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SERVING BEVERLY HILLS • BEVERLYWOOD • LOS ANGELES

Issue 330 • January 26 - February 1, 2006

Rebuild Plans Create Divide On Linden



**Proposed building plans lead
a Beverly Hills block to take sides.**

letters & email



WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

You can write us at:
140 South Beverly Drive #201
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

You can fax us at:
310.887.0789 fax

email us at:
editor@bhweekly.com



SNAPSHOT



"AT END OF THE RAINBOW" SOUTH LINDEN DRIVE

(To kick off the annual Catholic Schools Week, students at Good Shepherd Catholic School celebrated by having "Rainbow Day." Students came to school last Friday dressed in their favorite color of the rainbow. Catholic Schools Week began Monday through tomorrow.)

"Where Are They Now?"

I have made regrettable decisions in my lifetime, but the most humiliating mistake was the printed outcome of the phone interview [we] had. Rather than write a letter in haste, I have purposely delayed in order to get perspective on the situation. I was hoping my embarrassment, anger and distress would fade by the time I wrote you. These emotions have subsided a little, but only if I focus on it and if I refrain from reviewing the article [from issue #327].

Had I known that you were not going to edit for sentence structure, syntax, etc. I would not have spoken so casually. Rather than print something as incoherent as my responses seemed to be, why didn't you call me back for clarification? I would have edited the article had you asked. How could you as a "journalist" and "editor" print two pages of incomprehensible language?

Because it is too painful to review the article to find other examples of mistakes you made that assisted in the inane remarks, I would like to point out two that I recall. You asked me twice about the word "trellis" and then printed "tower", which made no sense at all. The question you asked about "children I remember" was followed by "...did you have any movie stars' children?" My answer sounded very shallow.

My suggestion for future interviews would be to let the interviewee know what questions will be asked beforehand so that thoughts and recollections can be gathered prior to the exchange of information.

*Brenda Colfer
Manhattan Beach*

Editor's Note: We frequently publish profiles of retired faculty and almost all are happy with the end result. While it's true that a few words in Colfer's interview may have been transcribed incorrectly, we maintain that the overall feeling of the article is accurate. The intention of the "Where Are They Now?" articles is to read like an informal conversation, keeping the tone and language of the interviewee. We will leave it up to our readers to determine whether a particular interview accomplishes this or not.

"War Over the Overlay Zone"

In response the Nancy Barth's letter in issue #328 referencing your article in issue #327 "War Over the Overlay Zone", Ms. Barth asked a question that many of us should be asking: Why aren't wireless phones (cell phones and pagers) in different area codes as is done in Europe and elsewhere? The reply she received from the CPUC did not seem to answer her question directly, so I thought I would.

The FCC in 1995 (decision FCC 95-19 released 1/12/95 and reiterated in later decisions), found that it was "discriminatory" and "anti-competitive" to force wireless numbers (cellular and paging) into their own area code. (See http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/News_Releases/1995/nrcc5010.txt for one example of the FCC's reasoning).

The main concern at that time was that the telephone companies were proposing a "take-back" of existing wireless numbers such that cell phone and pager users would have to give back their existing numbers and take new numbers in the new, special "wireless" area code. This was, of course, an absurd idea proposed by Ameritech in 1995 as it would have been completely disruptive to those customers who depended on their cell phones and pagers. "Number portability" had nothing to do with that decision-- it didn't even exist then.

Some wireless companies have stated that it would be unfair for their customers to be forced into their own area code because some of their customers (real estate agents, for example) have only a wireless phone and do not have a landline phone at all. The argument was that if a certain type of business had their numbers in a special "wireless area code", and their competitor

letters cont. on page 12

A Proposition 65 Public Notice

The California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act requires California businesses to advise employees and neighbors of any potential exposure to chemicals considered by the state to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm.

Sempra Facilities Management wants you to know that detectable amounts of some of these substances may be found in and around its facility located at 2052 Century Park East, Los Angeles, CA. Potential sources of these substances can include common products such as gasoline, oil, natural gas, paint.

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city & schools

Role Reversal

New law to prohibit council members from representing clients in front of council for one year.

By Andrea Simpson

New state legislation to take effect in the coming months will prohibit elected city officials and city managers from participating in advocacy of a city related matter for a period of one year.

