't aware of anyone else giving grapes a spritz of sunscreen and other farming experts said it sounded like a first to them, too. So it's unknown whether the same methods can be applied to other sun-sensitive crops, like tomatoes.

Still, growers have taken a number of steps to beat the heat, particularly with extra irrigation, said Dave Kranz, spokesman for the California Farm Bureau.

"Just as humans are encouraged to stay hydrated during warm weather, the same is true for plants," he said.

California saw hundreds of millions in farm losses during the summer heat spike, although the majority was livestock. The true extent of crop losses won't be known until harvest — for instance, you have to crack open a walnut to see if it's ruined.

Overall, it was a wild weather year, starting out with a mild winter, a cold and rainy

spring and then a July heat wave.

The fluctuating weather created some headaches for vintners because vines shut down during the extreme heat, meaning they stopped growing for a while which delayed harvest.

Usually, the harvest for sparkling wine grapes — picked at lower sugar levels — starts in mid-August or even earlier. But this year, many sparkling wine producers waited until month's end.

"You're not going to stand by the vines with your arms crossed saying, 'Hurry up,'" said Craig Roemer, winemaker at Schramsberg, a Calistoga producer of high-end sparkling wines.

Roemer called the grape sunscreen idea novel, adding "if it works, kudos to them."

And he had something good to say about the quirky weather, too.

"If every year was the same, we'd be better off making wine on the computer," he said. "The fact that every year is different makes this that much more exciting."

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Local campuses buzz on the first day back

BACK TO SCHOOL, from page 1

summer and the fun they had frolicking free. Gone are the lazy days of August, replaced by hectic September afternoons filled with soccer practice and homework — even on the first day.

“I’ve got to write a letter to my teacher explaining what kind of student I am,” said Dorion Smith, 16, a junior at Santa Monica High School, who not only has to deal with day-to-day assignments but also must prepare for the SATs and college applications.

“It can be kind of overwhelming, especially on the first day because it’s syllabus day, and that’s when you see all the work that’s ahead of you for the rest of the year,” said True Shields, a junior at Samohi who has the added pressure of looking out for his younger brother Zane, a freshman.

“I didn’t see him all day,” the younger Shields said with a smile.

“Yeah, as soon as we got on campus, he kind of disappeared,” junior Wyatt Henry said of the elder Shields.

Despite all the fears about hazing, Zane Shields said his first day at the district’s largest school was pretty uneventful. He was able to navigate his way around the halls without

much trouble and hooked up with friends from John Adams Middle School. He’s already staked out a spot to eat lunch — a priority for any teen.

“The transition’s been pretty cool,” he said. “It’s definitely a big campus, but so was John Adams.”

Speaking of transition, freshmen aren’t the only ones finding their way on campus. Samohi said hello to several fresh faces this year, from the principal and chief educational officer, Hugo Pedroza, to a new batch of faculty members.

Pedroza was so busy on the first day that by 6:30 p.m. he was still walking the campus trying to find ways to “make it cleaner.”

“It’s been a pretty hectic day, just trying to get things together,” said Pedroza, a former principal at Manual Arts High School.

To prepare, administrators and teachers spent weeks before the schoolhouse doors opened purchasing supplies, cleaning their classrooms and holding meetings to devise a

plan of action.

“All of our teachers have been working hard to get ready. They’re just so happy to have their kids back,” said Martha Duran-Contreras, principal at John Muir Elementary School for the last four years. “The first day of school is like New Year’s for us because it’s a brand new year, a chance to make a fresh start, to put our best foot forward. I have full expectation that this will be a happy new year for us.”

Principals and students aren’t the only ones who experienced a little back-to-school excitement. Administrators in the district’s main office couldn’t help but run out to school sites themselves to lend a hand.

“It’s sort of a rush seeing all the kids come back. You know it’s crunch time,” said Maureen Bradford, director of educational services for the district. “On the first day, we don’t just sit in the office. We go out to the school sites and help out in any way we can, answering phones, pulling yard duty. It gives us a chance to get to be with the kids.”

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Expo Line Construction Meeting Sept. 13

Construction activities along Flower Street for building the 9-mile Exposition Light Rail Line from Downtown LA to Culver City will be discussed at a community meeting Wednesday, September 13 at the Felices Dias Adult Center, 2309 S. Flower Street from 6:30-8:30pm. For more information, visit buildexpo.org.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

IRS announces standard amounts for telephone tax refunds

By Daily Press staff

The Internal Revenue Service has announced the standard amounts that most long-distance customers can use to figure their telephone tax refund. The amounts, which range from \$30 to \$60, will enable millions of individual taxpayers to request the telephone tax refund without having to dig through old phone bills.

In general, anyone who paid the long-distance telephone tax will get the refund on their 2006 federal income tax return. This includes individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. The 2006 return is usually filed during 2007.

The standard amounts are based on the total number of exemptions claimed on the 2006 federal income tax return. The standard amounts are \$30 for a person filing a return with one exemption, \$40 for two exemptions, \$50 for three exemptions and \$60 for four or more exemptions. For example, a married couple filing a joint return with two dependent children — for a total of four exemptions — will be eligible for the maximum standard amount of \$60.

“The easiest way for eligible taxpayers to get their money back is to use the standard amounts,” said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. “These amounts save taxpayers from locating 41 months of old phone bills and analyzing these bills to determine the taxes paid. We believe the standard amounts are both reasonable and fair.”

To get the standard amount, eligible taxpayers only need to fill out one additional line on their regular 2006 return. The IRS is creating a special short form (Form 1040EZ-T) for those who don’t need to file a regular return.

The standard amounts are based on actual telephone usage data and the standard amount applicable to a family or other household reflects the long-distance phone tax paid by similarly sized families or households. Those who paid the long-distance tax on service billed after Feb. 28, 2003, and before Aug. 1, 2006, are eligible for a refund.

Only individuals can use the standard amounts. Alternatively, individual taxpayers can choose to figure their refund using the actual amount of tax paid.

Details on requesting the telephone tax refund will be included in all 2006 tax return materials and on irs.gov.

Though businesses and nonprofits must base their telephone tax refund on the actual amount of tax paid, the IRS is looking for ways to make the refund process easier for taxpayers. The IRS is considering an estimation method businesses and nonprofits may use for figuring the tax paid.

“Businesses and nonprofits generally have more varied usage patterns than individuals do,” Everson said. “We’ve met with a number of business and nonprofit groups to understand their concerns, and we plan to continue to work with them to come up with a reasonable method for estimating telephone excise tax refund amounts.”

Comments and suggestions for simplifying the refund process for businesses and nonprofits should be e-mailed to Telephone.Tax@irs.gov. The deadline for these comments is Sept. 15, 2006.

Local college granted \$1.2M in economic development grants

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College has announced that it has received two economic development grants totaling \$1.2 million to develop a program to train workers in the ever-expanding field of logistics — the global movement of goods and services — and in health care.

The two grants of \$600,000 each were awarded by the California Community Colleges’ Chancellor’s Office.

The logistics training grant is designed to train 525 workers currently in the declining manufacturing industry — all of whom are facing job loss — in the emerging logistics field, in positions ranging from skip loaders to managers. It also will help those currently in the logistics field to upgrade their skills.

“Santa Monica College is perfectly positioned to provide this training, given our location in a region where logistics is one of the largest employment growth sectors and given our proximity to two of the world’s largest ports and Los Angeles International Airport,” said SMC Provost Marvin Martinez, who oversees the college’s office of workforce and economic development. “These grants demonstrate that SMC is on top of the trends in economic development in this region and is committed to preparing our workforce for excellent jobs in growth industries.”

Under the terms of the grant, the college will work in partnership with several other organizations, including Triangle Network, a logistics corporation in Los Angeles; Los Angeles and Long Beach port agencies; Los Angeles Economic Development Corp.; Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board; Center for International Trade and Development; and Long Beach Workforce Investment Board.

Logistics is the second largest employment sector in the United States and is forecast to continue to grow, according to industry professionals. Organizations spend nearly \$800 billion a year on logistics in the United States, and worldwide more than \$1.4 trillion is spent annually.

Jobs in logistics range from relatively unskilled positions, such as truck drivers, to sophisticated management posts in inventory control, production, warehouse operations and more. Industry officials say the field is particularly rich in offering new management opportunities.

The health care grant will allow SMC and industry partners to implement short-term training activities that enable individuals to enter the health care industry as certified nursing assistants, medical front office clerks, substance abuse counselors and home health aides. Up to 260 participants in the Los Angeles area, with at least 65 being CalWORKS recipients, will receive training. The project will help address the critical workforce shortages throughout California’s health care field.

SMC will work with the following partners on the grant project — Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board; American Caregivers Inc.; California Certification Board of Chemical Dependency Counseling; California Alcohol and Drug Program; and Golden State Adult Day Care Centers.

