



Santa Monica Daily Press

DIDDY OR DIDN'T HE?
SEE PAGE 13

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE E-MAIL MONITORING ISSUE

District students are overachievers

Local schools are outperforming peers across the country

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Students in the public schools here continue to outperform their peers across the county and state, scoring higher on standardized tests and taking on more academically rigorous courses, according to a status report released Monday regarding the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

The second annual "The State of Our Schools" presentation by state and district officials provided a glimpse into one of the top performing school districts in the country, its schools ranking in the top 1 percent among schools in the

United States.

The event featured addresses by Assemblywoman Julia Brownley, speaking about state policies and funding impacting education; Board of Education president and vice president Kathy Wisnicki and Oscar de la Torre, the colleagues presenting their reasons why the schools are successful; and a keynote presentation by Superintendent Dianne Talarico during which she outlined initiatives to further improve the district.

The Community for Excellent Public Schools and the Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council co-sponsored the event at the Main Library.

District officials are trying to improve cooperation and communication among staff and school administrators through team-building exercises and a number of retreats that occurred over the summer with school principals. An advisory council comprised of principals has also been formed in order for the administrators to have a voice district matters, Talarico said.

Administrators have also tried to improve math proficiency and expand post-secondary options to their students, with the formation of an ad hoc committee that is studying the possible opening of another small high school, and the signing of a new partnership with Santa Monica College through which students can take college courses for credit.

SEE STUDENTS PAGE 9

BUSINESS

DEAL CITY

AFM takes on a new urgency

STORY BY GABRIELLE HARRADINE PAGE 8



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com



Gary Limjap

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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Screening of '90404 Changing'

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

A screening of the docudrama "90404 Changing" about Santa Monica's
Pico Neighborhood will be followed by a Q&A with director Michael
Barnard at the Fairview Branch Library.

Montana Avenue Branch book group

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Montana's book group will discuss John Banville's "The Sea," winner of
the Man Booker award.

Jonas Bros @ Knitting Factory

7021 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, 9 p.m.

The Knitting Factory and KIIS FM present this all-ages show. Tickets are
\$25. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.knittingfactory.com.

Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007

Fall Fantasy

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — noon

Under the direction of Bill Elliott, the Emeritus College Lyric Chorus will
perform songs from movies and Broadway in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Los Angeles Ballet's 2nd Annual Art for the Arts Fundraiser

2525 Michigan Ave., 6:30 p.m. — midnight

Anjelica Huston returns as Chair for Los Angeles Ballet's 2nd Annual Art
for the Arts Fundraiser/Art Auction at Bergamot Station. Artists Ed
Ruscha, Ed Moses and John Baldessari, among others, have all contributed
works for the live event. Tickets for the evening are \$125 per person. For
information, visit www.losangelesballet.org or call (310) 226-8002.

'A Strong Clear Vision'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:45 p.m. — 9 p.m.

To celebrate Veteran's Day and the 25th Anniversary of the Vietnam
Veterans' Memorial, filmmaker Freida Lee Mock screens and discusses her
Oscar-winning documentary on the Memorial's designer, Maya Lin. Free
program. Seating first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Five Chinese spirits

1807 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 200, 6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.

The Emperor's College of Traditional Oriental Medicine presents a lecture
on the Five Spirits of Oriental Medicine. Learn more about the mind-body
connection and how Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine can facilitate psy-
chological and spiritual growth.

Chess lessons

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.

Experienced chess players offer coaching and strategy tips for all levels.

'Who's There?'

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Dr. Lawrence Driscoll, professor at Santa Monica College, will lead a lecture
on the creation of the self in Renaissance Art and Literature.

Haze Fest 2007

2101 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m. — 1:30 a.m.

Immaculate Flave celebrates all things urban and innovative in a six-city
extravaganza showcasing underground talent. The local stop will be at
Nocturnal Bar. \$5 at the door; 21 and over. For more information, call
(310) 396-9010.

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



Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

WALK THE LINE: Members of the Writers Guild of America walk the picket line outside of Universal Studios in Universal City on Tuesday. The striking writers are demanding a new contract.

Striking writers gamble on odds

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

WEST LOS ANGELES Frank Cappello remembers the great strike of 1988 like it was yesterday.

The Santa Monica screenwriter had just moved to Southern California from Florida and inked a major deal for the first script he had written, a screenplay called "Suburban Commando," which would later be produced and star Hulk Hogan, Shelley Duvall and Christopher Lloyd.

Three months later, the screenwriting

industry shut down as the disgruntled creative minds decided to go into strike against the studio powerhouses.

Luckily for Cappello, then a new member of the Writers Guild of America, the earnings from the script was enough to subsist him and his family through the historic 22 week-long strike.

Cappello is among the thousands of screenwriters, many of whom live in Santa Monica and on the Westside, that went on strike Monday after negotiations stalled with the Alliance of Motion Pictures and Television Producers, the trade association

responsible for negotiating with the unions on behalf of Hollywood producers.

At issue with the 12,000 members of the WGA is a larger share of residuals from downloads on the Internet and cell phones. The guild declared a strike effective 12:01 a.m. on Monday.

The strike has already had an immediate impact on daily programs that rely on a constant stream of fresh ideas, like evening talk shows, which need to be produced every day in order to keep up with current events, and soap operas. Sitcoms and dramas, on the other hand, are not expected to go off the air

anytime soon in favor of reruns, as studios have stocked up on scripts in anticipation of a possible strike.

Representatives with the Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Pictures and Television Producers did not return a request for comment by deadline on Tuesday.

In a statement posted on the alliance's Web site on Sunday, president Nick Counter said it was unfortunate that the guild chose to take "irresponsible action."

SEE STRIKE PAGE 9



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cops' crackdown on bikers misguided Editor:

Last Friday night, the Santa Monica police used shock and awe techniques (against) Santa Monica Critical Mass (SMCM). I witnessed what some in the city bureaucracy will call a great moment in public safety. That conclusion is debatable.

Why did the Police Department do this? Because they could? To promote public safety? To clear the streets for shoppers, who contribute sales tax revenue to the city? To film and showcase its tactics for AFM consideration?

I started riding with Critical Mass last December and have found the riders to be peaceful, fun-loving people, not party animals who go to the local pub, drink too much and then drive home in a 2-ton vehicle. This group rides once a month to show Santa Monicans that there is more to life in Santa Monica than getting in a car and driving to Third Street Promenade for another shopping spree.

What happened last Friday was an overwhelming use of force. SMCM is promoting fun and safety with new rules, which were clearly stated at the beginning of the ride: Stop for all traffic lights.

Over 20 tickets were handed out for, in many cases, truly petty offenses. If the Santa Monica Police were so vigilant at all intersections, there wouldn't be a need for photo enforcement at major intersections, as currently proposed by the city.

Many others were cited for not having proper safety lights. SMCM is not a formal organization, but it does promote safe riding, including mandatory lights and reflectors. While I think it is foolish not to protect oneself, let's look at the reality of the situation: You are riding with a group of other riders who have more than adequate lighting; a driver of a 2-ton vehicle would have to be blind, or senile, to not see the mass of bikes. I think a warning (or a fix-it-ticket) would have sufficed.

In a city that is considering installing photo enforcement of traffic lights, it seems odd that this show of force might have left the rest of the city without adequate coverage. Further, is the photo enforcement project to produce revenue or to make the streets safer? Santa Monica residents know that we have too many vehicles on the road with many of them speeding and, too often, running red lights.

In fact, the police should be protecting the riders from the many dangerous drivers in their 2-ton vehicles. Bike riders are not the problem! Further proof that riding a bike in Santa Monica is not safe is the number of riders, who ride on sidewalks, particularly in the downtown area. Some may do it out of ignorance of the ordinance prohibiting it, but 2-ton vehicles have a decided advantage over a bike and riders know that.

In the last several years there have been over a dozen pedestrian fatalities in Santa Monica. Not a good public safety record for a city its size ... and not a single fatality was caused by a bike rider.

The City Council needs to recognize that bike riders need to be protected, not harassed. It is time to stop this folly.

Roger Swanson
Santa Monica



Hey, Mikey

Michael J. Tittinger

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ain't no leaving until we're heaving

IT WAS ABOUT 45 MINUTES INTO CELL phone shopping that I wanted to shoot myself in the face.

The unconscionable amount of time it took Monday to sift through the bogus upgrade deals, hidden fees and resign myself to two more years of sucking at Sprint's teat in order to get my wife a birthday gift was partly to blame. I also blamed myself.