The new law will be implemented in July, specifically targeting council members who after leaving office cannot face the council again from on the other side of the podium representing a client.

representative of another public agency and is appearing or communicating on behalf of that agency.

“Revolving door” prohibitions are intended to address situations in which former elected officers and other officials return to represent clients who have business before, or are seeking to influence policy decisions made by, their former agencies. In many of these instances, the former

“The fact that Allan [Alexander], Mark [Egerman], Tom [Levyn] or Joe [Tilem] are all past mayors has very little impact on our decision making. Those of us today, I think, we struggle to find the right decision and fairly represent the community regardless of who the applicant is.”

-- Vice Mayor Steve Webb

SB 8, authored by state Senator Nell Soto (D-Pomona), was passed into law last September. Current law generally prohibits elected state officers and designated employees of state agencies from representing any other person before their former agency for one year after leaving office if the appearance or communication is for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action. This prohibition is a portion of what is commonly referred to as the “revolving door” law, according to City Attorney Larry Wiener.

Current law imposes a similar prohibition on board members, officers and employees of air pollution control districts and air quality management districts.

These prohibitions don't apply to former members, officers or employees if the appearance or communication is for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action on behalf of another public agency.

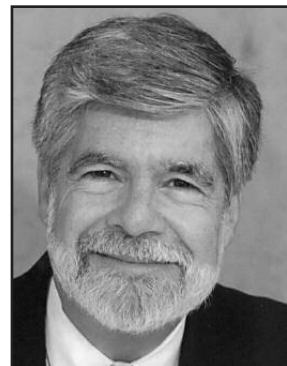
SB 8 prohibits specified local officials, for a period of one year after leaving office or employment, from representing for compensation any other person, by appearing before, or communicating with, their former agency for the purpose of influencing administrative or legislative action or influencing any action or proceeding involving the issuance, amendment, awarding or revocation of a permit, license, grant, or contract, or the sale or purchase of goods or property, according to the bill.

This prohibition applies to any local elected official, chief administrative officer of a county, city manager or administrator, or general manager or chief administrator of a special district. This prohibition does not apply to any individual who is, at the time of the appearance or communication, a board member, officer, employee or repre-

official may be lobbying his or her former subordinates or peers who may feel inordinate pressure to be accommodating. Revolving door prohibitions also serve to prevent former officials from taking advantage of “insider” information to unfairly benefit the clients they represent.

Vice Mayor Steve Webb said he “wholeheartedly” supports the law.

“I've long believed that even though I don't think that past City Council members have done anything illegal, the impression that's given that as soon as they leave the council and they start working for clients raises questions in the city,” Webb said. “I'm pleased that the state law was enacted, even though I'll probably be the only one that'll be impacted.”



Vice Mayor Steve Webb

Currently Webb is the only attorney on the council.

The law is not retroactive.

Former council members who have represented clients in front of the council in the recent past have included Mark Egerman, Allan Alexander, Tom Levyn and Joe Tilem, all of whom, except Egerman, left office more than one year ago. Egerman will have been out of office for one year in March.

The law, however, would not preclude a past member of the council from giving advice to an individual who might have matters before the City Council, provided that there is no communication regarding confidential matters discussed while serv-

ing on the council.

“You could give advice to applicants on the process. The fact that Allan [Alexander], Mark [Egerman], Tom [Levyn] or Joe [Tilem] are all past mayors has very little impact on our decision making,” Webb said. “Those of us today, I think, we struggle to find the right decision and fairly represent the community regardless of who the applicant is.”

Local agencies are currently free to adopt their own revolving door prohibitions either through ordinances adopted by the govern-

ing body or through the initiative process. At least three cities including Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego, have adopted revolving door prohibitions that are substantially similar to those recently passed in the bill.

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), which would have the primary responsibility of enforcing and interpreting this expansion of the revolving door law, was opposed to the bill. The FPPC believes such an expansion would require additional funding.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; will hold a public hearing, to consider:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING REGULATIONS GOVERNING ALTERATIONS TO NONCONFORMING BUILDINGS AND AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

Under the city's current regulations governing remodels and alterations to non-conforming buildings, the threshold at which a remodeled building loses its non-conforming rights and is required to be built to current zoning standards (with respect to setbacks, height, etc.) is based on the percentage of the replacement cost of the building. The proposed Ordinance would amend these regulations for buildings on single family lots and will employ an objective method to determine this threshold by calculating the percentage of the combined area of the roof and exterior wall that is removed or replaced.

