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Issue 328 • January 12 - January 18, 2006

UPDATE FROM MANHATTAN BEACH



The *Weekly's* exclusive interview with former BHUSD Superintendent Gwen Gross.

letters & email



“War Over The Overlay Zone”
 Last May, I wrote to the PUC [Public Utilities Commission] about the area code overlay [discussed in cover story, issue #327], to ask why they rejected the idea of a separate area code for cell phones and pagers (as they do in Europe), freeing up available numbers and keeping our land lines as they are. I got this answer from the PUC Assistant Public Advisor Marcus Nixon: “One of the main reasons was a related FCC ruling which required wireless companies to offer full number portability in order to increase competition and broaden consumer choices. Therefore, unlike the current capabilities available to both wireless and landline customers, assigning wireless phones their own area code would prohibit wireless number portability to a consumer’s home phone.” I don’t understand this issue of portability, or why it takes precedence over the disruption of the overlay zone with 11-digit dialing. I would be in favor of a different area code for cell phones, but I haven’t heard any discussion about it.

WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND?

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 Beverly Hills, CA 90212

You can fax us at:
 310.887.0789 fax

email us at:
 editor@bhweekly.com



SNAPSHOT

*Nancy Barth
 Beverly Hills*



“CHANGING OF THE GUARD” SOUTH ROXBURY DRIVE

(Beverly Hills Active Adult Club installation Jan. 9: (L-R) Mayor Linda Briskman and outgoing BHAAC President Adele Swartz pass the gavel to incoming President Mildred Heller.)

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Council Axes Two-Hour Free Parking

A late night vote leads merchants and shoppers to lose one hour of free parking.

By Andrea Simpson



Council does away with two-hour free parking starting next week.

The City Council approved the elimination of two-hour free parking and a rate increase for parking garages in the business triangle and on South Beverly Drive at last Tuesday's meeting. In the surprise 4-1 vote that took place around midnight Councilmember Frank Fenton cast the only dissenting voice.

According to the new fee policy, parking garages will institute a one-hour free parking policy, except for the City Hall and La Cienega

Park structures, which will maintain the existing two-hours free parking rates. The new rates will include one-hour free parking with \$1 per half hour for the second hour and \$1.50 per half hour thereafter. For valet, the service fee will be \$4 per car up to two hours and \$1.50 per half hour thereafter with a \$13.50 daily minimum.

According to Fenton, his opposition to the new rates was more of an economic decision.

"We have a lot of competition between the new mall in Century City, The Grove and Westside Pavilion that all offer free parking," Fenton said. "I just felt that whatever free parking we give up here we could possibly lose in sales tax revenue. I just didn't think it was worth taking a chance. I think the economy may slow down a little bit anyway in the next year, but regardless of whether it does or it doesn't we need to solidify and keep our tax base the way it is and make sure that all the retail establishments within our city can compete against all the other places around that are offering nice stores, free parking and restaurants. I don't see any reason why we shouldn't compete on the same basis and I just don't want to see any retail sales flowing out of the city and going elsewhere."

For the Parking Enterprise Fund, the parking operation is currently generating approximately \$2 million annually in gross revenue from hourly parking, which according to city staff is a

breakeven revenue stream and does not provide funding for maintenance and upgrades, or add to the parking supply. The new fee policy should net an additional \$2.8 million annually.

These figures, however, do not add up to Fenton's calculations, he said.

"Over the last several years the argument has been made that the parking structures are losing several million dollars a year in parking revenue," Fenton said. "I'm not quite sure how they're doing their accounting, but according to the latest that I've gotten, and that's just using the actual parking fees [and] not using what we're collecting in rent from various retail establishments that are located in the first floor of our parking establishments, we're basically break-

ing even."

Fenton added that as of the end of August the city was collecting close to \$7.5 million per year in rent from various parking facilities.

"I'm just concerned. I do not want to lose any of our sales tax base, and my concern is that we may take in an extra \$2 million a year on parking fees, but are we going to lose \$2 million a year in sales tax revenue?" Fenton said.

Councilmember Jimmy Delshad voted in support of the new program to make more parking available and to upgrade the existing facilities, he said, and not necessarily to increase revenue to the city.

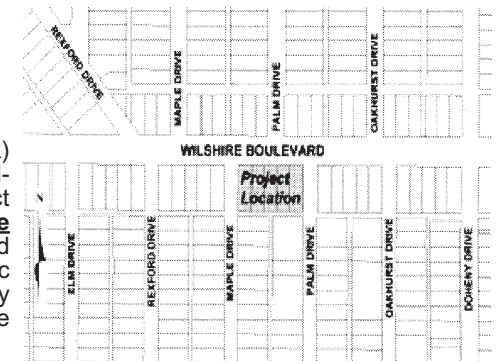
"You would think that by charging more you

city and schools cont. on page 4



NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
455 N. Rexford Drive
310.285.1123
Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817
FAX: 310.858.5966



A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared for a proposed mixed-use, commercial/residential project ("Project") to be located at **9200 Wilshire Boulevard**. The Draft EIR will be released on **Friday, January 6, 2006** for public review and comment. The City of Beverly Hills encourages public comment on the Draft EIR.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the Draft EIR and the Project on January 25, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in Commission Room A, Beverly Hills City Hall, 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210. This hearing will focus on the Draft EIR. There will be future hearings at which the public will be invited to speak to the Project's merits and a separate notice will be mailed regarding such future hearings.

Project Description

The Applicant, Legacy Partners, has proposed to develop a six-story (70-foot high) mixed-use project on the vacant lot at 9200 Wilshire Boulevard between South Maple Drive and South Palm Drive. The project would include:

- 54 residential condominium units;
- 14,000 square feet of ground-floor commercial space; and,
- up to 321 parking spaces located in a multi-level subterranean garage.

Access to Project parking would be provided via both Maple Drive (residents) and Palm Drive (visitors and commercial). The Project's loading facilities would be located at Maple Drive, across the street from the Lexus dealership. The Project site is located in a commercial (C-3) zone. The current zoning does not allow residential use and the Project would exceed the existing three-story/45-foot height limit and 2:1 FAR (Floor Area Ratio) allowed in the C-3 Zone. Accordingly, the Applicant has requested a zone amendment (mixed-use overlay zone), and a corollary General Plan amendment to allow the residential use in a commercial zone, additional height and density. The Project will also be subject to the Planning Commission's Development Plan Review and the Architectural Commission's review of the building's exterior design features. The Development Plan Review will include review of the Vesting Tentative Tract Map for the proposed condominiums and a request for a Minor Accommodation to allow a change from the required setback improvements in a commercial-residential transition area.

Copies of the Draft EIR will be available for public review beginning **Friday, January 6, 2006**, in the Community Development Department at City Hall, 455 North Rexford Drive, Room G-40; the Office of the City Clerk (Room 190, also in City Hall); and at the Beverly Hills Public Library at 444 North Rexford Drive. One copy (per person or organization) of the Draft EIR may be obtained from the Community Development Department without charge. (Reproduction costs may be charged for additional copies.)

The **45-day public comment period** will be from **Friday, January 6, 2006, through Tuesday, February 21, 2006**. Comments on the EIR will be accepted at the January 25th public hearing or in writing prior to the end of the public comment period.

Copies of all relevant material, including the project specifications and the environmental initial study are available for review in the offices of the Community Development Department of the City of Beverly Hills.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Michele McGrath, Senior Planner, at 310.285.1123.

If you challenge the City's action on the project, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised as part of the public hearing process for the project.

MICHELE MCGRATH,
Senior Planner

NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY: SOLICITATIONS ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY CLERK
BYRON POPE, CMC
455 N. Rexford Drive
Acting City Clerk
Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817
(310) 285-2400 • FAX: (310) 385-0862

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill one vacancy on the Solicitations Advisory Commission. The initial term of office for the position is two years. At the discretion of the City Council, the Commissioner may be reappointed to a second term of four years. The appointees will be required to file an initial and an annual "Statement of Economic Interests" financial disclosure.

In order that we may preserve the integrity of the application and interview process, please direct all inquiries to the City Clerk, City Manager or the Chief of Police. Please DO NOT contact the City Councilmembers or the members of the Solicitations Advisory Commission regarding the vacancies.

Application forms for the Solicitations Advisory Commission, along with a description of the duties of a Commissioner, and filing details are available for pickup in the City Clerk's Office, Room 190, 455 N. Rexford Drive, or call 310.285.2400 to receive an application and information by mail or by email.

The deadline for filing applications for this Commission is Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

BYRON POPE, CMC
Acting City Clerk

would make more parking available. The reason to go from two hours to one hour, doing that would discourage all the employees of the businesses as well as the people who would go to medical buildings, attorneys, all of those people who are supposed to have parking lots of their own or their parking is so expensive that employees and customers decide to use free parking," Delshad said. "What they were doing was shown by analysis that we've done that about 42 percent of our parking lots are being used by non-customers or non-shoppers. The whole idea of building the structures was to help retailers and shoppers. Two things happened by misusing it: the employees and non-shoppers would come every two hours and take their cars out and turn around and go right back in to the same parking lot. What do you think that causes?-- a lot of traffic in and out of the structure and the street."

Delshad said one-hour free parking will discourage these types of violations from continuing.

"The two hours was giving them enough time in their shift that they could do it like three or four times a day and now they have to do it like seven or eight times a day and they cannot just take time off," Delshad said, "And after all, it's going to take them like 10 or 15 minutes every hour to move their cars in and out. It would definitely discourage the moving in and out, it would reduce the traffic and increase the available parking. The other thing that was happening, they would probably take the best parking spaces and other shoppers would have to go three or four stories up or down to find parking."

The Chamber of Commerce conducted a

survey last year asking businesses to rank their preference in changes to the public parking policy from options including an optional merchant validation program, a fee structure, revise two-hour free policy to one-hour free, or no change in the current policy. No change in the current policy and a revised policy to reduce two hours of free parking to one hour of free parking were equally rated as the first choice option. Combining the first and second choice options, 81 percent of businesses supported a policy change that would reduce the free parking policy from two-hours to one-hour.

The Chamber supported the change from two- to one-hour parking based on the condition that the revenue generated would be directed to the maintenance of the parking garages.

"We have to make sure that experience that shoppers have is a good one. Part of aiming for that is free parking and a quality experience with parking that will be maintained. We're not that troubled or concerned because we've been guaranteed that shoppers will maintain a good experience," Walsh said.

Fenton speculates that merchants supported the reduction in free parking so as not to lose it in its entirety.

"I spent at least one afternoon a week in the triangle talking to merchants and the bottom line was the last two years before I was on the coun-

cil there was a lot of talk about this and the merchants were not happy about that," Fenton said. "They were not happy about a validation system and I think finally the council [committee] basically said, 'Well, let's not cut two hours, we'll just cut it down to one hour. And I think that when the merchants heard that they were delighted that they weren't going to lose it all. But if they had a vote, they wouldn't want to lose any of it. That's really where it's at. So when the comments were made at the last council meeting that the merchants the other council people had talked to seemed to be pleased with that, my comment back was, 'Well, of course they're

"I'm just concerned. I do not want to lose any of our sales tax base, and my concern is that we may take in an extra \$2 million a year on parking fees, but are we going to lose \$2 million a year in sales tax revenue?"

— Councilmember Frank Fenton

pleased with it because it's better than cutting out all the free parking

ing."

Greta Feigler, owner of Greta on South Beverly Drive, said the decision is disappointing.

"Parking is a nightmare. We have no parking, period. I am in the 100 block so there's no parking and if they change that, it will be a hardship," said Feigler, whose store has been located in Beverly Hills for 43 years. "For [customers] to park they have to rush and in my business people need longer than one hour."

Delshad said the program will be monitored and if necessary the city can change its policy any time. Fenton, however, said reversing the

decision may be easier than reversing people's perceptions.

"It's going to be monitored, but I have to tell you from what I've read about these kinds of situations and these kinds of economic decisions, shoppers get used to what they're doing and once you make a change it's not that easy to go back," Fenton said.

Residents, like former Mayor and North Homeowners' Association secretary Robert K. Tanenbaum, who spoke on behalf of the group, said the council was insincere in its promise not to change two-hour free parking when asked repeatedly during the Montage hotel debates.

"I heard nothing but vociferous assurances from council members that the two-hour free parking during the Montage debate would not in any way be compromised. During the debate they said the two-hour would not be touched," Tanenbaum said. "Not having to do with the Montage itself, but intrinsically the two hours represents a major established inducement to bring shoppers into our community. All of a sudden out of left field that's not the case anymore. These are the very same people who said we're not going to touch two-hour free and now they're doing it. And they've done it at midnight. Why would you do that? And I don't believe the merchants know about it."