You see, I'd been here before, around anniversary time, looking to upgrade her phone (which presently has a cartoon kangaroo that continually jumps across the display screen). Frustrated and unwilling to sell the souls of my family in the name of Motorola Razr for two additional years, I bounced, resigning myself to quit the telly fix once my contract expired. Free agency was calling.

Fast forward three months hence and I'm standing in the store at Wilshire and Sixth again, fretting anew as I mull making an unwanted commitment or another break for the door. Unfortunately, her birthday was the following day and that damn kangaroo was driving her crazy. It's a G'day to throw that navy blue flip phone into the Great Barrier Reef.

The particularly galling part is how cell phone companies gouge their loyal customers. Following nearly a decade of communication glee courtesy my Sprint cell phones, I convinced my betrothed to follow suit and consolidate our bill. Surely, such loyalty would be rewarded when it comes time to upgrade, right?

Surely, you jest.

Waiting another six months would make us eligible for a \$150 price break, which might make financial sense, but makes for a pretty lame birthday present.

*Happy birthday, babe.
IOU a discounted phone.
Much love.*

My choices were simple: Buy a new \$400 phone outright, with no price break whatsoever, and test the free agent waters like A-Rod; sell aforementioned family's souls for two more years; shoot myself in the face.

The last option seemed quite viable when a L.A. police detective strolled into the store looking for the manager. The staff seemed to stress the unannounced Q&A. Maybe they knew the jig was up and they were all going to the pokey for crimes against humanity.

I'm sure this romantic joust is the same with all the cell phone companies. They know they have you by the cojones. They tickle your taint, but won't give up the pooty until you buy them a ring. And in the end, a tickled taint is better than sleeping alone.

My sales rep, to his credit, pretty much ignored the fact that I was exceedingly annoyed and was walking around the store to get away from him and stew in begrudging broth. Each time I stopped to inspect a \$400 ball-and-chain, there he was, firing off a bulletted talking points memo.

It was then that cinematic fantasies of my wife and I holding hands while throwing our cell phones into the ocean began to stream. The crashing, cleansing waters of renewal freeing us from the technology age bind. I've been trying to conjure a better example than

Johnny Utah, as played by Keanu Reeves in the surfer-heist classic "Point Break," heaving his police badge into the ocean because he wanted to be radical, just like the blond-coiffed Patrick Swayze, but so be it.

"Utah, make it two!"

When we heave our new Sprint cell phones with two-year renewal contracts into the Pacific, I want them to be ringing and the caller IDs informing us that it's a customer service representative. We'll answer and tell them to listen close as we recoil to toss the phones. Let them hear themselves drowning like so many of their customers.

I'M SURE THIS ROMANTIC JOUST IS THE SAME WITH ALL THE CELL PHONE COMPANIES. THEY KNOW THEY HAVE YOU BY THE COJONES. THEY TICKLE YOUR TAIN, BUT WON'T GIVE UP THE POOTY UNTIL YOU BUY THEM A RING. AND IN THE END, A TICKLED TAIN IS BETTER THAN SLEEPING ALONE.

"Here's to selling your wife's soul," my Sprint sales rep joked as he bagged the new (RED) Razr and protective case, snapping me back into reality.

Truer words, my man. There's truth in humor.

Just one hour and 10 minutes after I entered the Sprint store, I had secured a new phone for \$190, plus a \$20 protective case, plus two years more of the privilege of paying Sprint about \$99 a month, plus a hidden \$18 charge on my next bill to renew, countering the savings I got to re-up in the first place.

Pretty sweet deal.

I can't wait to call someone and tell them about it. On second thought, I'll let them answer and just heave the phone into the ocean so they can experience the same sensation.

MICHAEL J. TITTINGER is Editor of the Daily Press. When he's not having his taint tickled, he can be reached at miket@smdp.com.

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Striking out: Writers don't hold the cards

I WANT THE WGA TO KNOW THAT, despite my disgust with the majority of its members, and my seething hatred for its arcane rules, I'm with them.

I hope this strike brings the TV and movie studios to their knees and forces them to break the writers off another three cents per DVD and makes the studios give up a taste of what they're getting from those commercials I have to sit through when I watch "Heroes" on my computer.

As the brothers say, "I ain't mad at'cha — get that money."

But the writers are in over their heads trying to play hardball with the studios. Contract negotiation is all about leverage and timing. At this point, movie production is on schedule through next spring and TV production is on schedule through Valentine's Day. Sure, Jay and Dave and Conan will have to write their own monologues, but that shouldn't be too tough (they're comedians, right?). If it continues into January or February, the strike could effectively cancel the new network TV season midway through. Still, for the studios, a do-over for this disaster of a TV season might not be so terrible; nobody's watching this season's new shows anyway. It's sadly ironic for the writers that they've authored such crap shows this fall that they can't use the loss of this season as leverage. It wouldn't be the first time they screwed themselves.

I understand screenwriters thinking they're special. After all, screens are everywhere: Cell phones, Blackberrys, iPods, Sidekicks, PDAs, laptop computers, desktop computers, living rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms, the center console of the car, the back seat of the minivan, the back of the front seat headrests, even "hater-vision" in the back of the rear seat headrests (so people in the car behind you can watch and hate). If I was a writer on "Lost" and people were downloading or buying my show by the millions, I'd probably think I was special, too. Until I realized these people don't care about my show as much as they care about escaping from their own lives for a few minutes while they're taking the bus or the train to work; that they don't care about Hugo's shaky backstory as much as they care about keeping their kids from ripping each other's heads off on the drive to the grandparents'.

Hollywood needed this strike; if for no other reason than to restore the balance of power. Right now, there are far too many people who are famous for being famous. But a long strike would give a lot of people more free time to enjoy their fame and wealth in a town that worships them for it. The Ivy will be so packed that the Kim Kardashians won't be able to get tables because the Scarlett Johanssons will be taking meetings. TMZ will show A-Listers stumbling out of clubs and write stories about how Spencer and Heidi couldn't get into the VIP room because Reese was throwing Jake a birthday party.

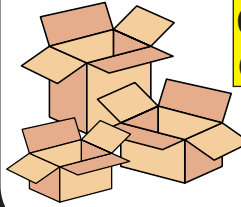
I want the writers to get what they deserve, but we're in a bubble here in L.A. In flyover country, nobody cares about them or their strike. If you walk off the job out there, you could get shot at, run over and have to walk the picket in the freezing cold outside a coal mine where nobody brings you coffee and Krispy Kremes. A writer making \$150,000 a year makes more than 95 percent of the working people who watch their TV shows and go to their movies. If this drags out, the viewers aren't going to cry for the writers, they'll just find some other distraction to put on their screens until they have to go back to work.

The bottom line here is the bottom line. For the most part, these studios are corporations motivated by profit. If WGA scripts (and the writers who create them) become too expensive, they'll find an unscripted alternative. Who wants to be a millionaire? Everybody. There are strip clubs and car shows chock full of Tila Tequilas ready to bare it all on their own reality show. Millions of people think they can dance, want to be the next American Idol, great American band, chef, fashion designer, or superhero. Why deal with union writers demanding a bigger share when you can get ordinary people for free?

You have to pick your battles. The last time the writers went on strike, Fox put "COPS" on the air (it's now in its 20th season), and the reality show was born. It was the beginning of the end of network TV and, if the WGA isn't careful, this strike could finally put network TV (and those who watch it) out of its misery.

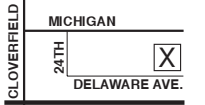
KENNY MACK is a writer and comedian living in Santa Monica. He can be reached by any out-of-touch WGA members needing a dose of reality at kennymack@gmail.com.

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It ain't easy being green

Sure, Santa Monica thumps its chest claiming to be as green a city as they come. Yet, pollution at the airport, notoriously dirty water off the coast, plans to remove healthy trees and a certain disdain for a bike riders group seems to prove the contrary.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think Santa Monica is truly green or is it all just a bunch of propaganda?

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



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Beaver patrol

Residents rally to support beleaguered critters in Martinez

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

MARTINEZ They're cute, they're furry and they've built up quite a following during their sojourn in a downtown creek. But things may be about to turn a dam site worse for a family of busy beavers that officials say poses a flood threat.

On one hand are beaver backers who don't want to see the industrious creatures destroyed. On the other are city administrators who say they don't like the idea either, but they can't risk a repeat of winter floods that have wreaked havoc on the area in previous years.

