



**BULL MARKET
SEE PAGE 9**

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE BUSINESS AS USUAL ISSUE

ACTIVISM



REACHING OUT

Samohi students spread the word about Darfur

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 11

Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

SPEAKING OUT: Leah Sotelo (left) and Hannah Squier (right) inform Samohi students about the situation in Darfur on Tuesday.

Come on and take a free ride

**SMC employees,
students to ride
for free on BBB**

BY KEVIN HERRERA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

SMC Beginning this fall, Santa Monica College students and employees with I.D. will be able to ride any Big Blue Bus line any time for free.

In an historic move designed to improve access to the college and to reduce traffic, noise and air pollution, the SMC Board of Trustees voted unanimously Monday night to approve the "Any Line, Any Time" program with the BBB. The program will go into effect in late August when the fall semester begins.

"This is an extraordinary commit-

ment on the part of the Board of Trustees and the Associated Students to support my vision of creating a reliable way for students and employees to get to campus without having to pay the high price of gas, battle traffic and waste time looking for parking spaces," said SMC President Chui Tsang.

"Only a very few public colleges in California have attempted to provide no-charge transit passes."

The new program will require an SMC financial commitment of \$1.2 million in 2008-09, of which approximately one-third will come from the Associated Students, one-third from the SMC general fund, and the remainder from new revenues generated by increased parking and Associated Students fees.

The action is a major expansion of SMC's transportation initiative, launched in 2007 in partnership with the BBB, when free access to three bus

routes — two of them newly established — was first made available to the college's students and employees. The routes are the Line 6 to Mar Vista, the Crosstown Ride to midtown Santa Monica, and the Sunset Ride connecting SMC's satellite campuses and new parking lot.

"We are incredibly impressed with the initiative of the SMC student body and administration toward advocating public transit use," said Stephanie Negriff, BBB director of transit services. "We are confident that this partnership will significantly reduce the number of cars on local streets."

"With the support of the college, we also hope to address regional traffic issues by introducing Rapid 7 service along the Pico Boulevard corridor to more efficiently transport SMC students and staff from campus to the Rimpau Transit Center in mid-city Los

SEE BBB PAGE 12

Residents not sold on project

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK Nearly a year after the birthplace of Dogtown was saved from demolition, the owner of a building that housed the old Zephyr surf shop returned to the Ocean Park neighborhood, this time with a new set of plans.

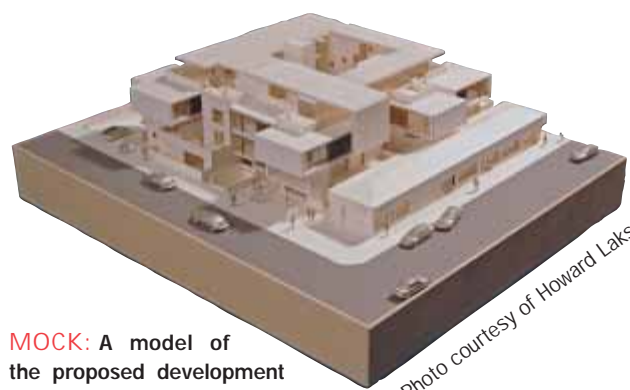
Juli Doar, whose family owns an 86-year-old commercial structure on the corner of Main and Bay streets, presented plans last week to develop a three-story apartment complex behind the original home of Zephyr and Jeff Ho Productions, where the Z-Boys skateboard team was credited with revolutionizing the recreational activity into the form seen today.

The building caused a stir among Dogtown loyalists and Ocean Park residents after Doar filed a demolition permit in fall 2006 to build an environmentally-friendly apartment complex. The demo permit was subsequently withdrawn after Doar learned about the impact that Zephyr and its skateboard team had on the world of skateboarding.

The Landmarks Commission designated the western part of the C-shaped building as a landmark, which is the retail space, in May of last year, keeping it intact while allowing the rear to one day be demolished. The retail space is currently the home of Horizons West Surf Shop, which was founded by one of the Z-Boys and is now in the hands of long-time surfer, Randy Wright.

Doar and her architect, Howard Laks, returned to the Ocean Park community last Thursday with new drawings

SEE PROJECT PAGE 13



MOCK: A model of the proposed development at Horizons West Surf Shop on Main Street. While the structure housing the surf shop has been declared a landmark, the structure behind it was not and therefore can be removed to make way for new development.

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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



Hours: 6:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. Daily

(310) 829-9597

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1920 Santa Monica Blvd.

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Kiwanis Club

Noon — 1:30 p.m.

Join the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club for their weekly luncheon with
special guest speakers. For more information, call (310) 613-1249

Montana Avenue Branch Book Group

7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

The Montana Avenue branch book group will hold a public book dis-
cussion of Jim Lynch's "The Highest Tide" at Montana Avenue Branch
Library. "The Highest Tide" is this year's Citywide Reads selection.
No registration is required.

Business at Sunset Mixer

5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Join the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce for a night of
networking at Finn McCool's. This mixer represents a great opportu-
nity for professionals to promote businesses, meet other people and
build client databases. Tickets are \$10 pre-sale for a member,
\$15 for a member at the door and \$20 for a non-member. For more
information, visit www.smchamber.com or contact LeAnne Bowen
at (310) 393-9825 ext. 10.

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Laugh your chakras off

717 Broadway, 11 a.m.

Led by Kim Selbert, a certified laughter yoga leader, this class
utilizes simple and fun laughter exercises to promote better health.
Bet you didn't know that you could change your life through the
simple act of laughing. This class takes place at Shakti's Elements
in Downtown.

The Meathands have it

4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m.

The "Magic Meathands" perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity
based on audience suggestions and participation. The show is
presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers
delicious coffee, food, drinks and comfortable couches. What
sets this improv group apart is their personal connection with the
audience and community, so their best material comes directly from
the people around them. For information, call (310) 559-8868.

What's new this week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key
news stories at home and abroad.

What's really the story?

3116 Second St., 8 p.m.

The Powerhouse Theatre presents the "What's the Story Festival of
New Solo Plays." The festival includes a workshop, founded and
facilitated by Stacie Chaiken, for the development of personal stories
for the stage, the screen, and the page. In their annual festival,
15 writer-performers perform an eclectic array of new work that is
deeply moving, hilariously brave, bawdy, brazen and bold.

For information, call (310) 396-3680.

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.





File photo

GOING ONCE: Pacific Park has put the iconic Ferris wheel at the Santa Monica Pier on eBay, with the starting bid set at \$50,000. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Special Olympics. The amusement park is replacing the wheel with a more energy efficient one this summer.

Local landmark goes on the auction block

Pacific Park puts iconic Ferris Wheel on eBay

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SANTA MONICA PIER It is perhaps one of the most iconic symbols of the Los Angeles area, featured in television shows, feature films and commercials, and now fans can put in a bid to purchase the Ferris wheel on the Santa Monica Pier.

The famed Pacific Wheel and its 20 colorful gondolas are up for grabs on eBay, with the opening bid at \$50,000. The online auction began late Tuesday and lasts until April 25. Half of the winning bid will be donated to Special Olympics Southern California.

"Where there is the wheel, there is a way for Pacific Park to raise money for Special Olympics," says Jeff Klocke, director of marketing and sales at Pacific Park amusement park. "We have partnered with the great organization for more than 10 years and feel this is the grandest gift we could offer the organization. It's a sign of our commitment to their mission and reinforcing our valued long-term relationship."

The Pacific Wheel, which originally cost \$800,000, was installed at Pacific Park in 1996. It was upgraded two years later to become the world's first solar-powered Ferris wheel.

Standing 90 feet tall and carrying riders 130 feet above the ocean, the wheel has given more than 3 million rides over the past 12 years, park officials said.

"Pacific Park and Special Olympics continue to strengthen their relationship and commitment to families, athletes and the community with this unique donation and auction on eBay," said Maria Shriver, who sits on the board of governors for Special Olympics Southern California. "The winning bidder will gain a historical piece of Santa Monica while making a difference in the lives of Special Olympics athletes."