Teaching kids the value of each dollar



MARKET MATTERS
BY BRIAN HEPP

Among the many responsibilities of adulthood, managing personal finances is one of the most important skills you can learn. Unfortunately, many of us have had to learn this lesson the hard way, without any formal education on the subject. If you want to help give your kids a headstart on the road to financial independence and success, there are many simple tips you can use to get them started early.

This week, in the first of a two-part series, we’ll discuss six easy ways to help your younger children learn about the value of money and investing. In the second part, we’ll go over another six tips, to make it an even dozen. Here are some ideas for you to consider:

■ Introduce kids to dollars and cents. Teach your kids how to count change and help them understand the value of each coin. Explain how to pay for things. For example, if they find a toy at the store that costs \$2.75, show how they would need two \$1 bills plus three quarters to pay for the purchase. You can even let them make the exchange at the check-out counter.

■ Explain the concept of earning money. It’s important for your children to understand how you earn money when you go to work, and also how that money pays for housing, food and the many fun activities your family enjoys. Explain to them the benefits of having a job, and help them appreciate the reason you leave the house each morning.

■ Respect money. To set a good example

for your children, don’t discard pennies or small change. Show them how saving even small amounts of change in a jar can add up to a significant sum. Count it out together every few months and help them pick out something useful they can spend it on.

■ Give your children an allowance. By providing your children with a weekly allowance, you can teach them both how to save money and also how to spend it wisely. You also can tie their allowance to weekly chores done around the house to help them learn the concept of earning their money. It also may be a good idea to pay their allowance in small increments, such as five \$1 bills instead of one \$5 bill. Dividing their money that way can help them see how they can use a portion of the money to spend on things they want, and also how to save a portion of their earnings as well.

■ Help set savings goals to work toward. If your child wants to purchase a video game or a new item of clothing, work with them to figure out ways to save for this goal. If the item costs \$20, help them estimate how much of their allowance they will need to save and how long it will take to save that amount. You also can encourage your child to find ways to make some extra money by picking up additional chores around the house.

■ Match their savings. One way to encourage good habits is by matching a portion of your child’s savings. For example, you could contribute an extra 50 cents for each dollar they put away. Giving them extra incentive can increase their savings more rapidly and teach them good habits at the same time.

(This article was provided by **Brian Hepp** of A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc., Member SIPC. Brian Hepp is a financial consultant and can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com.)

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It's never too soon to start saving

BY NEALE S. GODFREY

Special to the Daily Press

It might seem a little strange to talk to your kids about retirement, but when you consider the pickle many adults are in when it comes to this issue, planning early doesn't sound so crazy.

If someone had talked to us about saving for the future when we were young, things might be different. So don't be afraid to share this important message with your youngsters. With employers eliminating pension plans and Social Security underfunded, the only things your kids will be able to rely on is time and the miracle of compounding interest.

Here's some food for thought: Suppose your kids set aside \$20 a week, or about \$1,000 a year, in a mutual fund that generated 10 percent interest, just from the time they were 15 until they turned 24. If they stopped investing after 10 years, never adding another penny, at the age of 55 they would have \$336,500 — a 3,265 percent return.

The main reason it's important to start saving while you're young is that if you don't, you'll never catch up. Let's say your kids don't start saving for retirement until they get their first real job at 25 years old. Instead of saving for only 10 years, they save \$1,000 a year for 31 years, setting aside a total of \$31,000. They should do better,

right? Wrong. By 55, assuming the same 10 percent compounding rate, they will have just \$200,140 — a 552 percent return. The point? Teach your kids the joys of saving now, no matter how old they are.

You don't have to explain the concept of retirement to your 10-year-old, just help him or her develop the habit of saving. But if your 25-year-old hasn't started saving for retirement, it's time for a serious conversation.

There is no magic number of dollars they should set aside. The income they'll need in retirement will depend on their lifestyle and how long they'll live. Retirement experts recommend you plan to replace at least 80 percent of your pre-retirement income.

Today, retirement income can be described as having three prongs: pensions, Social Security and investment income. The one we have the most control over, and the best place to focus your child, is investing.

But first, let me highlight a conversation you can have with recent college grads who are getting their first job. If their employer offers a retirement plan, advise them to sign up as soon as possible. The small reduction in take-home pay is worth the long-term security. Young adult workers should find out what types of plans are available, when they can sign up and whether the employer makes a matching contribution — which is essentially free money. It's shocking how many new hires don't contribute to their

FINANCIAL Q&A

Q My son's insurance provider is a mutual company. What does that mean?

A A mutual insurance company is owned by its policyholders instead of by shareholders. When a mutual company takes in more money than it needs to cover its costs, it reports a "surplus," which may be returned to policyholders. That money can be used to pay premiums or buy more insurance.

Q The U.S. dollar is popular around the globe. What are the most common bills in circulation?

A In the United States, the \$1 and \$20 bills are the most common. Around the globe, the \$100 bill is the most common.

company plan because they see it as a reduction in their paycheck.

Explain to your young adult that if it's available, a tax-deferred employer-sponsored plan can be a great vehicle for retirement savings. The fact that it's tax-deferred means neither the amount added by the participant nor the interest earned will be taxed until the money is withdrawn — which, hopefully, won't be until your baby is old and gray. Remember, they may be upset that their take-home pay will be reduced. Help them understand that the money is not being "taken away" from them, but merely being set aside for the future. Also, since it's being put in a tax-deferred account, they will be paying less in taxes each pay period.

There are rules on these plans. There will be a limit on the amount they can invest each year. The money is generally not available until the participant is 59 1/2 without having to pay a 10 percent penalty and the applicable taxes. Dipping in early will cost them.

What you need to stress to your kids now, whatever age they are, is the value of long-term investing. There will not be any limits or restrictions on the amounts they can invest or withdraw outside their tax-exempt accounts.

If they do invest in regular taxable investments, the good news is that they've already paid taxes on the money they've invested and they'll pay taxes every year on most of their earnings from that investment. So when they do withdraw the money, there won't be a big tax bite taken from it.

Too soon, you say, to discuss with your kids? Well, for the little ones it may be a bit early for all this tax talk. But it's never too soon to discuss the habit of saving for the future.

(Financial expert Neale S. Godfrey has written 14 books, including "Money Doesn't Grow On Trees" and "Money Still Doesn't Grow On Trees: A Parent's Guide To Raising Financially Responsible Teens and Young Adults." Her special program, "Your Money, Your Children, Your Life," has aired on public television stations. See her Web site www.childrensfinancialnetwork.com.)

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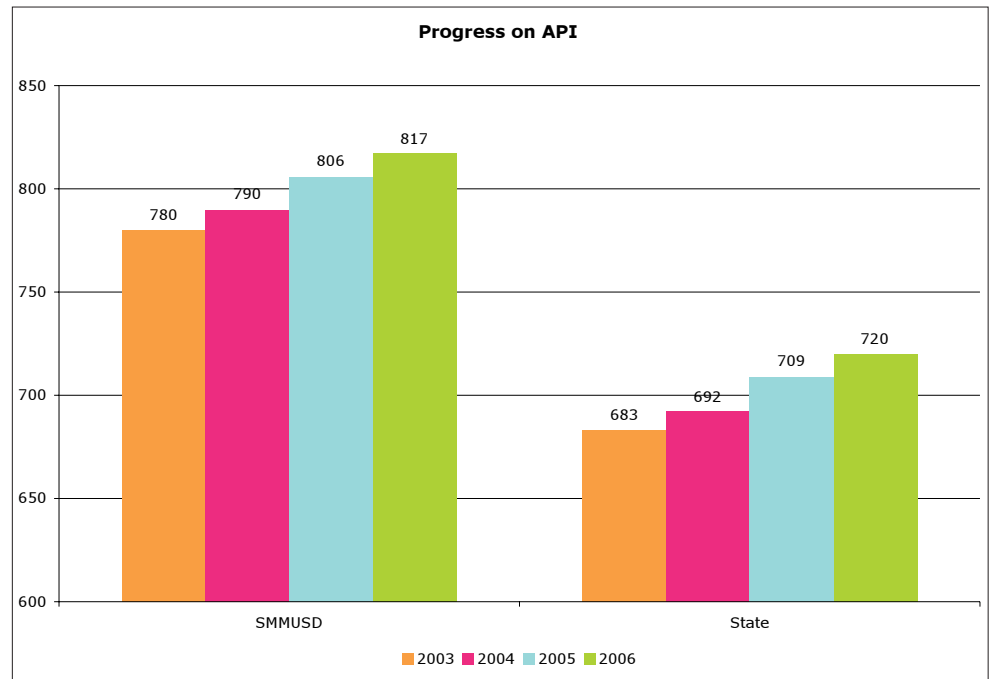
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Achievement gap persists

TEST SCORES, from page 1

Middle schools, scores dropped by four and six points respectively. The current scores — 768 at Rogers and 761 at JAMS — are significantly higher than those registered five years ago. This proves progress is being made despite the recent dip, district officials said.