The City has determined that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the adoption and implementation of the proposed Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment. The Ordinance is therefore exempt from the environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter. Written comments may also be submitted and should be addressed to the City Council, c/o City Clerk, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 and should be received prior to the public hearing.

Please remember, if you challenge the Council's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the hearing before the City Council or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the hearing.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Community Development Department at 310.285.1123. Copies of the proposed Ordinance are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Room G-40, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

BYRON POPE, CMC
Acting City Clerk



Soul Food and Girl Power On Stage

By Irv Rudman

Musical Offerings For the Soul

Take a musical journey through the career of Baby Jane Dexter through familiar songs that evoke courage, independence and faith. Dexter's two-week performance entitled "Time Travel" features interpretations of songs by classic artists such as Harold Arlen, Sammy Cahn, Tom Waits, Irma Thomas, Abby Lincoln and Clint Black.

A longtime cabaret performer, Dexter strives to defy expectations in both her choices of material and her interpretations. The great folk-jazz classic "Throw It Away" revolves around the phrase, "You can never lose a thing if it belongs to you." Those words go a long way in describing the spirit of Baby Jane Dexter.

According to *Time Out New York*, "She connects with each song on a visceral level, challenging you to feel what she feels and leaving you feeling stronger and more alive than you did when you walked in."

Last year Dexter toured with her sensational cabaret show "Bread and Gravy" from Alaska (where it was 59 degrees below zero)

to sunny San Miguel de Allende. She performed "standing room only" at the Teatro Angela Perlata historic opera house.

Dexter also lent her voice to the feature documentary, "If I Could," which was narrated by Sally Field and shown on the Discovery Health Channel last month.

In addition to performing, Dexter works with the program "Healing Through Entertainment" that targets women in crisis and addresses issues of self esteem, self image and gender roles.

"Time Travel" will be shown at Tom Rolla's Gardenia with performances at 9 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Dinner starts after 7:30 p.m.

The Gardenia
7066 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles
Tel: (323) 467-7444

A New Kind of L.A. Marriage

It's girls' night out in Mametville as the Geffen Playhouse presents Pulitzer Prize-win-

ning playwright David Mamet's, *Boston Marriage*. The wickedly sharp comedy features two fashionable, upper-class women involved in a "Boston Marriage," a euphemism for a long-term intimate relationship between two unmarried, financially independent women.

In the 19th century, this term was used for households where two women lived together, independent of any male support. Whether or not "Boston Marriages" referred to lesbian relationships is often debated.

"Move aside boys, with your gutter talk and con games and slovenly ways, these ladies are refined... and believe it or not, they talk as petty as anyone out of Oscar Wilde," Ben Brantley of the *New York Times* said.

The production features Rebecca Pidgeon as Claire, Alicia Silverstone as Catherine and Academy Award-winning Mary Steenburgen as Anna.

"The talented Rebecca Pidgeon, Alicia Silverstone and Mary Steenburgen make a stellar cast and we look forward to bringing turn of the century high society-- with a satirical twist-- to the Geffen stage," Producing Director of the Geffen Playhouse Gil Cates said.

This witty, biting satire about barely repressed desire and the hostility between social classes had its world premiere in 1999 at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Luckily, it can still be seen today and in less than a week at the Geffen. The show runs from Jan. 31-March 12. Performances will be held Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Geffen Playhouse
10886 Le Conte Ave.
Los Angeles
Tel: (310) 208-5454

Quality Care For Your Furniture

Juan C. Sanchez Custom Upholstery is your neighborhood furniture store that upholsters, remodels and repairs custom made and all types of furniture.

Owner, Juan Sanchez, specializes in made-to-order frames, where a client can bring in any picture of their favorite piece of furniture, and Juan can provide the frame. He's a genius and is in business to help you.

Juan says his store is special because "we work for all fashion ways and we do whatever the client wants, and the quality of the job is different from what you see in the market at stores like Robinsons-May, Sears and Levitz."

And if you need more evidence of his craftsmanship, Juan Sanchez Upholstery has been featured in many magazines, including the *Architectural Digest*.