People who have never ridden the wheel have likely seen it. According to Pacific Park, the Pacific Wheel has been in 105 photo shoots, 71 television commercials, 69 television shows, 28 feature films and 13 music videos.

At night, the wheel is illuminated by 5,392 light bulbs.

Before deciding to bid, however, potential

**WHERE THERE IS
THE WHEEL, THERE
IS A WAY FOR PACIFIC PARK
TO RAISE MONEY FOR
SPECIAL OLYMPICS."**

Jeff Klocke,
Director of marketing and sales
at Pacific Park amusement park

buyers should be aware that the wheel weighs 122,000 pounds, and the winning bidder must have the wheel moved. The base of the wheel is not included in the purchase price, but Kansas-based Chance Morgan Inc. — the original manufacturer — will offer the winning bidder a base for about \$135,000, with 10 percent of that amount going to Special Olympics Kansas.

The wheel has two hubs that say "Pacific Wheel," but one of them will be removed and donated to the Santa Monica Historical Society.

The wheel will be replaced with a \$1.5 million, more contemporary Ferris wheel next month. Installation is expected to begin May 5, with a grand-opening ceremony set for May 22.

news@smdp.com

Jury reaches some verdicts in murder-for-profit trial of elderly women

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Jurors deliberating in the murder-for-profit trial of two elderly women said Tuesday they have reached some verdicts but asked the court what happens if

they are not unanimous on one of the criminal counts involving the deaths of two homeless men.

Superior Court Judge David Wesley referred them to a jury instruction which deals with the possibility of reaching agreement on a lesser charge. The only lesser

charge possible in the case is second-degree murder rather than first-degree.

The jurors said they had reached some verdicts which they submitted to the judge in a sealed envelope before retiring for the day. They were to resume their deliberations on Wednesday.

The defendants, Helen Golay, 77, and Olga Rutterschmidt, 75, spent the day in a holding cell at the courthouse awaiting the verdict. They are accused of befriending two transients, buying insurance policies on their lives and ultimately drugging them and running them over with cars.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The list

Editor:

Each week when the newspapers publish the (Department of Defense's) list of names of the American military personnel who have died in Iraq, I take the time to read them.

I don't know a single soldier. I've never met his or her family. But they were somebody's someone special, and somehow I feel I owe it to them to take a moment and consider their lives, and their deaths.

Most of those on the weekly list are killed in Iraq by roadside bombs or snipers.

Most are not even 25 years old.

But last week, those demographics changed.

An Army colonel and Army Reserve major were killed by a rocket attack while working out in the U.S. Embassy's military fitness center in what the (Department of Defense) refers to as Baghdad's "fortified" Green Zone, which is where they live and work. One report said their unit was attacked by indirect fire. In reality, they were on the treadmill in the workout room when the mortars hit.

The Army colonel had served for 35 years, and his latest assignment was to help train and equip the Iraqi army. His sister said she could hear in his voice the last few weeks that even though he said he was safe, she didn't think he believed it. And since there had been more mortar attacks on barracks, some soldiers had taken to sleeping in their offices. The major from the Army Reserve leaves behind his wife and three daughters all under age six, who he often referred to as the "beautifuls." It was his third tour of duty in Iraq.

These two men and the 16 others on last week's list join more than 4,000 other U.S. soldiers who have died in Iraq. They are fathers, brothers, wives, sons, and daughters. They are 19, 36, 54 years old. They are from farms, cities and suburbs in Illinois, Florida, California, Alabama, Puerto Rico. Their hometowns now host another flag, another memory.

And as I write this, and as you read it, more names are being added, I fear.

But I am tired of finger-pointing and hatred. I want no enemies, at home or abroad. Therefore I will stay informed, vote, and do my best to encourage peace through my thoughts and actions.

In his speech in Seattle over the weekend, the Dalai Lama urged people to support not only nuclear disarmament, but an "inner disarmament." It is the only one I have control over.

In the meantime I will continue to read the weekly list, and remember each person with sadness, and hope that somehow, someday, there will be no more lists to read.

Vickie Jenkins
Santa Monica



“
OR GET
OFF
THE
POT!”

WRITE

A LETTER, AN OP-ED OR DRAW A CARTOON.

Send Submissions to editor@smdp.com or to:
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Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't ask, do tell

"Everyone knows that gays have served honorably in the military since at least the time of Julius Caesar."

- Barry Goldwater

LET ME GET THIS, AHM, STRAIGHT ... social conservatives from both sides of the Political Divide have had their leopard print man panties in a twist over the open inclusion of gays in the military. OK, let's start with the uniforms.

The US Army could use Karl Lagerfeld's help here with their Class A dress togs. They look like Christmas trees without the electric lights plugged in ... way too busy and way too many accessories. And the Air Force, boooorring! Those hunky buzz cut Marines are a close second as America's Next Top Model yet this season's Hot Topic is the US Navy with its Gothic mid-night blue 13-button bell-bottoms matched with a fetching jumper topped with a Dixie cup chapeau cocked at jaunty angle. Simple, elegant and so tres FABU!! The Village People even have a song, you know.

When I was in the Reagan Navy, the imprimatur of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was Slick Willy's futuristic wet dream. Quite frankly, most of us didn't give a rippin' squat. Our bottom line was, "can you do your flippin' job, squid?" What one did while on liberty was one's own affair just so long as hospitals, fire departments or Shore Patrol weren't involved, although it's really bad when all three show up. It does take the "F" out of "Fun."

In the 1970's, I lived in San Francisco with my first wife. My neighbor, Mike, was a decorated Vietnam era Army Ranger. He was a walking recruiting poster for the Armed Forces: 6'3", blond hair, hazel eyes, a smile and chin like Dudley Do-Right, yet was as gay as the sky was blue. He did not affect the stereotype of a "Will and Grace" Nancy Boy. His personal expressions on deportment regarding his homosexuality was, "... if you're gonna be queer, be a man about it."

Roger that Mike.

The argument of "lifestyle vs. biology" is stupid and mean and the social cripples who use it as a justification to disallow an individual the distinct privilege of serving their country are frightened by their own ignorance. And the extant Clintonian policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is an extension and expression of that fear. Who is convinced that this will resolve with Hillary as "commando in chief?" Maybe I misspoke.

"You don't have to be straight to be in the military; you just have to be able to shoot straight."

- Barry Goldwater

Pink Pistols is an LGBT gun rights advocacy organization. This is just exquisite. I just bought a couple of their coffee mugs to show my support. I don't blame the LGBT community for Right-fully arming themselves; Matthew Shepherd comes to mind. And Pink Pistols is at the forefront of gun rights organizations pushing for a CCW [concealed carry weapons] law in California that would emulate 40 other states in the Republic. California is sooo "last year" on this. Folks, we want these

self-directed individuals in our Armed Services!

Much of the electoral discourse is rife with concern over the war. Collectively ponder this query: How is it that a Green Card immigrant is allowed a path to citizenship based on successful completion of military service yet a "pink" citizen is excluded out of hand from the same service to the Republic and must hide in the shadows?

And redoubt yourselves that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" will ch-ch-change under the ministrations of Barry Obama. Recently, yet another of Obama's platoon has deployed to the front lines and has charged forth from the same racist fox-hole as his "Uncle" Jeremiah but with the added alpha-tango-foxtrot of LGBT hate baiting.

THE ARGUMENT OF 'LIFESTYLE VS. BIOLOGY' IS STUPID AND MEAN AND THE SOCIAL CRIPPLES WHO USE IT AS A JUSTIFICATION TO DISALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL THE DISTINCT PRIVILEGE OF SERVING THEIR COUNTRY ARE FRIGHTENED BY THEIR OWN IGNORANCE.

Tony Rezko-funded Illinois state Sen. Rev. James T. Meeks is listed, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, as one of the "10 leading black voices in the anti-gay movement." This racial grievance bonehead is metastasized from the same homophobic cancer as conservative social bozo Rev. John Hagee, yet is possessed of only a duskier complexion.

