



## Traffic Tuner

By KATHERINE ROSENBERG

### Reexamining speed on unmarked roads

This question is being re-visited from last week:

Dear Traffic Tuner, I drive down Park Avenue between Palmdale Road and Dos Palmas Road all the time, and I've noticed that there are no speed-limit signs on the entire road.

There are several businesses on the road, including Kaiser-Permanente, the Daily Press, Cask and Cleaver and the gym I go to. You have to drive fairly slow because people are always turning in and out of all the driveways, especially when you get down to the gas stations on the corner.

It is my understanding that when there is no posted speed limit on a city street the speed limit becomes 55 mph, by default. Is that true? If so, does the city have any plans to put up speed limit signs to reduce the speed, because I personally think 55 mph is way too fast for such a busy street.

According to City Engineer Sean McGlade, the speed limit is not posted as it falls under the direction of a business district. The speed limit on Park Avenue, therefore, is 25 mph. This is the official word on the matter.

Officials from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Victorville station Tuesday conducted their ninth court sting in six months.

Deputies will sit in on a court appearance when a judge is ordering an individual not to drive.

That person is then followed into the parking lot to determine whether they complied with the law.

In cases where they have not, they are followed and cited, with their vehicle often being impounded for a period of 30 days.

The results were the most successful to date, and Traffic Sgt. John Mattke attributes that to education of drivers with suspended licenses.

"This is the fewest people we've gotten. There were just four people today who chose to ignore judge's orders by driving themselves away from the courthouse," Mattke said. "We look at it as a successful program because the education aspect is working."

The stings are funded through a state grant from the Office of Traffic Safety, and Mattke says his traffic team plans to conduct two programs a month through the remainder of the year.

On Friday, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Apple Valley station is going to conduct a DUI/Traffic Safety checkpoint at an undisclosed location, said Traffic Sgt. Lindel Savage.

"We will be concentrating on identifying and arresting intoxicated drivers, checking valid driver's licenses and building public awareness of the problem of drunk driving," Savage said.

The Sheriff's Department often relies on the help of concerned citizens in reporting drunken driving. Some signs to help detect drunken drivers are:

- Turning with a wide radius.
- Straddling the center of the road or lane marker.
- Stopping inappropriately.
- Weaving or zigzagging across the road.
- Driving slower than 10 mph under the speed limit.
- Erratic braking.

Have a question about bad roads, dangerous intersections or other driving-related matters? Write: The Traffic Tuner, Daily Press, P.O. Box 1389, Victorville, CA 92393-1389 or e-mail questions to krosenberg@vvdailypress.com with "Traffic Tuner" in the subject line.

# Nutro neutralizes odor problem

Air district prepares to judge company after more than \$4 million spent on issue

By TATIANA PROPHET  
Staff Writer

VICTORVILLE — Nutro Products has spent more than \$4 million to vanquish an odor problem at its Victorville factory, and now it's time for the air district to decide if the plan of attack is good enough.

"I want to reserve judgment on whether it's fixed or not," said Eldon Heaston, executive officer of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District. "I want to wait before I'm cautiously optimistic that we've rectified the

problem." Friday was the deadline by which the company had to implement an odor-abatement plan devised by its paid consultant, mitigating it "beyond detectable levels."

Although the district is still getting complaint calls since Friday's deadline, they are not as numerous as they were from October to February. The latest March numbers were not yet available.

Heaston said he will probably make a decision by the end of April whether the problem has been rectified, and if not, what

kind of penalty to impose on the company.

The pet food plant opened in March 2006 at the Foxborough Industrial Park at Nisqualli and Hesperia roads, adding about 100 new jobs to the area. By May, residents in the nearby community of Spring Valley Lake and surrounding Victorville neighborhoods started to notice the smell of dog food.

Allen Arias, plant manager, said he has done everything he could from the beginning — bringing in



Michael Stenerson / Staff Photographer

Nutro Products has installed more components in their factory to help abate the smell that many neighbors in Spring Valley Lake and surrounding neighborhoods complain of.