"Beavers certainly have a place in the ecological system but not in the middle of urban development," reads a staff report that will be presented to the City Council on Wednesday. "Staff has concluded the only method to address the beaver situation in Alhambra Creek is depredation."

Calling for compromise is City Councilman Mark Ross, who says it's clear the dam has to go but is hopeful that Martinez, birthplace of famous naturalist John Muir, can come up with a non-lethal solution.

"Surely the hometown of John Muir's got to have a better answer than killing beavers," he said.

State Fish & Game officials had indicated that relocating the beavers wasn't an option. However, Ross said he is hopeful that's not the last word on that.

"I said, look, we'll blindfold them," he said with a laugh.

The beavers showed up in Martinez, a suburb in the San Francisco Bay area, about a year ago. They went to work, putting together an impressively solid dam and lodge.

The animals showed a sense of irony: Their new quarters are in a major flood control project that Ross helped get in place after severe flooding a decade ago.

Martinez isn't the only city to battle beavers. In Elk Grove, about 70 miles east, city officials have had serious beaver problems. After years of trying, and failing, to control the beaver population by removing their dams, city leaders entered a \$20,000 contract with an office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to trap and kill them.

Cities in New England, Indiana, Alaska and elsewhere also have had to grapple with beavers' handiwork, and many allow trapping during certain times of the year.

On Monday, beaver boosting ruled among a handful of people leaning over the bridge spanning Martinez' Alhambra Creek to look at the collection of mud and sticks — with a couple plastic water bottles and one substantial metal pipe thrown in.

STATE BRIEFS

SANTA ANA

OC sheriff will temporarily step down

Orange County Sheriff Michael Carona says he will take a 60-day leave of absence as he fights federal corruption charges against him.

Attorney Michael Schroeder says Carona made the decision Tuesday after meeting with his command staff and the leadership of the county sheriff's deputy union.

Schroeder says the sheriff also sought a second legal opinion after his in-house legal counsel told him it was illegal for an elected official to take a leave of absence.

Schroeder does not know if Carona would be paid during his leave.

Carona has pleaded not guilty to a count of conspiracy, four counts of mail fraud and two counts of witness tampering after a federal indictment was unsealed last week.

Prosecutors allege he and others took nearly \$700,000 in bribes and kickbacks.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORRANCE

Watts activist gets 109 years for DNA-linked rape

A Watts activist has been sentenced to 109 years and two life terms in prison for the gang-related rape of a Hawthorne woman, a crime unsolved until he mooned a policeman years later.

Steven Lee Myrick was convicted of residential burglary, two counts of rape and a variety of special circumstances for the June 2000 crime.

The attack had been unsolved for years, until the 41-year-old former gang member exposed his bare buttocks during a peace rally and a DNA sample collected by officers linked him to the rape.

Myrick had previously been convicted of attempted robbery in 1988, robbery and drug possession in 1992 and armed attempted robberies and drug possession. The Hawthorne rape occurred 10 months after his release from prison.

AP

LONG BEACH

Ports complex banning older diesel truck

Harbor commissioners have approved a phased-in ban of diesel-belching older big rigs, joining Los Angeles port officials in getting rid of dirty trucks serving the nation's largest seaport within five years.

The Clean Trucks Program is designed to reduce 80 percent of harmful diesel emissions within five years. Long Beach harbor commissioners approved the plan Monday; Los Angeles commissioners voted approval last week.

The Clean Trucks Program initially calls for a ban of some 16,000 rigs built before 1989 beginning Oct. 1, 2008. Stricter regulations will follow in an effort to meet 2007 federal emissions standards by Jan. 1, 2012.

AP

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Market Matters

Brian Hepp

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Picking the right manager is key

SO FAR, YOU'VE DEVELOPED A SUCCESSFUL investment strategy that has helped you reach many of your financial goals. While you've been pleased with your portfolio's performance over the years, you may find yourself needing the advice and care that a professional can provide. In order to apply more sophisticated investment techniques — such as risk management and style selection — consider the expertise of a money manager.

A money manager will not only be able to manage your portfolio with their extensive knowledge of investment management, but they will also offer personalization and convenience. Your portfolio will be customized to fit your financial objectives while you retain ownership of the individual securities in your portfolio. A money manager will also be able to address your individual needs such as tax planning and socially responsible investing.

Once you decide to invest with a money manager, you must face the most challenging part of the equation — choosing from the thousands of managers available to help satisfy your specific needs and objectives. In order to thoroughly research and identify the right one for your situation, you will want to take into account management experience, style considerations, investment discipline, track record and client service philosophy. You may also want to consider a manager search service that may perform the following steps for you.

Management Experience: When looking for a money management firm, be sure to research the experience and capabilities of the organization's key decision makers and review the combined experience of the senior investment managers, the tenure of the current management team and the firm's longevity. Evaluating a firm's credibility should be the first step in the assessment process. If there are some questionable links tied to the core leadership of the firm, dig

deeper or move on.

Style Considerations: It is important that a money manager follow the established investment styles and doesn't take unnecessary risk compared to other managers with similar investment styles. This is also important when you consider your individual portfolio objectives. Are they a compatible choice?

Investment Discipline: The manager you select should have a defined investment philosophy and approach to managing portfolios, as well as a process for buying and selling securities compatible with that investment style. You'll also want to ask yourself if their philosophy fits with your goals.

Track Record: Don't forget to evaluate a manager's performance relative to major market indexes and his or her peer group in both up and down markets. Be sure that there is consistency over the short term and long term and that performance is relative to the level of risk.

Client Service: In order to ensure superior customer service, take a look at the size and growth of the organization you're considering working with and also the quality and timeliness of its client communications. You want your assets to be taken seriously in a timely manner.

Choosing an appropriate money manager for your portfolio is an important job, so you'll want to do an in-depth study of all the available options. For more information, you can contact your financial consultant who will be able to assist you in your search. They will be able to help identify your portfolio objectives and a strategy to help you meet them, conduct a manager search and provide ongoing due diligence of the manager and review your portfolio's performance.

BRIAN HEPP is a financial consultant and can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com.

Craft beer lovers are everywhere

BY CATHERINE TSAI
Associated Press Writer

LYONS, Colo. On the eve of the Great American Beer Festival in Denver, Horst Grieger and more than 100 other beer enthusiasts boarded buses for a daylong tour of area breweries.

Grieger, a trim 49-year-old Swede, had a pocket-size notebook in hand with the names of dozens of beers he had tried since arriving in Colorado a few days before, with ratings next to each.

"Five is average. Ten is the best," Grieger explained during a lunch stop at Oskar Blues Grill and Brew in Lyons, a small foothills town between Denver and Rocky Mountain National Park. One of his highest ratings: 8.5 for the vanilla porter from Breckenridge Brewery in Denver.

Grieger, of Halmstad, Sweden, hoped to sample 100 to 150 craft beers he can't get back home. The three-day festival had more than 1,800 beers on tap.

"You're more to the edge," Grieger's

friend Lennart Neikter said of American craft beer. "More flavor, different styles taken more to the extreme. We love it."

That's great news for the Boulder-based Brewers Association. The craft beer trade group wants to change beer culture from one about drinking as much light lager as possible to one that's all about savoring a wide range of styles, from hoppy India Pale Ales to sour ales.

"It's not about crushing them against the side of your head. It's something you enjoy with dinner. It's about the experience," said Chris Lennert, the baseball cap-wearing vice president of operations at Left Hand Brewery in Longmont.

American craft brewers have long touted the strengths of craft beer, the all-malt beverages they say offer more flavor and variety than typical mass-market U.S. beers.

Some brewers are devising extreme recipes to stretch the definitions even more.

Boston-based Samuel Adams, helmed by Jim Koch, has its Utopias, sold in limited release.

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Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 1,972,556	\$ 989,663
South of Wilshire	= \$ 1,056,736	\$ 678,983
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,387,308	\$ 672,100
Ocean Park	= \$ 1,882,706	\$ 978,577
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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Documenting your ownership dreams

SOME BELIEVE THE REAL ESTATE PARTY is over and now it is time to pay the piper. Then there are those who believe the real estate market is simply going through a correction which will be over in the near future. Maybe the first group of people are right. Maybe the second group of people are right. Never the less, if you are looking at purchasing a home you have to understand the recent changes banks have undertaken for home loans.