Fenton maintains that during his campaign he said he would not change two-hour free parking under any conditions.

Delshad said the city was planning to do something with its parking lots regardless of whether the Montage won or lost.

The new parking rates begin on Monday.

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Blackout!

A power outage leaves south central Beverly Hills residents and businesses in the dark.

By Jennifer Kamm



Power failure: Edison to replace some equipment this year.

More than 2,000 residents and businesses in Beverly Hills lost power last Thursday evening due to a failed high-voltage power line on Gregory Way, just east of Beverly Drive.

Considered an ongoing occurrence by many residents, Southern California Edison representatives and city officials disagree, and continue to minimize the severity of the blackouts.

The most recent outage occurred at approximately 7:24 p.m. on Jan. 5 and affected areas south of Wilshire, north of Olympic and a few blocks east and west of South Beverly, according to Mark Olson, Public Affairs Manager for Edison.

While the majority of those affected by the outage received power by approximately 10 p.m. the same night, approximately 150 customers on South Beverly and Reeves Drives remained without power until 6:30 Sunday morning.

"It [the failed power line] was one of the main feeds of power for the South Beverly area. Because the one line shorted out, it caused damage for additional lines," Olson said.

Interim Fire Chief Stan Speth said the problem was caused by an electrical vault that had a fire underneath it. Due to the increased temperature of the electrical lines, smoke poured out of the vault and coated the area in thick black smoke. Once the lines had cooled and the fire had controlled itself and vented out, firefighters went into the vault to repair the faulty equipment and check for hazardous materials, according to Speth.

While the outage was problematic to many businesses in the area, it was especially trying on those that require electricity for refrigera-

tion and freezing purposes. One of the businesses most impacted by the power outage was Koo Koo Roo on South Beverly Drive.

Even though the restaurant regained power Sunday morning, according to manager, Zuley Melendez, Koo Koo Roo could not open for business until Monday because the outage affected the restaurant's computers.

"We lost a lot of orders; the city should pay us," Melendez said.

While some establishments on South Beverly, like Peet's Coffee & Tea, regained electricity early Friday morning, others, such as Milart Prescription Pharmacy, were forced to remain closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday due to the loss of power.

After receiving complaints from residents regarding the outage, Councilmember Barry Brucker said he would like to see a full report from Edison to learn the source of the problem. Brucker would also like to see Edison representatives at the council meeting next Tuesday to discuss their plans for the city.

"I want to see what kind of working resolution they have in mind," Brucker said.

According to South Camden Drive resident Marc O'Krent, there have been several power outages in the city recently. Throughout the last year, O'Krent can recall three unplanned and two planned instances where power was lost at his home.

"It took them [Edison] five hours to get to where I live when a switch burned out," O'Krent said.

Stacy Polinsky, who runs a 24-hour call center in Beverly Hills, remains frustrated with the ongoing outages.

"We're here for emergency and after-hour dispatch. We cannot rely on the power not

going out," Polinsky said.

After experiencing six significant outages in the last six years (both planned and unplanned), Polinsky said she has been forced to maintain costly back-up power supply systems for her business.

"Now I expect outages to happen fairly often. I don't trust it [the power] that's for sure," Polinsky said.

When asked for an exact number of outages that have affected Beverly Hills in the last year, Olson could not provide a detailed figure. He said Beverly Hills does not experience any more outages than other area cities and "in some places in Beverly Hills the power has never gone out and in some parts, it has gone out several times in a year."

The popular belief amongst residents and business owners is that the electrical equipment in Beverly Hills is antiquated and is in need of replacement.

"I have heard of old transformers that have blown. It's my understanding that it's due to the age," Brucker said.

Polinsky is also concerned about the age of the transformers and cables running underground and believes that as a result the city will begin to experience increased power outages.

Brucker added that he hopes Edison has a work plan in place to replace the aging equipment.

"I hope the City Council will take some measures to require Edison to take initiative," O'Krent said.

Today, the Public Works Commission is holding their first meeting of the year, and the

city's power outages will be amongst the topics discussed, according to Chairperson Tom Korey, whose office building on South Beverly was also affected by the loss of power over the weekend.

Korey has encouraged O'Krent to come to the meeting and speak about his experiences with power outages in the city. Although Korey said he needs more information on the subject at hand, he added that if power outages occur as often as O'Krent claims, the commission will "champion" the cause.

"If there's a need to take on Edison, then we should," Korey said.

While Olson admits that there is some older equipment in Beverly Hills, he claims that switches should last several decades if maintained properly and that the equipment undergoes regular inspection every five years.

"We have an ongoing inspection and maintenance program. We're replacing a lot of equipment," Olson said.

Throughout the year, high-voltage switches are going to be replaced throughout the area, according to Olson. Two switches on La Peer Drive, just north of Wilshire Boulevard, have been targeted to be replaced later this week. Although Edison will have to shut down power for a small number of residents from the late evening until the early morning, he said customers have been notified about the impending outage.

"We do replace the oldest equipment first," Olsen said. "Based on this year's program, there is a proactive plan to replace more switches."

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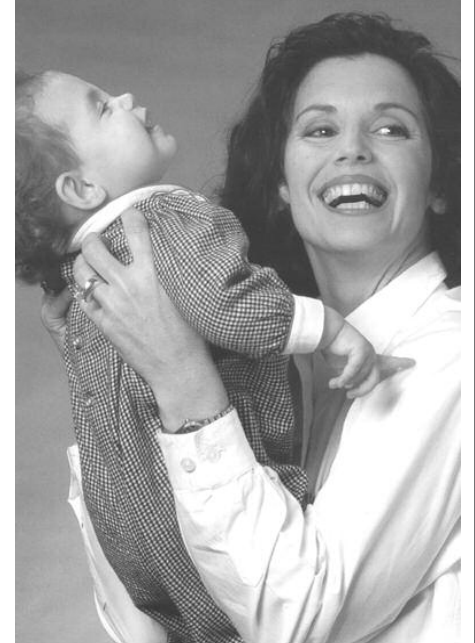


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Helene West Feldman

Former Horace Mann Principal, 1971-1976
Beverly Hills, CA

How did you first get to Beverly Hills?

I began as a teacher at Horace Mann School. I'm originally from New York City. I came [to California] in 1959. I went to school at Brooklyn College, Cornell University and USC. At Brooklyn I got my B.A., at Cornell I got a M.A. and at USC I got an advanced Master's [degree] and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology.

Tell us about Horace Mann at that time.

I started in 1964, as a teacher there and then in 1966, I went to the high school as counselor and dean and then in 1967, I went back as an assistant principal at Horace Mann school. In 1971, I became the principal at Horace Mann.

smallest in terms of enrollment of the four schools, but we were very experimental and we worked with Madeleine Hunter from UES and we were on the cutting edge of education. We did team teaching and just a lot of exciting things. It was a very warm, friendly faculty.

You switched from teaching to administration. Why?

Well, the school district, actually at that time, you didn't have to open [positions to the public], so they just asked me what I wanted. And they were very good about it. When I had the opportunity of being an assistant principal and part-time sixth grade teacher or counselor and dean at the high school, I chose the counselor and dean. I would have stayed at the high school, but then they offered me a full-time assistant principal position at Horace



You became principal at Horace Mann in 1971 after the suicide of Principal David Haserot. Tell us about that.

Well, David Haserot was an extraordinary man. He was on sabbatical the year before so I was already acting principal. So that was not difficult and I had been assistant principal for several years. I was very well-received because I was a known entity. I remember receiving a lot of compliments. People were pleased and it went smoothly in spite of the tragedy. The transition was an easy one because, in truth, Dave had only been back [from his sabbatical] for a day or two. I had already for six months been acting principal.

Which faculty members do you remember working with?

I'm very friendly with Becky Keller; she taught in a team, what was called the OKK team. There's Audrie O'Lesky. Gwen Wyatt [interviewed in issue #232] was a music teacher; Ron Brown died [in

Mann, so I did that, and then ultimately became principal. And then after I got married, I became assistant to the superintendent.

1994], but he was the sixth grade teacher. Someone else I see, Ellen Uhrman. I can think of many because at one point even though I was a clinical psychologist, we had a reunion at my home one evening and Superintendent Ken Peters came and about 40 of the faculty came. It was a lot. And we must have had about 80 people. So it was very nice and we've had reunions from time to time. Billie Banks [interviewed in issue # 316] is someone else; she was a second grade teacher.

Tell us about some of the active parents at the time?

Well, I see some of them, like Jan Miller and Elizabeth Schindler; Linda Roberts, we were friendly; and Judie Fenton.

We interviewed Carol Binggeli [issue #229] and she mentioned how caring the Horace Mann staff was towards the students and how that was a big change from other schools. She said, "At Horace Mann people stayed after school to help and it seemed to me there was a lot more caring between the teachers and students and there was not the kind of animosity I had seen in many schools." Do you agree with that?

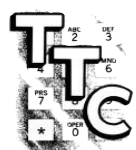
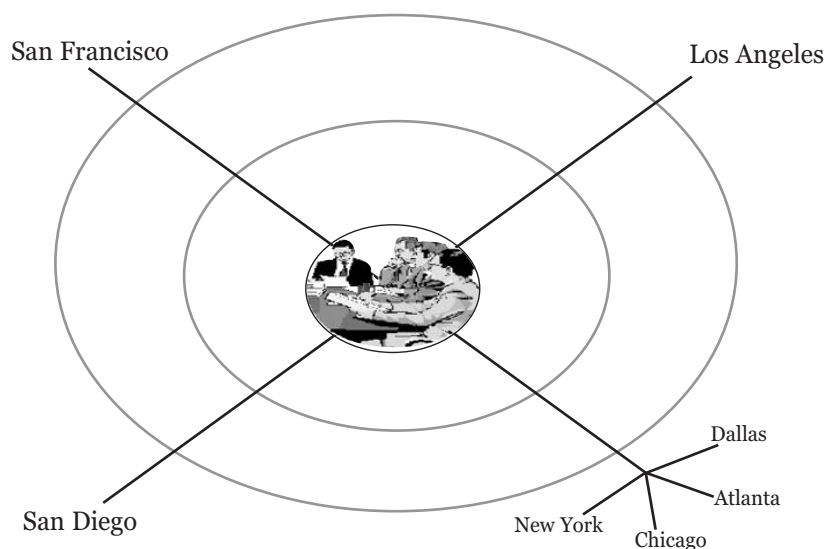
Absolutely, because that was an attitude that began early, even with David Hazerot, and that continued. There was great warmth among the teachers, great

where are they now? cont. on page 7

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warmth and caring about the students and a collaborative working relationship with parents and the PTA.

As principal, what were some of the challenging educational issues that you faced?

When we wanted to start new projects like multi-grading and team teaching, that took education. We had to educate the parents because there is resistance to new ideas. But basically, it was an extremely supportive staff and faculty. Changes began to come in during the beginning of collective bargaining; the unionization of the teachers. So by this time I was no longer at Horace Mann, I was at the central office. I was assistant to the superintendent.

Recently we spoke with Gloria Boraz [issue #324] and she said, "Dr. West was very innovative. She just was very exact. She'd walk in the halls and write on the bulletin boards. She wanted us to be a pilot school, which we were. She was always into new ideas and experiments. She was a very wonderful, creative principal and that's why she became assistant superintendent."

A pilot school does new cutting edge programs. We'll do some experimental work and so I was very aware of what was happening in terms of curriculum and in terms of organizational patterns. That's the kind of thing that team teaching is. Or sometimes we had to have combination grades, but that allows you

to individualize teaching.

I thought [Gloria Boraz] was terrific. In fact, her daughter is now teaching. [Gloria] was always warm, open to new ideas, active, enthusiastic; she was terrific.

How did you end up recruiting your assistant principal, Art Fields?

When I became full-time principal we had a search and Art Fields had been a principal in L.A. and he was the best qualified. I think Beverly Hills was a little different from the LAUSD schools so it took a little time to adapt. But he was very effective.

Do you keep in touch with him?

The last time I saw him was at his retirement dinner [in 2001]. Remember I'm in a new field now. It's been over 20 years. I've been president of the L.A. County Psychological Association and President of the California Psychological Association. And I'm involved with the American Psychological Association, so what happened is that people knew about me when I transitioned careers and became a clinical psychologist. People had known about me as principal more than even assistant to the superintendent. From that, they asked me to represent psychology. So I'm very active in organized psychology and I've held numerous leadership positions.

Tell us about working with former Superintendent Ken Peters.

He's an extraordinary man. He's one of the most outstanding superintendents. He is the most outstanding superintendent Beverly Hills had because he was there as superintendent for over 25 years. But he really understood the community and he was well-reputed; he led the state, he was a leader among superintendents throughout the state. Absolutely outstanding in every way.

