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DECEMBER 29-30, 2007

Volume 7 Issue 41



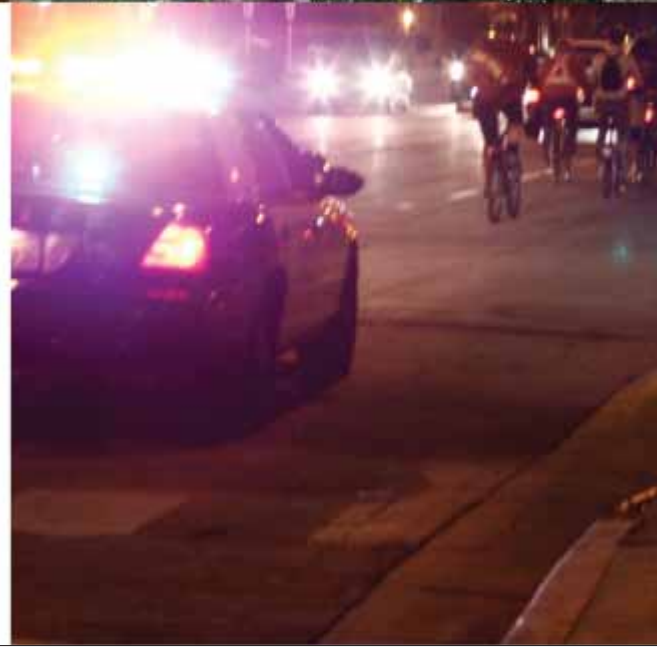
Santa Monica Daily Press

COURT OF DREAMS
SEE PAGE 15

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE LEAVING ON A JET PLANE ISSUE

The 07 stories that shaped SANTA MONICA



Story by
Melody Hanatani
Page 10

Photo illustration by Tessa Vergara tessav@smdp.com

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Calendar

2

WEEKEND EDITION, DECEMBER 29-30, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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Happy Holidays



Christmas Day Open 7:30a.m. – 2p.m.
New Year's Eve Open 7:30a.m. – 6:00p.m.
New Year's Day Open 7:30a.m. – 10:00p.m.

Hours: 6:30am - 10:00pm Daily
(Corner of 20th & Santa Monica Blvd.)

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Lula Washington's Kwanzaa Concert

3773 Crenshaw Blvd., L.A., call for times

The Lula Washington pre-Kwanzaa celebration features high-energy performances by members of the company and recitals by local students; some of whom hail from Washington's dance program for inner-city kids. Gospel choirs, poetry readings, jazz revues and a few Christmas selections round out the festivities. For more information, call (323) 292-5852.

Cafe R & B

1432 Fourth St., 9:30 p.m.

Cafe R & B performs passionate, intense and explosive music tonight at Harvelle's. Cover is \$12. For more information, visit www.harvelles.com.

'La Vida Lowrider: Cruising the City of Angels'

6060 Wilshire Blvd., L.A., check for times

Orate vato, cruise on over to the Petersen Automotive Museum to check out their current exhibit on custom Lowriders and auto-inspired artwork. Entrance fees are \$10 for adults; \$5 for seniors and students; \$3 for children, ages 5 — 15; kids under 5 are free. For more information, visit www.petersen.org.

'Extraordinary Deceptions'

3116 Second St., 2:30 p.m.

The Powerhouse Theatre presents magician Michael Gutenplan, who will bring some magical Christmas cheer by catching a bullet, sawing someone in half and more. Tickets are \$25. For further information, call (310) 396-3680, ext. 3 or visit www.powerhousetheatre.com.

Santa Monica Nativity display

Palisades Park, open viewing

The annual Santa Monica Nativity scene, featuring 14 lit scenes with life-size figures, will be on display through the end of the year — continuing a community tradition that began in 1953.

Ice, ice, baby

1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.

Bring back childhood memories — or create new ones — as you slice through the ice at the city's new public rink. Admission is \$10, including skate rental.

Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007

Jazz in the afternoon

3233 Helms Ave., L.A., 4 p.m.

The Jazz Bakery presents the Marin Nevin Group. For more information, visit www.jazzbakery.com.

Seconds of Sturges

1328 Montana Ave., 7:30 p.m.

The Aero is screening two Preston Sturges films. First up is "Sullivan's Travels" (1941) with Veronica Lake and capping off the double-feature is "Hail the Conquering Hero" (1944). For information on tickets, call (323) 466-3456.

Project Live

1026 Wilshire Blvd., 9 p.m.

Radiologic, Tha L.O.C.K., Chase Allen, Akadimiks, Mic Holden perform an unplugged set tonight at Temple Bar. Door fee is \$10.

Griffith Park Light Festival

4730 Crystal Springs Dr., L.A., times vary

This is the last night for this light festival. Walk or drive through this annual light festival with displays of local attractions like the Hollywood sign, the L.A. Zoo and Staples Center are celebrated, along with traditional seasonal imagery. For more information, visit www.dwplightfestival.com.

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.



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Looking toward the hills

Search for missing woman expands to new territory

By Daily Press staff

SM MOUNTAINS Volunteers are being sought for a weekend search in Malibu for Donna Jou, an Orange County college student who went missing June 23.

More than 30 volunteers and attorney Gloria Allred, who represents the Jou family, will search for Jou in the Santa Monica Mountains today and Sunday, with the assistance of Trinity Search & Recovery, Allred said.

Volunteer searchers can register online at www.trinitysearch.org and will gather at 9 am at Malibu Bluffs Park, 24250 Pacific Coast Highway.

Donna Jou was 19 years old when she hopped on the back of a motorcycle driven by John Steven Burgess, 35, a convicted sex criminal, on June 23. That was the last time her family saw her, and brief text messages from her phone indicate that she was locked in a bathroom and in danger at Burgess' house, her family said.

Burgess is considered a suspect — but has not been charged — in the disappearance of Jou, whose family lives in Rancho Santa Margarita. He pleaded no contest Oct. 10 in a Los Angeles courtroom to two counts of failing to register as a sex offender and was sentenced to three years in prison.

Burgess has not given any hints about Jou's whereabouts.

Deputy District Attorney Christi Frey said after an October hearing that Burgess' attorney, George F. Bird Jr., "said he can't advise his client to talk about anything that might incriminate him. He still has the right to remain silent, the right not to incriminate himself. And we can't force him to talk."

news@smdp.com

☒ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Send letters to editor@smdp.com



DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

Jackie Robinson Stadium is getting a new look. Crews were out working this week on the field, located adjacent to the Veterans Hospital in West Los Angeles, preparing the turf for the 2008 season.

Brandon Wise brandon@smdp.com

Hoping for a miracle

Jackson Sisters suing Universal Music Group

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

COLORADO AVE. Members of the 1970s female soul and disco group The Jackson Sisters have filed a \$1 million suit against Santa Monica-based Universal Music Group for alleged nonpayment of record royalties, an attorney for the singers said Thursday.

The suit filed Dec. 21 in Los Angeles Superior Court also names as defendants Polydor Inc. and Mums Records. A representative for Universal Music was not available for comment.

The Jackson Sisters — who are not affiliated with Michael Jackson's family — formed in 1971 with members Rachell Jackson, Olivia Smith, Lynetta Coleman and Gennine Francis. All were minors at the time, according to the suit.

In August 1975, Mums Records and

Polydor, a subsidiary of Universal Music, signed a distribution agreement for the release of a Jackson Sisters album, the suit states. At the same time, a second agreement was purported to have been entered between Polydor and the singers, but the quartet did not sign either of the contracts, their suit states.

After Polydor released the self-titled Jackson Sisters album in 1976 — which included the previously recorded singles "Why Can't We be More Than Just Friends?" "I Believe in Miracles" and "Miracles" — the singers were told the record lost money and they were not entitled to royalties, the suit states.