This store has one-of-a-kind service you won't get anywhere else, so if you're in need of a furniture fix, stop by Juan Sanchez Upholstery today.

Appointments are suggested, but walk-ins are always welcome. Don't throw away your favorite chair or couch because you think it's too old to be fixed. Bring it to the expert-- that's Juan!

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TWO POINTS OF VIEW ON THE NORTH HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MAILER: ON POINT OR OFF BASE?

LINDA BRISKMAN



Recently the Beverly Hills North Homeowners' Association distributed a newsletter accusing the City Council of engaging in a "developmental jihad." This newsletter invokes fears that deflect attention from the true issues facing our city. I fully support intelligent, even *heated*, debate in the community about the best direction for our City. **However, this debate should be based on facts. This newsletter contains inaccuracies and misstatements that are presented as facts and must be corrected.**

ROBINSONS-MAY CONDO/RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

• A condominium/retail development is being proposed by the property owner of the Robinsons-May site. The City Council will *ultimately* review this project because **the City is obligated by law to consider this type of development application.** However, neither the Planning Commission, the City Council nor staff has reviewed or taken a position on this development.

• **Of the 13 large-scale projects that have been proposed in the past 15 years-- projects that involve a zoning change-- the City has approved only four.**

• We are partnering with the leadership of the cities around us-- not developers-- to find **regional solutions to our traffic problems.**

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

There is no design for a proposed community recreation center and therefore no cost estimate could possibly be accurate at this time. The estimated \$60 to \$80 million cost stated in the newsletter has no factual basis. I encourage every member of the community to participate in upcoming decisions about whether to build a community recreation center and what it should contain. Please attend meetings and read the documents posted on the City's website www.beverlyhills.org throughout this long process.

• **I share the concern that the proposed Community Recreation Center should not be a financial drain on the City.** Before making any decision to move forward, the City Council will consider the short- and long-term costs of a recreation facility and potential sources of revenue to meet these costs, including the feasibility of a private development component.

In addition, building a Recreation Center will not prevent the City from fully developing and maintaining existing facilities.

• The City is currently developing a master plan for Roxbury and La Cienega parks in order to determine how these existing facilities can better meet the needs of the community.

WATER RATE "HIKE"

Most cities and counties in California have put off major infrastructure work since the 1960s and are paying the price now. The City has been subsidizing the cost of delivering water to its residents and it is not fiscally responsible to continue to do so now.

• **Proposed development projects do not affect water rates.** The law requires that revenues collected from water rates be used only to upgrade and maintain the water system. They are used for nothing else.

• **There is no "tax." Rates are calculated based on:** 1) the fixed cost of supplying the water, 2) water consumption by each user and 3) the cost of maintaining and upgrading the water infrastructure.

Former CFO Don Oblander was misquoted in the newsletter as saying that a 9 percent rate increase would be "sufficient." Instead, he stated that the original plan was to increase rates by 6 percent on July 1, 2005, with a likely 9 percent increase a year later and another 6 percent or more around July 1, 2007.

MONTAGE PROJECT

Rarely has a project been as fully vetted with the community as the Montage project. Thousands of pages of documents were, and are, available to anyone who has questions. However, the accusations of "fraud" and "deceit" continue:

• **There is no \$32,270,000 debt service obligation.** The City is loaning money to itself (from one fund to another) at a 6 percent rate. Interest will not be owed or paid to any third party.

• The parking structure was **planned as a valet-assist operation from the first day.** Just as the current surface parking lot uses stack parking and valet attendants, tandem parking in the future parking structure will cost-effectively maximize capacity.

• The Montage project has not affected citywide parking rates. A study of parking operations and rates began years ago and was publicly discussed at City Council meetings before and after the Montage project. Commercial and residential representatives have supported modifying rates to one-hour free parking **on the condition that parking revenues be used to increase parking supply and improve operations.**

• The application for the Cirrus project was filed AFTER the Montage project was approved. Nevertheless, a growth factor for additional traffic resulting from future potential development WAS included in the EIR. **When the Montage opponents raised this issue in a legal challenge to the EIR, the court upheld the traffic analysis as proper.**

PURPOSE

There is a part of the newsletter with which I agree completely, "We are a people who support and encourage a vibrant commercial sector. At the same time, we zealously seek to maintain the integrity of our residential community." That is my goal as mayor and a resident of this fine City.