You were an assistant superintendent from 1976 to 1983.

Then I began to go more part-time. From 1983 to 1985, I was director of the Gifted and Talented [program]. I kept paring down and then I went from full-time to four-fifths to three-fifths and then to just a special consultant. It was really more administrative assistant to the superintendent of schools.

Why did you decide to focus on psychology and teaching?

I was originally in teaching at the time and I got my Master's at Cornell, and if you were a psychologist you worked with the mentally ill and I wanted to work with more normal people. And I thought I wanted to just be a school counselor, that type of thing. I was quite young, my early 20s, but I always wanted to be either a counselor or a psychologist and so that's what I'm doing now; I'm a clinical psychologist [in Beverly Hills].

Why did you switch from education to psychology?

I became a clinical psychologist in 1988, I got my license in 1987 to the present. And then I've been a commissioner for the Board of Psychology and done different things. But I think it's more the leadership role as president of the state and L.A. County Psychology Association, the largest local association in the world. It's interesting, it keeps you involved.

Are you still involved with education today?

I'm more involved in the education in psychology. What I do now is I teach and I realize I've been doing it for 14 years. I'm an assistant clinical professor at UCLA School of Medicine. I teach third year medical students. [The students] are so eager to learn and so bright. You pair a psychologist or a Ph.D. with an M.D. and it's a set curriculum and it's a seminar, so there are groups of about eight students. It's year long and it's exciting because you're on the cutting edge of medicine and it's wonderful when you teach people who are so anxious to learn and it really is exciting. That's why I've done it for 14 years.

That's definitely a change from working at an elementary school.

Well, I've had a lot of opportunities and that's something that I do now and really enjoy. And I love my private practice. As principal, yes, you work with individual students, teachers, families,

but as a clinical psychologist, I'm one-to-one. You help people make profound changes in their lives for the better. And it's really exciting. Young women or men who come in and they don't have relationships and then end up finding someone, getting married, having children, that kind of thing. It's just very exciting. They have problems with work or relationships.

Do you still keep in touch with anyone from the district?

Oh sure. I do, because you make life-long friends. Jan Miller, Lee Hausner. Betty Farr was an art teacher at Horace Mann, Jan Miller was a reading specialist in Beverly Hills, Lee Hausner was a psychologist in Beverly Hills. Oh, there are so many. You know when I think about it, my secretary from time to time, I keep in touch with her, Elena Cajiano.

Tell us about your family.

My husband is a neurosurgeon at UCLA. I have two stepchildren. Both actually work in Beverly Hills. One is Dr. Sherry Feldman and she's a dermatologist, and David Feldman, who is a partner in an entertainment law firm Bloom, Hergott and Diemer. It's the boutique entertainment law firm in the city. And Sherry is in Dr. Arnold Klein's office. He's called the "dermatologist to the stars." They're wonderful. My stepdaughter is married and I have two twin 6-year-old granddaughters who attend school in Manhattan Beach.

What's your favorite memory at Horace Mann?

I remember when I left Horace Mann to go to [the district office], the students had written me poems and letters and they put it in a scrapbook. And it was really so beautifully done, so that was a particularly wonderful memory. Then I remember the graduations. The eighth grade graduations were always very special events. And I loved Halloween. We would all dress up and there would be a Halloween fair. That type of thing was very special. The other thing, when Gwen Wyatt, who was the music teacher, did our Christmas and holiday programs. It was exciting when you worked together with the students, the teachers and the parents. It was really a glow and always a wonderful start of a new year. And then we've had reunions. There was one just this year. I was going, but I wasn't able to. But different classes have had reunions. And can you imagine, the students are in their early 40s and they have reunions. That's how close the school, the staff and the students were. It's really lovely, very special. For a K-8 school, it's very unusual. Usually you have reunions in high school maybe, and in college, but these are classes and people keep in touch.

*"Where Are They Now?"
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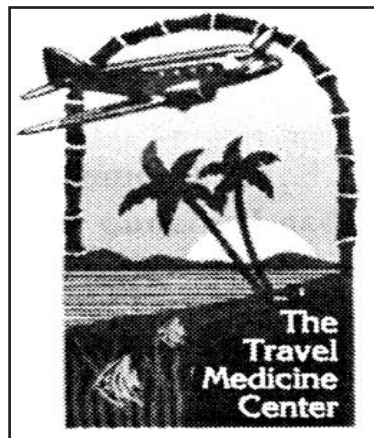
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An Off The Wall Mailer Raises Ire

Council good and council bad on recent actions.
By Rudy Cole

If you have friends visiting from Iowa, be careful what you permit them to read. Because if they somehow come upon a recent mailer from the Beverly Hills North Homeowners' Association, your guests could set records racing to LAX to avoid the carnage of traffic in our village.

To quote one of the many frightening messages from the association: "We are overwhelmed with, indeed deluged by, destination gridlock." Aside from a penchant for dramatic overstatements, these and other messages in the North Association's mailer could, if they were indeed taken seriously, negatively impact property values not only in the north, but all over the city.

Now, homeowner associations could and should play an important role in the ongoing planning process. Often, they act as a deterrent to overzealous and even greedy development schemes. Many of

the leaders of our plethora of neighborhood groups are truly concerned about our quality of life and their voices need to be heard. **Victor Bardack**, the North's president, is an affable, bright, long-time resident, which makes us wonder who actually authored their "hit" piece. More important, are the opinions expressed really those of the majority of residents living in the most protected neighborhood in our city?

Consider these messages in the flyer: "We should be bound by a common goal to preserve and maintain the residential qualities of our neighborhoods."

Who could argue with that, but there is not now, there never has been and never can be any challenge to the "residential" quality of life in the north. The zoning in the north, single-family, is totally secure and could only be changed by a vote of the people, about as likely as a Rite Aid opening opposite the Beverly Hills Hotel

on Sunset Boulevard.

If the association means avoiding new projects in other areas of the city, that's a very different story. I don't want to trigger a North-South conflagration, however, the south residents are the ones who live in and around the commercial zones created by our first city councils and it is their community that produces the revenue needed to make our city such a safe and desirable place to live, work and educate our children. Without the revenue from the commercial areas of the south, the north's "quality of life" would indeed be very different. Most rational people understand the interdependence of business and residential and the realities of revenue flow: 70 percent of our tax dollars come from businesses, not residential property taxes. Hotels, department stores, financial institutions, automobile dealers and entertainment industry groups and restaurants all prosper, we should hope, in the south and our southern neighbors live with that reality.

To suggest we have "runaway" development is total nonsense. Most developers avoid our city because they claim, with some justification, that we are not "business friendly." We turn down more proposed developments than we approve, we insist that new projects conform to

our very strict codes and, when we do encourage new construction, it is most often to replace ugly surface parking lots and deteriorating commercial areas, as was the case with the Montage Hotel which, incidentally, the voters AND the City Council approved. We need to be responsible, to support "smart" not unlimited growth and we need attractive new housing if we really are in earnest about rational planning.

There was one other portion of the North mailer that was truly offensive and not reflective of how we should carry out our debate on the city's future. The City Council is fair game and I certainly question some of their actions and decisions - read on for some samples. But to shriek with these words, in the North mailer, is going too far: "Our City Council is hell-bent on engaging in a development jihad." Not fair, not funny and totally in very bad taste. "Jihad" is not a term to be used lightly; not in our community.

Speaking of community organizations and responsible actions, our Beverly Hills League of Women Voters took a big step in accountability when it quickly distanced itself from a recent statement by a lawyer for a group called the Alliance that led the battle against the Montage.

A recent article in the *Los Angeles Business Journal* implied that the "Alliance" was now set to oppose the housing/mixed-use plan being offered to

rudy cole cont. on page 9



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replace Robinsons-May and that the League was part of the opposition. At their board meeting last week, the League leadership made it clear that they had not taken any position on the Robinsons-May replacement proposals and that the Alliance was not authorized to speak for them.

A League spokesperson, **Norma Brecher**, told me that the lawyer, quoted in the *Journal* article, claimed that he had been "misquoted" and that he had not even seen the story! The Alliance attorney, **Robert Silverstein**, who has filed an appeal on the court ruling in favor of the city and the Montage, did not return calls from the *Weekly*. However, the League confirmed he has no right to speak for them on any other issue. In fact, one League leader questioned whether they were formally members of the "Alliance."

On the contrary, many League leaders seem enthusiastic about converting the commercial property to residential, although the League has yet to take a position.

And speaking of the *Weekly*, the newspaper was generously quoted in *Time* magazine's piece on former resident **Jack Abramoff**, now making some unwanted news in our nation's capitol. How did we produce a Republican, right-wing fund-raiser in our liberal, Democratic community? We are still trying to explain **Heidi Fleiss** and **Monica Lewinsky**.

Council good, council bad and where is **March Schwartz** when we need him? Let me sort those words out for you. First, I owe an apology, of sorts, to the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce. They were right, I was wrong. You see, I thought the Chamber was overreacting when they warned the business community they could lose two-hour free parking in city lots.

After all, city leaders denied this could happen during the Montage debate and this column totally supported that position. When it first came up for discussion, the Chamber called an "emergency" meeting of businesses to protect two-hour free parking. I felt the notice was not fair, but it obviously was.

Last week, the council voted four to one to change two-hour free to one hour in what was described as an effort to increase needed revenue and "avoid abuses" (see story on pg. 3). At least that's what Councilmember **Jimmy Delshad** thought he was supporting. The only vote against was Councilmember **Frank Fenton**, who obviously felt it was not good public policy to go back on a pledge.

Yes, there are some abuses and problems with the two-hour free program. There is some in and out at a few of our lots by non-shoppers that does not conform to the reasons for the free parking--encouraging shopping. The Chamber felt the compromise was the best it could achieve and did not appear to oppose the

changes.

There could have been other options: A merchant validation program for customers would have been one. Eliminating two-hour free parking to supposedly increase revenues is counter productive. If shoppers have only one hour, they are less likely to combine shopping with dining and, even more likely, to visit Century City where they can park longer without any cost. Seems strange, but true, that even though willing to spend big bucks in stores visitors to our business sector resent having to pay for parking. The net financial gains are questionable.

As for the former owner of the *Courier*, March was a vociferous advocate of two-hour free parking. See, we did agree sometimes.

The one-hour reform needs to be checked and if it does seriously impact our merchants, it may need to be returned to the two-hour program. As for financial benefits, is our city in a more serious financial crunch than we know? We need some explanations for this change and other recent fee increases.

The City Council did get it right when it took steps to control demolitions of apartments to condos. The demographic diversity of our community was at stake. The council, following recommendations of the Planning Commission, is working to limit the number of apartments the city could lose each year.

When this issue first came to the Planning Commission, a city-wide mailing brought hundreds of residents to the hearing. Unfortunately, the same notice was not sent to alert residents about the pending council action. The city needs to send the same kind of mailer that brought people to the commission hearing prior to its next meeting on this issue.

Interestingly, when some property owners used the co-operative development instead of condo conversion approach because co-ops do not require the same compliance with codes on parking, as one example, they soon learned this was not viable. Now that the city is setting quotas on condos, the owners asked that they be allowed to convert to condos.

On the surface, this may seem like a scheme to achieve benefits without making improvements, but one property owner, **Lyn Konheim**, was very convincing because he has been a most responsible owner, winning the support of his own renters for the conversion. Actually, it was a good move to approve the changes because it helped decrease the demand for further demolitions.

Good public policy is to find opportunities for new housing on underused commercial land helping keep moderate families in their present apartments. Of course, housing has another benefit: Less traffic than most any commercial use.

If a good looking, successful physician needs a television show to find a mate, I

pity the chances of the stock brokers in Anchorage's chances of finding domestic bliss. "The Bachelor" has returned, this time in Paris, and just as exploitive as before. In one hour, our doc was able to dispatch, let alone remember the names and values, of half of the mostly mindless candidates for the alter. I counted five "Oh my god" utterances in just the first five minutes of the show. That's almost as much attention as the deity receives at the Academy Awards. What was the movie with **Robert Redford** offering to pay \$1 million for sex with a woman?

Kind of raises the expectations for the rest of us.

If the current sitcoms are designed to meet the demographics of the viewers and reflect their intellectual demands, it may be time to raise the age of voting eligibility to 65. Some were so insipid, as to wonder if the networks were really looking at their products. Good news: **Ted Koppel** will soon be seen on the Discovery Channel, one more blessing of cable TV.

Considerable e-mails on a recent column of restaurant and shop favorites. We did miss some good places to eat and shop-- more in future columns.