However, the Jackson Sisters found out in the mid-1990s — through a search of the Internet — that their albums were being sold internationally, and then learned in June 2003 that sales overseas were brisk, the suit states.

"In fact, they had established a cult-like following for their music, (particularly in Japan and Europe)," said their attorney, Natasha L. Hill. "This has all been a big surprise to them because they were originally told that the album never made any money."

Universal Music, the successor-in-interest to the Mums-Polydor contract, told the singers in December 2003 that they had relinquished all rights to royalties and showed them their signatures on one of the two contracts, the suit states.

However, the singers had never seen the contract before, and their signatures had been forged, according to their suit.

Universal and the other defendants have 30 days from the date of the filing to respond to the suit, Hill said.

The Jackson Sisters hailed from Compton, but were based in Detroit. They recorded material for the Tiger Lily label, obtaining some modest success in the '70s, however the group really came into their own nearly a decade later following the emergence of the "rare groove" scene in the UK.

Rare groove is a term coined by English DJ Norman Jay in 1985, and originally referred to relatively obscure funk tracks from the '70s. Those songs have influenced electronica, techno, house, breakbeat, jungle and other genres.

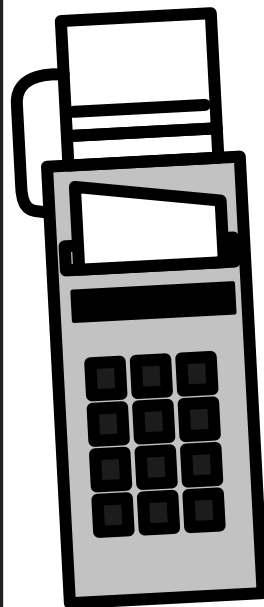
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Greedy lawyer is milking our city
Editor:

Michael Nourmand, the attorney who represented the pregnant female part-time driver who won a discrimination suit against the Big Blue Bus line ("Pregnant pause continues," Dec. 28), despite the fact that she had preventable accidents on her driving record, sounds like an extortionist. His legal fees of \$400,000 are ludicrous for a case like this.

The fact that the plaintiff was awarded \$177,000 in the judgment and he was not being paid on a contingency basis tells me he intended to charge unduly high fees in hopes of winning and soaking the city. There's no way the plaintiff would ever have been able to pay him... and he knew that.

The fact that the court allowed those fees tells us all we have to know about our present legal system, and why malpractice insurance has made the cost of doing business and health costs soar.

I want City Deputy Attorney Rohr to continue to appeal, regardless of Nourmand's threatening public statements that Santa Monica should pay up because the 7 percent interest now being charged is going to hurt the taxpayers in the end.

Michael Nourmand and people like (him) are the reason the taxpayers suffer.

Carmen Finestra
Santa Monica

Don't forget the 'illegal' part
Editor:

(Re: "GOP Double-speak," letters, Dec. 26)
Ah, yes. Mitt Romney plays to "the lowest common denominator of the Republican Party, the intolerant Southern white base" when demonizing immigrants. Perhaps the respondent is referring to the issue of illegal aliens. That would be a very large population of lawbreakers that come into the United States without permission, flood our public services to hasten bankruptcy and closures, demand special education above legal citizens, are perpetrators of identity theft, bolster violent gang activity along with increased drug trafficking, and on and on. One thing is certain – even the purest person among this group is breaking the law.

Yes, we are all part of the human family. This is quite a rainbow and another reason that we have immigration laws. If nothing else, it is not possible for America to be the home to all of this planet's human population. The idea that Mr. Romney is speaking of excluding any group of American immigrants is absurd. These would be people who are here legally either as naturalized citizens or legal residents. The media and those with ties to special interest groups have done an astounding job of making illegal aliens thought of and put in print as the same thing as legal immigrants. Let's be clear about the difference, not cloud the issue even more.

None of the leading presidential candidates have the courage to face this issue with undiluted vision (acute near-sightedness, maybe). For those citizens living in areas of the country not yet deluged by illegal aliens, let's arrange and exchange program. We will export a million Los Angeles County illegal aliens for them to accommodate for a while and then see if they think this is simply a question of being one big human family.

Shane Isaacson
Venice



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Wrapping up
a crazy year

2007 WILL PROBABLY BEST BE remembered as "The Year of the Longest Presidential Campaign." Unfortunately, 2008 will probably be remembered for the same thing. There are "only" about 10 more months before the election. Are we going to be able to take 10 more months of platitudes, pandering, and pretensions by the would-be Pooh Bahs?

There was a time when many of us loved the idea of presidential debates, and couldn't imagine that there could be too many of them. Now, it feels that there are more debates than actual voters. 2007 was also the year of the Major League Baseball drug revelations. Who would have thought that men whose muscles, feet, and heads grew after the age of 40 were actually putting something in their bodies other than spinach? And the last chapter of the last Harry Potter book was published, but I doubt we've seen the last chapter of the adventures of Paris-Lindsay-Britney, etc.

Until recently, I didn't know that Britney Spears had a 16-year-old sister. Now, thanks to the front pages of America's newspapers, I know that this little sister is pregnant. Her condition is not so extraordinary as to merit a mention here, but its being reported as "news" on the front page is. What is it about these girls and young women that interests people so much? Do they like to read about the mishaps and missteps of young people who get rich too quickly, or are they simply fascinated by the irony of somebody like the Spears girls, whose mother — right when the teenager announced her pregnancy — was in the midst of writing a book about good parenting?

There have been some news stories that you might have missed in recent weeks because of all your holiday shopping or partying. It's my duty to fill you in. In the area of loud news, 627 people in Anaheim played their tubas simultaneously. No, this was not a bizarre coincidence. They were attempting to set a Guinness Book record, and pending verification, they very well may have. See, it's not just politics that produces noise and hot air.

Al Gore, who was considered the Big Loser in 2000 when he lost the presidency, won a share of the Nobel Peace Prize. He's also won an Oscar. And he hasn't had to

wage a war or watch from the White House as the dollar dropped faster than one of the aforementioned young women's hot pants. Sounds like Al Gore might have won after all.

Just before Christmas, the FBI announced that it is expanding its computer database of information on people. Just what we all felt they needed to do, right? We already knew that we are photographed many times a day, and that our identities are in all kinds of governmental databases. But the FBI plans on expanding its files by using new "biometric" data. The idea is that they will be able to identify people not just by fingerprints, but by their iris patterns, face shape and maybe even by the unique way that some people walk. I'm a little worried about this. If I lose or gain weight, my face shape changes. And what if my posture finally improves and I start to walk with an entirely different gait? Will they arrest me because they think I'm Public Enemy Number One: Willy "Good Posture" Williams?

Finally, every year, many people erroneously blame their holiday turkey for making them sleepy. They say it's because of the amino acid, tryptophan. The truth is that many foods, such as chicken, pork and cheese contain at least as much tryptophan as turkey. Moreover, there are other amino acids in these foods and in the other foods that you eat at your dinner that counteract the sleep-inducing effects. So, it's fairly unlikely that eating turkey will actually make you any sleepier than eating most other foods. I guess you'll have to look for another cause of that sleepy feeling you get when you eat with your family and you hear those same old stories from your aunts and uncles. Hmmm.

I have very positive feelings about 2008. I'm especially looking forward to the Olympics in China. I can just hear track coaches from around the world shouting encouragement to their runners in Beijing: "Get the lead out!"

Happy New Year!

LLOYD GARVER writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com.

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST YEAR BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“There’s so much need in that area, and I feel like if I go, it will bring more attention to what people can do to help.”

— Paris Hilton, referring to a planned trip to Rwanda, which she later canceled

“I felt euphoria, devastated, when I finished one chapter near the end. I absolutely howled, it had been planned for so long.”

— “Harry Potter” author, J.K. Rowling, on finishing the series’ last book

“I think I got a B in Econ 101. I got an A, however, in keeping taxes low, and being fiscally responsible with the people’s money.”