“We don’t get concerned when a school goes down one year,” said Maureen Bradford, director of educational services for the district. “We expect the scores to fluctuate up and down slightly because we have different groups of kids taking the exams each year. Of course, we want to make sure we are supporting schools and that the decreases don’t become more dramatic.”

Bradford said it is difficult for students to continue posting record numbers as scores are bound to level off.

“Across the state, schools that are achieving at the very high end of the spectrum have seen their growth become less significant, but fortunately for us our schools have continued to climb,” Bradford said.

Compared to other local school districts, Santa Monica-Malibu is faring well. Los Angeles-Unified, the second-largest school district in the nation, averaged an API score of 658, while smaller districts in affluent areas scored much higher. This included an API score of 906 in Manhattan Beach Unified School District.

Santa Monica-Malibu students in all but one sub-group also raised their API scores, some by double digits.

For African-Americans, their API score jumped by 14 points to 692, while the statewide average was 637. For Latinos, their score increased by 17 points to 715. The statewide average is 654. Students with disabilities also posted impressive gains, increasing their score to 606, a 14 point bump.

When compared to white and Asian students, the numbers are not as encouraging. Asian students posted an API score of 903, while white students obtained a score of 875, demonstrating that the achievement gap between particular groups of students is still a reality.

“It’s important to remember that API scores are only one measure,” said Tricia Crane, former chair of the District Advisory Community on Special Education, which advises the school board on issues affecting students with disabilities. “The information brought to the board about the grades of secondary students from the RAND Corp. must be included in a genuine analysis of the complex correspondence between the two. One does not negate the validity and importance of the other.”

The report showed that many Latino male students were receiving failing grades, Crane said.

Bradford said administrators are aware of the struggle many students face and are using every tool at their disposal to help them, including tutoring programs and specialized instruction. District officials are hoping a new database that allows teachers to monitor a student’s progress throughout their entire academic career will help them better tailor their lesson plans and give them a better understanding of which students need help the most and in what areas.

“This will make it very easy for teachers to be able to go back several years and to follow a student once they’ve left,” Bradford said. “Teachers really enjoy that. They work hard with the kids, and they want to see how they are doing.”

The standardized test scores will be used throughout the fall as district officials plan for staff development and additional support for school sites.

I’ll tumble for you



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The Calypso Tumblers perform an acrobatic routine for a crowd in Venice during the Labor Day Muscle Beach Championships on Monday.

Investigation begins

SHOOTING, from page 1

County District Attorney’s Office has assigned a two-person team to investigate the use of deadly force by the SMPD, a standard procedure in all officer-involved shootings.

“Our investigation is solely to determine whether the actions of the police officers involved were criminal,” said Sandi Gibbons, a spokesperson for the DA’s Office. “We are not here to say whether or not it was in policy or out of policy.”

Hunter was shot and killed about 12:30 a.m. Monday a few hundred yards away from Club Twenty Twenty, a popular dance club located on Wilshire Boulevard near 20th Street.

SMPD responded to a report of a fight inside the club. When officers arrived, they were approached by a club patron who said that Hunter had a gun. Officers tried to question Hunter, but he fled on foot, prompting the officers to chase him, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

SMPD officials said a gun was recovered near Hunter’s body.

The DA’s team consists of a lawyer and an investigator who will conduct an independent investigation that will include a report of the incident by the SMPD, Gibbons said.

“We don’t finish ours until they give us their shoot book,” Gibbons said of the pending report.

The investigation is expected to take six weeks.

“If we find the shooting to be criminal and we feel we have the evidence to prove it, we will file a case. However, that would be very rare,” Gibbons said. “We don’t file a lot of those cases.”

Gibbons said it is very difficult to secure a conviction when an officer is charged.

“People trust the police because they are the ones enforcing the law,” she said. “They (police) are the ones who protect people and often they have to use force, and that force can escalate as the threat against them escalates. All that is weighed when we consider whether or not to file.”

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Christmas comes early



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

(Left to right) Jean McNeil Wyner, Evelyn Guerboian and Briana Vasac walk down the catwalk during the Christmas in September Fashion Show-Luncheon on Tuesday, Sept. 5, at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica. The event benefits programs for children of needy families, and the money raised will go toward the distribution of new toys during the holiday season. The fashion show featured new fall fashions for men, women and children from Robinsons May and Macy's. The apparel was modeled by representatives from local community organizations.

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California justices frown on Internet libel lawsuits

BY DAVID KRAVETS

AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Supreme Court is taking a dim view of libel lawsuits against Web site operators who post inflammatory information from other sources.

The justices said during a 60-minute court hearing Tuesday testing the 1996 Communications Decency Act that Congress and other courts have already spoken on the issue. The justices were leaning toward tossing out a lawsuit against a San Diego woman who posted an allegedly libelous e-mail she received on her site's message board.

The widely watched case included briefs from some of the Internet's biggest names, including Amazon.com, America Online Inc., eBay Inc., Google Inc., Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo Inc., all of which took the defendant's side for fear that a ruling against her could also open them up to the same type of liability.

Justice Ming Chin wondered aloud Tuesday whether there was "any contrary legal authority" to support a damages claim against Ilena Rosenthal, a woman's health advocate who runs various message boards and promotes alternative medicine.

The seven justices debated congressional legislation and court decisions that granted Internet service providers and people like Rosenthal immunity from being sued for the content of others' speech.

Unlike newspapers, which are liable for what it prints, Congress treated the Internet much differently, in large part to not hinder the free flow of massive amounts of information available to anyone with Internet access.

"Why shouldn't we leave it for Congress?" Chief Justice Ronald George said.

The court rules within 90 days.

The case concerns a 2004 California lower court decision allowing the case brought by Terry Polevoy, a Canadian doctor, and Stephen Barrett, a Pennsylvania doctor. In 2000, Rosenthal posted an opinion piece from a man whom the doctors also are suing for libel.

The posting contained an account of Polevoy's alleged attempts to cancel an alternative medicine radio show in Canada by using what was described as "scare tactics, stalking and intimidation techniques" against the show's host.

The doctors' attorney, Christopher Grell, said allowing people to post libelous information is absurd. He said the issue intersected free speech and "the right to seek redress from the court." He said letting Rosenthal off the hook would equal "the total sacrifice of a person's good reputation."

Justice Carol Corrigan wasn't moved.

"Isn't the whole point here that the Internet is just different?" she said.

Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar suggested the court's hands were tied by precedent. She said Grell was making "policy arguments" for "Congress to weigh."



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New global warming threat revealed

BY SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — New research is raising concerns that global warming may be triggering a self-perpetuating climate time bomb trapped in once-frozen permafrost.

As the Earth warms, greenhouse gases once stuck in the long-frozen soil are bubbling into the atmosphere in much larger amounts than previously anticipated, according to a study in Thursday's journal *Nature*.

Methane trapped in a special type of permafrost is bubbling up at a rate five times faster than originally measured, the journal said.

Scientists are fretting about a global warming vicious cycle that had not been part of their already gloomy climate forecasts: Warming already under way thaws permafrost, soil that had been continuously frozen for thousands of years.

Thawed permafrost releases methane and carbon dioxide. Those gases reach the atmosphere and help trap heat on Earth in the greenhouse effect. The trapped heat thaws more permafrost, and so on.

"The higher the temperature gets, the more permafrost we melt, the more tendency it is to become a more vicious cycle," said Chris Field, director of global ecology at the Carnegie Institution of Washington. "That's the thing that is scary about this whole thing. There are lots of mechanisms that tend to be self-perpetuating and relatively few that tends to shut it off."

The effect reported in *Nature* is seen mostly in Siberia, but also elsewhere, in a type of carbon-rich permafrost, flash frozen about 40,000 years ago. A new more accurate measuring technique was used on the bubbling methane, which is 23 times more powerful a greenhouse gas than the more prevalent carbon dioxide.

"The effects can be huge," said lead author Katey Walter of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. "It's coming out a lot and there's a lot more to come out."

Another study earlier this summer in the journal *Science* found that the amount of carbon trapped in this type of permafrost — called yedoma — is much more prevalent than originally thought and may be 100 times the amount of car-

bon released into the air each year by the burning of fossil fuels.

It won't all come out at once or even over several decades, but the methane and carbon dioxide will escape the soil if temperatures increase, scientists say.

The issue of methane and carbon dioxide released from permafrost has caused concern this summer among climate scientists and geologists. Specialists in Arctic climate are coming up with research plans to study the effect, which is not well understood or observed, said Robert Corell, chairman of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, a group of 300 scientists.

"It's kind of like a slow-motion time bomb," said Ted Schuur, a professor of ecosystem ecology at the University of Florida and co-author of the *Science* study. "There's these big surprises out there that we don't even know about."

Most of this yedoma is in north and eastern Siberia, areas that until recently had not been studied at length by scientists.