Final Notes: One of our most popular residents, **Gloria Jennings**, undergoes major back surgery this Friday at Century City Doctor's Hospital. Gloria, along with husband Traffic and Parking Commissioner **Lou Milkowski**, have been largely responsible for the success of our Community Theatre. Best wishes for a speedy recovery and a return to the Salter Family Theatre.

Many state environmental leaders attended the memorial services for former Recreation and Parks Commissioner **Ellen Stern Harris** Sunday at Greystone, along with city officials and *Los Angeles Times* writers, including **Ken Reich**, who used to work on the Western Los Angeles supplement. Condolences to **Fred Nason** on the passing of his mother Violette. Mrs. Nason was active in numerous civic groups and a strong supporter of the arts. Her father built our first City Hall and Horace Mann School. The Nasons were a pioneering family and Fred has continued the tradition of community involvement.

Veteran Building and Safety staff member **Fred Bauer** died this week. He was a highly regarded inspector credited with strict enforcement of safety rules.

Rudy Cole served for eight years as a member and chair of the city's Recreation and Parks Commission. He also was President of the Greystone Foundation and served on three other city committees. Rudy can be reached at: Rudy@bhweekly.com.

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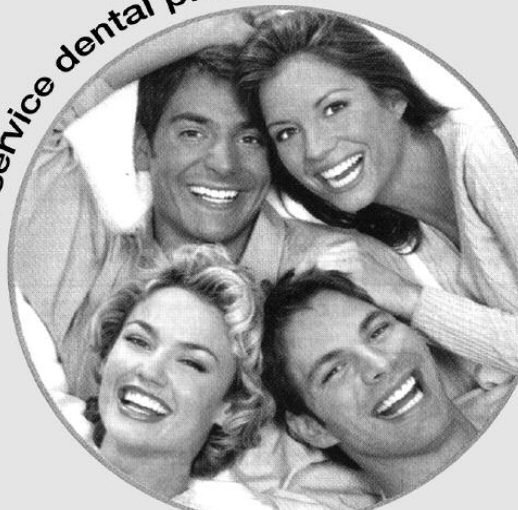
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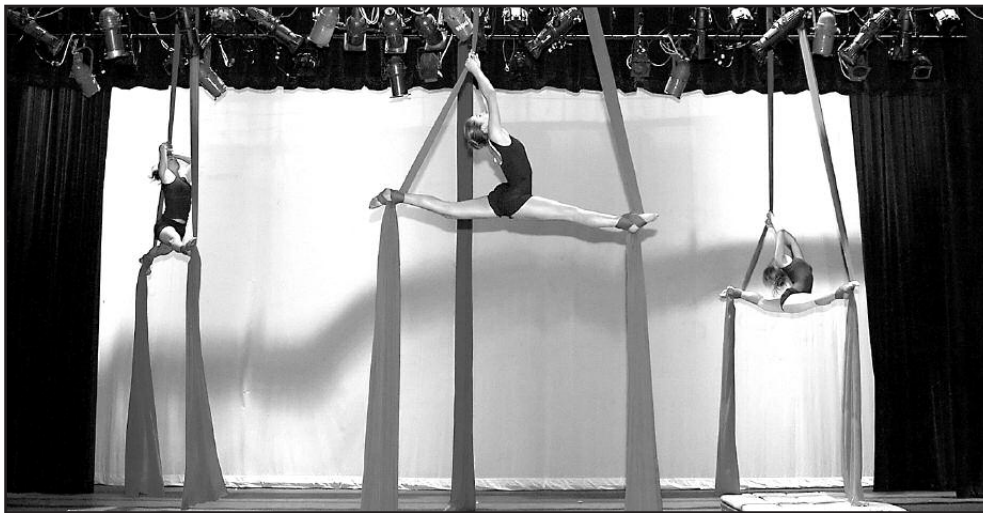
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briefs

Beverly High Dance Company Performs Through Sunday

The award winning Advanced Dance Theater Group presents its performance of their annual dance concert through Sunday. The Company '06 will perform a show that includes jazz, modern, ballet, and hip-hop dance choreographed by students, alumni choreographers Ben Levy ('98) and Darren Wright ('98), Assistant Artistic Director Liz Sroka ('99) and Artistic Director Roni Kosmal-Wernik ('94). Kosmal-Wernik has choreographed two pieces this year, including a staging of "Peter Pan" with a rock 'n roll twist. The opening, choreographed by senior Lauren Brucker, features music by Dave Matthew's Band.

Two AP Posse hip-hop dances were created by professional choreographers this year including Bradford Robinson, titled Myoosak, a comical infomercial dance to the beats of artists such as Kanye West, Missy Elliot and Janet Jackson. Original aerial fabric work, directed by Benn Mendoza, is also featured. This circus-like choreography is reminiscent of the famous Cirque de Soliel aerialists. Another new addition to the show is a dance film directed by Jennifer Jessum in the finale. The show closes with exciting bows that include tap dancing by sophomore Danielle Levy and live drumming by sophomore Jonathan Weiss, son of Artistic Director



Company '06: Beverly High senior Megan Bernstein, junior Arielle Dubois and freshman Michelle Laksman.
Photo: Barry Weiss

on leave Janet Roston.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m., through Sunday at Beverly High's K.L. Peters Auditorium at 241 Moreno Drive. Tickets will be sold by Dance Company members and at the door. Students are \$10 and adult are \$15. For information about sponsor and patron tickets, call (310) 551-5100, ext. 8701.

North Homeowners' Association Mails Newsletter; Meeting Jan. 29

The Beverly Hills North Homeowners' Association recently mailed a newsletter to residents to publicize its first meeting of the new year and to express concern over several citywide developments.

One topic to be discussed at the meeting is the proposed mixed-use development at the current location of Robinsons-May on

Wilshire Boulevard. With plans to be built directly across from El Rodeo, the 12-story project would include 250 condominiums in addition to retail facilities. Members of the Beverly Hills Homeowners' Association oppose the prospective development for fear of increased traffic congestion within the area, as stated in the letter.

The Association also plans to discuss the city's plan to construct a community recreational center, which, the Association claims will cost between \$60 million and \$80 million and will consist of an 80,000 square foot indoor/outdoor activity center including two full basketball courts, a fitness center, a group exercise/dance studio, a leisure pool, a patio/courtyard, a play area and a multi-purpose field.

"If this recreation center project is

approved, our city will be denied the only location we have left to develop and maintain critical city services," the newsletter explains.

A survey was distributed to residents by consultants for the City Council, the Sports Management Group, to assess whether residents favor the project. Although the survey indicates that 75 percent of the community favors the proposed center, members of the Association contend that the survey was "candy coated" and failed to address many important questions.

If the consultants wanted to create a comprehensive and truthful survey, members say that the following questions should have been asked, "If the City were to be in the red \$500,000-\$900,000 per year in operating shortfalls, would you still want this project?" And "If only one-third of the respondents said they would purchase annual passes and one-third states they would purchase only day passes, could we reasonable factor in the daily passes into the financial prediction?"

The meeting will also examine the 26 percent increase in the city's water utility rates as well as the appeal regarding the Montage hotel project. Homeowners' Association members maintain that they were misled by the City Council to vote on the proposal and are now seeking to appeal the Measure A approval.

The Beverly Hills Homeowners' Association meeting will be held at the Beverly Hills Hotel in the Sunset Ballroom on Thursday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.

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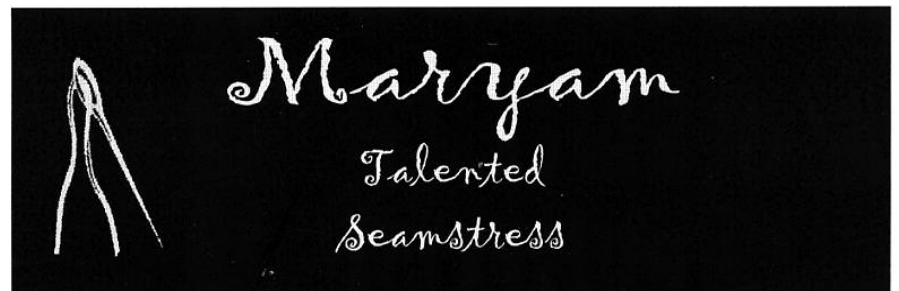


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City Continues Search For New Fire Chief

City Manager Rod Wood announced yesterday that the recruitment process for the hiring of a new fire chief will continue after being unable to reach agreement with the lead candidate on the terms of housing assistance and relocation costs.

"While it is unfortunate we could not come to agreement on this issue, I am confident that an alternate highly qualified candidate will be found soon that meets the city's criteria and standards to serve as the Fire Chief of Beverly Hills," Wood said.

Interim Fire Chief Robert Cavaglieri was originally a finalist for the position, but retired from the BHFD on Dec. 31. Stan Speth has now assumed the role of Interim Fire Chief.

According to the city manager's office, the search will resume immediately.

Teachers Speak Out Against "Power Standards" In District

BHUSD teachers Mark Frenn, Merle Bauer, Terry Brown and Jean Nelson addressed the Board of Education Tuesday night about their concerns regarding the new educational strategy, "Power Standards."

According to the Center for Performance Assessment, Power Standards are prioritized standards derived from a systematic and balanced approach to distinguishing the standards that are absolutely essential for student success from those that are "nice to know."

These standards supposedly represent the core information that all students need to ascertain before proceeding to the following grade level.



At Tuesday's Board of Education meeting Beverly Hills Weekly Publisher Josh Gross donated a historical photo of Beverly High to Principal Dan Stepenosky taken in 1927.

Frenn, an eighth grade Math teacher at Beverly Vista, spoke about his issues concerning Power Standards, which he believes will prove disastrous for the academic progress of the majority of students.

Initially, Frenn said the Power Standards method was developed for underachieving students with limited English proficiency, in socio-economically disadvantaged schools. Since the students within the BHUSD do not fit this classification, Frenn said the Power Standards model offers nothing of real value for a district where more than two-thirds of its students are classified as proficient or

advanced.

If excess classroom time is devoted to Power Standards, Frenn claims that students who could be successful on most, if not all, of the state-mandated standards, might be deprived of that opportunity entirely.

"I am particularly concerned that such a misguided approach may negatively impact the potential for similar successes by future students," Frenn said in his speech.

Beverly Vista eighth grade English teacher, Merle Bauer

told the board that she has embraced change only when it has benefited her students. According to Bauer, Power Standards are not in the best interest of the students.

"It's impossible to rate one standard as more important than another," Bauer said to the board.

El Rodeo third grade teacher Jean Nelson reiterated the same concerns as the other teachers and said she is "struggling with the Power Standards."

"It would have been a benefit to collaborate more before the Power Standards were hand-

ed down," Nelson said at the meeting.

Hawthorne eighth grade English teacher Bob Bailey wrote a note to the board, which President Myra Lurie read at the meeting.

Ultimately, Frenn urged the school board to abandon the concept of Power Standards and instead, utilize open communication and collaboration with teachers who are willing to assist the district in designing programs that better benefit the students.

The *Weekly* was unable to contact Lurie by our deadline.

BHPD Arrest Robbery Suspects With Goods In Shopping Cart

Five people were arrested last Wednesday after officers received a report of suspicious subjects pushing a shopping cart in the area of Gregory Way and Linden Jan. 3 at approximately 7 p.m.

According to Lt. Mitch McCann, when officers responded to the area, however, initially, they were unable to locate the subjects. A short while later, the officers observed the subjects in the area of Beverly Drive and Olympic Boulevard. The officers noted that five suspects were pushing two shopping carts with large bulky items, including flat screen TVs, which were covered. The officers contacted the suspects and observed what appeared to be stolen merchandise. During the field investigation, the police department received a call from a resident in the 200 block of Spalding advising that they were a victim of burglary. McCann said the department quickly determined that the items taken

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from the residence were located in the suspects shopping carts.

"They were trying to get away, just not very efficiently," McCann said. "Normally, only transients use this mode for transportation, so it is unusual. That is why we always encourage the public to call us when they see something suspicious. In this case, a resident's suspicions led directly to the arrest of these burglars."

The two adults, Gauvauen Evans and Daniel Jankowski, and three juveniles were placed under arrest for residential burglary, receiving stolen property and grand theft. Bail was set at \$50,000 for Evans and Jankowski. The juvenile charges are still pending. McCann could not reveal the juvenile suspects' names.

Former BHPD Officer Admits Supplying Law Enforcement Information to Investigator

Two people, including a veteran BHPD officer, pleaded guilty to federal criminal charges related to their involvement in investigations conducted by private investigator Anthony Pellicano, Acting United States Attorney George Cardona and FBI Assistant Director in Charge Stephen Tidwell, announced Tuesday.

A 24-year veteran of the Beverly Hills Police Department, Craig Stevens, pleaded guilty Monday to seven felony counts, admitting that he accessed law enforcement databases for the purpose of supplying confidential information to Pellicano and employees of his now-defunct investigation agency.