— President Bush

“People are selfish. These people with the fires and the floods and everything, they overbuild and they put nature to the test, and they get what’s coming to them, that’s what I say.”

— George Carlin, blaming this year’s wild-fires on the residents of the affected areas

“It was great.”

— 20-year-old actress Lindsay Lohan, on her month-long rehab stay

“It’s Britney, bitch.”

— Britney Spears’ introducing her disastrous MTV performance

“It’s not the most comfortable thing, but it gives you a large erection and it lasts.”

— Bert, an 83-year-old man, on using a pump to maintain his active sex life

“My quest for a World Series ring continues.”

— Barry Bonds, after the San Francisco Giants failed to re-sign him after a season in which he broke the all-time home run record

“I’m afraid that everybody’s in for a terrible time.”

— Norman Lear, on the writers’ strike

Quotations captured and compiled with care by CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.

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The QLine

TREES, FLUORIDE AND THE PRESIDENT DOMINATE 2007

This past week, Q-line asked:
What were the top stories of 2007 and how did they shape life in Santa Monica?

Here are your responses:

"ONE OF THE TOP STORIES HAPPENED only recently – getting rid of the homeless czar, another wasted big salary. We don't need any more high-priced executives telling us how to help homelessness in this city. The City Council was responsible for the foolishness and neglect that allowed this to happen in this city. It should have been checked long ago, when it first became apparent. Now it's gotten to disgusting proportions. This city is the new Skid Row."

"BY FAR, THE MOST MISERABLE NEWS in town is that we keep reelecting some sick 'commies' – Santa Monicans for Renters Rights – who keep ruining our sweet, quiet little beach town. Who cares that they've turned us into a cash cow, dirty tourist trap, ruined the traffic, allowed the homeless to piss over everything and poisoned our water if they keep a few of our tenants' rent low? Congratulations to Santa Monicans for Renters Rights for terrorizing tenants into voting for them, comrades."

"THE TOP STORY OF 2007 SHOULD have been Bush and Cheney impeached. Unfortunately, that never happened, so my top story is Gore's warning about global warming. Here in Santa Monica, we have learned that our City Council cares nothing about this danger. Hopefully, our Treesavers will be successful in keeping our city alive and healthy in spite of them."

"PAULIE WALNUTS OF 'THE SOPRANOS' said, 'Give 2007 back to the Indians.' I agree. Still, I doubt the American Indian nations would take it either. The American Indian nations have a saying about everything and would have a saying about 2007 if given the time to conjure one up. The saying I like best is: 'White man speak with forked tongue.'"

"THE BIGGEST STORY IS PROBABLY the election, which will run into next year, because whoever wins will have the power to screw up the whole country and the whole world. Though, they can't do any more than Bush has done."

"ONE OF THE TOP STORIES CERTAINLY has to be the City Council's inappropriate decision to relocate and cut down many of the beautiful ficus trees on Second and Fourth streets in the Santa Monica downtown district. The issue's extremely important. Santa Monica residents and visitors overwhelmingly want the city to change its policy. Not only is it an important environmental issue, it's an important issue about elected officials representing the people of Santa Monica ... in this case, unfairly."

"THE TOP STORY IS THE \$462 MILLION budget – the third-highest budget in L.A. County. Add to that the endless tax hikes by SMC and the school district over the

last 20 years; it has to be another \$1 billion! The largesse from the royal court at City Hall gives us no parking, no cars, low-income housing for non-English speaking, socialist restaurant and hotel workers helping to support an average hotel room of \$260. Then there's the PRC, Heal the Bay, Step Up on Second, Pico Family & Youth, environmental defense, the homeless services for every bum in L.A. County, useless Rent Control Board ... like Deep Throat said in 'All the President's Men;' 'Follow the money.'"

"THE BIG STORY IS SHOVING A TOXIC chemical waste – fluoride – down our throats, literally. The big story not yet investigated is – where are the secret bank accounts of the public officials, bureaucrats and politicians. Are their bank accounts set up for them by their chemical corporation cohorts in Panama, Bahamas or Dubai? Scientific magazine has an article – 'New concerns about fluoride.'"

"THE MOST IMPORTANT TOPIC that was dealt with in Santa Monica had to do with the trees (on Second and Fourth streets) in Santa Monica. It had to do with environmental issues, it had to do with the health of the people and its an issue that really needs to be resolved in favor of the trees."

"IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, THE fluoridation issue has been major in my life. I'm very upset by being mass-medicated by this fluoride poison."

"IN KNOXVILLE, TENN. THIS YEAR, TWO students were killed, raped and tortured. His penis was cut off and her breasts were cut off by six blacks – five females and one male. It was not covered by the press because of race, in my opinion. I think it's unfair that this wasn't covered by the mainstream press."

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Blackouts leave many in the dark

SCE restores power to downtown customers

By Daily Press staff

DOWNTOWN Utility crews have been busy the last three days, working around the clock to restore power to more than 20,000 homes and businesses across the Los Angeles area, including some 1,000 customers in Santa Monica who lost power around 5 p.m. Thursday.

Officials from Southern California Edison said a faulty high-voltage cable was to blame for the Santa Monica outage, which affected those living just east of the busy Third Street Promenade.

While Edison crews restored power to 1,000 customers in just under one hour Thursday evening, roughly 20 homes and businesses didn't get their lights turned back on until 6 a.m. the following day, said Edison spokesman Mark Olson.

"It was not the same circuit that we have been having problems with in the downtown area," Olson said, referring to the Sun Tower circuit, which supplies power to most of the promenade and has been the source of frustration for many business owners because it had the tendency to malfunction during the warm summer months.

"We are continuing to upgrade the system downtown," Olson said.

As for the windstorms that have kept

customers in the Hollywood Hills and Los Angeles areas without electricity since Wednesday evening, all service was restored before dawn Friday, DWP spokesman Joseph Ramallo said.

Fierce winds Wednesday night and early yesterday were blamed for outages affecting more than 19,000 DWP customers, officials said. Gusts tore down utility poles, snapped power poles like toothpicks, and sent tree limbs and whole trees crashing down on power lines.



**WE ARE
CONTINUING TO
UGRADE THE SYSTEM
DOWNTOWN."**

Mark Olson, SCE Spokesman

The winds on Wednesday and early Thursday prompted utility crews to work around the clock for the second time this week. Winds gusting 60 mph to 100 mph in parts of Los Angeles County on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day knocked out power to nearly 10,000 customers.

According to the National Weather Service, another potentially damaging wind event is expected Monday — New Year's Eve, extending into New Year's Day.

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Shima 1432 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (310) 314-0882
Siam Beach Restaurant 2533 Lincoln Blvd. (310) 827-8977
Stroh's Gourmet 1239 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (310) 450-5119
Szechwan Restaurant 2905 Washington Blvd. (310) 821-6256
Uncle Darrow's 2560 S Lincoln Blvd. (310) 306-4862
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C & O Cucina 3016 Washington Blvd. (310) 301-7278
Cafe Del Rey 4451 Admiralty Way (310) 823-6395
California Pizza Kitchen 3345 Fiji Way (310) 301-1563
Casa Escobar 14160 Palawan Way (310) 822-2199
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Harbor House Restaurant 4211 Admiralty Way (310) 577-4555
Islands 404 Washington Blvd (310) 822-3939
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Kaya Sushi 13400 Washington Blvd. (310) 577-1143
Kifune Restaurant 405 Washington Blvd (310) 822-1595
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Mercedes Grille 14 Washington Blvd (310) 827-6209
Mermaids-Juice Java & More 14045 Panay Way (310) 306-3883
Rainbow Acres Natural Foods 4756 Admiralty Way (310) 823-5373
Sapori Ristorante 13723 Fiji Way (310) 821-1740
Tony P's 4445 Admiralty Way (310) 823-4534
Tsuji No Hana 4714 Lincoln Blvd (310) 827-1433
The Warehouse Restaurant 4499 Admiralty Way (310) 823-5451

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Chez Mimi Restaurant 246 26th St (310) 393-0558
Chin Chin 11740 San Vicente Blvd. (310) 826-2525
Coral Tree Cafe 11645 San Vicente Blvd. (310) 979-8733
Harvest Restaurant 13018 San Vicente Blvd. (310) 458-6050
Literati II 12081 Wilshire Blvd. (310) 479-3400
Enzo and Angela 11701 Wilshire Blvd. (310) 477-3880
Trattoria Amici 2538 San Vicente Blvd (310) 826-4888

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Aphrodisiac 10351 Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 470-0792
The Apple Pan 10801 W. Pico Blvd. (310) 475-3585
Awash Restaurant 5990 Pico Blvd. (323) 939-3233
Bombay Cafe 12021 W. Pico Blvd. (310) 473-3388
Carmine's II Caffè 10463 Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 441-4706
Colony Cafe 10937 W. Pico Blvd. (310) 470-8909
En Sushi 11651 Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 477-1551
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The seven wonders of 2007

From trees to pollution, Santa Monica has seen its share of hot stories

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE What a year to make a mountain out of a molehill!