NUTRO/B3



## Local Seder event a time for children, of all ages

### A feast of freedom, a time to remember



Photos by Michael Stenerson / Staff Photographer

TOP: Rita Perria folds her hands during one of the many prayers during the Seder dinner. ABOVE: David Rib holds a piece of matzo in the air while leading the Passover Seder on Tuesday night at the Ambassador Hotel in Victorville.

## Victorville ceremony helps explain history of annual Jewish tradition

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Staff Writer

VICTORVILLE — Children took center stage at a Passover Seder feast at the Ambassador Hotel on Tuesday night.

"Dayenu, dayenu, dayenu," a room full of about 150 sang, thanking God for freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Dayenu means "that along would have been enough, for that alone we are grateful."

It was a light-hearted celebration that included four questions that children traditionally ask at Passover, such as, "What is this all about?"

It also included a "frog song" about

the second of the 10 plagues brought by God upon the Egyptians, for which children hopped up and down like the amphibians.

The meal was hosted by the Congregation Bamidbar Shel Ma'alah, a Reform Jewish congregation. The Beth Shalom Messianic Jewish Congregation was also invited. Messianic Jews believe that Jesus was the Messiah, said Rabbi Rene Bloch of Beth Shalom.

People in the hall of the Ambassador Hotel might have celebrated elements of the Seder differently in the past, but many learned the underlying religious and cultural threads of the holiday when they were children, too.



Dr. Dave Eiser, left, passes the Passover Seder Plate to Elizabeth Paine on Tuesday night.

Memories reaching back to childhood or youth are also the reason why Passover holds a special meaning for many Jews.

For Dave Eiser of Wrightwood, who was raised in an Orthodox Jewish family in New Jersey, it conjures up memo-

SEDER/B3

## Wolf freed after record time in jail

Freelance videographer who shot San Francisco G8 protests makes deal with prosecutors

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Joshua Wolf, 24, a freelance videographer originally from Wrightwood, was released Tuesday after spending more time behind bars than any other journalist for refusing to testify to a grand jury.

Wolf left the federal prison in Dublin in Alameda County, where he spent more than seven months after refusing to obey a subpoena to turn over his video from a chaotic 2005 San Francisco street protest during the G-8 summit.

His mother, Liz Wolf-Spada, a Wrightwood resident who



AP Photo / Ben Margot

Joshua Wolf, left, wheels his belongings in the parking lot of the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin on Tuesday. Wolf, a freelance videographer, was released Tuesday after spending more time behind bars than any other journalist for refusing to testify to a grand jury.

teaches in Phelan, said she was very relieved her son is finally out of prison.

"I can't believe this is happening."

Spada said she was on the phone with Wolf's attorney when the release order from the judge was faxed in.

WOLF/B2

## Drinking from the dump

Hodge resident worries illegal dumping is ending up in local water supply

By AARON AUPPERLEE  
Staff Writer

HODGE — Go under the railroad tracks and turn right at the dead emu — that's how Lisa Carlson used to tell friends how to get to her house.

The dead emu is gone, decomposed and decayed.

But other dead and diseased animals and mountains of other trash still sit in the Mojave River bed in Hodge, much to the dismay of Carlson.

"Look how tall that is," Carlson said pointing a seven-foot pile of building materials, shingles, mattresses, adult diapers, oil containers and other refuse. "That's not all dirt. That's all rubbish."

Carlson knows of two sites along the Mojave River in Hodge where large amounts of trash have been recently

dumped. Hodge is a small community in unincorporated San Bernardino County 35 miles northeast of Victorville off National Trails Highway.

At one site, Carlson saw new tire tracks and suspected they dumped sometime in the last 24 hours. She said she started noticing the dump sites soon after she moved to Hodge to enjoy open spaces, walks in the desert and the desert's wildlife.

Unfortunately, a discarded car, washers, dryers, propane tanks and paint cans have built up just across the railroad tracks in a wash that leads to the river bed and at other sites.

Debris from the dump sites can be found down river. The air reeks of rot from the decaying animals.