According to BHPD Public Information



Newly-installed Beverly Hills Active Adult Club Board: (L-R) President Mildred Heller, Third Vice President Sadie Dickow, Frances Rabinowitz, Mayor Linda Briskman, Treasurer and outgoing President Adele Swartz, First Vice President Mildred Peskin, Recreation and Parks Commissioner Kathi Rothner, Historian Estelle Curtis, Donna Goldstein and Secretary Irene Schwartz. Not pictured: Second Vice President Franny Eisner

Officer Lt. Mitch McCann, approximately two years ago the Beverly Hills Police department was advised by the FBI about an investigation involving possible criminal conduct by Stevens. The department was never provided with the details of the investigation, however, the Department cooperated with the FBI in supplying requested documentation. Stevens, who started with the BHPD in 1982, resigned last Friday.

Stevens, 45, of Oak Park, appeared in federal court Monday afternoon and pleaded

guilty to two counts of wire fraud for depriving the citizens of Beverly Hills of his honest services as a sworn police officer. Stevens also pleaded guilty to four counts of unauthorized access of protected computers to commit fraud. In pleading guilty to the unauthorized access counts, Stevens admitted that he used the Beverly Hills Police Department's computers to obtain information about four individuals from the Department of Motor Vehicles and sold that information to Pellicano and his employees. Stevens also pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI when he denied that he had ever provided information to, or received payments from, Pellicano, when in fact he had repeatedly sold information to Pellicano.

Stevens pleaded before United States District Judge R. Gary Klausner, who is scheduled to sentence Stevens Oct. 16. Stevens faces a maximum possible sentence of 35 years in federal prison.

In the second case announced today, a former client of Pellicano, Sandra Will Carradine, a 58-year-old Carpentaria resident, pleaded guilty on Friday to two counts of perjury. Carradine, who allegedly hired Pellicano in relation to her divorce proceedings, admitted that during a grand jury appearance in October 2004 she lied when she denied having any knowledge that Pellicano had wire-tapped her ex-husband's phone. The case against Carradine was made public Tuesday when United States District Judge Robert Takasugi unsealed a criminal information and documents related to Friday's proceedings. Judge Takasugi is scheduled to sentence Carradine, who faces up to 10 years in prison, Sept. 25.

These cases are the result of an ongoing investigation being conducted by the FBI.

Pellicano is scheduled to complete a 30-month sentence he received for possessing illegal weapons early next month.

Science and Tech. Center To Receive Award

The Science and Technology Center at Beverly High will receive an award of honor in the Specialized Facility: New or

Modernized category of the 2006 Coalition for Adequate School Housing (C.A.S.H.) and the American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC) Leroy F. Greene Design Awards Program.

The architectural firm, LPA, and the BHUSD will receive a Design Award certificate during the C.A.S.H./AIACC Conference Feb. 22 in Sacramento.

Free Legal Clinic At Roxbury Park Saturday

On the first Saturday of each month, The Beverly Hills Bar Association holds a free legal clinic at Roxbury Park from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to the public as a public service to the Beverly Hills Community and anyone else who wishes to attend. The next clinic is this Saturday.

People who attend may take advantage of one-on-one sessions with attorneys on topics of popular legal interest. For more information, call (310) 601-2422.

Walk of Style Award Honoree Announced

The City of Beverly Hills and the Rodeo Drive Committee announced that Salvatore Ferragamo will be the recipient of the fifth Rodeo Drive Walk of Style Award. The ongoing award, inaugurated in 2003, honors style legends for their contributions to the worlds of fashion and entertainment. In a special ceremony on the evening of Sunday, Oct. 8, members of the Ferragamo family will accept the award on behalf of the house of Salvatore Ferragamo. As with the previous honorees, Ferragamo will be honored with a permanent plaque in the sidewalk along the world-renowned street, featuring his quote and signature.

Born in Southern Italy, Salvatore Ferragamo immigrated to the United States in 1914, and began his career creating custom-made shoes for the movies. Ferragamo will be the fifth recipient of this award, following last year's joint honorees, Herb Ritts and Mario Testino (2005), and previous honorees Tom Ford (2004) and Giorgio Armani (2003).

Beverly High Preview For Parents Next Wednesday

To gain a better understanding of what goes on behind the double-doors of high school, all seventh and eighth grade parents are invited to meet with Beverly High Principal Dan Stepenosky and the Director of Guidance Vivian Saatjian-Green next Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Salter Family Theater.

Topics to be discussed include enrollment in clubs, athletics and other school-related activities, as well as the overall transition into Beverly High. Parents will also have the opportunity to learn about Honor and Advanced Placement programs and to receive the dates summer school will be in session.

While this meeting is only open to parents, all prospective students will have other opportunities to learn more about Beverly High in the near future.

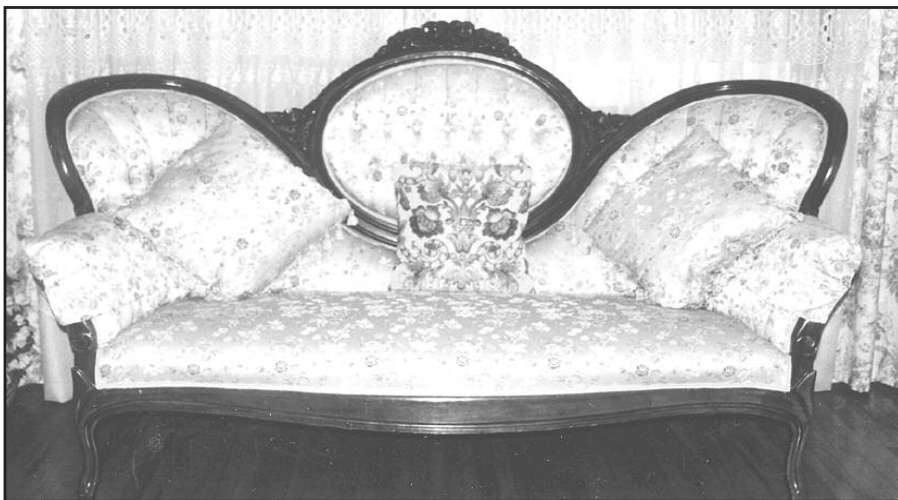
For more information, call the high school at (310) 229-3685.

-- Compiled by Jennifer Kamm and Andrea Simpson

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UPDATE FROM MANHATTAN BEACH

The *Weekly's* exclusive interview with former BHUSD Superintendent Gwen Gross.

Interview by Andrea Simpson

BHUSD's former superintendent Gwen Gross left the district two years ago to accept the superintendent position in Manhattan Beach. The *Weekly* catches up with Gross to talk about her new district, the South Bay and life after Beverly Hills.

BHW: You left the BHUSD in September 2003 to accept the superintendent position in Manhattan Beach. Tell us how it's going so far.

GG: It's great. This is a wonderful community, a very involved community and very small kind of homey place in many ways. Because it's a real city with sort of a small geographic area there's a lot of community pride and a lot of community involvement. What's been interesting to me, although there's a lot of young people moving in, there's a lot of long-term residents and a lot of local history. Many of our employees, for example, went to school here and stayed here and have raised families here. As a result, there's a lot of family units and I've particularly noticed it when we lost a student last year and we also lost a student to an accident recently, there's a huge rising of support, very similar to Beverly Hills in that way. I think that's been very rewarding to be in the community. The schools are really the centerpieces of the community; they're very much part of the real pulse and movement of what goes on here. I've enjoyed it very much.

BHW: How can you compare BHUSD to MBUSD?

GG: There's a lot of similarities. In fact, it's very interesting how many parents are Beverly Hills grads who live in Manhattan Beach. I've had several people come up and say, "Gwen, I went to Beverly Hills High or El Rodeo." It's a community that has high expectations and high belief in public education and that's very much the case in Beverly Hills. There's just a tremendous amount of pride in the schools and high expectations as a result, relatively high performance too as part of the programs. We have an excellent relationship with the City of Manhattan Beach, which is similar to Beverly Hills. Although our city isn't able to give the huge amounts of millions that Beverly Hills is able to, they do a great deal for us in support of programs and partnerships with the Rec and Parks [Dept.] and the Fire Department with in-kind support for maintenance and it's a great relationship. We have a very involved parent group. Our education foundation [MBEF] raises on average \$2 million every year to support the schools and that's huge. And although BHEF didn't have quite that focus, I think it's partially because the city gives so much to the schools, I see a tremendous amount of parental involvement. It's close to 100 percent involvement with all the parents every step of the way -- elementary, middle and high school.

It's just committed parents. We have parents giving an average of \$900 per year to the children and we raise the money in all kinds of different ways. It's outright donations, but we also have a couple of very large events. There's a golf tournament in the fall, there's a wine auction and that raises about \$600,000 year. The other thing is that we have a lot of business partnerships in the school district. We have a business partnership coordinator and she has been working very closely for years in the community so we try to coordinate our requests from local business partners, which are almost 70. We don't have major big corporations, but we do have a lot of parents who are employees at Chevron and Commercial Capital Bank, for example, and they're very generous with the schools. The realtor community, the chambers of commerce, the rotary clubs are very involved in the schools. I think it's just part of the culture of these communities.

BHW: You also have an athletic foundation?

GG: The district has been able to maintain choral, orchestra, band, chamber orchestra, all our librarians, and maintain a lot of additional programs that many school districts do not have. We also have an athletic foundation. We have an overview group which is a support base for our athletics and that's very good. We've been able to build an all-weather track, do some renovations in our gymnasium that are outside the scope of district expenditures. The athletic foundation has stepped up to the plate and they actually run our summer school program. We also have something else that's unique here and it's the Beach Cities Health District that supports Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach and it provides physical education instruction. We have a very strong nutrition and health program for students; each school has a garden; and we have a "Growing Gray" program, a volunteer program where parents are trained in nutrition and wellness. There's a new state law that we have to do this and we're way ahead of the curve on this. We have nutritional lessons and classes and tasting on fruits and vegetables. It also provides outreach for counseling, a health and wellness center, and it's quite interesting.

BHW: What do you think BHEF can learn from MBEF?

GG: They all attend the California Consortium on Educational Foundations, CCEF, and there's a lot of collaboration. Palos Verdes (PV) also has a strong foundation. The South Bay is a very tight network of cities and the cities and schools districts collaborate very closely. In Beverly Hills, we were Santa Monica, Culver City and Beverly Hills; those are the three districts because we were so surrounded by all of L.A. Unified. But the South Bay is unique in that from El Segundo to PV we have 11 school districts and the superintendents belong to a SELPA, which is a small special education local planning unit, but there's built in a lot of tight collaboration. I know that [BHUSD Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services] Susan Liberati has put together a wider consortium of curricular support and has expanded that three-district group to include some additional districts and I know our curriculum person is meeting with Susan and a number of other people to expand the connections. Connections are pretty close here because PV, Torrance, Hawthorne, Redondo, Lawndale and El Segundo are all physically close so the superintendents are very close, the assistant superintendents are very close, the business people are close; we are all like a huge great big family and we share a lot of information and the ed foundations do as well.

BHW: BHUSD discussed creating a middle school for some time. Do you think Manhattan Beach Middle School is a good example for Beverly Hills?

GG: Absolutely. Everything is situational. There's a lot of research out about K-8 schools and there's a lot of movement back to K-8 schools. I think every district you have to look at situationally and there's such a long successful history of the K-8 structure in Beverly Hills. I have always been a great proponent of middle schools and I believe that we have one of the finest middle schools in the state. We have 1,300 kids on the campus, which is a lot, but we have a seven-period day, we have just a wealth of offerings for students and it's an exciting place to be. But it's a challenge to convert and the K-8 programs work beautifully in Beverly Hills. One of the questions was, "What was really wrong?" Well, there isn't anything wrong necessarily. You have to look at each individual situation so that you're not transplanting something that doesn't need to be transplanted. There's all sorts of pluses in many different structures.

BHW: Board of Education meetings and elections seem to be a bit more contentious in Manhattan Beach than in Beverly Hills lately.

GG: Not at all. We had the most peaceful, quiet board election ever. We have three new board members now and a very professional board. We have an attorney, two CPAs, a former teacher, a businesswoman, and four of them are parents and former parents and one is a single man. There's a little more activity in the city.

BHW: During the election you had nine candidates running for three seats, and here in Beverly Hills the election was canceled because only two ran for two open seats.

Why do you think that is?