In a city where most residents keep abreast with the issues, it seems nothing escapes the scrutiny of the public, be it a controversial high-rise condo development in a largely single-family neighborhood or something as seemingly mundane as a provocative TV ad for a modeling competition on the side of a bus.

In 2007, it seemed Santa Monicans always had a cause for which to fight, issues like the noise pollution caused by large jet planes cruising into a municipal airport or the battle between local law enforcement officials and a band of free-spirited bicyclists, roaming the city streets in an effort to assert their right to the road.

In Santa Monica, there was always something to talk about in 2007, the good and the bad.

Celebrities seemed to have taken a liking to Santa Monica this year, thrusting the city into the national spotlight with coverage in television entertainment news shows and tabloid magazines, thanks to the likes of Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton.

The "Herbie Fully Loaded" star, Lohan, put her racing skills to good use when she was allegedly fully loaded during a wild ride through the city in the early morning hours of July 24, chasing the distraught mother of a former assistant, ending nearby in what was clearly an unfavorable spot for Lohan — within earshot of the Santa Monica Police Department. Lohan was booked for driving under the influence among other drug-related charges.

Hilton grabbed headlines a month later when she and model Zeta Graff were scheduled to meet in the Santa Monica Courthouse for a defamation suit dating back to 2005. A group of disappointed entertainment journalists and bloggers sadly left the courthouse on the morning of Aug. 22 after learning that Hilton and Graff's lawyers had settled out of court.

The city appeared — statistically — like a much more dangerous place for pedestrians in 2007, a year that saw the number of pedestrian- and automobile-related crash-



Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

UP IN ARMS: A local group of activists fought to save trees in downtown in 2007.



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

NOT VERY MERRY: Even Santa Claus was ticketed by Santa Monica Police during a Critical Mass ride in December.

es at its highest frequency in recent memory. At least 15 people have been struck by a vehicle, six of whom were killed. Many of the crashes have involved the elderly, representing both the driver and the pedestrian.

Most recently, a 94-year-old driver struck and killed an 80-year-old woman as she walked across Colorado Avenue at 16th Street in a marked crosswalk on Dec. 1. The startling statistic has senior citizens calling on city officials to find some ways to make the streets safer to traverse.

Then there's the good.

A new trophy case will have to be built in City Hall, considering the amount of awards given to the city of Santa Monica in the past year, from culinary achievements handed out by Zagat to the distinction as being one of the 10 greenest cities in the country, awarded by real estate Web company, Move.com.

But that was just a taste of the flavor of life in Santa Monica throughout 2007. Issues like the anti-smoking campaign and the move to save a humble group of ficus trees in downtown Santa Monica molded the city in ways unimaginable, issues that sometimes banded together residents, but in some cases, created divisions between city officials and residents, residents and residents, and city officials and city officials.

These are the issues that shaped life in Santa Monica in 2007:

FIGHTING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

In eco-conscious Santa Monica, it came as little surprise when residents decried a proposal to uproot and destroy or transplant 54 ficus trees from Second and Fourth streets — part of an initiative to beautify the downtown district.

What came as a surprise to many of the residents was where the proposal came from — a city government that prides itself as being one of the most environmentally friendly in the country.

The issue really caught steam in May after City Hall began seeking contractors to take on the roughly \$8.2 million streetscape improvement plan, a proposal to improve Second and Fourth streets from Colorado Avenue to Wilshire Boulevard, enhancing pedestrian safety and improving lighting.

The plan also includes an element to remove 54 ficus trees, destroying the structurally deficient and transplanting the healthy ones to areas elsewhere in the city, replacing each empty ficus plot with two ginkgo bilobas.

Despite opposition from the public, the City Council awarded the contract during its meeting in mid-August, drawing promises by environmental activists that they will do everything to halt the project, tying themselves to the trees slated for removal.

"No amount of electrically-operated parking structures or hydrogen-powered Priuses are going to make up for the photos of people who are chained to trees as the trees are getting cut down," vowed Dan Jansenson, an architect who works on Fourth Street.

The Santa Monica Treesavers formed soon after, staging protests and handing out fliers to businesses along the project area. The so-called Treesavers brainstormed ways in which they could postpone the Oct. 8 date when the crews would begin to remove the trees.

The saga took a turn two days before the project was slated to begin, when a judge issued a restraining order against the city, allowing the overall project to proceed as scheduled, but throwing a wrench into the plans to remove the trees, which were ordered to stay put until a hearing later that month. City officials argued that the delay in plans would jeopardize state and federal funding of the project.

The Treesavers withdrew their injunction request a few weeks after they discovered a certain way in which the trees

would remain put in perpetuity — filing a landmarks designation application.

"It brought to the fore the real concern that many Santa Monicans have for the local environment," Jansenson said on Friday, reflecting back on how the trees affected the city. "People are emotionally connected to the environmental issues and this gets expressed most strongly when it comes to local matters."

STOP BEING SUCH MASSHOLES

They take to the streets, every first Friday of the month, for a euphoric ride through Santa Monica, or at least that's what it used to be.

Months after the Santa Monica Police Department began stepping up enforcement of Critical Mass' ride, the number of participants is decreasing and fear that one might receive a ticket for seemingly trivial offenses is on the rise.

The reaction to Critical Mass from bystanders has been mixed, some cheering as the bike riders stream by in a blur, others frustrated that the cyclists take up an entire lane of traffic and seem to ignore the rules of the road, like stopping at a stop sign.

After Santa Monica Police officers began enforcing the ride in the late spring and early summer, several members of Critical Mass met with leaders of the police department to iron out their differences, but talks have stalled between both parties.

The strained relationship between the police and cyclists boiled over after police officers issued 32 tickets to cyclists during their November ride, with offenses ranging from riding outside of the bike lane to inadequate lighting. Members of Critical Mass spoke at a City Council meeting last month in which they criticized the city and the police department.

While the ride still continues in Santa Monica, the cyclists have limited their time spent in Santa Monica, departing for Venice and West Los Angeles after a few miles for greener pastures.

"We leave for LA because SMPD harasses us," said Alex Thompson, the unspoken, but outspoken leader.

A LARGE BIRD AND PLANE, BUT NO SUPERMAN

People like airplanes, but not when they're landing in their backyard.

More than 100 angry residents of Sunset Park and Mar Vista rallied in front of the administration building at the Santa Monica

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WATCHING THE PLANES FLY BY: City officials decided to restrict larger, faster jets from landing at Santa Monica Airport in 2007, something that opened the city to litigation from the FAA and airline industry, who view the airport as a reliever for Los Angeles International Airport.

Airport in late April for an Earth Day rally against large jet-fueled aircraft, holding signs illustrating their fears of toxicity from emissions and noise pollution.