Gone are the days of easy financing. Some nine months ago, you could walk into a bank say you make \$250,000 a year, have \$500,000 in liquid assets and no one would question or document these crucial facts, regardless if what you said was the truth. All that was needed was a signature. What about a down payment? Nope, you did not need one of those either. Banks would be happy to lend you 100 percent of the property's value. Some lenders would even lend 103 percent, 105 percent or 110 percent. The extra money would be used to pay closing costs and/or to do improvements to the property. To say it was easy to get a home loan was the understatement of the year.

If you borrow 100 percent of your property's value and the value decreases you are not able to refinance because you are upside-down in the property. Being upside-down is when you owe the lender more money than the property is worth. Being upside-down in your home is not in its self an awful thing. Sure, it hurts psychologically knowing your home is not worth what you paid, but if you can manage the payments you can wait out any reduction in value.

If you are looking to buy today and are going to use conventional lending from a bank, you should know current bank

requirements. A low documentation loan is a loan where you do not have to show proof of income and down payment. A full documentation loan is the opposite, where you have to show all your cards.

So what do you need? If you are purchasing a home for the first time, you need to show the lender that you have enough income to cover the mortgage payment, property taxes and property insurance. Usually, this means showing your last three pay stubs and last two years of tax returns. A lender will take a percentage of your income, known as a debt to income ratio to see if you are able to support the financing. If you are able to support the financing, the lender will pull your credit. Credit score criteria have increased in the last ninety days. Now most lenders want to see credit scores of 680 and higher. This does not mean a lower score eliminates you from the mortgage market, it just means that you will pay a higher interest rate, which means a higher payment each month.

Finally, a lender is going to verify the down payment. Lenders want to see anywhere from two to four months of seasoning of the down payment so be prepared to show them this information two to four months trailing bank or investment statements.

Buying a house usually turns out to be someone's greatest investment. If you are looking to buy a house today, make sure you are ready with all the documentation that a lender wants to see, so your dream becomes a reality.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual Multi-Family Loan Consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

Bargainers report tentative deal in fight over BPA benefits

By the Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. Parties to the tussle between public and private utilities over the relatively cheap hydropower sold by the Bonneville Power Administration report a tentative deal, The Oregonian newspaper said Tuesday.

Such an agreement could reduce the electricity rates of most customers in Oregon, who buy from private utilities.

The paper said parties close to the talks disclosed that the agreement would reinstate the BPA's payments to private utilities, suspended in May, at about 65 percent of their previous level.

The BPA sells low-cost electricity generated at 31 dams and a nuclear plant in the Columbia River basin, primarily to consumer-owned utilities that were given preferential rights to the power when the agency was established in 1937.

Since 1980, however, the agency has been required to address the disparity between its own cheap rates and those offered to residential customers by private utilities that have higher costs than the BPA.

It does that through a system of payments known as the residential exchange.

Public utilities, which dominate in Washington, filed suit against the power marketing agency.

In May, they got a favorable appeals court ruling, and the BPA suspended the residential exchange, resulting in a rate increase of about 13 percent.

Before that, the BPA had been making payments to private utilities of about \$28 million a month, or about \$330 million a year.

Under the deal being discussed, BPA would resume making payments in October of \$200 million to \$225 million a year. The payments would reportedly be capped for 20 years.

The Oregonian reported that if the payments flowed to all ratepayers in equal proportions, which isn't assured, that would mean a rate reduction of about 7 percent for customers of Portland General Electric and Pacific Power.

The paper said that Washington public utility customers also could see a rate reduction, but details remained to be worked out.

The tentative deal could face opposition as the various parties judge it.



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

CURTAIN CALL: The American Film Market wraps today after having taking over many of the city's hotels during the past week. The movie marketing convention drew a record number of attendees.

AFM reels in more buyers than usual

BY GABRIELLE HARRADINE

Special to the Daily Press

OCEAN AVE. The curtain drops on the American Film Market today, which means the steady flow of well-dressed movers and shakers along Ocean Boulevard will, too.

The weeklong independent market of deal-making, screenings and networking attracted a record number of attendees this year, up 1.6 percent from last year, an all-time high for an event that's grown considerably each year since its inception in 1981.

The AFM moved to Santa Monica a decade later.

Since getting underway last week, the market has flooded Santa Monica with film buyers from all over the globe — 65 countries to be exact, which is four more than last year. The event's steady growth includes more buyers, as well as more exhibitor participants, made up of producers, executives and talent.

The AFM registered 8,343 attendees this year, up from 8,208 last year. There was also a 3 percent increase in attendance of buyers. The countries represented included France, Scandinavia, Poland, Turkey, Taiwan, Russia, Brazil and the U.S.

One area in which the AFM won't be growing next year, however, is in its exhibition space, which has been capped as of this year, said Paul Nichols, an AFM spokesperson. The current space, which includes the entire Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel and three floors of the Le Merigot Beach Hotel, will remain the only real estate made available to exhibitors. In order to keep the event in Santa Monica, AFM made the decision to cap the space, explained Misti Kerns, the President and CEO of Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB).

"There's only so much growth our destination can handle," Kerns said.

While the exhibition space isn't getting any bigger, that shouldn't prevent the amount of shoppers and buyers that result from the AFM from growing, which means profits will likely continue to grow for the city and its businesses.

The weeklong event already has a huge effect on the city's economy.

"All the other hotels are booked from here to Century City," said Rosalind Ann Napoli, regional director for Loews Hotel. "It's really great for the city!"

As hungry movie folk got to eat, AFM attendees by the hundreds have been flowing into Broadway Deli at the corner of Broadway and Third Street, much to the delight of Roman Cortez, the deli's general manager.

"It brings me a lot of business," said Cortez. "Honest people come in here. They say, 'I have 20 minutes, what can you get me?'"

THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH GROWTH OUR DESTINATION CAN HANDLE."

Misti Kerns, President and CEO of Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB)

To accommodate the rise in business, Cortez had his crews working more shifts than usual and hired on three extra servers.

The timing of AFM — right before the holiday season gets underway — helps the city's businesses do even better, Kerns said. People not only eat and stay in the city, but spend free time doing some of their holiday shopping. In 2005, when the market moved from February to November, the city's overall sales revenues rose 10 percent.

The total spending impact within Santa Monica for the week of the AFM is expected to be around \$14 million, according to the CVB. The spending will generate an estimated \$650,000 in taxes.

The partnership between the AFM and the concurrent American Film Institute festival, which started in 2004, created various connections between the two events, the latter of which is staged in Hollywood. For instance, all AFI Fest filmmakers get free access to the AFM. Additionally, the market has a press conference center that showcases AFI Fest films to attending international media.

"Typically, this is a slower time in the season, (so the presence the AFM brings in) is very welcome," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside District Corporation.

news@smdp.com

These diamonds are sweet

AAA bestows top honors on local hotels and restaurants

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES It's been said that diamonds are a girl's best friend. The same could be said for hotels, motels and restaurants inspected by the Automobile Club of Southern California.

AAA's largest affiliate on Tuesday announced the recipients of the AAA Four Diamond Award for 2008, tapping three hotels and one restaurant in Santa Monica.

The award-winning properties, which are among the top 4 percent of more than 2,600 inspected by the Auto Club, include The Fairmont Miramar Hotel, Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, Le Merigot and Valentino, an Italian eatery on Pico Boulevard.

"The AAA Diamond rating system remains an objective and consistent method to measure upscale dining establishments and lodgings ... members rely upon," said Charles Smith, Auto Club's approved accommodations manager.

A total of 62 hotels and 35 restaurants in Southern California earned the Four Diamond designation for 2008.

The Auto Club's own staff reviews establishments without prior notification, using what the organization calls

"objective and detailed rating procedures."

An establishment pays a small application fee to be included in the rating. Those who do not apply are not considered.

Lodging inspections include at least one unannounced inspection each year. Inspectors review and rate the exterior, grounds and public areas, room decor, ambiance and amenities, guest rooms, bathrooms, housekeeping and maintenance, and guest services.

Once the inspection process is complete, properties that meet all requirements receive a rating between one and five diamonds. The five-diamond winners will be announced later this week.

Being named a Four Diamond recipient has its benefits, considering there are more than six million AAA members in Southern California.

"In today's Internet age, people get information on travel and dining from so many different sources and AAA is one that has been out there for so many years. People really identify with it," said Rosalind Napoli, director of public relations for Loews. "It definitely helps our business to be affiliated with them and their rating system."