A long time Obama cabana boy, Meeks was described in a 2004 Chicago Sun Times article as one of the mentors that Obama regularly seeks out for "spiritual counsel." Rev. Meeks is listed prominently on Obama's Web site and will cottage with Barry as a delegate at the 2008 Democratic convention in Denver.

As Yogi Berra opined, "It's like déjà vu all over again." Or are the "chickens coming home to roost?" When does the benefit of doubt surrender to guilt by association? What else is in Barry's closet besides race baiters and homophobes?

Don't ask, do tell.

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pornography isn't a substitute for talent

A STORY BROKE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS that has caused me to re-examine a relationship I've had since I was a teenager. It's a relationship that helped me maintain my focus through high school, despite the fact that I was surrounded on all sides by pretty girls in cute outfits who drove me to distraction. Later in life, it kept me from flirting with women on the job who were just trying to work, women on the subway who were just trying to get somewhere, women in the supermarket who were just trying to buy food, and it helped me stay faithful to my girlfriends who would have killed me for cheating on them. I'm talking about my relationship with porn. It's been my friend for two decades, but porn is now totally out of control.

The story that caused me to stop and reflect was the New York Post's account of the sale to an anonymous "collector" of a 50-year-old film of Marilyn Monroe performing a sex act on an anonymous man. The man who "brokered" the \$1.5 million sale (who also happens to be producing a documentary in which he claims Marilyn Monroe was murdered) not only got his story into the Post, but was also interviewed by CBS's "Early Show" for two segments. Amazingly, they treated him like a respectable filmmaker and not the lying smut-peddler that he is.

To see how acceptable porn has become, just open any glossy magazine sold at any newsstand anywhere. Not just "Maxim," "Stuff," and "FHM" (which are basically just porn without nipples), but also ad campaigns for Bebe and Guess Jeans (among many others) that actually appear in mags for women and girls. Disguised as advertising or entertainment and cloaked in the male interpretation of female freedom, these images and messages tell young girls that modesty is old-fashioned and that the new feminist ideal is the rich, empowered slut.

This isn't a new phenomenon since there has always been a demand for "nude modeling," but porn used to be a woman's last resort. The question a woman had to answer was, "do I really want to go there?" Sure, you could make some quick cash and possibly launch your career (like Madonna did with the "Penthouse" spread that made her famous) but it would come at the expense of your dignity. That's why actresses used to get naked on film one time early in their careers, then never again. But over the last

few years, dignity has become way overrated.

It's this attitude that has made "celebrities" out of people whose only talent is the willingness to perform sex acts on camera. People like Paris Hilton and Kim Kardashian have literally launched careers in film, television, music, and modeling based entirely on the popularity (or notoriety) of their home-made porn. It's gotten so bad that Audrina Partridge, a girl from a good family who definitely doesn't need the cash, was so desperate for more exposure than she was getting from her fake reality show that she reportedly leaked her own nude photos on the Internet.

Which brings us back to the Marilyn Monroe story and the burning question: Could it possibly be true? I don't doubt that the film exists since it's referred to in FBI documents, but I have serious questions about the story this "broker" is telling. He claims he got the only copy not in the FBI archives from the son of a former FBI snitch. He also says he sold it to someone who bought it to protect Marilyn's legacy by making sure it was never released.

But his story doesn't add up. First of all, he wants us to believe that some guy somewhere had this footage and didn't talk about it or show it to anyone for 50 years. He also wants us to believe that even though he's producing a documentary about Marilyn, he was just a middle-man. And we're supposed to believe the going rate for this film was a mere \$1.5 million.

It's the last one that killed his credibility with me. We live in a world where an original photo of Marilyn Monroe sold for almost 500 grand and homemade porn of Paris Hilton, Kim Kardashian, and Amy Fisher sold for multiple millions of dollars each. This footage is supposedly of the American female film icon of the last century going down on a man who J. Edgar Hoover believed to be either John or Robert Kennedy and somebody let it go for a million-and-a-half? Give me a break.

I'm not saying the Post and "the Early Show" got duped, but if they believe this story, I know a guy looking to get rid of a bridge connecting Brooklyn to Lower Manhattan and I'd love to broker the sale.

KENNY MACK is a writer and comedian living in Santa Monica whose sex tape will never be released to the public. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

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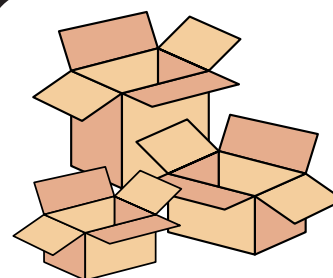
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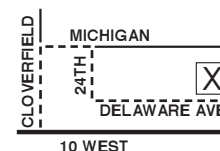


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The Q-Line

(Re)calling their numbers

Every time the City Council makes a decision there are always going to be people unhappy with it. At some time or another, just about everybody wishes the council was comprised of different members. Sometimes, addition by subtraction is the only way to go.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

If you could recall one City Council member, which one would you choose and why?

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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State facing major earthquake risk

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES California is virtually assured of experiencing one or more potentially damaging earthquakes by 2037, scientists said Monday in the first statewide tremor forecast.

New estimates show there is a 99.7 percent chance a magnitude 6.7 quake or larger will strike the nation's most populous state in the next 30 years. The odds of such an event are higher in Southern California than Northern California, 97 percent versus 93 percent.

"It basically guarantees it's going to happen," said Ned Field, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Pasadena and lead author of the report.

The 1994 Northridge earthquake under Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley was magnitude 6.7. It killed 72 people, injured more than 9,000 and caused \$25 billion in damage in the metropolitan area.

Despite the new probabilities, scientists cannot predict exactly where in the state such a quake will occur or when. The uncertainty could make a difference in loss of lives and damage. A Northridge-size shock in a major urban center would be more devastating than one in a sparsely populated area. The far stronger 7.1 Hector quake that struck the Mojave Desert 130 miles east of Los Angeles in 1999 derailed a passenger train but caused only a few injuries and no deaths.

Nonetheless, scientists say the analysis should be a wake-up call for residents to prepare for a natural disaster in earthquake country.

"Earthquake dangers are high throughout California," said Tom Jordan, director of the Southern California Earthquake Center headquartered at the University of Southern California. Jordan took part in the research.

California is one of the most seismically active regions in the world. More than 300 faults crisscross the state, which sits atop two of Earth's major tectonic plates, the Pacific and North American plates. About 10,000

quakes each year rattle Southern California alone, although most of them are too small to be felt.

Knowing the likelihood of a strong earthquake is the first step in allowing scientists to draw up hazard maps that show the potential severity of ground shaking in an area. The information can also help with updating building codes and emergency plans and setting earthquake insurance rates.

The latest analysis is the first comprehensive effort by the USGS, SCEC and California Geological Survey to calculate earthquake probabilities for the entire state using newly available data. Previous quake probabilities focused on specific regions and used various methodologies that made it difficult to compare.

In the study, researchers computed the likelihood of a fault rupture using new information about prehistoric earthquakes, location of hard-to-spot faults and their slip rates as well as satellite-based GPS data of the Earth's crustal movement.

Scientists determined a Northridge-size shock occurs on average once every five years. The chance of a temblor that size striking the Los Angeles Basin is 67 percent compared to 63 percent for the San Francisco Bay area. The San Francisco figure is similar to a 2003 analysis that put the probability at 62 percent. There is no past comparison that exists for Los Angeles.

Given California's seismic history, the new results should come as no surprise, said David Schwartz, a USGS geologist in Menlo Park who was not part of the study.

Researchers also calculated the statewide probabilities for larger temblors over the same time period. Among their findings: There is a 94 percent chance of a magnitude 7 shock or larger; a 46 percent chance of a magnitude 7.5 and a 4.5 percent chance of a magnitude 8.

The odds are higher that a magnitude 7.5 quake will hit Southern California than Northern California — 37 percent versus 15 percent.