Linda Briskman is the Mayor of Beverly Hills.

ROBERT K. TANENBAUM



On Friday, Jan. 20, this newspaper informed us that City Hall was submitting an alleged refutation of our "Open Letter to the Community" posted approximately three weeks ago. The *Weekly* further advised that we had a 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23 deadline to submit our reply. Naturally, we requested a copy of City Hall's submission so that we would be able to reply given "fair notice" of City Hall's point of view. The *Weekly* rejected our request citing its policy not to provide such advance notice-- a rather curious methodology for providing a so-called point/counterpoint debate. Nevertheless, we wish to thank the *Weekly* for giving us the opportunity to "truck-on" with our mission: we are committed to saving our City from exploitation, deceptions and wasteful spending by the misguided at City Hall. As an integral part of our purpose, we will continue to inform our

City's residents and merchants of City Hall outrages and perversions.

We believe that the "Gang of Three," a majority of our City Council, is leading us on a perilous journey. It is a trek that inexorably results in destination gridlock, unacceptable neighborhood traffic, spot zoning, fiscally irresponsible development fueled by a public-be-damned arrogance!

1. THE GANG OF THREE'S ABROGATION OF TWO-HOUR FREE PARKING

Just a few weeks ago, in early January 2006, City Hall abrogated the two-hour free parking policy in our City's lots. Sound business judgment, merchant in-hand sale receipts and logic made inviolate the two-hour free parking as sound public policy: Simply stated, it stimulated and encouraged business in our community.

It is not exactly "rocket-science" to understand the economic and asocial importance of this long standing sacrosanct policy. As a matter of historical fact, even the "Gang of Three" recognized its invaluable nature: During the Montage Hotel Project-- Measure "A" debate, City Hall certified the immutability of our City's two-hour free parking policy. The "Gang of Three" argued, *inter alia*, in substance, that... "anyone who says that the economics of the Montage Project will result in a suspension of two-hour free parking citywide is a liar!" They went on further, unashamedly, to state: "Trust US!" The forgoing assertions were not only endorsed by City Hall's "Gang of Three", but were memorialized in "mailers" sent during the course of that campaign to us residents citywide. We call upon City Hall to honor its commitment and to demonstrate good faith and restore two-hour free parking immediately.

2. THE DELIBERATE OMISSION OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT "CUMULATIVE IMPACT," AFFECTING THE MONTAGE HOTEL PROJECT AND THE MEASURE "A" DEBATE

City Councilmembers failed to inform the people about a substantial traffic generating project called the "Cirrus Medical Plaza Project" located on Canon Drive approximately 3.6 inches from the Montage Hotel project. The estimated traffic generated from this project (Cirrus Medical Plaza) was an additional 50,000 cars per month. More precisely, the Cirrus Medical Plaza Project was expected to generate 1,626 daily trips, with 109 vehicles per hour expected in the morning peak hour and 165 vehicles per hour in the evening peak.

The project was expected to be developed simultaneously with the Montage. City Hall estimates that the Montage project will generate approximately 66,000 cars a month. No wonder City Hall conveniently omitted from the public dialogue this significant cumulative impact-- the "Cirrus" project.

The issue of vital concern is what precisely City Hall knew during the period of its Environmental Impact Report preparation. Without question, City Hall had knowledge of the severity of this cumulative impact, but deliberately suppressed it and denied the people public access to it.

Make no mistake, this deception by City reps is well-documented. The council members knew about it, sequestered it and decided to ignore it. In so doing, we, the people, never had the chance to discuss it.

Both the abrogation of the two-hour free parking policy citywide and the knowingly and purposeful omission of the Cirrus Project from public notice constitute City Hall misrepresentation and deceit. So where does that leave us?

Unquestionably, we must remain ever vigilant to ensure that those in power speak the truth. We must prevent self-anointed elitists from re-defining our City. We must respond when City Hall promotes fraud as justice, deceit as truth, and where meaningless commitments and empty promises are politics as usual.

It has been brought to our attention that a council member/ Mayor without notice to us engaged in an emotional alleged refutation of our newsletter. How fitting of the council member to denounce yet again the residents point of view without giving the residents notice and an opportunity to be part of the discussion. Well, now, let it be known that our Mayor is invited to attend our meeting tonight, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. inside the Sunset Room in the Beverly Hills Hotel. And Mayor, we eagerly await, at a minimum, your refutations of the outrages as outlined above! Also, just a reminder, you had better brush up because the very people you swore to represent will have a bunch of questions for you. Mostly, why you choose to no longer represent them.