That's not the case over at Valentinos, which has been a fixture in Santa Monica for more than 30 years and has



IN TODAY'S INTERNET AGE, PEOPLE GET INFORMATION ON TRAVEL AND DINING FROM SO MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES AND AAA IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN OUT THERE FOR SO MANY YEARS AND PEOPLE REALLY IDENTIFY WITH IT."

Rosalind Napoli, Director of public relations for Loews

built up a strong base of loyal customers. While the rating doesn't hurt, Valentino General Manager Rachel Turner said it doesn't help either.

"We've had that rating for (13) years," Turner said. "We don't really get business from AAA. It's really about word of mouth."

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District closing in on achievement gap

FROM STUDENTS PAGE 1

Closing the achievement gap has been a major goal of administrators over the past few years and Talarico reported that the Academic Performance Index scores — a state measurement of comprehension — has risen among African-Americans and other socio-economically disadvantaged students.

"We are beginning to narrow the gap," Talarico said.

The presentation by the two school board members focused on the attributes that put the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in a class of its own, a district where more than 98 percent of its students end up graduating from the high schools and many go on to attend some of the top universities

in the country.

"I would venture to say it's almost unheard of," Wisnicki said, alluding to the graduation rate.

Perhaps setting the district apart is the music program — offered to students in the elementary, middle and high schools — and the community's support for the public schools. Local taxpayer-approved measures bring in an annual \$10 million to the district's budget every year while the PTA councils contribute an estimated \$4 million to \$5 million a year in volunteer time and actual dollars.

"You need to applaud that," Talarico told the audience, comprised primarily of parents.

The community's support, along with a

strong tax base and improvement in district finances, are the reason why Moody's Investors Services improved the district's bond rating recently from Aa3 to an Aa2.

A better bond rating lowers the interest payments for the district and allows "us to get more bank for the buck," Talarico said.

SOME OF SAMOHI'S BRIGHTEST

The evening concluded with a presentation by two panels — one made up of Samohi teachers and another with students — addressing the quality of education at Santa Monica High School.

The teachers all came from different disciplines, from Latin teacher Luke Henderson to Athletic Director Norm Lacy, and have spent varying tenures as faculty members at the

high school, some entering their 30th year, others still young in their ninth year. The same went for the students, who came from different walks of life, from Evelyn Santiago, a student leader who once couldn't speak a word of English, to Valyncia Todd, a senior and president of the Black Student Union.

All came to the same conclusion that the high school provides an enriching environment, giving teachers, as well as students, opportunities for growth.

"I've never met teachers that motivated me as much as they have," Santiago said.

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✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monican screenwriters weather the strike

FROM STRIKE PAGE 3

"We made an attempt at meeting them in a number of their key areas, including Internet streaming and jurisdiction in New Media. Ultimately, the guild was unwilling to compromise on most of their major demands," Counter said.

The effect a prolonged strike would have on the writers remains to be seen, working in an industry where they could spend months, and sometimes years, between development deals.

Still, spirits remain high.

David Arata, who wrote the screenplays for "Brokedown Palace" and "Children of Men," was walking the picket line Tuesday at the Fox Studios on Pico Boulevard. A member of the WGA since 1990, the Pacific Palisades resident said morale was high.

"The mood is up," he said. "There were a lot of cars honking and people waving."

Arata had hoped that both parties would have settled on an agreement to avoid a strike, which devastated the industry 19 years ago, to the tune of nearly \$500 million.

"It seems like (both parties) aren't all that far apart," Arata said. "It seems like we can work it out."

Not all guild members have had to picket yet.

Cappello just wrote and directed a film, "He Was a Quiet Man," which is due out in select theaters on Nov. 30. In the past couple of days, Cappello has been busy working in anticipation of the movie's release and

writers will be able to stay away from a pen and paper, or laptop, putting the creative juices aside for the time being. But for screenwriters like Cappello, that won't be easy.

"You can't just shut down your brain," he said.

In Santa Monica, the strike seemed to be far away from the minds of people shopping and spending their day on the Third Street



IT SEEMS LIKE (BOTH PARTIES) AREN'T ALL THAT FAR APART."

David Arata, Local screenwriter

expects to picket sometime next week.

As a producer and screenwriter, Cappello is in an interesting position in terms of the strike and tries to view the situation from both angles.

"Most of the producers I know have no problem with what the writers want," Cappello said. "It's more the conglomerates."

The strike will test just how long screen-

Promenade. Some shoppers admitted they didn't know many details about the strike, while others simply shrugged, unaware that such a contentious situation was going on in Hollywood.

Singer Maya Thaman, who was putting away her equipment following a performance on the promenade Tuesday, has a few friends who are guild members. Thaman

said she can hardly stomach many of the shows on television right now, believing it is consumed with poorly scripted shows or reality television.

She believes the strike will give the industry time to get their act together and start cranking out more high-quality programming.

Chad Holowatuck, who is visiting Southern California from Canada, said it's tough to take sides on which side should prevail. Writers have the burden, struggling in a competitive industry, but the producers are the ones who take the financial risk on a project, Holowatuck said.

If anything, what many people following the strike will realize is the importance of screenwriters to their everyday entertainment, he said.

"It'll be good for people to understand how important a writer is," Holowatuck said, while sitting on a bench at the promenade on Tuesday. "It's better to get more awareness on how tough it is (to be a writer)."

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Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

SCENE OF THE CRIME: Among the biggest problems police face today when it comes to traffic accidents are auto versus pedestrian collisions and right-of-way violations.

Cops to beef up intersection patrols

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER Looking to cut down on collision-related deaths and injuries, the Santa Monica Police Department plans to use a \$250,000 grant from the state Office of Traffic Safety to put more officers on patrol at dangerous intersections.

The money will be used primarily to pay for overtime and salaries, but also to operate more DUI checkpoints and purchase specialized equipment such as new radar

guns and alcohol screening devices, said Sgt. Larry Horn with the SMPD traffic division.

"We're hoping to make an impact just being out there," Horn said.

There will be as many as eight DUI checkpoints held over the next 12 months. A checkpoint held on Oct. 26 in the 2500 block of Lincoln Boulevard saw 1,717 vehicles pass through, 269 of which were directed to a screening area. Of those drivers, 16 were issued traffic citations and two were arrested for driving under the influence of a

controlled substance. The checkpoint ran from 8 p.m. to midnight, police said.

Another checkpoint has been scheduled for December.

The biggest problem police face today when it comes to traffic accidents are auto-versus-pedestrian collisions and right-of-way violations, Horn said.

"We have an elderly population out on the roadway, both walking and driving, and we have a tremendous amount of vehicular traffic because of all the growth that has occurred in the city and the surrounding area," Horn said. "There is a limited amount of space and sometimes both are trying to occupy it at the same time. That's when we get called out or an accident occurs."

At least two elderly men were struck and killed this year while crossing a city street, and there have been a number of other close calls. Horn said the number of accidents involving both pedestrians and other autos is on the rise.

Drivers are advised to be patient and attentive. Horn said many accidents are caused by drivers who are in a hurry and do not want to yield to others on the road. There are also a lot of distractions to deal with, including cell phones.

"Another thing to make note of is there is lots of construction going on in the city, and when that happens, it impacts the

DRIVERS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT SOMETIMES YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GO THE WAY YOU'VE ALWAYS GONE AND YOU MAY HAVE TO TAKE A DETOUR."

Sgt. Larry Horn
SMPD traffic division

roadway," Horn said. "Drivers need to understand that sometimes you may not be able to go the way you've always gone and you may have to take a detour."

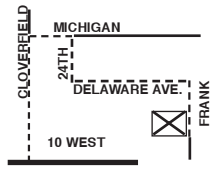
"You have to be a thinking driver," Horn said, "if you want to get where you are going safely and efficiently."