Carlson said the animals, mostly sheep and goats, will not be picked apart by coyotes because they are diseased. Flies buzzed around the carcass of a dead dog left on the bank of the river.

DUMPING/B3



ROAD BRIEFS

Caltrans is concerned that motorists are not slowing down for the construction zone at Mojave River Bridge on Highway 18 in Victorville.

"The danger is they could get a ticket because we're going to step up cooperation with CHP," said spokeswoman Terri Kasinga.

In order to protect the safety of construction and motorists, Caltrans is bringing in changeable message signs to tell people to slow down, she said. The department is also working with the California Highway Patrol to make sure people slow down.

Kasinga said she would like to see motorists slow to 10 mph, but at least 25 mph would be wise.

The problem became evident on Monday, when Caltrans began phase two of the project early.

There will be alternating lane closures seven days a week, 24 hours a day during this stage, which will last about four to six weeks.

- From 5 a.m. to 1 p.m., two lanes will be available on northbound Highway 18 (toward Victorville), and one lane will be available on southbound Highway 18 (toward Apple Valley).
- From 1 p.m. to 5 a.m., two lanes will be available on southbound Highway 18 (toward Apple Valley) and one lane will be available on northbound Highway 18 (toward Victorville).

Consideration has been given to the peak traffic direction for lane availability. The portion of the project that will impact traffic is expected to be complete by July, and the remainder of the work will take place in the river bottom and is expected to be complete in summer 2008.

For information on other Caltrans roadwork, please go to their Web site at [www.caltrans8.info](http://www.caltrans8.info).

Hesperia is closing lanes on Main Street from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. today for street improvements.

Main Street will remain open in both directions, but will be reduced to one lane on each side between Peach Avenue and I Avenue, according to a press release from the city. Motorists should expect minor delays, and the city is asking them to avoid the area if possible.

— Compiled from staff reports

**Wolf: First Amendment rights conflict with court precedent**

FROM B1

left open the possibility that he could be subpoenaed again later in the investigation.

"I will not under any circumstances testify before a grand jury," Wolf said as he left the prison. An unshaven Wolf, wearing a white T-shirt and sweat shorts, said he was looking forward to "pizza and a beer."

U.S. District Judge William Alsup, who had jailed Wolf for 226 days, approved his release.

The government is investigating how a San Francisco police officer's skull was fractured during the melee and who set a police car on fire.

The footage Wolf posted online does not capture the alleged crimes authorities are investigating, lawyer David Greene said.

Wolf's incarceration surpassed that of Vanessa Leggett, a Houston-based freelancer who served a record 168 days in 2001 and 2002 for declining to reveal unpublished material about a murder case.

Wolf's lawyers argued that the First Amendment gave

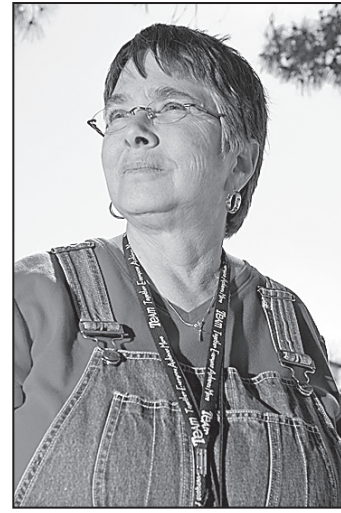
him the right to refuse the subpoena to turn over the rest of his tape.

"Now that the fences of the law and the tradition that has protected the press are broken down, the people are the victims. The First Amendment, as I read it, was designed precisely to prevent that tragedy," said Wolf in prepared statement he read later Tuesday on the steps of San Francisco City Hall.

But agreeing with federal prosecutors, Alsup cited a 1972 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the U.S. Constitution does not entitle reporters, or anybody else, to withhold their confidential sources or unpublished material in a grand jury investigation or criminal trial.

California's Shield Law allows reporters to keep sources and unpublished material secret. But there is no federal Shield Law protecting reporters from federal investigations.