GG: I think in many ways this is a young, growing community. Even though we have a lot of new community members in the elementary grades, even our enrollment is stable on paper, but we see a large number of new families coming in at the elementary level. I think there's a lot of interest and enthusiasm for the schools. Most of the South Bay districts have large candidate pools. It's interesting because that's pretty much standard. It was energetic interest more than anything else. There have been large numbers of candidate pools in the past, but basically there's a couple of community forums run by the League of Women Voters and Chamber of Commerce. From my own experience it appeared very quiet, relatively, even though there were a large number of candidates they were all real focused on moving the district forward.

It was also financial. I was excited for Beverly Hills that you didn't have an election because you had some great candidates and it's an \$80,000 expenditure to place on the ballot, and to not have an election, that rarely happens.

BHW: For several years your district has had to make cuts in programs to make up for revenue shortfalls. How do you plan to balance the budget?

GG: When I came the district was upside down by \$5 million. For three years in a row we had borrowed from a reserve to balance the budget and when I came we stopped that and said, "We will not take money from a reserve and not pay it back. We will balance the budget within the context of what we can afford." And that's the point at which the ed foundation really stepped up and said, "Wow, we can raise a lot more money." We showed the community what programs would exist if we just existed within the federal and state revenues of what we

received. We basically made a baseline budget and showed by school what was above-the-line and what was below-the-line if we did not have community contributions and so when parents [said], “Wow, this is all we really get from the state, this is all we really get from the federal government, it’s pretty striking.” What happens is when there’s a lot of local money coming in you get a false sense of this is normal, so when we really defined this parents could see very visibly. We had to do an immense amount of communication on this topic. We had over 50 community meetings, teachers meetings, school site councils, PTAs, council, to communicate the state of the district, and that [also] happened when I was first in Beverly Hills. We had to do some major budget cutting-- \$2 million. So we cut about \$5 million out of our budget and then brought back \$2 million worth of programs and the ed foundation made a three-year commitment. Proactively they gave us the money in advance of us hiring back people and continued to do that. All school districts have budget challenges. Beverly Hills is in a tremendous situation; it is the most unbelievable situation now from my seat looking back. The contribution from the City of Beverly Hills, what a difference that makes on a day-to-day basis. We have almost the same number of kids, four elementary schools, one middle school, one high school and a pre-school. We’re very similar, but Beverly Hills has \$8 million more in the budget than I do. We have \$2 million more because of the ed foundation, but that is a striking figure when you look at a \$45 million budget. I think Beverly Hills’ budget is now over \$50 million, and [Superintendent] Jeff [Hubbard] and I talk a lot and we’re really close friends and I said, “Does everyone appreciate what that means?” He said, “I think they do, but we need to continually remind them.” It’s quite remarkable and really unique and it’s a real tribute to how the city feels about the schools.

BHW: Manhattan Beach voters also just approved two bond measures to fund modernization projects at the schools. This is similar to Measures S and K, the latter of which passed in Beverly Hills while you served as superintendent. What experiences did you bring with you from BHUSD to MHUSD?

GG: The experience obviously of budget management. Although first and foremost focus is teaching and learning, this is a very strong, grounded district in terms of assessment and standards-based instruction which was very rewarding to see when I came here. But fundamentally we have the fiduciary responsibility of making certain we can afford what we’re doing and the experience in Beverly Hills of really educating the community about how balancing the budget was really crucial was tremendous learning. When I got there the governor had put 10 percent new money into the schools and the belief was that it was to go to the teachers, but in order for us to do that we needed to adjust the budget first, and the board understood that. I got to Beverly Hills in July [2000] and in January [2001] the board made the decision to support those budget cuts which really I think permanently re-established a good solid bottom line and I think budget balancing at that time was really important for the school district and it really set the district on a stable ground. Budget cuts are hard and you have to be very courageous and have a lot of backbone and a lot of fortitude and I brought that with me here.

BHW: When looking at construction costs, why is it that every district can’t seem to stay on budget?

GG: All you need to do is look at enormous increases in the cost of construction in the country and state, and Manhattan Beach was actually one of the very first school districts to pass a school bond way back in the early 1990s, and [since then] there’s been a real wave of school districts and the buildings aging, the schools really needing new infrastructure particularly because of the wave of technology. Technology alone has made so much of our work so much more demanding. Students are coming out of college with very high set skills and the schools have had to do a lot of technological catch-up and that’s a very expensive thing to do so you need a couple of bond measures because often the first bond measure is doing the infrastructure, which doesn’t show. So you first have to build the foundation in the technology, the electrical systems, the heating systems and all the boring things that don’t necessarily show up in classrooms. Then the construction growth has been huge and so many school districts passed bonds and there’s so much construction that the costs have gone up. So if you pass a bond, in some cases a year or two or three later, despite your best estimates of inflation, it’s often far more costly to build what you originally planned to build. You end up having to cut back on your dreams and goals and adjust and say, “What are the real true necessities,” and that’s what happens with school districts and you have to watch it every step of the way. We

struggled early in Beverly Hills about how much of a bond to put on-- should it be \$40 million, \$60 million, \$90 million-- and fortunately there was an 81 percent approval rate; one of the highest in the state. It was just stunning and a testimony to, first of all, the board’s courage in making a decision to put a \$90 million bond on, but the community’s commitment to making sure the schools going forward would be strong. Those are really old buildings and our buildings aren’t even close to being that old here, but they still need work. All districts have to really watch bond projects constantly to make sure you don’t have a shortfall.

BHW: You recruited current Superintendent Jeff Hubbard. Did it ever occur to you that some day he’d actually succeed you?

GG: You know something, it’s funny, because Jeff came in January [2001] and when I look back on it his predecessor left in the fall and it was a hard time, an odd time to try to find an HR director and I was so thrilled when we interviewed Jeff. I mean, not only did he have all the background, but he had all the energy, enthusiasm, smarts, wit and resilience that you need and we were just great partners. And my goal has always been as a leader to build a successor plan, not necessarily for my job but for all the jobs so you always know that principals are going to come and go, assistant principals are going to come and go. You’ve just got to look at people building within the institution the next wave of support because you need stability. Just the other day I was thinking about the people who were there when I came-- [Former Horace Mann Principal] Art Fields; [former Beverly High Assistant Principals] Tanis Harris and Rick Munitz; [Beverly Vista Principal] Irene Stern; [former El Rodeo Principal]

“Just the other day I was thinking about the people who were there when I came-- [Former Horace Mann Principal] Art Fields; [former Beverly High Assistant Principals] Tanis Harris and Rick Munitz; [Beverly Vista Principal] Irene Stern; [former El Rodeo Principal] Steve Fisher; [former Beverly High Principal] Ben Bushman, who was an interim superintendent in Redondo; [Bushman’s former assistant] Anne Wayne. There were so many people there who are now gone and you have to be able to have people fill the ranks. Now you have [Horace Mann Principal] Dawnalyn Murakawa-Leopard, who’s now a principal; [Beverly High Assistant Principal] David Hoffman, who I had in a class at Pepperdine where I’ve been teaching for 10 years. I saw David in the class and thought, “This guy’s a star”; and of course [Beverly High Principal] Dan [Stepenosky] was there and [Hawthorne Assistant Principal] Alex Cherniss, who I also had in a class at Pepperdine two years ago and thought, “Whao, he’s a sharp.” Your dream is to have somebody in the institution that is ready to step up to the next level and the sustainability of a great district is always in it’s people, and Jeff is a winner and I love that he’s there.”

— Former BHUSD Superintendent Gwen Gross

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Principal] Alex Cherniss, who I also had in a class at Pepperdine two years ago and thought, “Whao, he’s a sharp.” Your dream is to have somebody in the institution that is ready to step up to the next level and the sustainability of a great district is always in it’s people, and Jeff is a winner and I love that he’s there. Of course, he’ll call me because no one often understands a district as much as somebody who was there for a few years.

I also think with really good people there’s a real commitment to interest-based problem solving and Jeff in his role as HR assistant superintendent brought that forward. Many districts in terms of their employees relationships are adversarial because that’s just the way it’s always been. Because of Jeff’s background in interest-based we worked hard on training to make sure that everyone knew, “What’s your problem is also my problem,” and I think that culture put things together and I think people were ready for more peaceful time. It’s very exhausting to have a district in turmoil. Ken [Moffet] certainly did a wonderful job setting the stage for me, and I had known him for many years because I worked closely with him when he was in Lennox and I was in Hermosa. I used to go to bi-monthly meetings with Ken Moffett. So he had seen me at work for the four and a half years I was in Hermosa.

BHW: You were recruited in 2000 at a time when BHUSD was in a lot of turmoil. When you left in 2003, some people thought you might have stayed longer. How do you respond to those who may have been surprised to see you leave when you did?

GG: I live in Long Beach. My husband was superintendent in Saddleback [in Orange County], and it was a long drive. I first started my career as a principal in Palos Verdes, then I was superintendent in Hermosa. I know a lot of people in this area and I was offered this position and I really struggled because I loved Beverly Hills, I loved my time there, I still feel very connected to the community in many ways. But I had to look objectively at the drive and just the proximity to home, and I also knew in my mind that Jeff was very capable of taking over the job. Had there not been anybody that I had confidence in I think I would have hesitated. But I had to really look at it in multiple factors and made the decision to take this position that was offered. It was hard because I had really intended to stay there until I retired, but it was an opportunity that was really best overall for our family structure and it’s been a very good move for me. I look back and I think about the amount of time and money we spent

on all the oil well issues, sleepless nights of me worrying and how repeatedly time after time all of our tests came out negative. And now it's of course quieted down like everything does.

BHW: Tell us about your principals. Are they as young as many of ours in Beverly Hills?

GG: Actually, we have a very experienced principal team at the elementary level. We have one new principal and three that have been here most of their careers. They're in their late 50s and all are really strong principals. The fourth person retired last year and we were able to attract a very experienced principal from the Castaic area who is age-wise the same as everyone else. The person who originally opened the middle school is now the HR assistant superintendent here and her assistant principal took over. I am working hard to build a team here, a successful plan here and so far it's working very well. The business manager Steve McMahon and I came on the same day; we did not know each other, but it's been a real good partnership. We get along real well, he's real talented, and that's what you need-- a top businessman.

BHW: MBUSD's most recent past teacher's union president Kevin Post was very vocal about his concerns with the school district. Recently elected board member Bill Eisen has also been quite outspoken. Here, the union is somewhat more mellow in comparison. How do you deal with that as superintendent?

GG: Kevin is actually coming back and doing some English language training; we want to keep him in the fold; he's an exceptional teacher.

I went to the new board workshop at the CSB conference with [Bill Eisen] and he's a very gentle man. I think his focus has been more on the city than the schools. He's been really terrific. He's really smart and very academic; he's real interested. We're going to work very closely with him and make him part of the fold and so far it's been just fine. But we've only had two meetings. I'm not concerned one iota about it. You know, it's a superintendent's job; they work closely with boards; that's what we do. That's a very large part of our job. It takes a lot of energy and time, and the board is a great board right now and the board that I had before was a great board.

BHW: Over the course of your career you've had the reputation of fixing school districts in turmoil. Do you feel you've done that in Manhattan Beach?

GG: I don't think anybody's work is ever done. And I think what you do is you walk in and gather a lot data, you find out what people's needs are, what the focus areas are. One of the things I did in Beverly Hills that I did here as well is you brainstorm with the board one of the areas that we really need to focus on. So we developed a focus area document and there had been a wonderful strategic plan that existed in Beverly Hills before I got there; we took this and said, "What must be our highest priority?" And I think once you define what are the areas collectively, then it's the superintendent's job to move those agendas forward. And I think it's sort of the diagnosis/prescription process. When you've been a teacher for a lot of years you just diagnose what the needs are, what is the process to meet those needs and just roll up your sleeves and go to work. You can't possibly do that without support of staff and principals and parents. I think one of the things that I've really worked hard on my whole career is to learn as much as I could as quickly as I could about the community. Before I went anywhere I did major research. I mean, when I heard there was a job coming available in Beverly Hills I got a subscription to the *Courier* and read it religiously and it was before the *Weekly* even existed. One of my board members at the time lived in Beverly Hills for many years; she told me to just do the research and then find out what the needs are.

If I have any reputation I hope I have a reputation of bringing people together. We have to share business with a lot of different areas so we can focus on the real deal, and the real deal is what are we doing for our kids and how can we get the finest employees and compensate them. Because of the additional support from the city in Beverly Hills there's a real competitive, strong salary structure and that's something I'm focused on here. You have to balance the budget so you make sure you set an employee base so it feels like we have competitive salaries and we have the support. I had to cut my whole curriculum department last year. I had to do all the curriculum last year. I had to do [Assistant Superintendent] Susan Liberati's job and my own job last year, and it was the best thing I could have done I got to know a lot about of the teachers and I always do, but there's just a lot on the plates of teachers nowadays and all people who work in schools because parents are turning over their most precious asset to people and it's their children and they expect the best and the greatest and that's what we are required to fulfill and that is always and challenge and you have to really support your people all the time. It's very good work. You wake up every morning and your consumer base is children and it's energizing.