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SURF REPORT



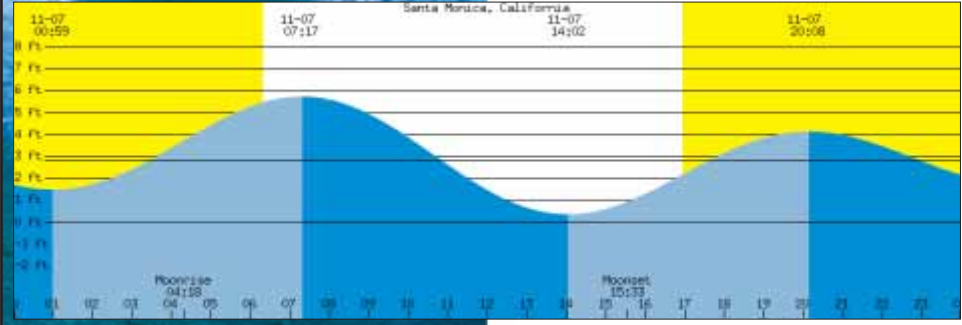
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 61°

SWELL FORECAST (5-8 FT)
Today the SW swell should completely fill in with the same angle (190-200) but periods more along the lines of 16 seconds. Size should even-out a bit more to consistently head high with the better set waves running 2 feet overhead at standouts. NW energy remains nil. Winds should be similar to today with an onshore flow.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
TRACKING NW FOR 12TH...
SW FOR 18TH DOWNGRADED...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA





NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of

October 29, 2007

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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 3

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 5

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 33

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 12

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth (Jencanilla)	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Las Alitas creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Dread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wilshire Rd., (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	F
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	A+
Laguna Canyon Creek mouth	A	A
Selkirk Canyon at San Blas County Beach	A+	A
Panero State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Panero Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	A+
Serfider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+
Serfider Beach (beach location)- daily	A	A
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	C	B
Carlson Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (joint zone)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 15948 PCH stairs	F	F
Pine Creek at Los Tunes County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Tepanga State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17280 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A	A+

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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

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MLS

Galaxy's Yallop resigns position

By the Associated Press

CARSON Frank Yallop has quit the Los Angeles Galaxy after coaching David Beckham this season to return to San Jose for a second stint in charge of the Earthquakes.

The Galaxy will receive San Jose's third-round pick in the MLS SuperDraft as compensation.

Beckham broke the news of Yallop's departure Sunday night, saying the coach had informed the team after the Galaxy's charity game to benefit victims of Southern California's recent wildfires. The team confirmed Yallop's resignation Monday.

"Frank steered our team through a unique and challenging period in our history," Galaxy general manager Alexi Lalas said in a statement. "He is a friend and a gentleman, and I want to personally thank him for his contributions."

Yallop won two Major League Soccer championships as coach of San Jose in 2001 and '03, but he struggled to duplicate that success with the Galaxy.

Yallop's resignation was the second in the MLS on Monday. Former U.S. national coach Bruce Arena resigned as New York Red Bulls coach and sporting director, two days after the team was eliminated in the first round of the playoffs for the second straight year.

Yallop coached one full season after taking over for Steve Sampson in the middle of the 2006 season. The Galaxy didn't make the playoffs in either season and had an 18-20-12 record under Yallop.

"We felt that he was the right man. We felt that he's a good manager and a strong character with the team," Beckham said Sunday night. "But we've all said, he's not walking away. He's looking after himself and he's looking after his family. It's what we would all do."

The Galaxy announced Beckham's signing in January, but the English superstar didn't join the team until mid-July. Ankle and knee injuries severely limited Beckham's playing time, leaving Yallop to make do without the team's best player.

NFL

Raiders DL Kelly out for season

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA, Calif. The Oakland Raiders have had trouble stopping the run all season. Now they have to fix that problem without their most consistent lineman.

Tommy Kelly will miss the remainder of the season with a torn ligament in his right knee, the latest injury to hit Oakland's defensive line. Pro Bowl end Derrick Burgess missed two games earlier this season with a calf injury and tackle Gerard Warren is expected to miss his fourth straight game with an injured quadriceps.

Now it's Kelly who is out.

"The train won't stop because he got hurt like that, so we have to keep going," defensive tackle Terrell Sands said.

Kelly's play had impressed his teammates, with seven-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle Warren Sapp predicting Kelly would be better than he has been by the end of his career. That's heady praise for a player who signed with the Raiders in 2004 as an undrafted and unheralded free agent from Mississippi State.

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In the clear ‘Diddy’ won’t face criminal charges in reported club fight

SEAN “DIDDY” COMBS won’t face criminal charges for reportedly punching a man after a dispute at a trendy SoHo nightclub last month, prosecutors said Tuesday.

The accuser stopped cooperating with law enforcement and also gave different versions of the incident, the Manhattan district attorney’s office said, and prosecutors weren’t able to prove criminal charges beyond a rea-

sonable doubt.

The 31-year-old accuser told police he and Combs had been arguing over a woman early in the morning of Oct. 13 before the rap mogul punched him in the face.

Combs’ attorney, Benjamin Brafman, called the incident a disagreement between acquaintances.

Brafman said he was pleased that no charges would be filed.

“Both Mr. Combs and I are pleased that the DA’s office and the police department conducted a very thorough investigation and came to this conclusion,” Brafman said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEAT LOAF SCRAPS EUROPEAN TOUR

MEAT LOAF has canceled a European tour after developing a cyst on his vocal cords.

The 56-year-old rocker will have four to six weeks of vocal therapy before doctors decide whether he needs surgery, said a statement posted on his Web site Tuesday.

He had already scrapped several British dates on the “Three Bats” tour after walking off the stage in the northern English city of Newcastle last week during a rendition of his 1970s hit “Paradise by the Dashboard Light.”

“It really breaks my heart not to be able to perform these shows,” he said in a statement. “I was really looking forward to capping off a great year and celebrating the start of the holidays with the fans. But I have to do what the doctors tell me so I can look forward to healing and coming back strong in 2008.”

“Let me dispel any rumors before they start – I will be back,” he said.

Meat Loaf, whose real name is Marvin Lee Aday, is best known for epic power ballads including “Two Out of Three Ain’t Bad” and “Bat Out of Hell.”

AP



Latin Grammys honor Guillot, dubbed ‘Queen of the Bolero’

OLGA GUILLOT, the “Queen of the Bolero,” says her lifetime achievement award from the Latin Grammys is recognition of a lifelong passion for music and performance.

“This award is a tribute to a 63-year artistic career,” Guillot, 84, told The Associated Press in a recent interview at her home in Mexico City. “For an organization to recognize that is a great reason to feel beautiful and happy.”

She is among the artists to receive the award, which was to be presented Wednesday, a day before the eighth annual Latin Grammy Awards show in Las Vegas. Guillot said she turned

down repeated offers to record in English because “I think and feel in Spanish. If I had accepted, my career would have been sunk in two years because it’s simply not the same thing.”

The Cuban singer, known for hits such as “La gloria eres tu,” “Mienteme” and “Tu me acostumbraste,” said a second-place finish along with her sister in a singing contest at age 13 was an experience that turned applause into something of a “drug” for her.

“They gave us \$10 and a bag of candy,” she laughed. “I was that precocious girl on Sundays, when they say, ‘Let the girl sing,’ and there I was.

AP

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Capote (R)
7:30

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

Elizabeth: The Golden Age
(PG-13)

7:10, 9:50

Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)

7:05, 9:45

Martian Child, The (PG)

7:20, 9:55

Saw IV (R)

7:00, 9:30

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

30 Days of Night (R)

5:05, 7:55, 10:40

American Gangster (R)

5:10, 7:00, 8:40, 10:30

Dan in Real Life (PG-13)

5:20, 7:50, 10:35

Gone Baby Gone (R)

5:25, 8:10, 10:55

Saw IV (R)

11:00

We Own the Night (R)

5:15, 8:00, 10:45

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

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)

7:20, 10:10

Bella (PG-13)

7:40, 10:00

Darjeeling Limited, The (R)

7:30, 10:00

Lust, Caution (Se jie) (NC-17)

9:55

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

Across the Universe (PG-13)

7:20, 10:20

Bee Movie (PG)

6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00

Michael Clayton (R)

7:40, 10:30

Rendition (R)

7:10, 10:10

Tim Burton's The Nightmare

Before Christmas in Disney

Digital 3D (PG)

7:00, 9:20

More information email news@smdp.com

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

Happy Birthday!

This year you have a lot going for you, but how you choose to use your innate talents is your call. You will have many opportunities that will open doors. Observe a tendency to spend too much far too easily. You have a very positive attitude coupled with endless creativity, making you a sure-bet winner. If you are single, you will meet many people, though the right person might come to you mid-2008. If you are attached, work toward a common goal together.