"This airport has gotten so bad, it's as if our home is built on an aircraft," Stacy Peralta, a filmmaker who lives in Sunset Park, said at the rally. "The airport is the most abusive corporate citizen in every single aspect, from sound to pollution."

Residents in the Sunset Park and Mar Vista neighborhoods have long complained about living in the shadow of the airport, claiming their lives are disrupted by the blaring sounds of jets taking off from the runway, stricken by fear that a plane will overrun the runway and land on the houses west of 23rd Street, afraid that they will one day get cancer.

At least part of their problems seemed on the way to getting solved when the City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance in late November to ban the largest and fastest jets from Santa Monica Airport, a move that some experts believe would make the city vulnerable to litigation. The Federal Aviation Administration had suggested that City Hall purchase homes adjacent to both ends of the runway, a suggestion criticized by city officials.

If a second reading of the ordinance is approved next month, jets whose aircraft approach speeds exceeding 121 knots — about 7 percent of the total jet operations — would be banned.

BARKING UP THE WRONG CITY

Everyone was all smiles in April when an 8.3-acre park opened at the base of the Santa Monica Airport, one of the first new parks to open in recent memory.

Those smiles disappeared when a group of Mar Vista residents, led by fellow neighbor, LA City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, criticized City Hall for a policy that left the door to the dog park closed to all non-Santa Monica residents, staging a protest with their four-legged friends outside of the Dog Park a few weeks after the opening. Rosendahl's criticism of the city seemed to have ruffled some feathers among some Santa Monica city officials.

The off-leash dog park is among the few place in the city where residents can let their pups run freely, their mouths hanging open as they do their business over the wood chipped ground. City officials said the reason why the park was exclusive to residents was because there were so few off-leash parks in the city.

But a change of heart came in September when the City Council voted to open the park to non-residents at an annual fee of \$15.50 to pay for the maintenance of the park.

"This was a very contentious issue for a number of reasons," said then-Mayor Richard Bloom in September. "For that, I am extremely pleased with the responsible manner in which the city handled this issue."

BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH

Finding a place to light up in Santa Monica got a lot harder in 2007, but it's not like anyone abided by the law anyway.

After the City Council banned smoking in most public places in late 2006, the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees passed a similar measure for the college campus, restricting smoke to areas within 25 feet of a window or doorway.

In September, just months after the ban was passed, it didn't appear as though the students were paying attention, even though more than 62 percent of the voting student body decided in favor of the ban.

While staying low key for most of 2007, the smoking ban resurfaced with a bang earlier this month with the City Council directed attorneys to draft a law that would make businesses and their employees liable for knowingly allowing their customers to light up in the outdoor dining areas. The direction came unanimously by the City Council on Dec. 11.

The motion came after residents complained to the City Council that there was still a large number of customers smoking in the outdoor dining areas more than a year after the smoking ban went into effect on Nov. 23, 2006.

The ban could also be expanded as the council also requested at the same meeting that smoking be prohibited on the grounds of the Santa Monica Library and apartments and condos, which would give Santa Monica one of the strictest anti-smoking regulations in the country.

"This is criminalizing a non-criminal activity," Bruce Cameron, a Santa Monica resident, said earlier this month about banning smoking in apartments. "They've gone into the restaurants and the bars and they are coming into your house pretty damn soon."

WHERE'S THE ACCOUNTABILITY?

The departure of former Chief Financial Officer Winston Braham in late November flushed out a series of issues concerning the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District during 2007, starting with questions as to why the former fiscal head was ordered to stay tight-lipped about the financial matters of the public school district.

Braham resigned amid speculation that he disagreed with the financial direction in which the district was headed, rumors

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Santa Monica didn't have it easy in 2007

FROM 2007 PAGE 11

fueled by the fact that the former CFO refused to certify a financial document that the district would be able to sustain a 5-percent teacher salary raise.

Following scrutiny of the district's alleged lack of financial transparency and accountability, the district hired the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), which after an audit, concluded that the district could survive a teacher salary raise if it implemented a series of changes.

After the City Council raised some reservations about granting a \$530,000 increase in aid to the school district because of concerns about the financial accountability, Talarico lifted the confidentiality agreement in Braham's contract. Braham spoke at a City Council meeting in June, but his presentation revealed little.

But what did come out of the meeting was the City Council demanding that district administrators examine its policies in the special education program, after several parents complained to councilmembers about so-called secret deals being cut in the specific education plans for the special ed students.

The council approved the funding contingent on the district conducting a third-party audit on the special education program and its practices, and place a moratorium on confidentiality clauses in the settlement agreements.

"The outcome of the entire issue with Braham leaving and subsequently having FCMAT come in and look at the finances assured a lot of people and members of the board that the financial position of the district is very strong," said school board member Barry Snell on Friday.

A NEW MALL LIES AHEAD

The 2007 holiday shopping season was the last for Santa Monica Place before it shuts down at the end of next month to undergo renovation.

Macerich, the real estate company that owns Santa Monica Place, received the thumbs-up for its plans to make over the aging shopping center by the Architectural Review



Rendering courtesy Macerich

A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE: Santa Monica Place is slated to be completely remodeled by the company that operates it.

Board and several other committees in the past few weeks, getting the green light to move forward next month.

The process wasn't entirely smooth for Macerich, whose project received some opposition from the owner of several Ocean Avenue motels. Michael Farzam, who owns the Santa Monica Beach Travelodge and Pacific Sands Motel on Ocean Avenue, said he was prepared to speak out against the project because Macerich had opposed his plans to tear down the two hotels in favor of a new one.

The two parties came to an agreement in June, just hours before Macerich was scheduled to present their proposal to the Planning Commission, which subsequently approved the plans.

The new plan includes removing the roof along the central

portion of the mall, creating an open-air center that utilizes the natural ocean breezes offered by its close proximity to the ocean. The new mall, which is expected to be completed by fall 2009, is designed to better connect itself with the Third Street Promenade, the Santa Monica Pier and the Civic Center.

With a number of empty storefronts and only one anchoring mall for years — Macy's — Santa Monica Place has lived in the shadow of the Third Street Promenade, which attracts the bulk of the shoppers in Downtown Santa Monica.

"It has been an amazing journey," said Bob Aptaker, the vice president of development for Macerich last month.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 53°

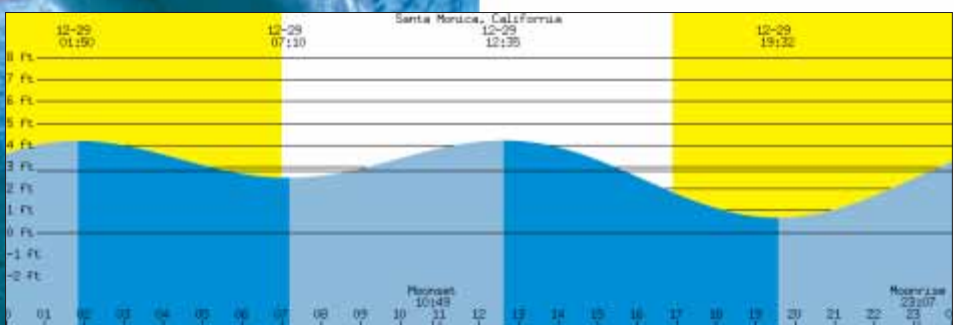
SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

Saturday the 29th the NW swell drops off and no southern hemi energy is expected. West facing breaks are looking at steep angled, 315-degree energy for waist to chest high waves with still some pluses at times at standouts, perhaps shoulder high on the better set waves. South facing spots will only be working the wrap from the steep NW with waist high waves.