The National Writer's Union said in a statement that Wolf



Eric Tom / Staff Photographer  
Liz Wolf-Spada of Wrightwood, the mother of Joshua Wolf, is very relieved that her son is out of prison. 'I can't believe this is happening,' she said.

should never have been jailed.

"The abuses visited on Josh and other journalists are part of an effort by governments at all levels to control the volume, flow and content of the information that reaches the public," the union said.

Daily Press staff writer Matthew C. Durkee and the Associated Press contributed to this report.

**Body found by motorist is Lytle Creek man**

By KATHERINE ROSENBERG  
Staff Writer

WRIGHTWOOD — A stranded motorist found a decomposed body Tuesday morning off a rural stretch of road, and officials later identified the victim as a Lytle Creek man who had been missing since March 13.

Authorities have reason to believe John Rintalan, 54, was killed by a member of the Vagos outlaw motorcycle gang, said Cindy Beavers, spokeswoman for the Sheriff's Department.

Rintalan was reported missing under suspicious circumstances last month, and the Fontana station handed the investigation over to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Homicide Detail three days later to begin a murder investigation, Beavers said.

Rintalan's girlfriend reported that all of his vehicles were accounted for, as well as his motorcycle which was

parked outside, although the girlfriend said Rintalan never left it out.

The unnamed girlfriend also said that Rintalan never returned calls to her, which was very unusual, Beavers relayed.

When a motorist found his self stranded on Desert Front Road around 8 a.m. Tuesday, he began to pace outside his vehicle, Beavers said, as there is not a lot of traffic in the area near Highway 2.

He looked down a rocky embankment and saw the body in the advanced stages of decomposition no more than 10 feet from the roadway.

"There didn't appear to be any attempt to conceal the body," Beavers said. "Anybody that was walking on the right side of the roadway, the body was very

visible for someone standing or walking, but not driving."

Investigators were called and found that the victim matched the physical description of John Rintalan, and the clothing and tattoo markings were very similar, Beavers said.

No arrests have been made and authorities are asking that anyone with information contact the Homicide Detail at (909) 387-3589.

Information can also be left anonymously by calling WeTip at (800) 78-CRIME. WeTip informants are eligible for up to \$1,000 should their information lead to an arrest and conviction.

Katherine Rosenberg can be reached at 951-6276 or by e-mail at [krosenberg@vvdailypress.com](mailto:krosenberg@vvdailypress.com).

**"There didn't appear to be any attempt to conceal the body."**

CINDY BEAVERS

Spokeswoman for the Sheriff's Department

OBITUARIES



BUSCHER

ROBERTA BUSCHER

Roberta Ann Buscher, known to family and friends as "Byrde," passed away peacefully in her sleep March 31, 2007. She was born Roberta Ann Perry on Dec. 29, 1953, to Robert and Louise Perry in Los Angeles.

Roberta worked for many years as a nurses aide in the Los Angeles area before moving to the High Desert in 1984 and becoming a homemaker. Her family and friends will always remember her as a loving and giving person with a big heart who was willing to give a helping hand to anyone in need.

Roberta is survived by her husband of 26 years, Joseph Buscher of Hesperia; two sons, one daughter and their spouses, Jason and Pansy Coffman of Las Vegas, Nev., Joseph and Rebecca Buscher of Victorville and Mary Jo and Michael Werschey of Bellevue, Neb.; four grandchildren, Zechary Coffman, Christopher Werschey, Brittney Werschey and Kimberly Werschey; sister Susan (Perry) Lerner and her husband William of Baldwin Park; sister Charlene Barrette; brother Michael Barrette; numerous nieces and nephews and five grandnieces and nephews. Roberta is also survived by her beloved dogs Gordon, Herman, Susie, Bozo, Big Jake and Lucy.

ETHEL RICHMOND

Former Hesperia resident Ethel May Richmond, 81, who recently moved to Country Lawn in Navarre, Ohio, went to be with the Lord and Savior April 3, 2007.