Born Today Horn player Al Hirt (1922)

Singer Joni Mitchell (1943)
Scientist Marie Curie (1867)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
(c) 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Ever playful, Gemini

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Continue to defer as much as you can and would like to. You'll find that the creative process is enhanced. Your imagination remains key to your important decisions. Do take a well-thought-out risk. Tonight: Defer to someone else's ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Getting your work, errands or to-do list done will take as much talent as you can muster. Know when you have had enough. Ask a friend or associate to join you for a walk. Tonight: Togetherness calls.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Instinctively you have perhaps too many ideas for your own benefit. Sort through which ones are applicable. You might be surprised by what emerges. Let others give you feedback. It is important. Tonight: Ever playful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Loosen up some, and others will too. Even if they don't, you will feel much better than you have in a long time. Note that you might not have all the answers – yet. If you lie back, you could be surprised by what heads in your direction. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You have more get-up-and-go than you have had in many years. Think positively about opportunities that head in your direction. Not every offer is a taker, but one or two might be. Return calls quickly and efficiently. Tonight: Hanging out is fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a personal matter carefully before making the final decision. Money might be an issue that needs evaluating. Someone might be encouraging you to do something you would prefer not to do. Tonight: Claim your power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You are feeling your Wheaties. Others know it as well by the way you react. You make unusual headway. You might want to rethink a situation more carefully than in the past. An error made now could have heavy implications. Tonight: As you like.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a situation more carefully. What felt good before might no longer work. Slow down and lose any compulsive attitude (if you can). The results might be excellent if you chill. Tonight: Think rather than act.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision before taking a big plunge or leap. What you realize is just how many options you have. By stopping, you'll get to catch your breath and carefully think through your options. Tonight: As you like.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Take your rightful place. You deserve all the respect you get. Make sound decisions despite an element of deception that surrounds funds. Your instincts rarely fail you. Why would they now? Let your creativity flourish. Tonight: Others want you to decide.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink a situation one more time. You might be wearing your rose-colored glasses. Enjoy the distortion. A friend and/or meeting gives you important feedback. Tonight: Try new and different!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Examine what is going on with a partner. Use your strong sense of direction. Follow through on what you feel is the most sensitive choice and/or direction. Others will follow your lead. Tonight: A must show.

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Bradley's Tips for a Healthy Relationship

Tip #3: Don't Talk About Sports with Her





JOANN, FREE AGENCY HAS REALLY KILLED PRO SPORTS

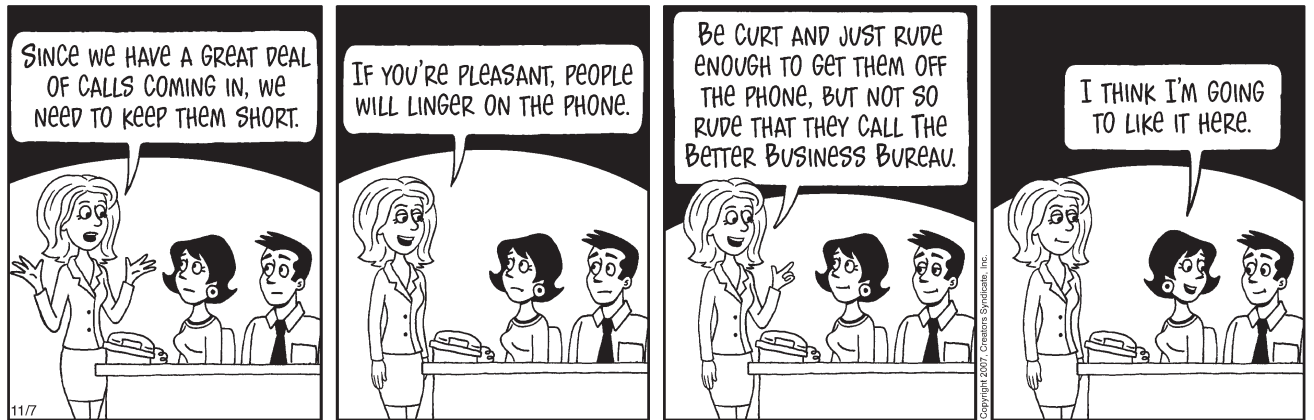
IN THE OLD DAYS, TO CHANGE TEAMS, A PLAYER HAD TO BE TRADED

NOW A PLAYER JUST DEMANDS MORE MONEY. THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO LOYALTY!

OH, BRADLEY, IT'S SO GOOD TO HEAR YOU TALK ABOUT A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT!

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



SINCE WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF CALLS COMING IN, WE NEED TO KEEP THEM SHORT.

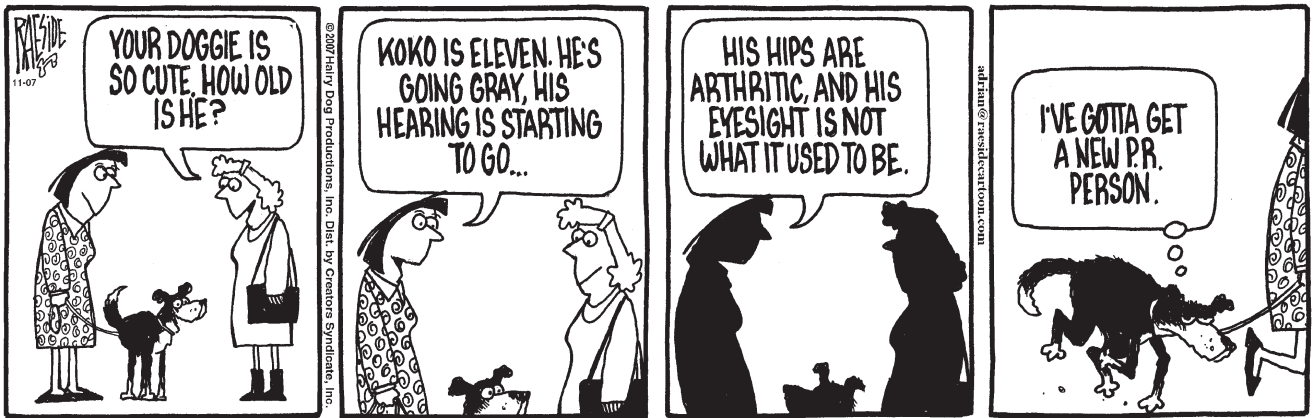
IF YOU'RE PLEASANT, PEOPLE WILL LINGER ON THE PHONE.

BE CURT AND JUST RUDE ENOUGH TO GET THEM OFF THE PHONE, BUT NOT SO RUDE THAT THEY CALL THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU.

I THINK I'M GOING TO LIKE IT HERE.

The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



YOUR DOGGIE IS SO CUTE. HOW OLD IS HE?

KOKO IS ELEVEN. HE'S GOING GRAY, HIS HEARING IS STARTING TO GO...

HIS HIPS ARE ARTHRITIC, AND HIS EYESIGHT IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE.

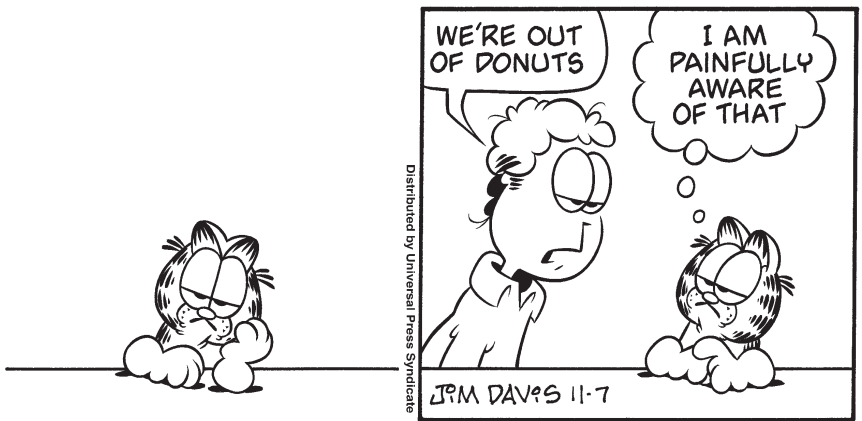
I'VE GOTTA GET A NEW P.R. PERSON.