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12-29 01:50 12-29 07:10 12-29 12:30 12-29 19:50

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01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Plimsouth 10:49 Plimsouth 23:07

BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **December 11, 2007**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills — 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0
Number of wet days — 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 36 / 18
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 11 / 15

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 or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (beacarrilla)	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Palga Canyon storm drain	C	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	A+
Escorial Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsaugas)	F	F
Bread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	F	D
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kentler storm drain	F	F
Escandida Creek, just east of Escandida State Beach	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A+	F
Ladiga Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	B	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Puente State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puente Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	ns
Sunridge Beach at Malibu Canyon fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	C
Sunridge Beach (beach location)- daily	F	F	Venice Beach- projection of Tapsall St.	A+	C
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	A	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zone)	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Deckweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Torres County Beach	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A	A+	Deckweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	C	Deckweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Cardenock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F	Deckweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C			
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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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of swimmers becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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



Notes from the film scoundrel

Kenn Tarr

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Spears family drama unfolds

THE LATEST CHAPTER IN THE TRAILER trash soap opera that is the Spears family has been written. In today's episode, 16-year-old Jamie-Lynn Spears reveals that the father of her unborn child is not courtesy of her longtime boyfriend, Casey Aldridge, 18.

It turns further scandalous when tabloid magazine Star reports that the Spears family is paying Aldridge to "act as the dad." The actual father is a good deal older than Jamie-Lynn and may not ever come forward. By ever I mean until there is a \$500,000 sale of his story to some media outlet, then he'll tell us all what color his eyes were at birth and how precisely to spell his name. Until then, we can only speculate who tapped the Spears' Lolita and who has caused Britney to be viewed as the boring older sister during this recent news cycle.

Jamie-Lynn's sexual desires for older men is nothing new. The Disney Channel star isn't a bad example for her worshippers, she is a perfect reflection of them rather. Every high school age girl is disgusted by boys their own age. History has examples as well. Cher hooked-up with Sonny when she was just 16. Bo Derek met her husband John when he was in his 40s while she was under 18. I suppose all this trailer trash debauchery will make for a good single by Jamie-Lynn when the smoke clears.

The book that mother Lynne was writing about how to raise your teenage daughter is off as a result. There has been a long trend of older men romancing younger women. The law says this is not allowed, but in many cases the law is laughed at. Did Sonny serve jail time for seducing Cher? The law should just kind of melt away in time anyway. In U.K. and Canada, the age of sexual consent is 15 and 14, respectively. Here, it's 18, and it likely is a good number to keep it at. The Spears saga is just another case that American laws cannot change human behavior or in Jamie-Lynn's case, they actually drew her towards this older man, and her odd Christian/materialist upbringing further confused her mindset. Well she's still as pretty as Britney was at her age, if not prettier. Let's see how things look in a couple years. It is likely Jamie-Lynn will be better looking than Britney post-pregnancy. The things that really matter, like which Spears sister was hotter when, those will take a while to shake out.

JAMIE-LYNN SPEARS

SOMETHING'S BRUIN IN WESTWOOD
The interminable search for UCLA's new football coach has come down to two candidates. The incumbent, defensive coordinator Dewayne Walker, has the support of the players, but they'll play for whoever the administration appoints. The man on the outside making the challenge is UCLA legend Rick Neuheisel. With recruiting improprieties at Washington and Colorado and ethical question-marks all over his resume, UCLA seems very reticent in putting their faith in Neuheisel. Boise State head coach Chris Peterson has turned down the job offer, as has former NFL coach Steve Mariucci. Apparently, Titans offensive coordinator Norm Chow interviewed but is no longer a serious candidate.

This would appear to be Athletic Director Dan Guerrero's final hire. His first hire was Karl Dorrell. His next hire will either be morally questionable or just as inexperienced as Dorrell. Little Danito always speaks about the great tradition at UCLA but then is unable to bring in any great candidates to interview. This man gained credibility by firing Bob Toledo and then sat back and took credit for Ben Howland, even though Howland admittedly would have come to UCLA if Danito had never even existed. So, nearly a month since Dorrell's firing, Dan Guerrero is playing grab-ass and the search continues. Bruin fans, get ready for another five years of mediocrity, regardless of the coach. The school and its AD is very good at lip service and very poor at getting anything done.

KEN TARR is a student at Santa Monica College, an actor and writer and is also taller than 99 percent of the population. He can be reached telepathically or at trutoulouse@yahoo.com.

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GAMEREVIEW

REVIEW BY DANIEL ARCHULETA

Dream matchups finally come to life

X-BOX 360 It's been a long time coming, but the chance to relive the greatest March Madness matchups in NCAA history has arrived. Gamers can even create the type of matchups that college fanatics could previously only dream of.

The producers of EA Sports' "NCAA 08: March Madness" have wisely added classic teams to the game play of this popular franchise. Gamers have long grown accustomed to the feature in other EA sports games and it was high time to add it to this quality title. Of course, the major teams are all included, but gamers will be pleased to play as some of the more obscure teams in NCAA history. The 1998 Valparaiso University Crusader squad is included, complete with sharp-shooting tourney legend Bryce Drew.

EA didn't stop there with the new team additions. There are also all-time teams added to the mix. The teams added are somewhat limited, yet complete. Imagine playing with the best the UCLA Bruins have ever put on the floor. Bill Walton, Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) and Reggie Miller

are all included. Their facial features aren't as well defined as some of the other games in EA's arsenal, but they'll do.

These features alone have vastly improved the game play of this college basketball series, but EA didn't limit its innovations to the expanded roster of teams to choose from. Post play has been significantly upgraded for this year's edition. Dubbed "Dynamic Post Control," this feature allows gamers to hold the ball deep in the post and fake in any direction in an attempt to get the defender off his feet or out of position. Once the defender is out of the picture, the selected player can finish off the play with some flair.

"March Madness" also includes a wide array of game play options. Gamers can simply play a quick game, which is kind of like an exhibition game. Serious gamers are more likely to play in dynasty mode, which allows you to coach a team through season after season, complete with recruiting and roster management. Coaching positions at other schools are made available following a com-



Photo courtesy EA Sports

TRUE TO LIFE: EA's 'NCAA 08: March Madness' simulates b-ball with authority.

pleted season to spice things up.

One of the more interesting improvements to the game came in the form of mini games available while the console loads. A lone player appears on an outdoor basketball court where gamers can practice their stroke. The game also offers a slight variation on this theme by challenging gamers to score 16

or more points on the court to be used in the next game. It's a nice touch that most EA titles include this year. It is also featured in "FIFA 08."

All in all, this title improves on previous editions and gives gamers a real taste of the madness that is college hoops.

daniela@smdp.com

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528

Ball of Fire (1941) (NR)
7:30

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

Aliens vs. Predator - Requiem (R)
10:20am, 12:45, 3:10, 5:50, 8:25, 10:50
Atonement (R)
10:30am, 1:25, 4:20, 7:25, 10:20
The Great Debaters (PG-13)
10:10am, 1:05, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
P.S. I Love You (PG-13)
10:45am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

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

Charlie Wilson's War (R)
10:05am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45
Enchanted (PG)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:10
The Golden Compass (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:20, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
The Kite Runner (PG-13)
10:55am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:55
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)
10:45am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 9:55, 10:50
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)
10:15am, 1:05, 4:05, 7:30, 10:25
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)
10:00am, 12:40, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:05

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

Hollywood Dreams (R)
11:00am
Juno (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
Persepolis (PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
The Savages (R)
1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55
Starting Out in the Evening (PG-13)
11:00am
Yiddish Theater: A Love Story (NR)
11:00am

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG)
11:10am, 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
The Bucket List (PG-13)
11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30, 12:00am
I Am Legend (PG-13)
12:00, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20, 11:50
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) DLP-Digital Projection
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R)
12:10am

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

Talk turkey, share more, Virgo

Happy Birthday!

You do make a difference, as you will see this year. You make an impact, but not in the manner you anticipate. If you are single, you move into a new realm of possibilities. Listen to feedback from friends, especially if you think events take a quirky turn. If you are attached, you'll discover the power you have as a couple. Enjoy life more as a team. VIRGO helps you see the other side.