She was the loving mother of Joyce Kurtz of Canton, Ohio; grandmother of Julie Rose, Kristy



RICHMOND

Beram, Kelly Day, Shelly Sommers and Steven Kurtz; great-grandmother of Samantha, Christian, Kelli, Max, Melissa, Chad, Jemma, Christopher, Lauren and one on the way; and loving sister of Thelma Hayes, Edna Hunter and Jim Renn. She will be dearly missed.

In honor of her wishes, Ethel will be cremated and a burial at sea will take place with the family in California.

Reed Funeral Home, 705 Raff Road SW, Canton, Ohio, is handling arrangements.

Those who would like to share a fond memory or condolence may do so online at [www.reedfuneralhome.com](http://www.reedfuneralhome.com).

MIKE DEBELLO

Mike DeBello, 86, died March 28, 2007. He was a resident of Victorville for 13 years.

Visitation will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Desert View Funeral Home Chapel, 11478 Amargosa Road, Victorville.

Services will follow at 11 a.m. Desert View Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

HAROLD JONES

Harold L. Jones, 58, died March 25, 2007, in Adelanto.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Kern Memorial Chapel in Victorville.

Graveside services will be at 10:15 a.m. Friday at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside. Kern Memorial Chapel is handling arrangements.

Some obituaries in this section are paid for by families of the deceased, who also provide the information. The Daily Press is not responsible for the accuracy of the information published in paid obituaries. Short death notices are also offered, and these are free of charge.

IN BRIEF

**Expanded recycling provided at county waste sites**

Responding to state requirements to reduce materials being landfilled, San Bernardino County will launch an expanded waste recycling/diversion program at its Victor Valley disposal sites.

Beginning May 1, loads of waste

accepted at the Victorville Landfill and Phelan (Sheep Creek) Transfer Station will be targeted for additional on-site processing to pull material out for recycling and reuse rather than just burying it.

**A call for community writers**

Do you like to write?

Do you live in Phelan, Pinon Hills, Helendale, Wrightwood, Oro Grande, Oak Hills or El Mirage?

Can you write about what goes on in your community? Do you have a computer?

If so, contact Keith Jones, managing editor of the Daily Press, at [kjones@vvdailypress.com](mailto:kjones@vvdailypress.com) or 955-5368.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

**Community Easter Sunrise Service**  
April 8, 2007 at 6:00 a.m.

Come join the celebration of the Risen Christ in Victor Valley Memorial Park at 11th & C Street, Victorville, thru gate D.

No one would be happier to see you celebrate the miracle of the resurrection than Jesus. After all, it's a miracle He wants everyone to share.

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Hospice Chaplain, Visiting Nurse Association of the Inland Counties.  
Primera Iglesia Bautista De Church, Hesperia.  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Victorville.  
United Methodist Church of Victorville.

**Dress Warm and bring a flashlight!**



# Seder: Conjurs memories of past family gatherings

FROM B1

ries of his grandfather grating fresh horseradish on the back steps of his house. The root was so bitter it caused tears to roll down Eiser's grandfather's face.

Horseradish is often used on the symbolic Seder plate as maror, or bitter herbs, to recall the Israelites' suffering as slaves in Egypt.

Also on the plate were parsley, to be dipped in salt water symbolizing tears, eggs to symbolize the cycle of life; a lamb shank bone or z'roa to symbolize blood that warned the Angel of Death to pass over houses of the Israelites; and charoset,

a mixture of nuts, apples and wine that reminded people of the mortar the Israelites used to make bricks in Egypt.

Eiser's family would have about 25 at Passover in those days, but his father died several years ago and his mother was not planning on celebrating the holiday this year.

"I can't sing these words without thinking of him and the big family meal," Eiser said.

Leah Sherzer remembered Passover from 20 years ago, when she lived in Israel on a kibbutz, or collective community, where people spoke French

and Hebrew.

Teenagers in the Israeli military would return home for the holiday and say, "I'm an Israeli before I'm a Jew," she said. "They're living the freedom."