'Girls Gone Wild' creator's trial moved to Los Angeles

By the Associated Press

The tax evasion trial of "Girls Gone Wild" founder Joe Francis has been moved to Los Angeles by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge Brian Sandoval granted the change of venue from Reno, saying it was justified because Francis and all but a few of those expected to testify live in Southern California. The ruling, issued late Friday, was officially transmitted today to the Central District of California.

A federal grand jury in Reno indicted Francis, 35, and his companies, Mantra Films Inc. and Sands Media Inc., in April 2007, on two counts of tax evasion. Francis has built a soft porn empire filming and marketing videos of young women exposing their breasts and being shown in other sexually provocative situations.

Federal prosecutors allege Francis reported taxable income for 2002 of \$13.9 million and paid \$3.5 million in taxes "when in truth

and fact, he then and there knew well and believed that he had omitted additional income," the indictment said. For the following year, he paid \$351,727 in taxes on reported taxable income of almost \$1.16 million.

The government alleges the companies claimed more than \$20 million in phony deductions in those years, and that Francis used offshore accounts to conceal income.

Government lawyers opposed moving the trial, arguing that Francis "held himself out" to be a Nevada resident. They also said Sands Media is incorporated in Nevada, and that the company's account at a bank in Incline Village "was a significant tool in the defendant's tax evasion scheme."

Francis' lawyers said that while an address at Incline Village -- a ritzy community on the east shore of Lake Tahoe -- appears on some of Francis' bank statements, the tax returns were prepared and likely signed in Southern California.

The Santa Monica Municipal Employees Association would like to salute Lindsey Folsom for her work at the Santa Monica Police Department and for her work with senior citizens in our community.



Lindsey Folsom assisting a senior Santa Monica resident



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Major profits often come with major risks

I WAS DRIVING AROUND THE SOUTH BAY the other day with a friend and she turned to me and said that the construction project on "X" Street was on hold. I asked how she knew and she said that she used to see a plethora of people working in the mornings on her drive to work and then noticed no one working one morning. After that, she said it has been a ghost town. To confirm, I went to the Web site, where the company said they were timing the market for new homeownership opportunities. I am not really sure what that means, but I would guess the company is having financing problems.

How great would it be if you could use someone else's money to buy an asset and make money? In essence, that is what real estate investors, builders and syndicates do. Since most real estate projects — such as a condo development — take large amounts of money, the developer will go out and find financing to get the project started. An



Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn
Send comments to
editor@smdp.com

owner or developer can go out and borrow money from a bank through a bank loan, or go to private sources offering the investors a set return on the money along with a portion of the profits.

Kevin, a developer, wants to build six condominiums on a piece of land his family has owned for years. The land already has a condominium map approved by the city and Kevin's father began the work a couple years before, but got ill and stopped the project. Now Kevin has an opportunity to finish the project, but needs more money. He goes to four investors and asks each of them to invest \$420,000. Along with Kevin's \$450,000 the total amount raised is \$2,100,000. With years

of experience, Kevin knows it will cost him \$350,000 per condo to complete the construction of the project. Kevin estimates the completed values of the condos to be \$600,000, leaving him with a gross profit of \$1,500,000. He tells his investors that each will receive a 10 percent return on their money or \$45,000, plus 10 percent of the gross profit or \$37,500. It costs Kevin \$330,000 to borrow the money, but he is left with a profit of \$1,170,000. What happens if the real estate market turns?

Sure it is easy to say that Kevin is going to make out like a bandit, but you have to keep in mind the risk Kevin is taking on. What if the project costs more due to a spike in building materials or the real estate market turns for the worst? Both scenarios are possible. If the real estate market turns and banks make it difficult for people to purchase new homes, Kevin could be stuck with the project for several months. Selling the

condominiums at a fire sale would free Kevin from the project, but leave him with little or no profit. That is part of the problem with developing a site, the risk is great and so are the profits and losses.

Going back to the project in the South Bay, I'm sure the developer ran into liquidity problems — either the bank will not release any more money or the money has run out from private sources. Once a project stops, it is unlikely for it to continue with the same development company as a developer makes money on the sale of the units or property, not holding it like an investor. The South Bay project will continue and the condominiums will be sold, most likely in the future after the real estate market recovers.

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

ENERGY

Concerns over global crude oil supplies lead to record high prices

BY ADAM SCHRECK | AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Crude oil prices rose to within a penny of \$114 a barrel Tuesday, setting new records as concerns mounted about global supplies. U.S. retail gasoline and diesel prices also struck new highs.

Traders honed in on a report by the International Energy Agency that said Russian oil production dropped this year for the first time in a decade. The report raised concerns about whether the key oil-producing nation will have enough supply to help feed growing global demand.

"In an emotionally driven market like we've got now, it just doesn't take much in the way of a headline to prompt a psychological response," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch & Associates in Galena, Ill.

Light, sweet crude for May delivery rose as high as \$113.99 a barrel for the first time on the New York Mercantile Exchange before settling at \$113.79, up \$2.03 from Monday's record settlement price of \$111.76 a barrel.

Meanwhile, retail gasoline prices rose to a new average national record of \$3.386, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Prices were highest in California,

where mid-range and higher grades are now averaging more than \$4 a gallon.

Diesel prices at the pump jumped to \$4.119, also a record, setting the stage for higher prices on food and other goods transported by truck, ship and rail.

Prices are widely expected to keep rising as summer approaches. Gasoline futures jumped by nearly 6 cents to finish at a settlement record of \$2.881. That is less than a nickel less than the intraday record for the benchmark contract that was set as Hurricane Katrina made landfall in 2005.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Charging into the cola market

Energy drink maker diversifies its product line for the first time

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA | MANAGING EDITOR

EASTSIDE The bosses of energy drink heavyweight Red Bull think that the cola business is missing something.

Instead of the countless unpronounceable and decidedly un-natural ingredients in most mainstream sodas, Santa Monica-based Red Bull is going all-natural with its entry into the cola wars. Due out later this year, Red Bull Cola includes an array of ingredients not normally associated with soft drinks. The new drink primarily contains coca leaf and kola nut, but the list grows considerably more unorthodox after those time-honored elements. Some of the more interesting items include clove, pine, mustard seed and ginger.

Red Bull officials hope to hearken back to the "old days" of cola when things were more natural — and had more kick.

"Red Bull Cola contains no phosphoric acid, no preservatives and no artificial flavors. And it is the only cola that contains the original kola nut as well as coca leaf," said Patrice Radden, Red Bull's director of corporate communications. "Red Bull Cola has more caffeine and is therefore stronger than a traditional cola and has a unique composition of ingredients from 100 percent natural sources. All ingredients are listed on the back of the can."

Red Bull released the drink earlier this year in Europe and company officials say it's too early to determine whether or not the launch has been a success. What little reaction Red Bull has received has been "really positive from consumers and retail partners," Radden said. Red Bull is planning a test launch in Las Vegas this summer with a national roll out expected later this year. Small 8.4 ounce cans of the beverage will be available in bars, restaurants and nightclubs and larger 12 ounce cans will be available in grocery and convenience stores.

WHY A COLA FROM RED BULL?

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Thanks to its formulation, Red Bull Cola is not only a cola, but a special kind of cola: strong and natural.

Natural flavors from plant extracts and natural caffeine from coffee beans.

STRONG AND NATURAL.

Red Bull Cola is a special composition of ingredients, all from 100% natural sources.

In addition, it contains flavors derived from both the kola nut and coca leaf, ingredients in the original colas. So, it is a very special recipe. What else would you expect from Red Bull?

The result is a classic, not too sweet cola taste, which comes from using the right plant extracts.

Photo courtesy Red Bull

STRANGE BREW: Red Bull Cola features a unique mix of ingredients. The new drink will be released in the U.S. later this year.

Kastner and Associates, also based in Santa Monica, has handled all of Red Bull's advertising to date and will handle the launch of this new drink. CEO Thomas Grabner said that his company has been with Red Bull since its inception in 1995 and looks forward to see how the introduction pans out.