Garfield

By Jim Davis



I'M CUTTING DOWN ON DONUTS

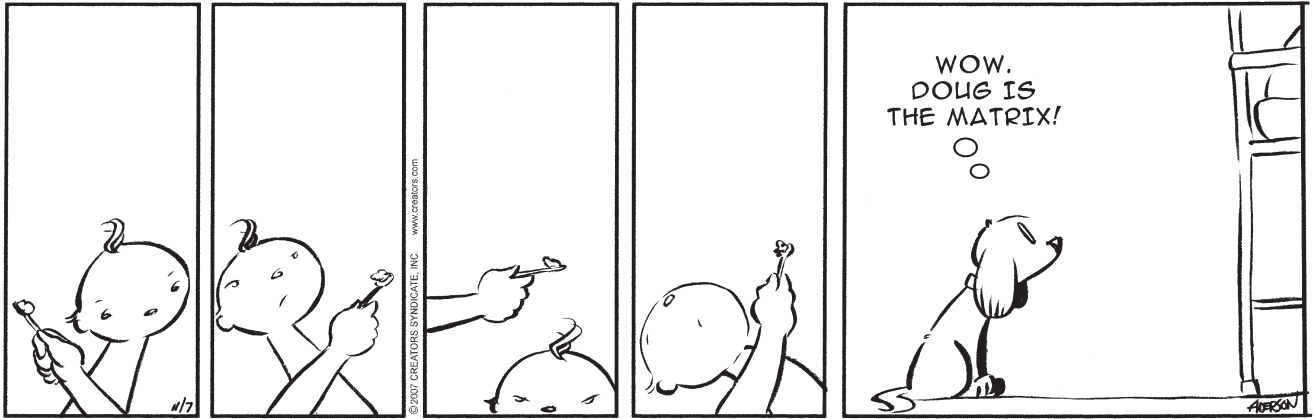


WE'RE OUT OF DONUTS

I AM PAINFULLY AWARE OF THAT

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



WOW. DOUG IS THE MATRIX!

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew By John Deering



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Confront
 - 5 Rigging support
 - 9 Wise words
 - 11 1836 battle site
 - 12 Bullfight bulls
 - 13 Discover
 - 14 Go astray
 - 15 Young newt
 - 17 Some Quidditch players
 - 19 — Moines
 - 20 Force units
 - 21 Cave dweller
 - 22 Last letter
 - 24 Evergreen shrub
 - 26 Lofty
 - 29 Gift tag word
 - 30 Bar workers
 - 32 John Mortimer's fictional barrister
 - 34 Whale group
 - 35 Theater awards
 - 36 "The March King"

- 38 Gift from parents
- 39 Circus worker
- 40 Flight part
- 41 Breather

DOWN

- 1 Trio of myth
- 2 Found charming
- 3 "Liar Liar" star
- 4 Swelled head
- 5 Faux pas
- 6 Asian temple
- 7 Charm
- 8 Lassos
- 10 Regard
- 11 Throws in
- 16 Weapons store
- 18 Realize
- 21 Nursery resident
- 23 Advice to a young man
- 24 "Absolute-ly!"
- 25 Regal fur
- 27 Soybean, for one
- 28 Clears
- 29 Fly catchers
- 30 Red-ink amount
- 31 Stylish
- 33 Small sound
- 37 Crew need

R	A	J	A	H	S		S	E	M	I
A	D	A	G	I	O		I	R	A	Q
N	O	R	A	R	O	B	E	R	T	S
			S	E	N	O	R			
	S	A	S	S		X	R	A	Y	
J	O	N	I		R	E	A	G	A	N
A	F	T		T	E	D		A	R	E
M	A	S	H	E	D		T	I	N	T
	R	Y	A	N		S	O	N	S	
			M	O	L	A	R			
O	R	A	L	R	O	B	E	R	T	S
F	A	C	E		A	E	R	I	A	L
F	E	E	T		D	R	O	P	B	Y

Yesterday's answer

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

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

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 3 17 43 46 47 2
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$12M

Super LOTTO 12 13 14 16 31
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: \$31M

Fantasy 5 6 7 10 15 20

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 2 3 5
EVENING: 2 7 3

DAILY DERRY 1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1.45.92

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Maritza Tamayo, principal of New York City's Unity Center for Urban Technologies high school, was fired in August following revelations that she was so concerned about the unruly behavior of some students that she brought in a Santeria priestess in December 2006 to cleanse the building of evil spirits. The students were on holiday break, but workers found chicken blood sprinkled around the building, and Tamayo and two other women in white dresses were seen, chanting, with one balancing a silver tray on her head, holding 40 lit candles.

■ People With Issues: Officials of the Miss Ventura County (Calif.) pageant said in September that they are tired of waiting (now, two years) and would seek police help in getting the disqualified 2005 winner Hilary Gushwa to return her crown to them. Gushwa was ousted for being secretly married at the time, a violation of pageant rules. She responded at first that she did not recall her wedding, in Las Vegas, because she was on medication, but subsequent evidence showed her actively planning the ceremony and reception.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1786 The oldest musical organization in the United States was founded as the Stoughton Musical Society.

1874 The Republican Party was first symbolized as an elephant in a cartoon drawn by Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly magazine.

1929 In New York City, the Museum of Modern Art opens to the public.

1916 Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress.

1917 Vladimir Lenin's forces overthrew Alexander Kerensky's government in Russia's Bolshevik Revolution.

1944 President Franklin D. Roosevelt won a fourth term in office, defeating Thomas E. Dewey.

1962 Former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt died in New York City at age 78.

1967 Carl Stokes of Cleveland became the first African American mayor of a major U.S. city.

1989 L. Douglas Wilder was elected governor of Virginia. He became the nation's first elected black governor.

2000 The U.S. went to the polls to choose between George W. Bush and Al Gore. The outcome wouldn't be known for more than a month because of disputed votes in Florida.

WORD UP!

bete noire [bet-NWAHR], noun: Something or someone particularly detested or avoided; a bugbear.

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--	---	--	---	--	--

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Employment

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DINING ROOM Supervisor Looking for ideal candidate who has previous restaurant experience to oversee dining room during meal times. Responsibilities also include scheduling and training staff. Must have previous supervision experience and great customer service skills. Competitive wage and benefits. Must have clear criminal background and be drug free. Please apply at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405.

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HUMAN RESOURCE coordinator. FT. Seeking individual to manage hiring, records, and payroll processing. Fax resume to (310)450-7518

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RADIO PROMOTION Phone Assistant Intern, part time, \$8/hr. 310-998-8305 x86

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THE SANTA Monica Daily Press is looking for someone to repair newspaper stands. Must own tools and be handy. Must be able to work with sheet metal and plastic. The job entails repairing panels, painting, cleaning and applying stickers. Looking to hire someone to begin Wednesday, Nov. 7. Call 310.458.7737, ext. 113.

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WAIT STAFF Part time and full time positions available. Competitive wages and benefits. Must have clear criminal background and be drug free. Please apply at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405.

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3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%**
APR 7.275%	
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Notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS # CA-07-90448-MS Loan # 0325927440 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/16/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): EMMANUEL L. YUSON, AN UNMARRIED MAN Recorded: 12/7/2006 as Instrument No. 20062718870 in book -, page - of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California; Date of Sale: 11/13/2007 at 10:30 AM Place of Sale: At the West side of the Los Angeles County Courthouse, directly facing Norwalk Blvd., 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$459,797.81 The purported property address is: 2721 2ND ST #208 SANTA MONICA, CA 90405 Assessors Parcel No. 4287-023-063 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Date: 10/17/2007 Quality Loan Service Corp. 2141 5th Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 714-259-7850 or Login to: www.fidelitytasap.com Reinstatement Line: (619) 645-7711 ext 3704 /s/ Nancy Weik, If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's rights against the real property only. THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. ASAP# 908334 10/24/2007, 10/31/2007, 11/07/2007

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LAWRENCE T. LEUNG Case No. SP007303 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of

Notices

LAWRENCE T. LEUNG A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Geraldine Richards in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE requests that Geraldine Richards be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative 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 Nov. 30, 2007 at 9:15 AM in Dept. No. R located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear 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 person 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 appraisal 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: AVERY M COOPER ESQ SBN 79376 COOPER-GORDON LLP 2530 WILSHIRE BLVD 3RD FL SANTA MONICA CA 90403-4643 Santa Monica Daily Press CN786007 LEUNG Oct 31, Nov 1, 7, 2007

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ESTALINE LEASKO CASE NO. SP007306 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ESTALINE LEASKO. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JOSEPH P. ARGENTA in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JOSEPH P. ARGENTA be appointed as personal representative 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 Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative 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 11/30/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. R located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections

Notices

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 person 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 appraisal 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 ARGENTA, JOSEPH P. 5807 W 74TH ST LOS ANGELES CA 90045 11/6, 11/7, 11/13/07 CNS-1225081# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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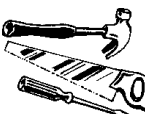
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