One of the hardest things for people outside the Jewish faith to understand is that Passover celebrates freedom from slavery and the opportunity for the Jews to be their own people, Sherzer said.

The 10 plagues leading up to the Exodus can seem violent, since they caused suffering for Egyptians as well.

Elizabeth Paine converted to Judaism 14 years ago and said

the Seder meal replaced the importance of clothes at Easter.

"These people taught me how to be a grown up," she said.

For many, it was the second Seder meal in which they participated. Those families had celebrated the first night of Passover with a more intimate meal at home on Monday night.

"It's the best holiday of the year," said Gene Selig. "This is one time of the year when we can get 150 people in a room for the same reason."

Hillary Borrud may be reached at 951-6234 or hborrud@vvdailypress.com.

# Nutro: Scientist already taking readings in town

FROM B1

nationally recognized odor scientist Ned Ostjic to assess the situation.

"I met him on Father's Day at the plant," Arias said.

By June, the air district was requiring Nutro to come up with the odor abatement plan, which was designed by San Diego engineering firm AWR.

Arias addressed assertions by some residents that he knew the plant was going to cause a nuisance when he built the factory. He cited the identical plant in Tennessee, where there is no record of any complaints received, the Daily Press has learned.

"People from the beginning have said, you knew about it, you just thought you'd get away with it. Why would we do that?"

Arias said he had spent four or five times the amount he was planning. Part of the expense was the rush delivery he put on the materials for the ventilation stack.

Now the task is for both Nutro and the air district to measure the odor levels.

Ostjic, the odor scientist, is already in town taking readings. Both the company and the district are encouraging residents to call them if they smell something.

"If they feel like it's a nuisance, they should complain, and we'll try to follow up as quick as we can to verify that it's in fact Nutro that they're smelling and how bad it is," Heaston said.

Two lawsuits have been filed against the company seeking to bar Nutro from emitting any noxious odor.

The Spring Valley Lake association has filed one, and dozens of residents have filed another. Scott Eckert, one of the plaintiffs in the

group lawsuit, said he has been able to smell the Nutro plant since Friday.

"I would say it's slightly better than it used to be," Eckert said. "It's not as bad as it used to be last year and so forth. But it's still not gone."

Not everyone in the community thinks the odor is a nuisance.

Michael Ramirez, a resident of Spring Valley Lake for six years, said the odor has not been a problem for him.

"I pretty much work at home, and I can't say that I've smelled that building over here," he said.

The air district has the option to take punitive action if the odor does not meet Heaston's standards. Some residents want a shutdown of the plant until the odor is dealt with.

Heaston said the district is checking the situation daily, adding that he has a difficult task ahead because odor is a subjective thing.

"You almost have to stand beside the person while it's going on, so it's going to put a lot of pressure on us," he said.

Complaints are down from last fall. In October, there were 248 complaints registered with the MDAQMD. In November, it was 374; in December, 320; in January, 154; and in February, 209.

The MDAQMD is collecting comments on odors from the Nutro plant. To make a report, call the district's 24-hour complaint line at (800) 635-4617. Nutro has a community response line, 241-9480.

# Dumping: Carlson called EPA

FROM B1

"Nature is nature and God gave it to us for a reason," Carlson said. "We're supposed to protect it. You can't tell me this won't hurt the animals."

Beyond harm to the wildlife, Carlson is also concerned about contamination of the water supply.

She said some of the oil containers she has found have been full, leading her to question where the contents of the empty ones went.

She has also found containers of other toxic chemicals, some of which are used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine.

Carlson's disgust has prompted her to call several agencies and offices looking for help.

She said she called the county Fire Department, the county Health Department, county Code Enforcement, the Environmental Protection Agency and representatives in

Washington, D.C.

The Fire Department came out to clean up some oil, she said, but no one else has responded.

Meanwhile, Carlson is worried the waste is trickling into her water supply and harming her 10-year-old daughter.

Joan Mulcare, an environmental health scientist with the San Bernardino Department of Public Health, said ground water contamination from illegal dumping is a concern when toxic chemicals are involved.