"There is a lot of PR around the launch," Grabner said. "Just the fact that Red Bull is launching a cola is big news. No big advertising campaign is planned for it. It depends on the consumers and how they react. There is already so much buzz going around."

While the drink comes years after the creation of Red Bull's flagship product, the idea has been in the works for decades. Red Bull's creator Dietrich Mateschitz came up with the idea for a cola around the same time the now iconic energy drink was conceived. He even developed the design of the packaging and has kept it under wraps for all these years.

"It's a major step for Red Bull," Grabner said. "This is the first time (Red Bull) has launched a different product."

The company is quick to point out that its cola is not a new energy drink or an energy drink that tastes like cola. It stresses that Red Bull Cola should be considered a bona fide cola and will market it as such.

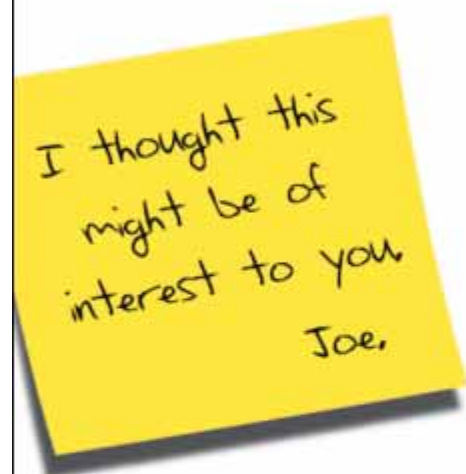
"If it tastes anything like it sounds, I'm not sure what to expect," said Robert Ingman, while browsing the drink isle at Vons on Lincoln Boulevard. "Those ingredients sound kind of wild, but I'd be willing to give it a try considering it is from Red Bull. I've been drinking (the energy drink) for years."

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Darfur meets Santa Monica

Samohi students hope to empower others through knowledge

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOH The Darfurian genocide, seemingly worlds away, touched the high school community on Tuesday during a day-long campus demonstration where students experienced first hand the atrocities, the dire living conditions and slowly dissipating hope that accompany the deadly conflict in the Sudan.

The Human Rights Watch Student Task Force at Santa Monica High School set up a series of tents in the science quad on campus, simulating a refugee camp, each tent dedicated to educating students about a specific topic related to the Darfurian genocide.

While the genocide, which has seen more than 200,000 deaths since 2003, is thousands of miles away, the organizers with the Student Task Force hope that knowledge will translate into power, believing that change can be effected by the youth population.

It's a conflict that club co-founders Francis Ahn and Fanny Ballantine-Himberg believe high school students know very little about, their classroom education limited to the Holocaust, Rwandan and Armenian genocides.

"When people hear Darfur, they don't know what it is," Ballantine-Himberg, a junior who will graduate in June, said.

Each of the five tents addressed a different element related to the Darfurian conflict — the first tent educating about Camp Farchana where 22,000 people have died since 2004; the second about what a refugee would eat as compared to the average American; a third about child soldiers forced into the conflict; a fourth about past genocides; and the fifth on water rationing.

The tents have been traveling to different high schools across the country thanks to Gabriel Stauring, the director of StopGenocideNow.org. Stauring, who advised Samohi students on their refugee

camp demonstration, has taken several trips to Camp Farchana and could bring the tents with him on a future excursion.

Among the tents that seemed to have a lasting impression on the students were the ones that focused on the disparity between the amount and quality of food and water that Darfurians receive as compared to Americans.

The average American consumes about 2,200 calories as compared to the average refugee who gets just 1,000 calories, according to junior Brianna Blumenthal-Cohen. The demonstration included a tasting of a popular dish in Darfur, a pasty concoction made from flour, water and vegetable oil. The dish was displayed on the table alongside a plate of brownies, pasta and McDonald's fast food.

A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK IT WAS JUST THE HOLOCAUST AND THAT IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN, BUT IT IS AND IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW."

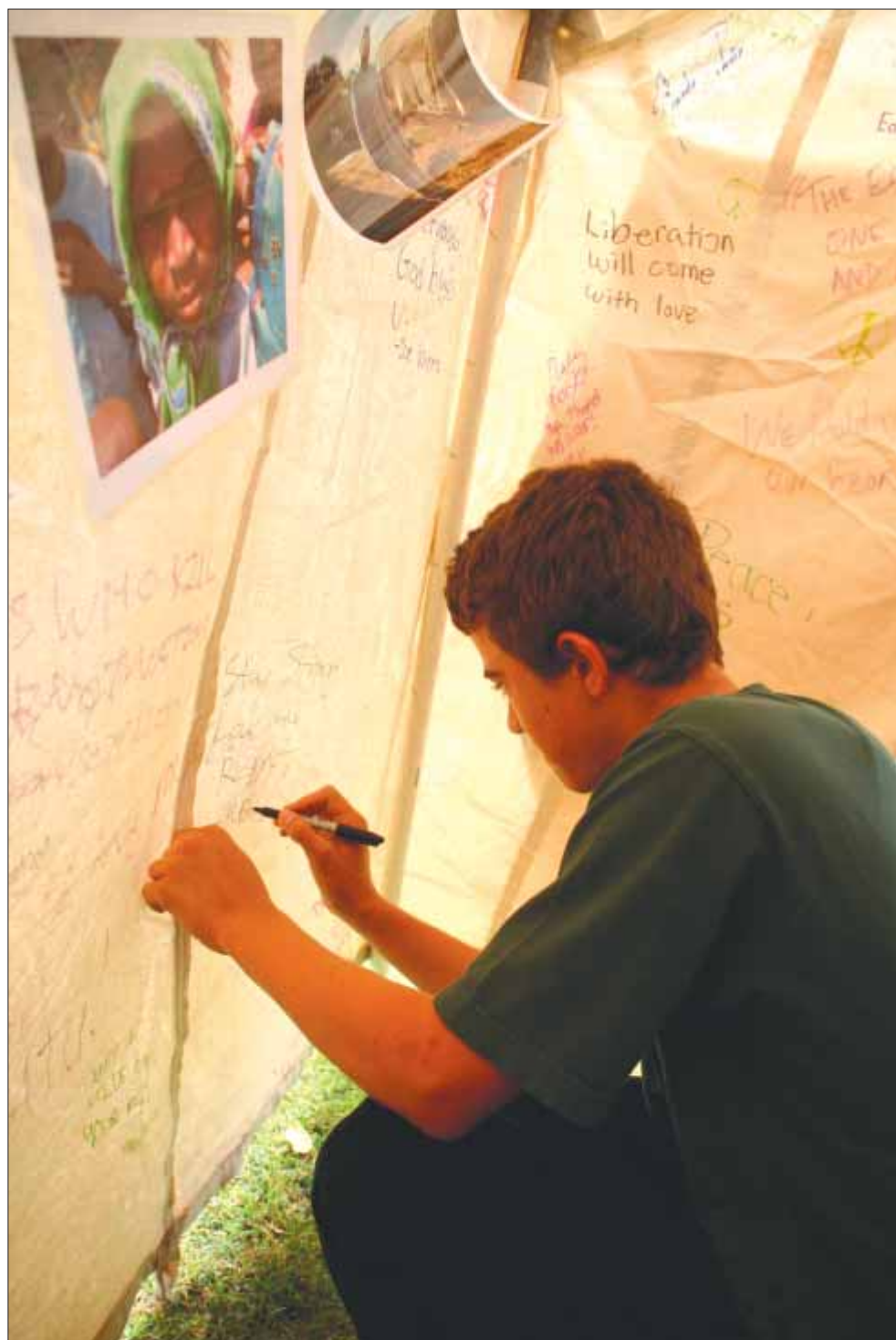
Orli Robin,
Samohi student

"It is not a balanced diet," Blumenthal-Cohen said.

Refugees, on average, only have access to about one gallon of water a day, while three to five times that amount goes down the drain in one flush of an American toilet.

"The club's main goal is to get students our age active and aware of what is going on in the world," Esme Levy, a Samohi freshman and STF member, said. "If students knew what was going on, they definitely have the power to make it stop."