BHW: Our COC is struggling with the bond budget as a result of escalating construction estimates. In fact, the district may have to spend more on Beverly Vista's Building B than originally anticipated. What advice would you give to the COC?

GG: [When] I came here the COC was not meeting. Remember, it was a Prop. 39 bond so Beverly Hills had to have one. We were not required here because we were under the two-thirds rule requirement because it was passed before Prop. 39. However, in passing the bond there was a commitment made to maintaining a bond oversight committee. Well, it was casually monitored and casually run here and it didn't meet. So the most important thing from my perspective is to continue to meet and be involved in the progress. And I'll tell you, what I ran into here is, "What happened? What happened to all the money?" And then all of a sudden

there was this re-directive to regroup and define for the community what exactly happened and communication is so key and when there's a community advisory group involved, and it's very difficult because they feel accountable to the community, but one of the most important pieces of a bond project from my perspective is maintaining monthly accountability to make sure everything is on target and when you have community members involved monitoring what's happening, this is why this is happening. If this building is found, hypothetically, \$3 million over you not only have the voice of the district, but you have voices of people who have been involved who have that background. I would think that Prop. 39 as a requirement for an oversight committee is a very positive thing, and I did actually just recently send Beverly Hills all my files on the bond oversight committee. We had developed some guidelines on protocol when I was there that were board approved. I did send [BHUSD Facilities Director] Karen Christiansen all the documents we developed for how the bond oversight committee was going [act].

BHW: What are you proud of most of your work in Beverly Hills?

GG: It's the people we hired and the teachers and principals and the people who were hired to carry the great tradition of Beverly Hills. In the book, *Good To Great*, one of the key principles is getting the right people on the bus and you always think about that; it's always about the people leaving any kind of legacy. And I'm thrilled that Jeff [Hubbard] is there. I have known [Pat Escalante] for years; she was a mom when I was at Hermosa. So here you have another great principal in [El Rodeo Principal] Pat Escalante and Alex Cherniss. I've got [former Mayor] Mark Egerman's grandchildren coming out of my school. We have a lot of Beverly Hills connections; there's a lot in the relationship. I think it's who is there to carry on the good work that's the most important thing.

BHW: Your husband Jerry just retired as Saddleback Valley Unified superintendent. Where do you see yourself in the next few years?

GG: I'm 58 and a half and my husband retired. So we have a lot of energy and are going to be grandparents for the first time this spring. When Irene Stern was so excited to be a grandmother, I totally understand. And the board just renewed my contract for four years. You'll know when it feels right [to retire] and I haven't felt that yet, whatever that is.

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sports & scores



BHHS Girls' Basketball Team Defeats Lawndale

Norman girls' soccer team ties Torrance.

By Steven Herbert

A better start Jan. 4 resulted in a better outcome for the Beverly High girls' basketball team.

A day after being outscored by 10 points in the first quarter of a loss to Woodland Hills Louisville, the Normans outscored Lawndale by 13 in the first quarter of a 61-41 victory in a nonleague game at Lawndale.

Junior guard Allison Galer scored nine of her 26 points in the first quarter as the Normans (6-4) outscored the Cardinals, 21-8.

"We really talked about trying to get off to a good start and we did," Beverly Hills coach John Braddell said.

The Normans were outscored 12-8 in the second quarter as their lead was cut to 29-20 at halftime. Beverly Hills led 45-34 entering the fourth quarter after outscoring Lawndale 16-14 in the third quarter, with Galer scoring

six points.

The Normans outscored the Cardinals, 16-6, in the fourth quarter, with Galer scoring seven points and freshman Sophie Payson five. Galer and Payson both made three-point baskets in the fourth quarter.

Rosie McClaren added 14 for Beverly Hills, Gwynne Evans 10, Negin Mostadim six and Payson five.

Lawndale fell to 6-6.

Woodland Hills Louisville 59, Beverly Hills 56

The Normans outscored the Royals in each of the final three quarters, but weren't able to overcome being outscored 16-6 in the first quarter of a nonleague game at Louisville Jan. 3.

Beverly Hills outscored Louisville, 16-14, in the second quarter to trail 30-22 at half-

time, and 17-15 in the third, cutting the deficit to 45-29 entering the fourth quarter.

The Normans outscored the Royals, 17-14, in the fourth quarter, with Didi Younesi scoring seven of her 17 points and Payson making a three-point basket.

"We played well enough offensively to win, but defensively, we didn't get it done," Braddell said. "[Louisville] played extremely well offensively, hit some big shots."

Galer added 15, all after the first quarter, Mostadim 11, McClaren six, Bettina Shore four and Payson three.

Louisville improved to 10-2.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play host to Hawthorne Friday and Santa Monica Wednesday in Ocean League games beginning at 6 p.m. The Normans lost to Santa Monica, 56-36, in the third-place game of the 20th Annual Marlborough Winter Basketball Classic Dec. 10.

Boys' Basketball

Maui Christmas Classic

Beverly Hills 53, Santa Ana Century 39

The Normans turned a six-point halftime lead into a 17-point lead entering the fourth quarter by outscoring the Centurions 15-4 in the third quarter in a ninth-place semifinal Dec. 21 at the Lahaina Civic Center in Lahaina, Hawaii.

George Medrano and Ben Smyth both made three-point baskets as Beverly Hills outscored Century, 15-4, in the third quarter and led 43-26 entering the fourth quarter.

The Centurions (6-3) outscored the Normans, 13-10, in the fourth quarter.

Beverly Hills led 17-12 at the end of the first quarter and 28-22 at halftime after outscoring Century 11-10 in the second quarter.

Medrano scored 23 points, Smyth seven, Cosmo Morabbi six, Daniel Leisner five, Mabhod Zargar four, Meyer Linter three, Sherwin Batac and Eric Lee two each and Cliff Frazier one for the Normans (7-5).

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play at Hawthorne Friday and at Santa Monica Wednesday in Ocean League games beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Girls' Soccer

Beverly Hills 2, Torrance 2

Nikki Sharaf gave the Normans a 2-1 lead in the 67th-minute by scoring on a direct kick, but the Tartars tied the score on Amanda Zagala's 78th-minute goal in the 80-minute nonleague game at Torrance Jan. 3.

Torrance (5-4-2) took the lead in the 29th minute on Kaitlin Bollen's goal. Beverly Hills (5-4-5) tied the score in the 54th minute on Netta Pelleg's goal.

Freshman goalkeeper Rebecca Gold made seven saves for Beverly Hills, which lost to the Tartars, 4-0, in its season opener Nov. 30 at Nickoll Field.

sports cont. on page 17

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What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play host to Hawthorne Friday at 3 p.m. and Santa Monica Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Ocean League games at Nickoll Field.

Boys' Soccer

South Torrance Tournament San Pedro 2, Beverly Hills 2

(San Pedro advances on penalty kicks, 6-5)

Daniel Benabou scored in the 52nd minute for the Normans and assisted on Daniel Pourbaba's 45th-minute goal in a first-round game Dec. 20.

The Pirates tied the score in the 55th minute of the 70-minute game.

San Pedro had taken a 1-0 lead in the 14th minute.

Beverly Hills (0-3-2) led in shots, 12-10. Norman goalkeeper Shaun Bolour made seven saves in relief of Matt Lockhart, who made one. Bolour and Lockhart each allowed one goal.

"We played a really poor first half," Beverly Hills coach Steve Rappaport said. "It was like we were going through the motions, waiting for something to happen. In the second half, we really stepped our game up

competitively like we actually cared."

Bolour played "absolutely fantastic," while sweeper Evan Zarider had "a really strong game," and midfielder Sam Forrest "played really well," Rappaport said.

David Roston, Beverly Hills usual starting goalkeeper, missed the tournament to go on a vacation, Rappaport said.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play at Hawthorne Friday and at Santa Monica Wednesday in Ocean League games beginning at 3 p.m.

Girls' Water Polo

Anaheim Western Tournament Anaheim Savanna 10, Beverly Hills 4

Grace Oh scored twice in the fourth quarter for the Normans and teammate Tiffany Zarrin scored in the second and third quarters in a pool play game at Savanna High School last Thursday.

Beverly Hills goaltender Marissa Sroul made 11 saves.

The Normans trailed 3-0 at the end of the first quarter, 7-1 at halftime and 8-2 entering the fourth quarter.

Cypress 7, Beverly Hills 5

The score was tied, 5-5, entering the fourth quarter, but the Centurions scored the tie-breaker with three minutes, 40 seconds to play and added an insurance goal with 15 seconds remaining in a pool play game at Savanna High School last Thursday.

The Normans (0-4) took a 5-4 lead with 2:26 left in the third quarter on Oh's goal. Cypress tied the score with 39 seconds to play in the quarter.

After allowing the game's first goal 24 seconds into the game, Beverly Hills got one goal from Cayle Rose and two from Amanda Yukelson to take a 3-1 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Centurions scored the next two goals, tying the score, 3-3. The Normans reclaimed the lead on Zarrin's goal with 1:26 left in the first half, but Cypress re-tied the score with a goal 19 seconds before halftime.

Sroul made 17 saves.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play Los Angeles Milken at Stephen S. Wise Temple today at 3 p.m. in an Ocean League game.

Wrestling

Beverly High is scheduled to compete at Torrance today in an Ocean League match beginning at 3 p.m.

Boys' Water Polo

Culver City 11, Beverly Hills 10

Andrew Hopp's goal with 40 seconds remaining brought the Normans to within one, but they were unable to score the equalizer in the Ocean League game at the Swim-Gym Oct. 17.

Beverly Hills never led. The Centaurs took the lead for good by scoring all three second-quarter goals and were ahead 5-2 at halftime.

The Normans trailed 9-6 entering the fourth quarter. Culver City scored with 2:24 remaining to take an 11-8 lead. Danny Berk cut the deficit to 11-9 by scoring with 1:48 to play.

The first quarter ended in a 2-2 tie, as Josh Shayefar and Jason Lewis scored in the final 52 seconds of the quarter for Beverly Hills after the Centaurs took a 2-0 lead.

Berk, Hopp and Mikey Lee each scored twice. Ben Cousineau and Raz Ezer also

sports cont. on page 25

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policeblotter & arrestsummary

City of Beverly Hills

Week of: January 10, 2006

The Beverly Hills Weekly receives the information that appears below from the Beverly Hills Police Department. This information is released each week to the public. We assume no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the police blotter.

Burglary/Robbery: Occurred between 1730 on 01/06/06 and 0200 on 01/07/06 in the 200 block of North La Peer Drive. Suspect #1: Female White, 25, 5'5", short hair. No further description. Suspect #2: Female White, 40-42, 5'7", 140 lbs., light hair. No further description. Suspects attempted to befriend the victim, used unknown substance to drug her then removed property.

Police Blotter

Burglary: Occurred between 0030 and 0526 on 01/09/06 in the 100 block of North La Cienega Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Once inside, suspect(s) used force to open a locked office door and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Occurred between 2303 on 01/06/06 and 0700 on 01/07/06 in the 9800 block of South Santa Monica Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) entered the victim's hotel room by unknown means and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$5,000

Occurred at 1350 on 01/06/06 in the 1000 block of North Coldwater Canyon. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed custom jewelry and fled the location undetected. Loss: Unknown.

Occurred between 2130 on 01/05/06 and 0607 on 01/06/06 in the 9200 block of Olympic Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location possibly through a second floor window. Suspect(s) removed money from the cash register and fled the location undetected. Loss: \$363

Occurred between 1845 and 1848 on 01/04/06 in the 300 block of North Canon Drive. Suspect: Male Black, 30-35, 6'0", 215 lbs., black hair. No further description. Suspect entered the location, concealed liquor bottles in a plastic bag and exited the location without paying for them. Loss: \$143.96

Grand Theft: Occurred between 1200 and 1205 on 01/05/06 in the 9300 block of Santa Monica Blvd. Victim lost suitcase out of truck

bed while driving. When recovered later by City employee, items were missing. Loss: \$950

Occurred between 1145 and 1300 on 01/04/06 in the 9700 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) entered the unsecured location and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$3,400

Occurred between 0700 and 0900 on 01/04/06 in the 400 block of North Palm Drive. Unknown suspect(s) removed a bicycle from an open car garage and fled the location undetected. Loss: \$500

Assault with a Deadly Weapon: Occurred between 1410 and 1440 on 01/08/06 in the 200 block of South Gale Drive. Suspect: Male White, 48, 5'9", 145 lbs., brown hair and green eyes. Suspect punched and choked the victim then displayed a knife and threatened to stab and kill her. Suspect was arrested.