What makes this permafrost special is that during a rapid onset ice age, carbon-rich plants were trapped in the permafrost. As the permafrost thaws, the carbon is released as methane if it's underwater in lakes, like much of the parts of Siberia that Walter studied. If it's dry, it's released into the air as carbon dioxide.

Scientists aren't quite sure which is worse. Methane is far more powerful in trapping heat, but only lasts about a decade before it dissipates into carbon dioxide and other chemicals. Carbon dioxide traps heat for about a century.

"The bottom line is it's better if it stays frozen in the ground," Schuur said. "But we're getting to the point where it's going more and more into the atmosphere."

Vladimir Romanovsky, geophysics professor at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, said he thinks the big methane or carbon dioxide release hasn't started yet, but it's coming. It's closer in Alaska and Canada, which only has a few hundred square miles of yedoma, he said.

In Siberia, the many lakes of melted water make matters worse because the water, although cold, helps warm and thaw the permafrost, Walter said.

ON THE NET
Nature
www.nature.com/nature

Katherine Harris wins GOP nomination to unseat Bill Nelson

BY STEVEN WINE

Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — Shrugging off critics who derided her campaign as spectacularly inept, U.S. Rep. Katherine Harris easily won the GOP nomination for a shot at unseating incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson.

"Tonight I say to Bill Nelson: Come home, Bill. Enough is enough," Harris said Tuesday.

As secretary of state in 2000, Harris oversaw the recount that gave George W. Bush the White House. She became a rising star in the Republican Party, parlaying name recognition into two terms in Congress.

State GOP leaders tried to talk Harris out of running for the Senate, citing fears she would lose to Nelson — a Democrat who had no primary challenger — and spur a large turnout by Democrats in November that would hurt the entire Republican ticket.

In another closely watched race, U.S. Rep. Jim Davis won the Democratic nomination to succeed popular term-limited Gov. Jeb Bush, beating state Sen. Rod Smith. Davis' opponent in November will be Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist, who claimed the Republican nomination.

Harris' campaign was widely ridiculed, even by her own party. Fundraising lagged, her appearance was mocked, staff members kept quitting and she was linked to a corrupt defense contractor.

She won comfortably, thanks to weak opposition and a strong base. Some 2 1/2 hours after the polls closed, the 49-year-old congresswoman arrived at her Tampa campaign headquarters to chants of "We want Katherine."

"It's a great victory because it shows each of us we can overcome adversity to achieve extraordinary victories," Harris said.

With 99 percent of the precincts reporting, Harris had 49 percent of the vote against three relative unknowns. Attorney Will McBride ran second at 30 percent, and retired Navy admiral LeRoy Collins had 15 percent.

Nelson didn't address Harris' win directly but said in a statement that he looked forward to "spending the next six years continuing to fight for the people of Florida in the United States Senate."

Despite a handful of late openings at polling places, the primary appeared to be debacle-free, with no problems reported to rival the troubled elections in 2000 and 2002. Rainy weather in South Florida and other parts of the state was expected to reduce turnout figures.

"The primary election in Florida today ran very smoothly," state Division of Elections spokesman Sterling Ivey said.

The Democratic race for governor tightened in recent days, but Smith fell short in his bid for a come-from-behind victory. Davis dogged Smith about his connections to big sugar, repeatedly pointing out how U.S. Sugar Corp. spent millions of dollars to fund attack ads.

Davis spoke to supporters in Tampa shortly after Smith phoned to concede.

"With all the talk of sugar in the news, let me say how sweet it is," Davis said. "It's time to change direction, and tonight is a new beginning."

Crist campaigned as a champion of consumer causes and the governor's policies — at least when it came to crime, taxes and education. A roar went up in Crist's hotel suite in St. Petersburg when he told family and supporters he'd been declared the winner.

"All I want to be is the people's governor," Crist said, "and they should rest assured that if they elect me in November, no one will fight harder for the people."

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LA prosecutors charge biologist

BY NOAKI SCHWARTZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — To local prosecutors, Robert “Roy” van de Hoek is a plant xenophobe wielding a vendetta and large pruning shears. To supporters of native California shrubs and trees, he’s a martyr.

Once again, he’s in court.

The Los Angeles city attorney’s office says the former park supervisor stalked one of the largest coastal wetlands in Southern California, targeting non-native plants. The slain: a ficus tree and myoporum shrubs, a hearty plant with waxy green leaves.

Now van de Hoek is facing six misdemeanor charges that include cutting down the plants and violating a city code that bans injuring vegetation without permission. Each count could carry jail time and thousands of dollars in fines.

The group van de Hoek advises, the Sierra Club Ballona Wetlands Restoration Committee, can remove myoporum shrubs. Van de Hoek may not, said Frank Mateljan of the city attorney’s office.

“Trimming and landscaping isn’t done without authorization from government agencies,” Mateljan said.

For decades, many Californians saw native flora as dry, brown shrubs and grasses better suited to kindling than a garden. Recently, however, landscape designers both professional and amateur have favored native species, which require minimal water or polluting fertilizer.

Few people get in trouble for their support of native species.

Van de Hoek arrived for an arraignment last week looking ill at ease in a borrowed navy blazer that hung limp on his gangly frame. He also brought attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. — famous for defending Michael Jackson against molestation charges brought by what he cast as overzealous prosecutors.

After the case was postponed, Mesereau would only say that his client would plead not guilty.

Van de Hoek’s supporters say Los Angeles officials long have perceived him as a troublemaker.

“This is an attempt to intimidate the environmentalists,” said friend Denny Schneider, wearing a “Free Roy” T-shirt with a picture of van de Hoek strolling around the Ballona

Wetlands in Playa del Rey.

For more than a dozen years, van de Hoek has fought to keep development from encroaching on the 628 acres of grassy marshes that are home to rare birds and plants. A former Sierra Club chairman on Ballona issues, he led tours around the site until a judge recently banned him. His cell phone voicemail explains that he’s out “exploring nature.”

Van de Hoek said he has dedicated his life to “working for nature,” not against it.

Nonnative species can be guilty of working against delicate indigenous ecosystems. One of his alleged victims, myoporum shrubs, can crowd out less vigorous native plants that are home to various animals.

“I love the wetlands and I care about the endangered species that live there, the plants and animals...” van de Hoek said, his voice trailing off with emotion.

Van de Hoek has a documented disdain for nonnative species.

In 1997, he was arrested in eastern San Luis Obispo County. For 14 months, someone had been sneaking around the 250,000-acre Carrizo Plain National Monument, cutting and killing an Australian invader, the eucalyptus tree. Van de Hoek, who had worked as a Carrizo wildlife biologist for the Bureau of Land Management, had been a vocal opponent of some policies that allowed tree planting and fence building.

According to Mother Jones magazine, which named van de Hoek its June 1997 “hellraiser,” the bureau prepared a 100-plus-page case file that included a crime lab’s analysis of his wire cutters and photos of his tire tracks.

Van de Hoek was convicted of vandalism and sentenced to three years’ probation, according to John Dearing, a land management spokesman. Van de Hoek would not comment.

Nearly 10 years later, he is in a similar tangle.

Outside court last Wednesday, after a judge rescheduled his arraignment for Oct. 12, van de Hoek held hands in a circle with his friends and famous attorney.

After reaffirming a commitment to nature, van de Hoek broke out in song, borrowing a refrain from his favorite singer, John Denver.

“I am the eagle and I live in the high country and rocky cathedrals that reach to the sky,” he crooned. “All those who see me and all who believe in me share in my freedom I feel when I fly.”

More than 100 domesticated elk escape game reserve

BY JESSE HARLAN ALDERMAN

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, IDAHO — More than 100 domesticated elk have escaped from a private game reserve on the border of Yellowstone National Park in eastern Idaho, raising fears the animals will blemish the genetic purity of wild herds, spread disease and flummox hunters.

The elk apparently broke through a fence weeks ago on the Chief Joseph hunter’s reserve near Rexburg, on the fringe of the Targhee National Forest, 10 miles from the southwestern border of Yellowstone.

“This is the train wreck we’ve seen coming for a long time,” Steve Huffaker, director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, said Wednesday in announcing the escape.

In 2002, Rex Rammell, Chief Joseph’s owner and a long-time veterinarian, successfully lobbied the Idaho Legislature to forgive most of the more than \$750,000 he owed to the state for failing to apply blaze-orange ear tags to identify the animals as domestic. Regulators also said he improperly maintained protective fencing on an elk ranch 35 miles east of Rexburg.

Rammell also has clashed with the state Department of Agriculture over his refusal to allow state regulators to inspect his specially bred trophy bull elk for chronic wasting disease. The incurable disease kills elk by boring tiny holes in their brains.

Wildlife officials fear the domestic elk could spread the disease, which has never been found in Idaho, or other sicknesses like brucellosis, liver flukes and tuberculosis.