Born Today

Inventor Charles Goodyear (1800)
Actor Ted Danson (1947),
Actress Patricia Clarkson (1959)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Relax yet consider what is necessary to make a situation work. Others find you a touch unpredictable. You waver in several directions. Your ultimate choice is instrumental. Tonight: Get some much needed rest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Creativity might help solve a problem. Still, friends will play a role in moving past it. You, on the other hand, could consider an alternative that might make even more sense – once the brainstorming begins. Tonight: Rome wasn't built in a day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Look at the facts and only the facts. You might not realize just how much you need to get done. You come from a resourceful position, and though others express a disconcerting unpredictability, you'll prevail. Tonight: Happy close to home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ How you see the world and what occurs could be a tale of many stories. Your information, which comes in from out of left field, is extremely informative and important. Be willing to dissect and get to the facts. Tonight: Fun and games.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Expenses surge, and you might be wondering what to do. If you listen and hear what others express, you might resolve an issue before it becomes too much. Deal with others more directly and with nurturing. Tonight: Easy does it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Your personality melts barriers between you and someone else. Someone appears to be provocative, but that might be necessary to evoke the reaction he or she wants. Tonight: Talk turkey; share more.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Stop and take a deep breath. You might be making a bad choice. Think and consider a new beginning. You might decide to opt for it. Give yourself a break. You will feel much better. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You speak your mind but evoke odd reactions. When you least anticipate it, answers will appear. You will see life from a renewed perspective. Your spirit and inquisitive nature delight many, especially one person. Tonight: Your creativity emerges.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Take charge. Be ready to assume your rightful place. Others listen because they understand just how much you have to offer. Evaluate and change directions because of a need. Security and intuition work together. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You see what many cannot grasp. You do need to convey what you see. Let life and inquisitiveness mark your interactions. You might experience a surprise when you least expect it. Stay open. Tonight: Chat away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your instincts deal with finances, and you need to follow through. If you put off this impulse until later, you will be quite sorry. The unexpected tends to rake through your finances more often than not! Tonight: Reach out for a key person in your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your chatter could be annoying, but your ability to read between the lines brings you to a new point of realization. Be sure about what you want and where you are heading. A strong sense of direction is important. Tonight: Defer.

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

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

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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

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

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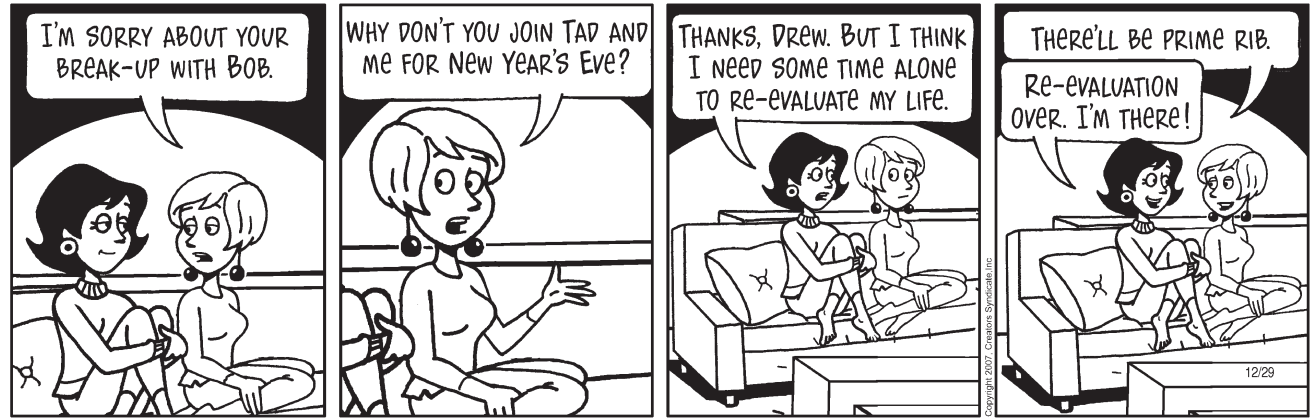
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



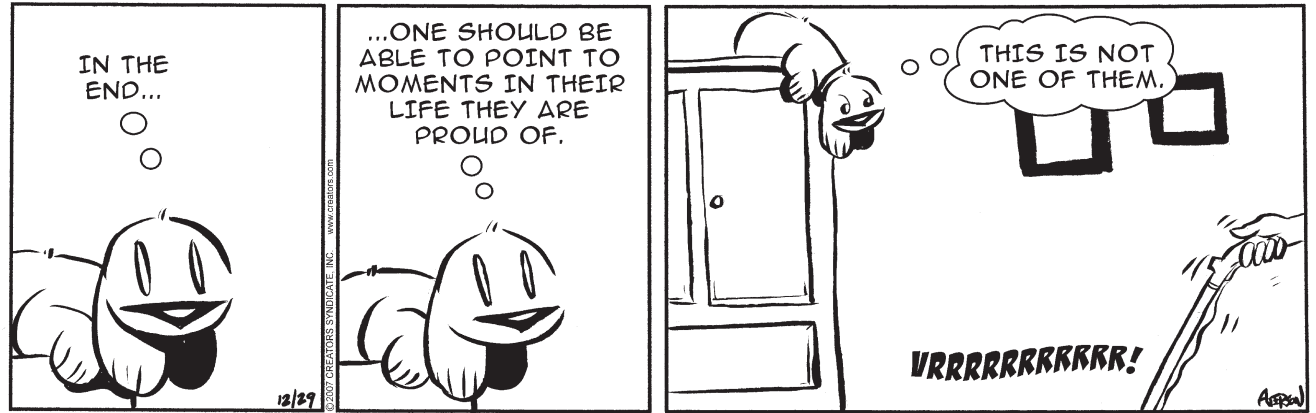
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Till fill

6 Visit briefly

11 Home

12 Peace goddess

13 Medicinal shrub

14 Somber

15 Sound from Sandy

17 Free

18 Film noir classic

19 Kings and queens

22 Lowly worker

23 Threat words

24 Rivera work

25 Car from a repair shop

27 “— pal!”

30 Small flatfish

31 Suffering

32 Towel word

33 Pendant with a picture

35 First veep

38 Martini extra

39 Cart pullers
- 40 Slugger Ralph

41 Used up

42 Roulette rounds
- DOWN
- 1 Mountain fortress of Israel

2 Fairy king

3 Milk choice

4 Writer Buchanan

5 Not seasonal

6 Slop slurper

7 Bruin Bobby

8 Strand items

9 Ask

10 Poor

16 Actually

20 School keep-sakes

21 Utterly

24 Fuming

25 Sick in bed

26 Marked down

27 Beach outfit

28 Football team

29 Changes

30 Pillow covers

34 Movie excerpt

36 Fellows

37 Retired plane

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15					16			17		
18				19		20	21			
22				23						
			24							
	25	26						27	28	29
30								31		
32					33		34			
35			36	37		38				
39						40				
41						42				

DAILY LOTTERY

	2 19 22 28 54 Meganumber: 25 Jackpot: \$25M
	2 6 16 33 35 Meganumber: 5 Jackpot: \$25M
	5 22 32 36 39
	MIDDAY: 1 0 8 EVENING: 4 2 0
	1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 07 Eureka 3rd: 05 California Classic RACE TIME: 1:48.87

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Mayor Ken Williams resigned in Centerton, Ark. (pop. 2,146), in November and revealed that he is actually Don LaRose, an Indiana preacher who abruptly abandoned his family in 1980 because, he said, satanists had abducted and threatened him, and brainwashed him to rub out details of a murder he supposedly knew about. He said his memory returned only recently, thanks to truth serum.

■ Mayor Lino Donato of Poteet, Texas (pop. 3,500), said in November that he would remain in office despite his inability to set foot in city hall. That building is less than 1,000 feet from a youth recreation center and therefore off-limits to Donato, who was adjudicated a sex offender in October.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1170 Thomas Becket, the archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England by knights loyal to King Henry II.