Amy Marczewski, who works with the Human Rights Watch office in Los Angeles and serves as an advisor to the Samohi STF, said that students have actually made a



Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

SPECIAL MESSAGE: Mike Black writes on the tent walls of Samohi's mock Darfur refugee camp on Tuesday. The event was designed to spread the word about the conflict in Sudan.

substantial impact toward ending the conflict in Darfur, noting that a group of students at UCLA started a divestment campaign and got the University of California to divest their funds from Sudanese companies.

"The way young people have made a difference is paying attention and making other people pay attention," Marczewski said. "That is really how human rights abuses will be stopped, is by not tolerating them."

Several classes did a walk through the

tents, some students appearing surprised as to the severity of the conflict.

Orli Robin, a student in the freshman seminar, said she knew that the Darfur genocide was taking place but was surprised by what she learned.

"I didn't realize it was this harsh," she said. "A lot of people think it was just the Holocaust and that it would never happen again, but it is and it's happening right now."

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ALL ABOARD: Santa Monica College students get onto a Big Blue Bus at a stop on Pico Boulevard on Tuesday afternoon. BBB and SMC have come together to offer free rides to students and staff.

Fees raised to pay for free bus service

FROM BBB PAGE 1

Angeles, and possibly all the way to the Metro Purple Line station at Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue."

The proposed new route, which is expected to be approved and launched by the beginning of the fall semester, would also be free for SMC students and employees.

BBB officials have estimated that the new and expanded transit services implemented in 2007 have reduced vehicle trips to campus by 6,000 a day.

In an analysis done last fall, the BBB found that new and expanded service on Line 6, Crosstown Ride and Sunset Ride have collectively resulted in more than 2,300 boardings every weekday. The Sunset Ride now ranks eighth among the 19 Big Blue Bus lines in terms of service productivity, and the Crosstown Ride has experienced a 133 percent increase in ridership from fall 2006 to fall 2007.

In addition, bus officials estimate that the new "Any Line, Any Time" program will result in more than 5,000 new boardings of SMC students and employees system-wide, over and above the current program.

The Associated Students initiated the "Any Line, Any Time" program, voting in March to raise the optional Associated Students fee from the current amount of \$10 to a new amount of \$19, and to support the administrative raise of the optional I.D. fee from \$8 to \$13 to pay for the expanded service. Students felt it was important to provide

free service to all students on every BBB line.

The increases will result in an estimated \$620,000, according to an SMC staff report. Fees were last adjusted in 1996. Additionally, staff intends to increase parking by \$10 per semester, beginning in the fall, resulting in new net revenue of \$150,000.

"I think it's a great idea," said SMC student Shelley Kaye just before she boarded a bus on Stewart Street. "Some may complain [about the increase in cost,] but in the end it is going to pay for something that is of benefit to everyone. I think it's money well spent."

Rob Rader, president of the Board of Trustees, said there are some concerns about over expanding, but SMC and BBB will closely monitor ridership to see if any adjustments need to be made. Rader praised the student body for its commitment to being good neighbors and to protecting the environment by getting more cars off the streets.

"What I am most proud of with regards to this is not what Santa Monica College as an organization has done, but what the students have done, saying this didn't go far enough initially and they wanted to make sure the funds were available to not only subsidize students, but faculty and administrators," Rader said. "The students are paying the extra amount for everybody because they feel it is the right thing to do, and I am humbled by their civic duty, their commitment to principals."

kevinh@smdp.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

MIXED BAG: Members of the Ocean Park neighborhood had mixed reactions to a proposed development project being considered for the site of Horizons West Surf Shop on Main Street.

Property owner presents project

FROM PROJECT PAGE 1

showing a three-story apartment complex being erected in the rear portion of the building, which is along Bay Street.

The project received a mixed reaction from the small crowd that congregated in the Ocean Park branch library, some criticizing the project as being overbearing and out of character with the existing surf shop, others praising Doar for proposing a development made of sustainable materials.

"I look at this property and I don't see the character and scale of Main Street," Kent Fernandez, who lives around the corner on Bicknell Avenue, said at the meeting.

The complex would be 27 feet tall and include 14 residential units — a mixture of one, two and three bedrooms — and 48 underground parking spaces. The project is still undergoing the environmental review phase and could go before the Planning Commission as soon as this fall. The building is expected to be LEED certified by the U.S. Green Building Council for sustainable design elements.

"It's a very high quality, detailed building," Laks said at the meeting. "It's not your typical apartment building."

As part of the project, the preserved portion of the building will undergo substantial upgrades and rehabilitation. The aging structure will require seismic upgrades and will need to be made compliant with federal disability accessibility standards, Laks said. The changes will be necessary for the retail viability of the space's occupant, which Doar stressed would be Horizons West Surf Shop.

The longevity of Horizons appeared to be a concern of many residents who attended the meeting, some wondering whether Wright would be able to afford the rent or whether he would want to return after being displaced during the construction phase.

"It's in our best interest to keep Horizons West there," Doar said.

Wright said he doesn't like the way the project looks aesthetically and spoke about the way the neighborhood has changed over the past several decades, with new developments popping up along Main Street.

He added that the shop's visitors come

from around the world, all hoping to glimpse the legendary surf shop that spawned a series of documentaries and movies.

"I deal with it every single day," Wright said. "They know the building will be torn down."

Stephanie Ponce, who grew up in the neighborhood and whose teenage son patronizes the surf shop, chimed in her opposition to the project, saying she would rather see the entire building stay intact.

"I don't think it matches Main Street and the beach community," she said. "It totally doesn't match what Santa Monica is all about."

But the project wasn't without its supporters.

Halil Parlar, who has lived across the street from Horizons since 1968, said the project would be a benefit to the neighborhood and would help beautify Main Street.

Parlar, who knows the property owner, pointed out that Doar could've proposed a project with more than 14 units, bringing in more revenue, but that she respects the concerns of neighbors and decided to keep the development smaller in size.

"This kind of building will be good for Santa Monica," he said. "Let's get over with it and build this building."

If it's one thing that the detractors agreed on with the supporters, it was in commending Doar's willingness to work with the community in developing the project. After withdrawing the demolition permit, Doar held several community workshops last year to get a sense of what residents wanted out of the project and how the history of Dogtown should be honored. Some of the ideas that came out of those workshops were displaying a plaque or building a skate park elsewhere in the city at Doar's expense.

In the end, Doar and Laks suggested a compromise — landmarking the Main Street portion of the building and demolishing the back.

"We all support this feature of the neighborhood and its association with the skateboard culture and that is something we want to maintain," Laks said.

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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS**WATER TEMP: 53-60°**

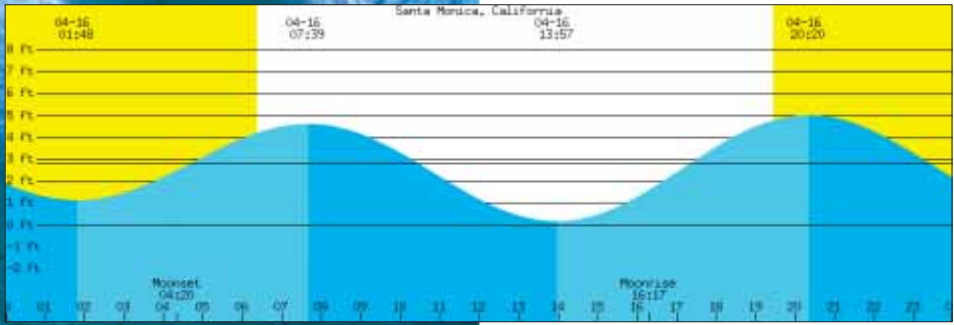
SWELL FORECAST (5-8 FT)

Today should see the SW say goodbye with knee to waist high waves for south facing breaks. NW should remain for at least the AM sessions, bringing chest to head high waves then, but smaller by end of day. Winds should calm some from Tuesday as the trough bringing the heavy onshore flow passes to the east. Tide will run at moderate levels.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SW FOR 20TH INTO 21ST DOWNGRADED...
HEAVY NW WIND SWELL BEING WATCHED FOR WEEKEND INTO NEXT WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA




Santa Monica, California

04-16 01:48 04-16 07:39 04-16 13:57 04-16 20:20

8 Ft 7 Ft 6 Ft 5 Ft 4 Ft 3 Ft 2 Ft 1 Ft 0 Ft -1 Ft -2 Ft

Moonsset: 04:20 Floorrise: 16:17



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

April 1, 2008

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

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 -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / ns

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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	B	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	B	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	B	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	C	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	C	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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

Heal the Bay

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MLB

Number of black players in decline

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK Major League Baseball received its best grade for racial diversity in hiring, even as the percentage of black players dropped again last year.