There are other concerns as well.

Archery season for elk began Aug. 30, and Huffaker said hunters will be unable to distinguish between wild elk, which are legal to shoot, and the domestic elk, which are private property.

Rammell told the state Agriculture Department that the elk are tagged, but they might not have tags identifiable from at least 150 yards away, as state law requires, said Debra Lawrence, the agency’s chief of animal health and livestock.

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Leftist vows resistance

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador tells crowd of supporters, "To hell with their institutions"

BY WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Defeated leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador rejected a court decision awarding Mexico's presidency to Felipe Calderon, insisting he will never recognize his rival's legitimacy and vowing to create a parallel government from the streets.

Calderon celebrated his long-delayed victory by reaching out to the millions of Mexicans who did not vote for him and calling on his main adversaries, including Lopez Obrador, to help heal the nation's divisions.

Lopez Obrador's supporters threw trash at the headquarters of Mexico's Federal Electoral Tribunal, whose seven magistrates voted unanimously Tuesday to declare Calderon president-elect. The decision rejected Lopez Obrador's allegations of systematic fraud and awarded Calderon the presidency by 233,831 votes — a margin of 0.56 percent. The ruling cannot be appealed.

"I do not recognize someone who tries to act as the chief federal executive without having a legitimate and democratic representation," Lopez Obrador told thousands of supporters in Mexico City's main Zocalo plaza.

"To hell with their institutions," the former Mexico City mayor cried, to raucous

applause and chants of "Felipe, the people don't want you!"

Calderon, a member of outgoing President Vicente Fox's National Action Party, was to meet with the president Wednesday to begin planning the Dec. 1 government handover. Always confident of his eventual victory, Calderon has been quietly drawing up transition plans since just days after the July 2 election. Lopez Obrador's supporters have said they would block the handover.

Calderon appeared confident and spoke forcefully in an appearance before cheering supporters hours after the court's decision was revealed. His backers pumped their fists in the air, chanting "Felipe! Felipe!" and a mariachi band regaled him at the end of his speech.

The 44-year-old former energy secretary and career politician promised during his campaign to follow his predecessor's free-market, pro-business policies to create jobs, keep the economy growing and fight poverty.

His first public speech as president-elect was dominated by overtures to his opponents, whom he implored to join him in closing the huge class and political divisions that widened during the long, nasty electoral campaign and the tense, two-month wait for the court's ruling.

"Being Mexican is always more impor-

tant than being a member of a political party," he said, adding that "closing the door to dialogue is closing the door on Mexico."

Calderon announced three major initiatives aimed in part at winning over those who didn't vote for him: reducing poverty, fighting crime and improving the economy.

"I want to express my recognition for those who were my adversaries," he said. "Your proposals, the most important ones, will be incorporated in the government's agenda. I invite you to join forces to benefit all of Mexico."

In a late-night interview with Mexico's Televisa television network, Calderon said he would take his time choosing a Cabinet, announcing his choices "very likely in the hours close to the swearing-in" ceremony Dec. 1.

"I don't have any plans, at least at this point, to speed up the naming of the Cabinet," he said, adding that he would be looking for "honest people ... capable people, people who are loyal to the (administration's) plan, and to Mexico."

He reiterated his willingness to work with Lopez Obrador. "I recognize that he has a genuine concern for the situation of poverty in which millions of Mexicans are living," Calderon said.

"I invite him to translate this concern into actions that benefit precisely these millions of Mexicans," he added. "For now, this

attitude (of resistance) does not help in the least to overcome the situation of suffering and misery in which the country's poorest people live."

Lopez Obrador refused to accept Calderon's victory, vowing to hold a national convention in which delegates would elect him as Mexico's alternate president.

"We are going to exercise our sovereignty to construct a new government ... cast aside the simulated republic and create a true, authentic republic," he said.

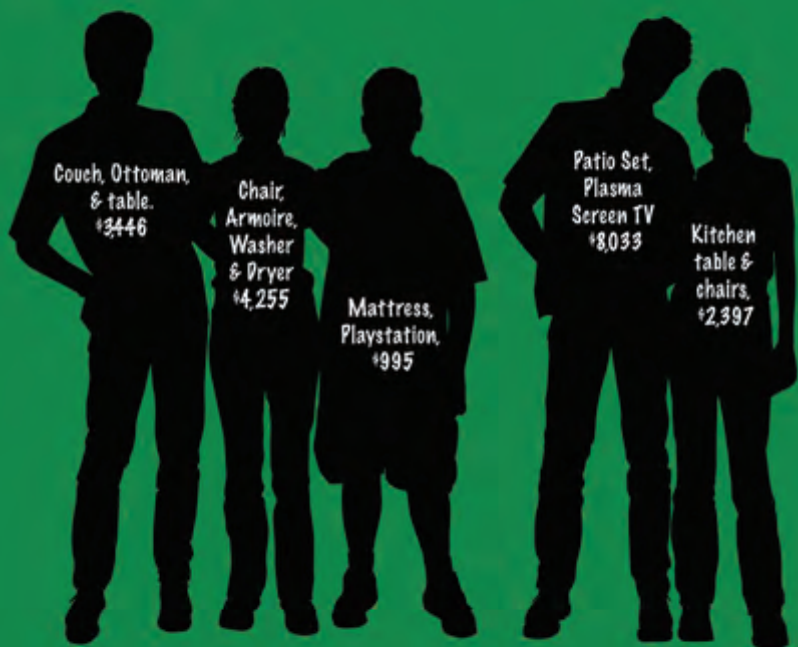
Lopez Obrador's movement has become increasingly radical since the election, and polls indicate he lost support after lawmakers from his party blocked Fox's last state-of-the-nation address Friday. But he has consistently called on his followers to remain peaceful amid fears they would erupt in violence.

World leaders, including the prime ministers of Japan and Belgium and several Central American presidents, congratulated Calderon on his victory.

The White House said Mexico's democratic institutions, especially the Federal Electoral Tribunal, have proved themselves "strong and capable of reflecting the will of the people of Mexico."

"We congratulate Felipe Calderon on his victory and look forward to working with him and his team," the White House said.

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*CVC June 2005 audit

**assuming an average ticket of \$800

***based on a frequency of 3x per week.

Santa Monica Daily Press
MOVIEGUIDE
SHOWTIMES: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2006

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Wednesday, Sept. 6
Madam Bovary
7:30 pm

Thursday, Sept. 7
Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia, Ride the High Country
7:30 pm

Friday, Sept. 8
The Getaway, Junior Bonner
7:30 pm

Saturday, Sept. 9
Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid, The Ballad of Cable Hogue
7:30 pm

Sunday, Sept. 10
The Wild Bunch, The Killer Elite
6:30 pm

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

Beerfest (R)
11:30 am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

Devil Wears Prada, The (PG-13)
11:50 am, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Idiwild (R)
11:20 am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15

Scoop (PG-13)
11:40 am, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:45

AMC7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Accepted (PG-13)
11:30 am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30

Barnyard: The Original Party Animals (PG)
11:55 am, 2:40, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50

Crossover (PG-13)
11:40 am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20

Invincible (PG)
11:50 am, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:40

Snakes on a Plane (R)
11:35 am, 2:20, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10

Step Up (PG-13)
11:45 am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:20

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13)
11:20 am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00

LANDMARK NUWLSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Factotum (R)
11:15 am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

The Illusionist (PG-13)
11:00 am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50

LAEMMLES MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

An Inconvenient Truth (PG)
11:00 am

The Celestine Prophecy (PG)
11:00 am

Half Nelson (R)
11:30 am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55

Little Miss Sunshine (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10

The Quiet (R)
4:20, 9:35

Quinceanera (R)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

Trust the Man (R)
1:45, 7:00

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

Crank (R)
12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:50

The Descent (R)
9:30

How to Eat Fried Worms (PG)
12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00

Idiocracy (R)
12:10, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)
11:50 am, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00

The Wicker Man (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10

World Trade Center (PG-13)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Suri fever

Cruise-Holmes baby makes her long-anticipated debut

With a cherubic face and a shock of dark hair, **SURI CRUISE** — subject of the world's most anticipated baby photo — made her debut Wednesday on the cover of Vanity Fair.

The magazine's 22-page spread of 4 1/2-month-old Suri and her famous parents, Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, includes photos taken by Annie

Leibovitz for the October issue, on newsstands in New York and Los Angeles and nationwide on Sept. 12.

The cover photo shows Suri peeking out of a jacket worn by Cruise with Holmes looking on. Katie Couric, in her first night as anchor of the "CBS Evening News," revealed the photo Tuesday.

Born April 18, Suri had not

previously appeared in any published photos, prompting some public speculation about her very existence.

"She has Kate's lips and eyes," the 44-year-old Cruise is quoted as telling the magazine. Counters Holmes: "I think she has Tom's eyes. I think she looks like Tom."