1808 The 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, was born in Raleigh, N.C.

1845 Texas was admitted as the 28th state.

1851 The first American Young Men's Christian Association was organized in Boston.

1890 The Wounded Knee massacre took place in South Dakota as an estimated 300 Sioux Indians were killed by U.S. troops sent to disarm them.

1916 Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk" who had wielded great influence with Czar Nicholas II, was murdered by a group of Russian noblemen in St. Petersburg.

1940 During World War II, Germany dropped incendiary bombs on London, setting off what came to be known as "The Second Great Fire of London."

1957 The Detroit Lions defeated the Cleveland Browns, 59-14, to win the NFL Championship at Briggs Stadium in Detroit.

1975 A bomb exploded in the main terminal of New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 11 people.

1989 Playwright Vaclav Havel was elected president of Czechoslovakia by the country's Federal Assembly, becoming the first non-Communist to attain the post in more than four decades.

2006 More than 400 people died when a crowded Indonesian ferry sank in the Java Sea.

WORD UP!

multifarious \muhl-tuh-FAIR-ee-uhs/, *adjective*: Having great diversity or variety; of various kinds; diversified.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Obituaries

MARGARET C. BONACHEA
Bonachea, Margaret C. Passed away on December 5, 2007 at the age of 92. Beloved mother, grandmother, and aunt. Services will be held on Tuesday December 11, 2007 at 10 A.M. Spalding Mortuary (323) 934-1181 may be contacted for further info.

Miscellaneous

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SANTA MONICA \$1195 1 bdrm, 1 bath, no pets. Stove, Refrigerator, Parking. 2535 Kansas Ave. #104. Open daily for Viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in Unit. Manager in #101.

SANTA MONICA, \$1595, 2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, NO Pets, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking. 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #16, Open Daily for viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in Unit. Manager in #19

SINGLE 12746 Pacific Ave. unit 2 Lower stove, fridge, dishwasher, wall ac, carpet, blinds, laundry, pation, intercom entry, restricted parking, no pets. \$995. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: \$5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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APR 6.905%	
5 YEAR/1 ARM	6%**
APR 7.25%	
3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%**
APR 7.275%	
1 YEAR/1 ARM	5.5%**
APR 7.35%	
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5.25%**
APR 7.49%	
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1.25%**
APR 8.25%	

* Rates subject to change
* As of August 29, 2007
** Denotes an interest only loan



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Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE (U.C.C. 6101 et seq. and B & P 24073 et seq.) Escrow No. 48527-CB

Notice is hereby given that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license is about to be made. The names, Social Security or Federal Tax Numbers, and address of the Seller/Licensee are: CA Wilshire, LLC., 3001 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90403. The business is known as: Punch Grill. The names, Social Security or Federal Tax Numbers, and addresses of the Buyer/Transferee are: The Merit Dining Group, LLC., 2493 S. Westgate Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90064. As listed by the Seller/Licensee, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller/Licensee within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer/Transferee are:

NONE. The assets to be sold are described in general as: Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment, Trandename, Goodwill, Lease, Leasehold Improvement, Covenant Not To Compete and are located at: 3001 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90403. The kind of license to be transferred is: On-Sale General Eating Place, License No. 47-436568 now issued for the premises located at: 3001 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90403. The anticipated date of the sale/transfer is January 16, 2008 at the office of United Escrow Co., 3440 Wilshire Blvd. #600, Los Angeles, CA 90010. The amount of the purchase price or consideration in connection with the transfer of the license and business, including the estimated inventory, is the sum of \$720,000.00 which consists of the following:

Description Amount
Checks\$720,000.00
It has been agreed between the Seller/Licensee and the intended Buyer/Transferee, as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions Code, that the consideration for the transfer of the business and license is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Dated: November 7, 2007.

Seller/Licensee
CA Wilshire LLC., a Limited Liability Company
by: Frederic Bambadji, Member
by: Claude Arnall, Manager
Buyer/Transferee
THE MERIT DINING GROUP, LLC., a Limited Liability Company
By: Adam Milstein, Manager
12/29/07
CNS-1255719#
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Construction Division, for the installation and modification of traffic signals on an as-needed basis under Project ID No. RDC0015060, As-Needed Traffic Signal Construction Project, 2007-08, in various unincorporated areas throughout the County of Los Angeles.

The bids must be submitted at the Cashier's Office, located on the Mezzanine level, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331, before 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. The bids will then be publicly opened and read in Conference Room A or at the location posted in the main lobby.

The work shall be done in accordance with the Plans and Specifications on file and open for inspection at the County Board of Supervisors Executive Office and the Department of Public Works. The work is estimated to cost between \$2,100,000 and \$2,400,000 and shall be completed over a period of one year. The work requires a California Class A or C-10 contractor's license. Prebid questions regarding the Plans and Specifications should be directed to Mr.

Notices

Harry Cong at (626) 458-3111.

A mandatory prebid meeting for this Contract will be held on Monday, January 14, 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Small Dining Room of the Headquarters Building, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331, Thomas Guide page 595, H-6. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for award of the contract.

The bids must be submitted on the proposal forms included in the bidder's package of the contract documents, which may be purchased for \$14, if picked up at the aforementioned Cashier's Office, (626) 458-6959, Monday through Thursday between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., or for \$17, if mailed, which includes postage and handling.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or surety bond payable to the County of Los Angeles in an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the bid to guarantee that the bidder will enter into the contract if it is so awarded.

All persons performing the work shall be paid not less than the General Prevailing Wage Determination prepared by the Director of Industrial Relations pursuant to the California Labor Code. Copies of these wage rates are available at the Department of Public Works.

The bid must provide full disclosure of False Claims Act violations, labor law/payroll violations, debarments, and civil/criminal legal actions as provided for on the forms included as part of the proposal. Failure to complete these forms may result in a determination that the bidder is nonresponsive and/or not responsible.

The contract, if awarded, will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; however, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

A responsible bidder is a bidder who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity, and experience to satisfactorily perform the contract. It is the County's policy to conduct business only with responsible contractors.

The successful bidder will be required to fully comply with all applicable State and Federal reporting requirements relating to employment reporting for its employees and comply with all lawfully served Wage and Earnings Assignment Orders and Notice of Assignment and continue to maintain compliance throughout the duration of the contract. Failure to comply may be cause for termination of the contract or initiation of debarment proceedings.

The successful bidder will be required to submit a faithful performance bond, payment bond, liability insurance, and workers' compensation insurance with the Contract.

As provided for in Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code, the contractor may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the Department of Public Works to ensure performance under the contract, or enter into an escrow agreement for payment of such monies to an escrow agent.

Each person by submitting a response to this Notice Inviting Bids certifies that such bidder and each County lobbyist and County lobbying firm, as defined by Los Angeles County Code Section 2.160.010, retained by the bidder, is in full compliance with Chapter 2.160 of the Los Angeles County Code.

Para mas informacion con relacion a esta noticia, por favor llame a este numero (626) 458-3118. Nuestras horas de oficina son de 7 a.m. a 5:30 p.m. de Lunes a Jueves.

The County supports and encourages equal opportunity contracting.

By order of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

Dated December 18, 2007.

Sachi A. Hamai
Executive Officer
of the Board of Supervisors
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN789048 01557 Dec 21,22,24,26,27,28,29,31,
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Kate Bransfield

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1032 Maple Street, Santa Monica



Kate was great. She kept us informed all along the way. Kate was very low key which was very important to me. Her staff was great also. I felt as if I was in good hands all along the process. - Bob

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Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Late December 2007

		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
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North of Montana	=	\$ 4,142,182	\$ 1,841,609
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,123,500	\$ 958,276
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,049,800	\$ 679,863
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,297,467	\$ 683,385
Ocean Park	=	\$ 2,043,188	\$ 964,100

Statistics updated every Friday

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