Occurred between 1600 and 1610 on 01/04/06 between Olympic Blvd. and Camden Drive. Suspect: Male Juvenile. Suspect produced a knife and cut victim across the eye causing injury. Suspect fled the location.

Occurred between 2115 and 2120 on 01/04/06 in the 100 block of North Hamel Drive. Suspect: Male Black, 28, 5'10", 175 lbs., black hair and brown eyes. Suspect and victim were involved in a verbal argument. Suspect struck victim with an open hand across the face. Suspect fled the location undetected.

Battery: Occurred at 1618 on 01/08/06 in the 8400 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Male Asian, 40, 175 lbs., black hair and brown eyes. Suspect kicked the victim while he was walking on a public sidewalk. Suspect fled the location undetected.

Forgery/Grand Theft: Occurred between 1600 and 1630 on 01/07/06 in the 500 block of North Rodeo Drive. Suspect answered an advertising by victim selling a computer on the internet. Suspect came to victim's location and paid for the computer with two checks. Victim later discovered that the checks were fraudulent. Loss: \$1,550

Arrests

KIRK, HARRY, 47, transient, arrested on 01/09/06 for obstructing/resisting a peace officer.

PASANO, ARMAND JOSEPH, 44, of Los

Angeles, arrested on 01/09/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

SAZO, SANTOS SALVADOR, 41, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/09/06 for driving without a license.

SANTIBANEZ, LOUIS CARLOS, 19, of Reseda, arrested on 01/09/06 for a felony warrant.

MALE JUVENILE, 17, of Reseda, arrested on 01/09/06 for driving without a license.

MORRIS, DANA JEFFREY, 45, of Whittier, arrested on 01/09/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

CARRELL, GARFIELD JAMES, 54, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/09/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

PASHAIE, KAMYAR, 32, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/09/06 for driving with a suspended license.

CHUNG, DAVI CRISTIANO, 19, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/09/06 for possession of a controlled substance.

MALE JUVENILE, 17, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/09/06 for possession of a controlled substance.

GRADOWSKI, GEORGE ALEXANDER, 48, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/08/06 for assault with a deadly weapon none firearm.

GIDDENS, KIL SALTER, 40, of Venice, arrested on 01/07/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol causing bodily injury.

WATTS, DUSTIN CEZANNE, 30, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/05/06 for driving with a suspended license.

CABELLO, ALEXANDER JESSE, 55, of Whittier, arrested on 01/05/06 for possession of a controlled substance.

STERN, LISA, 38, of Santa Monica, arrested on 01/07/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

NUNEZ, NICOLAS REYNAGA, 23, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/07/06 for obstructing/resisting an executive officer.

BERGMAN, MICHEL ANN, 45, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/07/06 for willful cruelty to a child.

SELNICK, DANIEL BRETT, 28, of West Hollywood, arrested on 01/07/06 for possession of a controlled substance.

VALOIS, RONALD JOSEPH, 57, of Monterey Park, arrested on 01/06/06 for driving with a suspended license.

YEE, NANCY JEN, 53, of Santa Monica, arrested on 01/06/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

SABALLOS, LANDI ERNESTO, 33, of Carson, arrested on 01/06/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

BOYD, LISA MICHELLE, 39, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/06/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

TORIBIO, RENE, 25, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/06/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

MEZA, FREDDY ILLESCAS, 21, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/05/06 for driving with a suspended license.

GARCIA, MIGUEL ANGEL, 36, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/05/06 for driving without a license.

BUSTAMANTE, MARIO ALBERTO, 39, of Van Nuys, arrested on 01/05/06 for driving without a license.

FORD, GLENN INNOCENT, 55, transient, arrested on 01/05/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

GALLARDO, RICHARD JAMES, 28, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/04/06 for assault on a peace officer/emergency personnel.

MALE JUVENILE, 17, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/04/06 for reckless driving.

LATOURE, GEORGE CLEMENT III, 42, of Lavern, arrested on 01/04/06 for a felony warrant.

MOSHE, JOSEPH, 53, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/04/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

VELASQUEZ, MISAEL RODAS, 24, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/04/06 for driving without a license.

FOGLE, JOSEPH RYAN, 19, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/03/06 for possession of a controlled substance.

KANNARD, TIMOTHY B., 39, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/03/06 for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

GYENES, JOSEPH AGUILAR, 25, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/03/06 for burglary.

MALE JUVENILE, 15, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/03/06 for burglary.

MALE JUVENILE, 17, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/03/06 for burglary.

MALE JUVENILE, 17, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/03/06 for burglary.

EVANS, GAUVAUEN CAMERON, 18, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/03/06 for burglary.

JANKOWSKI, DANIEL, 18, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/03/06 for burglary.

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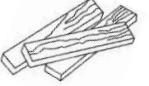

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Liberty A. Miller, Cher Bucknam. The registrant(s) declared that all information in the statement is true and correct. This statement is filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 8/28/85. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411, et seq., B&P Code.) Published: 12/22/05, 12/29/05, 1/05/06, 01/12/06 BHW-4125

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT: 05-2757994
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION; UNIQUE IMITATION JEWELRY; 5322 Strohm Ave. North Hollywood, CA 91601. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on: 4/14/05. Signed: Gohar Martirosian. The registrant(s) declared that all information in the statement is true and correct. This statement is filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 11/23/05. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411, et seq., B&P Code.) Published: 12/22/05, 12/29/05, 1/05/06, 01/12/06 BHW-4126

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT: 05-3058758
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: MY GYM CLOTHES, 10 Universal City Plaza, University City, CA 91368. Signed: MIKE LAMBERT. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed here in. Signed: Mike Lambert. The registrant(s) declared that all information in the statement is true and correct. This statement is filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 12/13/05. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411, et seq., B&P Code.) Published: 12/22/05, 12/29/05, 1/05/06, 01/12/06 BHW-4127

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT: 05-3057305
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: LA CLEANING AND RESTORATION; LA CARPET RESTORATION; 18541 Sherman Way #202, Reseda, CA 91335. AA ADVERTISING AND MARKETING, 18541 Sherman Way #202, Reseda, CA 91335. The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on: 7/15/05. Signed: Avustar Gabli, President. AA Advertising and Marketing Inc. The registrant(s) declared that all information in the statement is true and correct. This statement is filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 12/13/05. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411, et seq., B&P Code.) Published: 12/22/05, 12/29/05, 1/05/06, 01/12/06 BHW-4130

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT: 05-3074207
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: CONCERTO NETWORKS, 16834 Lahay St. Granada Hills, CA 91344. The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed here in. Signed: Arsen Mkrtchyan. The registrant(s) declared that all information in the statement is true and correct. This statement is filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 12/14/05. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411, et seq., B&P Code.) Published: 12/22/05, 12/29/05, 1/05/06, 01/12/06 BHW-4130

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT: 05-3074223
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: TEAM EXYPNOS LLC, 16834 Lahay St. Granada Hills, CA 91344. The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed here in. Signed: Arsen Mkrtchyan. The registrant(s) declared that all information in the statement is true and correct. This statement is filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 12/14/05. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411, et seq., B&P Code.) Published: 12/22/05, 12/29/05, 1/05/06, 01/12/06 BHW-4130

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT: 05-2754721
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: MUISCLAS, 9941 Collett Ave. North Hills, CA 91343. JASON KOJI YOSHIDA, 9941 Collett Ave. North Hills, CA 91343. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed here in. Signed: Jason Yoshida. The registrant(s) declared that all information in the statement is true and correct. This statement is filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 12/15/05. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411, et seq., B&P Code.) Published: 12/22/05, 12/29/05, 1/05/06, 01/12/06 BHW-4132

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT: 05-3074249
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: ALPHE GENERAL CONTRACTORS, 6829 Lankesterim Blvd. #13, North Hollywood, CA 91605. ALPHE CONSTRUCTION & WATER-PROOFING INC., 6829 Lankesterim Blvd. #13, North Hollywood, CA 91605. The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on: 1/1/05. Signed: Victor Carlo Dominguez, CFO, Alphe Construction & Waterproofing Inc. The registrant(s) declared that all information in the statement is true and correct. This statement is filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 12/14/05. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed on, in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411, et seq., B&P Code.) Published: 12/22/05, 12/29/05, 1/05/06, 01/12/06 BHW-4134

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT: 05-2996750
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: CRC COURT RECORD CONSULTANTS, 11024 Balboa Blvd. #128, Granada Hills, CA 91344. LIBERTY A MILLER, 11024 Balboa Blvd. #128, Granada Hills, CA 91344. CHER BUCKNAM, 11024 Balboa Blvd. #128, Granada Hills, CA 91344. The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on: 12/7/05. Signed:

scored for Beverly Hills.

Mike Sadigh and Jason Vogel each made two saves for the Normans.

Santa Monica 18, Beverly Hills 11

The Normans allowed the final five goals of the first quarter and were unable to get closer than three goals the remainder of the game in an Ocean League game at Santa Monica Oct. 24.

Beverly Hills (10-11, 1-4 in league play) trailed 5-1 at the end of the first quarter, 9-5 at halftime and 14-6 entering the fourth quarter.

Berk scored three goals, all in the fourth quarter. Lee and Shayefar added two each and Cousineau, Ezer, Hopp and Lewis one each.

Sadigh made five saves.

The Vikings were ranked second in the final Southern Section Division IV poll issued Nov. 7.

Girls' Tennis

Ocean League Finals

Beverly High senior Tova Hausman lost to top-seeded Asagi Onaga of El Segundo, 6-4, 6-1, in the singles final Nov. 2 at MountainGate Country Club.

Hausman, who was seeded second, reached the finals by defeating Amy Romeo of El Segundo, 8-0, in the first round, Jenny Harding, 6-0, 6-0, in the quarterfinals and Norman teammate Amanda Ellis, 6-1, 6-2, in the semifinals.

Both finalists qualified for the Southern Section Individual Sectionals.

Ellis defeated Austin Ruth of Palos Verdes, 8-2, in the first round and Julia Cobian of Inglewood Morningside, 6-2, 6-1, in the quarterfinals.

Beverly Hills freshman Zarina Pisnoy also reached the semifinals. Pisnoy, who was seeded fourth, defeated Alix Thomas of Culver City, 8-0 in the first round and Savannah Yeh of Santa Monica, who was seeded fifth, 6-0, 6-1, in the quarterfinals both a 6-3, 6-1 loss to Onaga, the tournament's champion for the second consecutive year.

Emily Housman of Beverly Hills lost to eighth-seeded Heather Hawke of Palos Verdes, 8-5, in the first round.

Ellis and Pisnoy reached the doubles semifinals Nov. 3 at MountainGate Country Club, losing to Hawke and Ruth, 6-3, 6-2, who

were seeded third, after a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Norman teammates Briana Banayan and Becky Lichter in the quarterfinals and an 8-3 first-round victory over Ana Sonisina and Yeh. Pisnoy and Ellis were seeded second.

Banayan and Lichter defeated Jessica Lee and Courtney Rodriguez of Palos Verdes, 8-6, in the first round.

Housman and Alana Johnson of Beverly Hills also reached the quarterfinals, defeating Marissa Funo and Jackie Karandang of Torrance, 8-5, in the first round, before losing to the top-seeded Culver City duo of Fern Altobelli and Nicole Yumori, 6-1, 6-2.

Molly Werner and Joanna Yadegar of Beverly Hills defeated a Culver City team, 8-7 (3) in the first round before a 6-1, 6-2 loss to Hawke and Ruth in the quarterfinals.

Girls' Cross Country

Southern Section Division II Prelims

Beverly High was unable to advance to the Southern Section finals after finishing 11th in its 14-team heat Nov. 12 at Mount San Antonio College.

Beverly Hills finished with 307 points, 17 more than Temple City, the 10th-place finisher. Newport Beach Newport Harbor won with 32.

The top three schools advanced to the finals. Brea Olinda was third with 90.

Deb Bradbury was the top Norman individual finisher, finishing 47th in 20 minutes, 54 seconds.

The top six finishers from non-qualifying teams advanced to the Southern Section finals. Melissa Mead of Newport Harbor was sixth in 19:03. Whitney Blue of Newport Harbor won, completing the 3-mile course in 17:43.

College Football

David Oredugba, a 2004 Beverly High graduate, played on Northwestern's punt return team, but did not record any statistics, in the 50-38 loss to UCLA in the Vitalis Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas Dec. 30.

Steven Herbert also covers sports for the Los Angeles Times and The Associated Press. He welcomes feedback and suggestions. He can be reached by e-mail at StvHerbert@aol.com, by telephone at (310) 275-7943 or by fax at (310) 273-4519.

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