Leading up to the frenzy over the photos, "We were just

living our lives, being a family," Cruise says. "Actually, we were taking our own photos and always planned to release those at the right time."

But "then all the craziness began," Holmes, 27, says. "This 'where is Suri?' controversy. Tom and I looked at each other and said, 'What's going on?' We weren't trying to hide anything."

Holmes also explains their purchase of a sonogram machine, saying she and Cruise were followed by paparazzi and as a result, her doctor had to make house calls.

"The sonogram was for his use!" she says.

Holmes says of her daughter: "She's a glorious girl. She's the miracle of our life."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unlikely models tout unique lip gloss

Lisa Marie Presley, Debbie Harry, Eve and Dita Von Teese are the newest crop of unlikely makeup models in **MAC COSMETICS' VIVA GLAM** ad campaign.

It's not just the spokesmodels who are unusual, it's also the product they promote: 100 percent of the sales of Viva Glam lipsticks and lip glosses are donated to HIV and AIDS programs, including treatment, education and daily necessities.

Presley said she agreed to participate in the campaign because of its fundraising efforts.

"MAC is actually, honestly, really true blue about its chari-

ty," the 38-year-old singer — and daughter of Elvis Presley — told The Associated Press in a recent phone interview.

"You can see it making headway. They've raised \$70 million that's been used incredibly well. It's not a campaign full of fluff, and I'm not a fluff person."

Presley said she's known Harry for several years and has crossed paths with Von Teese, but hadn't met Eve until the photo shoot a few weeks ago.

Even though she doesn't consider herself to be either a beauty expert or a model, she tried to put her best face on for the campaign, Presley said, because of the cause and the

interesting and admirable group of women she was working with.

"I think we're all reaching out in a different direction — whoever can reach a certain segment of the audience," she said.

So, who's her audience?

"That's a complex question. Based on my fan base, it's 80 percent gay, young girls, bikers, women my age and then some occasional Elvis fans. It's an eclectic potpourri," she said with a laugh. "If I go to a signing or show, it's a rainbow."

Previous spokesmodels for the ad campaign, which debuted 12 years ago, include Christina Aguilera, Missy Elliott, Pamela Anderson and Boy

George.

John Demsey, global president of MAC and chairman of the MAC AIDS Fund, said this year's models were chosen for their personal commitment to the fight against AIDS.

"We want to rattle some cages. We want to grab people's attention and not let them turn away. And most important, we want to reach even more people. Our Viva Glam VI spokespeople cut through the clutter. They are all incredibly talented and have strong and distinct points of view and unique perspectives on this crisis," he said in a statement.

AP

Sharon Stone plays high-class dress-up

SHARON STONE, who's spent time on both "best dressed" and "worst dressed" lists thanks to her risk-taking style, will wear high-glamour gowns in an ad campaign for Badgley Mischka.

"Our collection represents Hollywood glamour with a modern twist and Sharon epitomizes this look. We have dressed Sharon many times and working with her

on this campaign and combining our visions was an incredible experience," the design duo of Mark Badgley and James Mischka said Wednesday in a statement.

Print ads featuring Stone will appear in the October issues of Vogue, Elle and InStyle, among other magazines. They follow last season's campaign featuring actresses Ashley Olsen and

her twin sister, Mary-Kate.

Gilles Bensimon photographed the 48-year-old actress at the former estate of philanthropist Dorothy Chandler in Hancock Park in Los Angeles.

"I've known Mark and James for many years ever since they brought their gorgeous gowns to my house and spread them over my living room," Stone said

in a statement. "Since then, I've always thought of wearing their dress like going to a great party — they're fun, elegant and intricately detailed."

Stone, who starred in "Casino" and the "Basic Instinct" movies, has a role in the Emilio Estevez-directed "Bobby," slated for release Nov. 17.

AP

'Guardian' premiere slated for historic Uptown Theater

Kevin Costner, Ashton Kutcher and Sela Ward were among the stars expected to attend the premiere of **"THE GUARDIAN"** at the Uptown Theater on Thursday.

"The Uptown Theater is a true historic gem in the Cleveland Park neighborhood, and we are glad for the opportu-

nity to showcase it to the world this Thursday," D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams said in a statement.

The Walt Disney Co., which owns Touchstone Pictures, is spending about \$1 million to produce "this star-studded event," the city said. Director Andrew Davis

and actors Neal McDonough, Clancy Brown and Peter Gail were also expected to attend.

Costner, 51, stars as a veteran Coast Guard swimmer who is dispatched to Kodiak, Alaska, to teach after his crew is lost in a crash. Kutcher, 28, plays a rookie.

"The Guardian" is slated for release Sept. 29.

Proceeds from Thursday's event will go to the U.S. Coast Guard Foundation, a nonprofit group that supports members of the Coast Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

AP

SWITCHING KILLERS

From Velma to Roxie.

BEBE NEUWIRTH, who originated the role of Velma Kelly in the Broadway revival of "Chicago" — and won a Tony Award for her performance — is now switching murderesses.

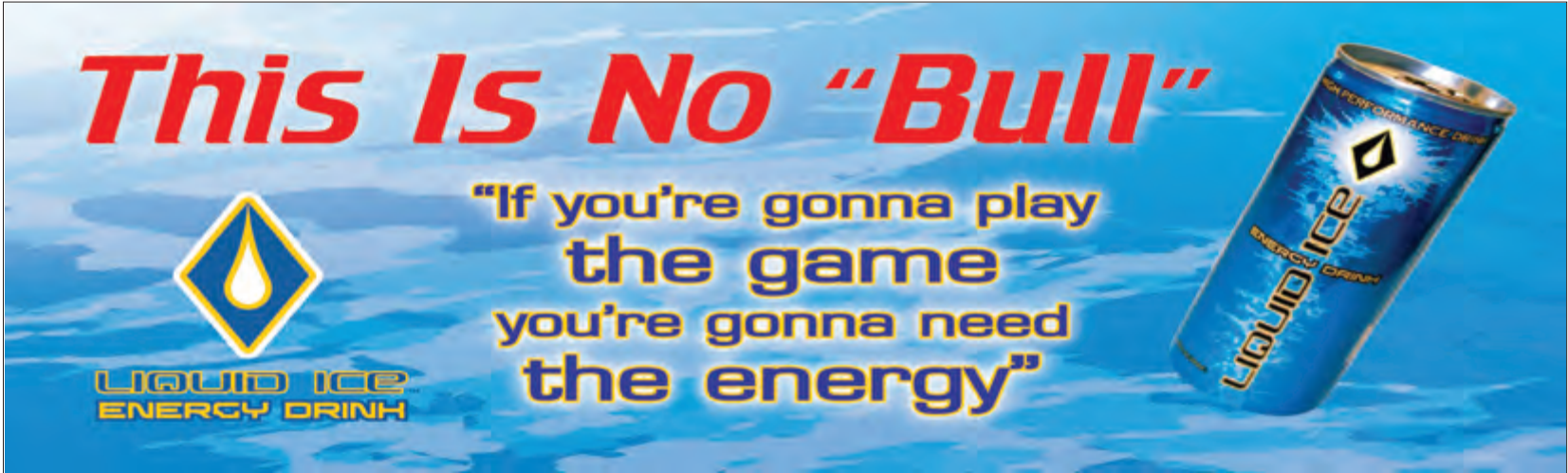
The actress will portray Roxie Hart in the long-running production at the Ambassador Theatre beginning New Year's Eve. She will appear in the show through March 25.

Neuwirth, 47, co-starred with Ann Reinking in the Bob Fosse-Kander and Ebb musical when it was first revived on Broadway in November 1996. As a dancer, she has appeared on Broadway in productions of "Damn Yankees" and "Sweet Charity," for which she won her first Tony.

Television viewers know her as Dr. Lilith Sternin on the NBC comedy "Cheers." She also played an assistant district attorney on "Law & Order: Trial by Jury."

Neuwirth and Reinking will reunite Nov. 14 for a gala 10th-anniversary performance of "Chicago," which will include other original revival cast members as well as performers who have appeared in the Broadway production over the years. It will be a benefit for Safe Horizon, a national victim-assistance organization.

The original production of "Chicago," which starred Gwen Verdon as Roxie and Chita Rivera as Velma, had a two-year run on Broadway in the mid-1970s.