She said regardless of whether the river is flowing or not, the chemicals still seep into the ground water located just below the surface.

Mulcare had not heard of the dumping problem in Hodge but said she would send someone from her office out to check on the possible contamination and contact county Code Enforcement to stop the dumping.

# Daily Press offering student internships

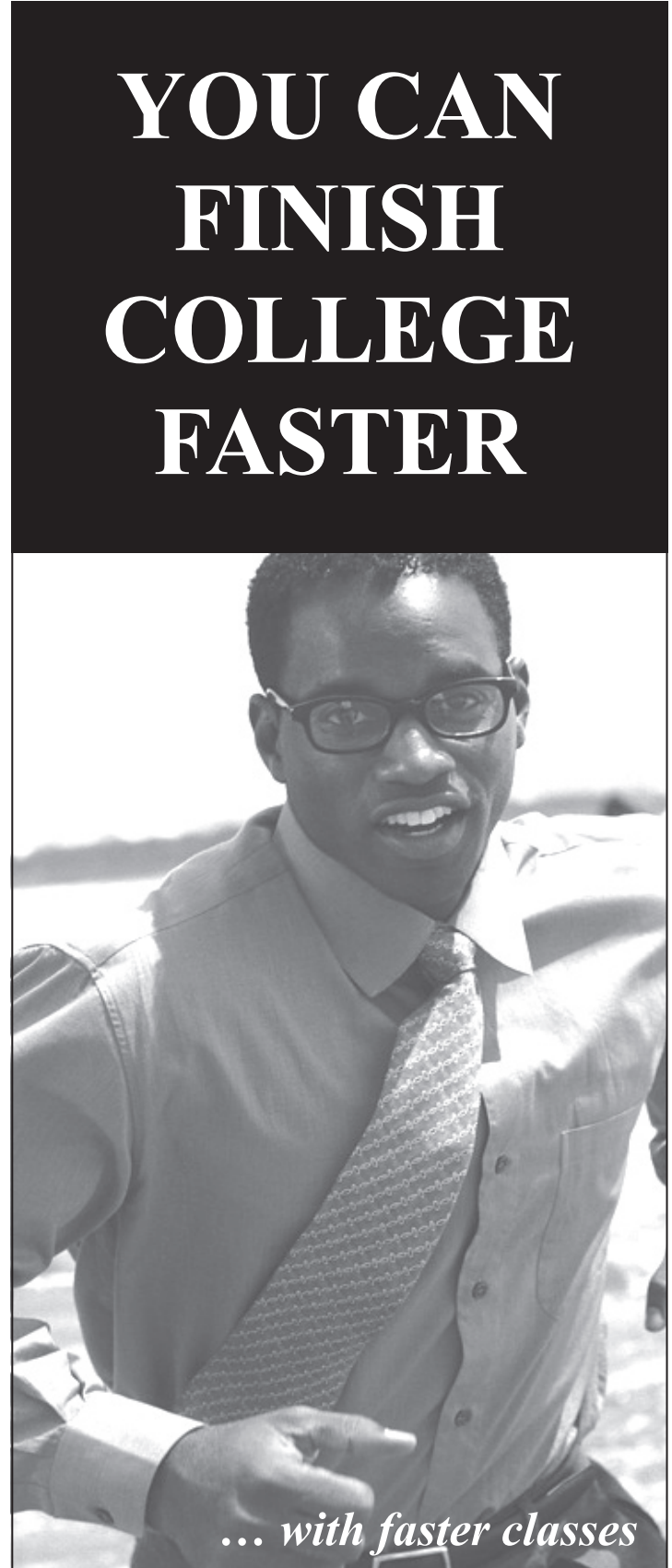
VICTORVILLE — The Daily Press is offering internships for students with an interest in journalism.

Interns must be at least 16 years old and should have a demonstrated interest in journalism. High school and college-level journalism students are particularly encouraged.

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newsroom tasks and assist reporters, photographers and Web site editors. Internships are tailored to the intern's area of interest.

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