MLB received its first A- for race Tuesday from Richard Lapchick, director of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports. Its grade was B+ in last year's study.

Among major leaguers, though, just 8.2 percent were black players, down from 8.4 percent in 2006 and the lowest level in at least two decades. The percentage of black pitchers remained at 3 percent.

"Baseball has probably lost a whole generation here," Lapchick said. "African-Americans just aren't playing it at this point. They're going to have to increase their efforts."

Although MLB has established its Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities program and urban youth academies, Lapchick said it will take many years for those efforts to pay off.

Lapchick released the study on Jackie Robinson Day, the 61st anniversary of when Robinson broke the major league color barrier.

MLB received a C+ for gender hiring, up from a C last year. Its overall grade remained at B.

Lapchick said 28 percent of employees at

baseball's central offices were nonwhite, including 20 percent among senior executives. Women were 42 percent of employees, but 26 percent of the senior executives.

He suggested baseball commissioner Bud Selig pressure clubs more to consider minority candidates. He also said MLB should institute a rule that a woman be considered for all senior job openings, similar to the rule that minority candidates must be interviewed.

Lapchick would make an exception for general manager—there has never been a woman GM, and there are relatively few high-ranking women in baseball operations. Kim Ng of the Dodgers and Jean Afterman of the Yankees have been the exceptions.

"They would have token interviews until we have that one case that a woman is successful," he said.

He gave baseball a B+ for race and a C for gender for its senior administration hiring, the same as last year. For team vice presidents, the grade was B for race—the same as last year—and D- for gender, up from an F.

General managers were given a C for 2007, and Lapchick noted the Los Angeles Angels promoted Tony Reagins to GM, where he joins Kenny Williams of the Chicago White Sox and Omar Minaya of the New York Mets as the only minorities.

Managers received an A, with six minority managers last year. The total increased to eight at the start of this season.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Beasley leaving Kansas State

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP Sports Writer

MANHATTAN, Kan. After putting together one of the best freshman seasons ever, Michael Beasley is headed to the NBA.

Kansas State's All-American freshman announced Monday that he will skip his final three seasons to enter the June 26 NBA draft, where he could be the No. 1 overall pick.

"It's time to take my game to the next level," Beasley said as his family and several teammates looked on. "I think I proved myself over the course of the season. I just think it's time for new challenges."

Fellow freshman Bill Walker also announced Monday that he was making himself eligible for the draft, but he won't sign with an agent. That means that Walker, who averaged 16.1 points and 6.3 rebounds this season, can remove his name prior to the draft and be eligible to return to Kansas State for his sophomore year.

Beasley dominated his lone college season, averaging 26.2 points and becoming just the third freshman in NCAA history to lead the nation in rebounds at 12.4 per game. He had the second-most rebounds and third-most points by a freshman in NCAA history, helping Kansas State to its first NCAA tournament victory in 20 years.

Beasley also was a consensus All-American, was named Big 12 player of the year and finished second to North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough for numerous player of the year awards.

"Mike's as good as I've seen," said Kansas State coach Frank Martin, seated next to Beasley in front of dozens of reporters.

NBA scouts and general managers like him, too.

An agile 6-foot-10 power forward, Beasley is exceptionally versatile, able to power his way inside or step out to the perimeter, shooting 37 percent from beyond the arc.

NBA officials came out in droves to watch him play at nearly every game, and some general managers spent three to four days at a time in Manhattan, leading to speculation that Beasley would be the No. 1 overall draft pick if he left school early.

Millions of dollars awaits Beasley in the NBA, but it still wasn't an easy decision to leave school.

He spent the weekend debating whether he should stay or go, talking with family, friends and coaches about the NBA. It wasn't until Monday morning, just hours before his self-imposed deadline, that Beasley made his final decision.

"I kind of made my mind up, then went back to being undecided, made my mind up, then went back to being undecided," said Beasley, who signed with agent Joe Bell. "Today was when my decision stuck."

Beasley leaned heavily on his mother, Fatima Smith, and Martin in making his decision.

Smith has been Beasley's main supporter, helping him as he bounced from once high school to another after his pranks wore thin, moving her family to tiny Manhattan once he decided to attend Kansas State.

MOVIETIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Avenue (323) 466-FILM Call theater for information.	9:30 Nim's Island (PG) 1hr 35min 2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:05 The Ruins (R) 1hr 31min 3:00, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00 Prom Night (PG-13) 1hr 38min 1:30, 2:40, 3:40, 4:50, 5:50, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:10	10:10 10,000 B.C. (PG-13) 1hr 49min 11:40 a.m., 4:30, 9:40 Run Fat Boy Run (PG-13) 1hr 40min
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third St. (310) 458-1506 The Bank Job (R) 1hr 50min 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 Stop-Loss (R) 1hr 53min 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50 Street Kings (R) 1hr 47min 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55 Under the Same Moon (PG-13) 1hr 49min 1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741 Bra Boys (R) 1hr 30min 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15 Remember the Daze (R) 1hr 41min 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15 The Counterfeiters (NR) 1hr 38min 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30 Smart People (R) 1hr 33min 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	2:10, 7:00 Superhero Movie (PG-13) 1hr 25min 12:30, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30 Leatherheads (PG-13) 1hr 54min 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262 Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who (G) 1hr 28min 1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05 21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min 1:00, 2:15, 3:45, 5:00, 6:30, 7:50,	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599 Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) 1hr 42min 11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:40, 7:30,	Shine a Light (PG-13) 2hrs 02min 1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 The Take (NR) 1hr 36min 12:40, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Don't blow a situation out of proportion. Your creativity emerges. You might decide to drive a hard bargain. Your fire sparks others' interest. Tonight: Easy works.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your imagination excels. Investigate alternatives. Make calls and get the ball rolling on a project. You understand the next step, but say no to risk-taking. Tonight: Lighten up the mood.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might want to try another approach or way of handling a problem. You might have to spend in order to end a problem. Remember, costs can vary. Play Ralph Nader and make sound choices. Tonight: Happy to head home. Now, act like it's your castle.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You might be more assertive or aggressive than you realize. Your ability to weather a storm and sort through issues comes out. Don't expose someone to your frustration, if possible. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Your instincts guide you with a money matter. Rest assured, though you don't have all the answers, you are heading in the right direction. Choose to do nothing halfway, for your sake. Tonight: In the game of life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Use newfound energy to complete an important project or make that important call. Your energy level can be heard in your voice. Investigate another's idealism; this person is right. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Pressure builds, but trust yourself to take the right action. Your understanding of a situation might be a lot fuller than you realize. You alone can make a difference. Trust your instincts. Think clearly. Tonight: Work with someone closely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ News or information from out of left field forces a stronger reaction than intended - not that you cannot deal with it. Keep your eye on the big picture, and you'll achieve your desired results. Tonight: Entertain a suggestion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A partner drives a hard bargain. Whether you feel comfortable with his or her action, you will need to deal with it. Irritation could bloom into a fight. You also could have a meaningful discussion. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Someone seems ready for a battle. Detach and try to understand what ails this person. Tonight: Choose an activity that allows your mind to relax and wander.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A partner needs to call the shots. You might have mixed feelings. Whatever the case might be, open up to potential change and growth. Tonight: Say yes to living.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You find many people out of kilter, though you seem to make the best of even bad situations. Your resourcefulness sets someone back. He or she wants more of your ingenuity. Tonight: Easy does it.