The Dinette Set

by Julie Larson



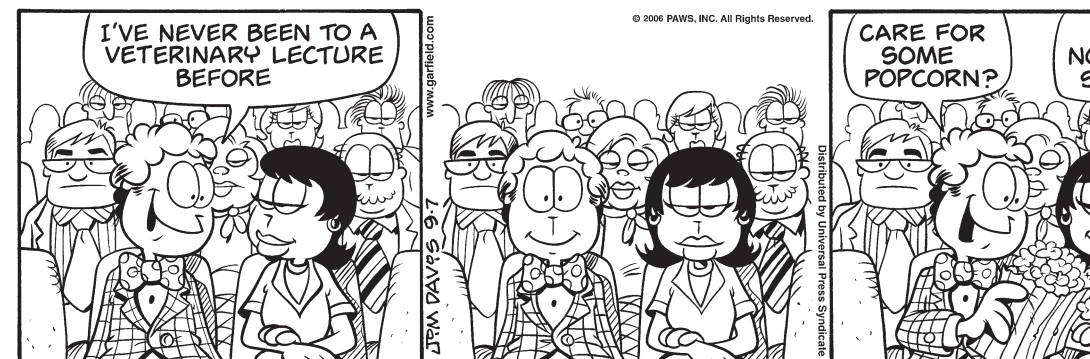
edge city

by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



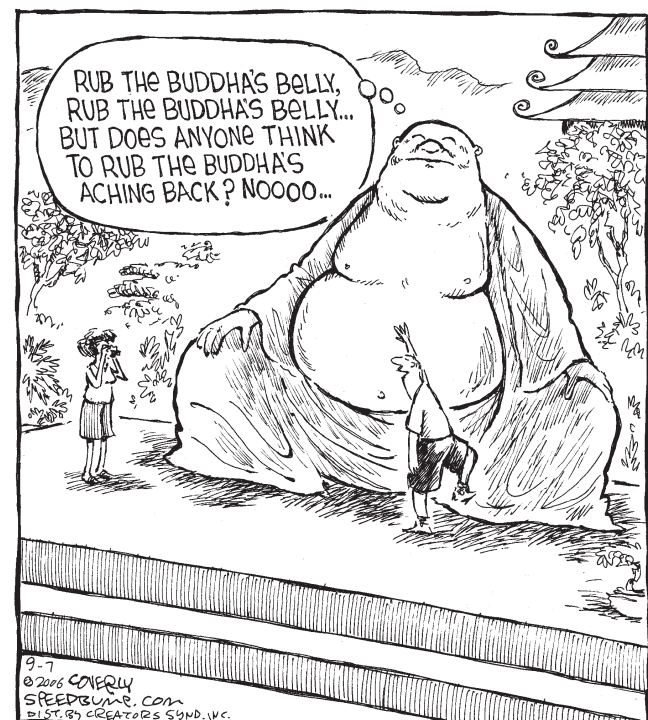
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



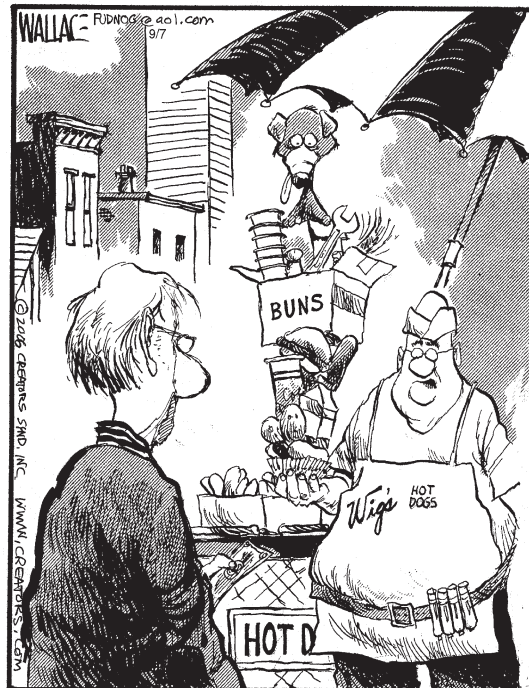
Speed Bump®

By Dave Coverly



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By Russ Wallace



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Wine buy
- 5 Kansas city
- 11 B — boy
- 12 Like some salons
- 13 City founded by Pizarro
- 14 Misplay
- 15 Soft leather
- 17 New Haven student
- 18 Believer of a sort
- 22 Inverted v
- 24 Knight wear
- 25 Boxing legend
- 26 Pasture call
- 27 Takes a flat
- 30 Used up
- 32 Advantage
- 33 Cassis drink
- 34 Log cutter
- 38 Computing whiz
- 41 Drug unit
- 42 "King of the Trumpet"
- 43 Enthusiastic about
- 44 Book ends
- 45 They may clash

DOWN

- 1 Summon
- 2 China setting
- 3 Seething
- 4 Facilitate
- 5 Ankara native
- 6 New York tribe
- 7 Successful wrestler
- 8 Language ending
- 9 Beer bash sight
- 10 Chopper
- 16 Command to Spot
- 19 Engrossing
- 20 Before long
- 21 Easy gait
- 22 Poet Sandburg
- 23 Out of the wind
- 28 Fix, as a shirttail
- 29 Planet
- 30 Winter runner
- 31 Little finger
- 35 They may be fine
- 36 Sax type
- 37 Courts
- 38 Suffers from
- 39 Swiss peak
- 40 X look-alike

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Yesterday's answer

- 19 Engrossing
- 20 Before long
- 21 Easy gait
- 22 Poet Sandburg
- 23 Out of the wind
- 28 Fix, as a shirttail
- 29 Planet
- 30 Winter runner
- 31 Little finger
- 35 They may be fine
- 36 Sax type
- 37 Courts
- 38 Suffers from
- 39 Swiss peak
- 40 X look-alike

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9-7

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MAR VISTA \$1650.00 2bdrms/1bath "Rear Unit" Appliances, Washer/Dryer, Patio, Parking, NO pets. 3573 Centinela Ave, Los Angeles 90066 Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit

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MAR VISTA \$995/mo single/1bath bright, laundry facilities on the premises, garbage disposal, stove, cable available, water/trash paid We have others From \$600.00 Visit Our Website \$10.00 Discount Code SMDP2006 www.apartmenthunterz.com 310-276-0881

MAR VISTA: 12450 Culver Blvd. unit 208, \$995/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, utilities included, intercom entry, laundry, gated parking, no pets. (888) 414-7778

MARINA DEL REY \$1000 (Studio) THE GREATEST VALUE ON THE WATER! easy freeway access. parking, laundry facilities, balcony, garbage disposal, gas, near mass transit. We have others From \$600.00 Visit Our Website \$10.00 Discount Code SMDP2006 www.apartmenthunterz.com 310-276-0881

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PALMS \$850/MO Studio, full kitchen, hardwood floors, laundry, refrigerator, stove, paid utilities, laundry, garbage disposal, bus/public transit, water/trash removal included We have others From \$600.00 Visit Our Website \$10.00 Discount Code SMDP2006 www.apartmenthunterz.com 310-276-0881

PALMS \$900/MO 1bdm/1bthrm Carpet Floors, laundry, stove, refrigerator, unit, blinds, unfurnished. parking, carpets, garbage disposal water/trash paid REDUCE YOUR RENT !!! We have others From \$600.00 Visit Our Website \$10.00 Discount Code SMDP2006 www.apartmenthunterz.com 310-276-0881

PALMS \$995/MO 1bdm/1bath. pool, laundry, quiet neighborhood, stove, courtyard view, parking central a/c, garbage disposal, hardwood floors, large closets, cable tv available, bus/public transit, We have others From \$600.00 Visit Our Website \$10.00 Discount Code SMDP2006 www.apartmenthunterz.com 310-276-0881

For Rent

PALMS; 3+2 3633 Keystonse unit 7, \$1695/mo stove, blinds, carpets, balcony, parking, laundry room, no pets. (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

SANTA MONICA \$1250/mo 1bdm/1bath, Bright and sunny, hardwood floors, will consider small pet (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1200/mo 1bdm/1bath New Carpets, Carport parking, laundry on site, refrigerator, stove (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1475.00. 1 bdrm, 1 bath, "Lower Unit". Stove, refrigerator, gas paid, parking, NO PETS. 2535 Kansas Ave., #102. Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr. #101.

SANTA MONICA \$1650/mo, 2bdm/1bath Carpet Floors, 1-car Garage parking, quiet neighborhood, little courtyard (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1750/mo 2bdrooms/1Bath, New Hardwood Floors, Parking, laundry, refrigerator, central heat, washer/dryer. (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1850/mo 2bdrms/1Bath Carpet/Tile Floors, 1-car Parking, pool, laundry-on-site, refrigerator, dishwasher (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1900/mo 2bdrms/1.5bath, dishwasher, patio, controlled access building, wood deck patio, tile (310)395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$2350/mo 12th St. near Colorado, 3bdm, 1.5 baths townhouse. Spacious, ample closets, balcony, large closed garage. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, attractive garden courtyard property, no pets (310) 828-4481

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SANTA MONICA \$999/mo Bachelor/1Bath, Carpet/Tile Floors, quiet neighborhood, refrigerator, microwave, yard, balcony, patio (3 1 0) 3 9 5 - R E N T www.westsiderentals.com

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VENICE: TWO units 2308 Pacific Ave 2+2 \$2695/mo, 3+2 \$2895/mo, newly remodeled, stove, d/w, microwave, granite counter tops, hardwood floors, no pets, two car parking, washer/dryer hookups. (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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WLA \$1095/MO 1bdm/1bath apt, Gated entry, parking space, stove, water/trash, laundry facilities on the premises, gas range, garbage disposal, cable tv available, We have others From \$600.00 Visit Our Website \$10.00 Discount Code SMDP2006 www.apartmenthunterz.com 310-276-0881

WLA \$1900/MO 2bdm/2bath Completely Refurbished unit! Granite Counter tops. New Appliances. Furnished Available, Private Balconies/Patios, Dishwasher, Carpeted Floors, Ceiling Fan(s), Microwave, Refrigerator, parking air conditioning We have others From \$600.00 Visit Our Website \$10.00 Discount Code SMDP2006 www.apartmenthunterz.com 310-276-0881

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10 YEAR/1 ARM	6.375%
7 YEAR/1 ARM	6.25%
5 YEAR/1 ARM	6.0%**
3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.875%**
1 YEAR/1 ARM	5.625%
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5.375%
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1.0%**

* Rates subject to change
* As of August 14, 2006
** Denotes an interest only loan

NEW CONFORMING
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2 Units	\$533,850
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3 Units	\$645,300
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Houses for Sale

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Houses for Sale



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\$1,875,000. 5 rooms 4 baths including the 2 private guest quarters or rental units to subsidize the mortgage. House located at 1802 Euclid Street, includes dinning room, living room with fireplace, basement, private backyard/garden, 4 car garage and much more. Situated close to the beach with almost 9000 sq. ft. lot to expand. Broker-Kevin 323-864-4214

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Processing Customer Returns Online! Earn \$15.00 Per Return Processed Guaranteed. Extremely Easy! No Experience Needed. Amazing Opportunity! Join Today. www.ProcessRebates.com

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\$500-\$500,000++ **2006!** NEVER REPAY! Personal/Medical Bills, New Business/Home, School! \$49 billion unclaimed 2005! Live Operators! Call 1-800-274-5086, Ext. 137

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MOVIE EXTRAS, Actors, Models! Make \$100 - \$300/Day No Exp. Req., FT/PT All Looks Needed! Call 1-800-714-7501

VENTURE CAPITAL Wanted 12 products- mfg. /market avenues in place. (John Deere One Source etc.) 10k/day possible return on 2.5 mill. Qualified only -for meeting at AA Equip. 951/522-7336

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SAT. SEP 9 8:30-12:30 2436 26th St. Other neighbors as well!!

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**** FREE CASH GRANTS! \$500-\$500,000++ **2006!** NEVER REPAY! Personal/Medical Bills, Business, School/House. Almost Everyone qualifies! Live Operators! AVOID DEAD-LINES! Listings. Call 1-800-270-1213, Ext. 136

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STOP FORECLOSURE guaranteed. This is not bankruptcy. We do not buy houses. 1-800-771-4453 ext. 3550. www.house911.com

Personals

GIRL WANTED to give a free massage to "me" guy - Robert (310) 394-1533

Miscellaneous

**** FREE CASH GRANTS! \$500-\$500,000++ **2006!** NEVER REPAY! Personal/Medical Bills, School, Business, Housing, \$49 billion unclaimed 2005! Live Operators! CALL NOW! 1-800-681-5732, Ext. 138

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Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC Sec. 6105) Escrow No. 30433-LO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s) and business address(es) of the seller(s) is/are: KHUSHBU, INC. & MAHESH PATEL, 1411 LINCOLN BLVD, STE E, VENICE, CA 90291

Doing business as: SUBWAY #2369 All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s), is/are: NONE The location in California of the Chief Executive Office of the seller is: 1627 SUNSET AVE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405

The name(s) and business address of the buyer(s) is/are: SUMER SURI, 8200 BOBBYBOYAR AVE, WEST HILLS, CA 91304

The assets being sold are generally described as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT OF THAT CERTAIN BUSINESS and is located at: 1411 LINCOLN BLVD, STE E, VENICE, CA 90291

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: DISCOVERY ESCROW COMPANY, 7777 CENTER AVE, STE 180, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92647, ESCROW NO. 30433-LO, ESCROW OFFICER: LAURIE J. ORR and the anticipated sale date is SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2. The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: DISCOVERY ESCROW COMPANY, 7777 CENTER AVE, STE 180, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92647, ESCROW NO. 30433-LO, ESCROW OFFICER: LAURIE J. ORR and the last day for filing claims by any creditor shall be SEPTEMBER 22, 2006, which is the business day before the anticipated sale date specified above. Dated: AUGUST 18, 2006 SUMER SURI, Buyer(s) PCTS LA121858 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 9/7/06

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JUDITH ANNE PHILLIPS

Case No. BP100311 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JUDITH ANNE PHILLIPS

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Fred C. Sliney in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE re-

Notices

quests that Fred C. Sliney be appointed as personal repre-sentative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administra-tion of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representa-tive to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important ac-tions, however, the personal repre-sentative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on Oct. 4, 2006 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 9 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should ap-pear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a per-son interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and ap-praisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:

MARC A BRONSTEIN ESQ

SBN 75933

MARC A BRONSTEIN

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPO-RATION

3205 OCEAN PARK BLVD STE 200

SANTA MONICA CA 90405

Santa Monica Daily Press

CN760696 PHILLIPS Sep 6,7,13, 2006

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Vehicles for sale



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'05 Dodge Durango...\$21,995 Low Miles, 3rd Seat, Best, Best Buy Stock # T9935 Toyota Santa Monica (800) 579-6047

Vehicles for sale



'02 Lexus RX 300...\$24,900 White with tan, leather, loaded, im-maculate. Stock # PT4942 Toyota Santa Monica (800) 579-6047



'99 Toyota Tacoma Xtra Cab \$10,990 SR5, Auto, A/C, Alloys, Full Power, 6Cyl. Vin #: FXZ572996 Toyota Santa Monica (800) 579-6047



1999 GMC Suburban – 4dr SUV Mileage: 72,887 Exterior Color: Pewter Stock #: L15403 Price: \$10,995 Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned (800) 406-7782



2003 Audi A4 – Sedan Mileage: 39,037 Exterior Color: Navy Blue Stock #: L15418 Price: \$19,950 Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned (800) 406-7782



2001 Lexus RX 300 – 4dr SUV Mileage: 66,806 Exterior Color: Blue V. Stock #: L15418 Price: \$17,950 Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned (800) 406-7782



2004 Nissan Quest – Passenger Minivan Mileage: 45,041 Exterior Color: Silver Stock #: L15419 Price: \$19,950 Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned (800) 406-7782

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Vehicles for sale



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2002 Lexus ES 300 – Sedan Mileage: 49,317 Exterior Color: Silver Stock #: L15357 Price: \$18,950 Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned (800) 406-7782



'00 Saturn S-Series SL1 Stock #: L15436 Price: \$5, 950 Back to School Special! Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned (800) 406-7782



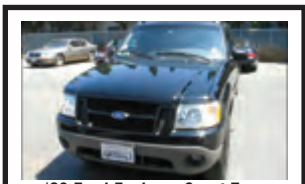
'03 Infiniti G35 Stock #: L15498 Price: \$20, 950 Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned (800) 406-7782



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'03 Harley Davidson F150 Certified BLACK / SILVER \$29,988 Stock #: R541 (310) 451-1588 Santa Monica Ford

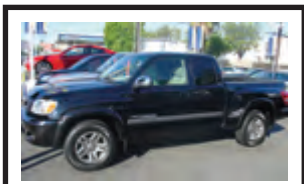


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Vehicles for sale



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03' Toyota Tundra SR5 Black Step Side \$19,981 (25390808) 800-784-6196 www.wisimonson.com



'04 Grand Prix Slvr/gray, N/C Trade \$11,981 (41110793) 800-784-6196 www.wisimonson.com



'01 E430 \$25,981 Black/Black, Navigation (1x061487) 800-784-6196 www.wisimonson.com



'03 Range Rover Silver/Black, Navi \$46,982 (3A111795) 800-784-6196 www.wisimonson.com



'03 C230WZ \$19,981 Pewter/Blk (3A506315) 800-784-6196 www.wisimonson.com

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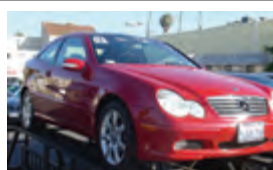
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age (VIN E152902)
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'02 JETTA GLS \$12,495
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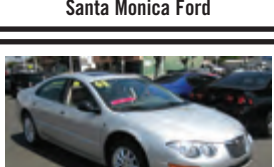
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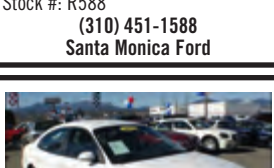
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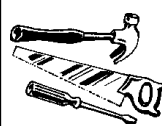
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