Happy birthday

This year, keep a cap on strong feelings. If you feel uncomfortable in certain situations or as if you can't control your temper, indulge in an immediate stress-reducing activity like walking. Often people act in an erratic manner. Look within to see if you have blocked knowing such a person in his or her true capacity. Sometimes denial floats into our relationships. You will work hard but also will get your just rewards. If you are community-oriented, you'll discover new prestige in this area. If you are single, be aware that someone quite spectacular could enter your life, but not until 2009 will you understand the extent of this bond. If you are attached, share more of your outside life and become closer. VIRGO understands you.

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

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic	★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive	★ Difficult
★★★ Average	

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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

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

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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

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

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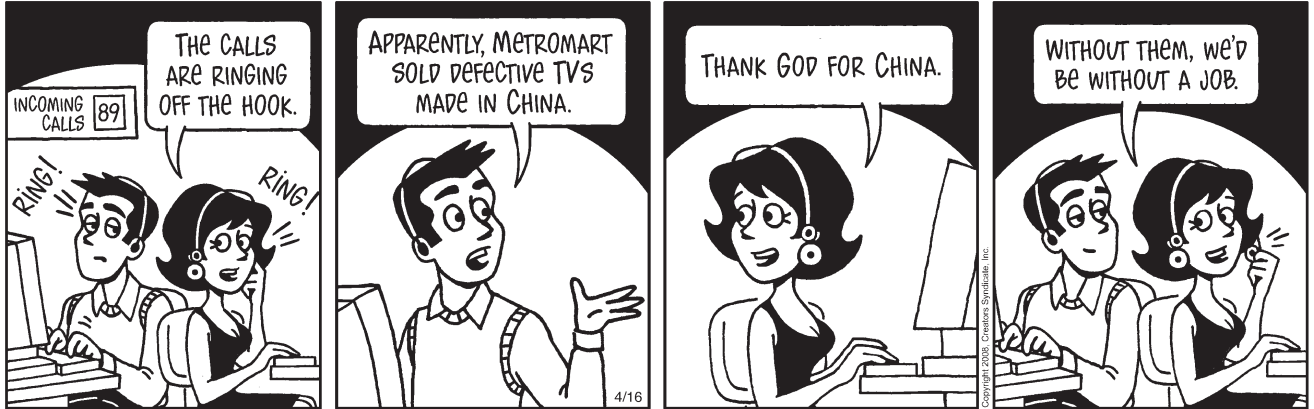
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



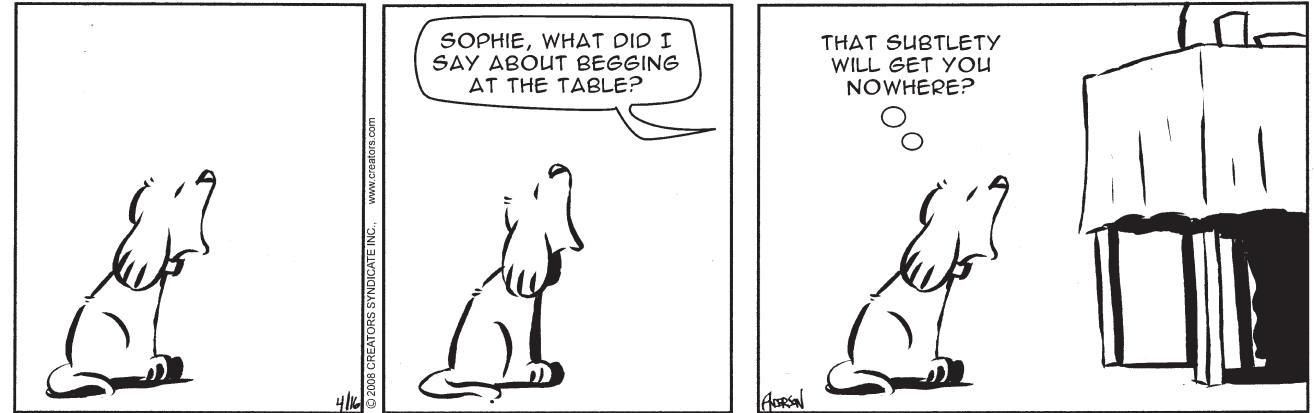
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Brandon Wise brandonw@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 Tatters
- 5 "Ben-Hur" star
- 11 Clarinet's cousin
- 12 Run out
- 13 Stiff drink
- 14 Border city
- 15 North Pole worker
- 16 Friend
- 17 Biased fellow
- 19 Talker's "gift"
- 22 Digging tool
- 24 Fancy wrap
- 26 Floor unit
- 27 Tooth part
- 28 Travel aid
- 30 Elevates
- 31 Argon, for one
- 32 Manhattan Project product
- 34 Linen source
- 35 Skill
- 38 Usher to the door
- 41 Ballet bend
- 42 Decorative
- 43 Different
- 44 Soup servers
- 45 Invites

DOWN

- 1 Lounging garb
- 2 Cain's victim
- 3 Course needs
- 4 Filming location
- 5 Phone word
- 6 Puts on a pedestal
- 7 Nimble
- 8 Even score
- 9 California's Fort —
- 10 Fresh: Pref.
- 16 History bit
- 18 Inkleing

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

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Silly folks
- 20 Scads
- 21 Casino acts
- 22 Forest creature
- 23 Stuffed bread
- 25 Adorn
- 29 Greet, in a way
- 30 Smoked salmon
- 33 Infamous
- motel name
- 34 Young horse
- 36 Hazard
- 37 Course needs
- 38 Musical note
- 39 Important age
- 40 Complete
- 41 Pod veggie

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DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 9 8 1
EVENING: 3 8 5

DAILY DERRY 1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:40:84

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Too Much Time on Their Hands: It struck Leo Hill, 81, of Lakewood, Colo., that he was being shorted sheets of toilet paper (in the 12-pack, whose rolls allegedly yielded fewer sheets than similar rolls in the 4-pack), and he earnestly counted 60 rolls, sheet by sheet, concluding that the shortage amounted to enough paper to service one sit-down session per roll. He took his complaint to the Denver Post (and even to the Better Business Bureau), but the reporter, trying to replicate Leo's work, found no shortage, in Leo's brand or eight others.

■ Jonathan Lee Riches is believed to be the most prolific lawsuit-filer ever to operate from behind bars. His "docket" now includes more than 1,000 cases in just over two years (with eight more years to go on a federal sentence for fraud), including claims totaling several trillion dollars from "injuries" inflicted on him by such people as President Bush, Martha Stewart, Steve Jobs, Britney Spears, Tiger Woods (luggage theft), Barry Bonds (illegal moonshine production), and football player Michael Vick (\$63 billion for allegedly stealing Riches' pit bulls and selling them on eBay so that Vick could in turn buy mis-siles from Iran).

TODAY IN HISTORY

2007 in the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history, student Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

1789 President-elect Washington left Mount Vernon, Va., for his inauguration in New York.

1862 President Lincoln signed a bill ending slavery in the District of Columbia.

1879 Saint Bernadette, who'd described seeing visions of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes, died in Nevers, France.

1912 Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel.

1917 Vladimir Ilyich Lenin returned to Russia after years of exile.

1947 the French ship Grandcamp blew up at the harbor in Texas City, Texas; another ship, the High Flyer, exploded the following day. The blasts and resulting fires killed nearly 600 people

WORD UP!

miasma \my-AZ-muh; mee-\, noun: 1. A vaporous exhalation (as of marshes or putrid matter) formerly thought to cause disease; broadly, a thick vaporous atmosphere or emanation. 2. A harmful or corrupting atmosphere or influence; also, an atmosphere that obscures; a fog.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 1,699,250	\$ 938,639
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 873,967	\$ 738,150
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Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,692,615	\$ 1,270,589

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