And to all of you who care about honesty and integrity and restoring decent values and standards at City Hall, know that you are especially welcome. And those at City Hall who remain deaf to the voices of the people, eat your cake now but know that change is in the wind.

Robert K. Tanenbaum is a former Mayor of Beverly Hills, speaking on behalf of the Beverly Hills North Homeowners' Association. The North Homeowners' Association meets tonight at the Beverly Hills Hotel in the Sunset Room at 7 p.m.

where are they now?



Ina Roth

1976 Beverly Hills City Council candidate
Indian Wells, CA

What made you run for City Council in 1976?

At the time, there was one woman on the council, Donna Ellman. I had been very active with the PTA and PTA Council and also with the League of Women Voters, which in those years was a very lively group of individuals who tolerated many different points of view. The League took positions on a national, state and local level, and the person who was supposed to attend council and Planning Commission meetings did not want to continue the job and I started doing it just as a substitute and wound up enjoying it so much that I eventually did it for several years making statements to the council and Planning Commission concerning local issues. I became very interested in the water issue because Beverly Hills at that time had its own water wells. It always depended on the Metropolitan Water District [MWD] to some extent, but it did have its own water.

The City Council made a decision at the end of 1975 to shut down its well and sell all

the land on which the wells were located. The very best wells that yielded the most water were in the West Hollywood and not in the City of Beverly Hills. Beverly Hills supplied water to itself and part of West Hollywood, and I thoroughly opposed that decision. I could easily say that people came to me and asked me to run, but that's what everybody says. I just felt so strongly; I felt that I wanted to bring this issue to the floor and decided that I would run.

I had been previously appointed to the Beverly Hills Civil Service Commission and I was sort of an interesting appointment because I had never participated in any City Council members' election or on a committee. That really, I believe, was at the impetus of Donna Ellman. Then, I decided to run and one of the criticisms of me, and you could imagine what a different time this was in the history of the world, there shouldn't be two women on the City Council. It's a very interesting criticism because I think later on there were four. But that was the time at that



moment in time.

Another one of my problems was my relative youth. I was 36 and most people, I think, want someone perhaps older and more mature. I didn't feel it was a problem and I had a lot of support from the

community because people knew who I was and knew that I was most concerned with issues of importance to the city. I had a reputation for being very involved with issues concerning the city and not personality. I think that was very helpful to me.

There were two incumbents and one open seat, and one of the major candidates for the open seat was Joseph Tilem, an attorney, and he's a very fine man. My main issue was the issue of water, but I had views on many other issues. It was a very close election. I believe I lost by less than 400 votes.

What do you remember most about the race?

It's a great experience in leadership. I don't regret it for one moment. You learn to have tremendous resilience or else you cannot complete a campaign, and many people in the community stepped forward and helped me and organized the campaign. You speak in the morning at breakfasts, luncheons, coffees, public debates, on television, you're quoted in the paper. At the time that I ran there were three newspapers in the city--the *Beverly Hills Independent*, which came out twice a week; the *Beverly Hills Post*; and the *Beverly Hills Courier*. All three papers

endorsed me for City Council and that was a big help to me and helped to get me many votes.

[It was] a tremendous leadership experience and I am grateful to all the people who helped me. Even negative experiences I had in the city I still think were great opportunities and learning experiences for me. I always thought Beverly Hills had cache and I think it still [does]. I was just grateful to be a part of the issues that were so important to the city.

Tell us about the people you remember who helped you during your campaign.

Dee Kartoon, Shirley Miller and Helen Brand were three key people who were very helpful. There were many others though.

Tell us about your opponents that year?

Charles Aronberg was an ophthalmologist and was running for his own seat; Richard Stone was [also] running for his own seat; and there was an open seat and that's the one I was running for. All seats were at-large. There was a young gentleman, Roger Ammann, who was an attorney [and I later heard that a] disgruntled client came into his office and took a pot shot at him. He didn't have any reputation to speak of in the city [though]. Joe Tilem and I were the main candidates. I think there were six of us running at that time, [including George Copans].

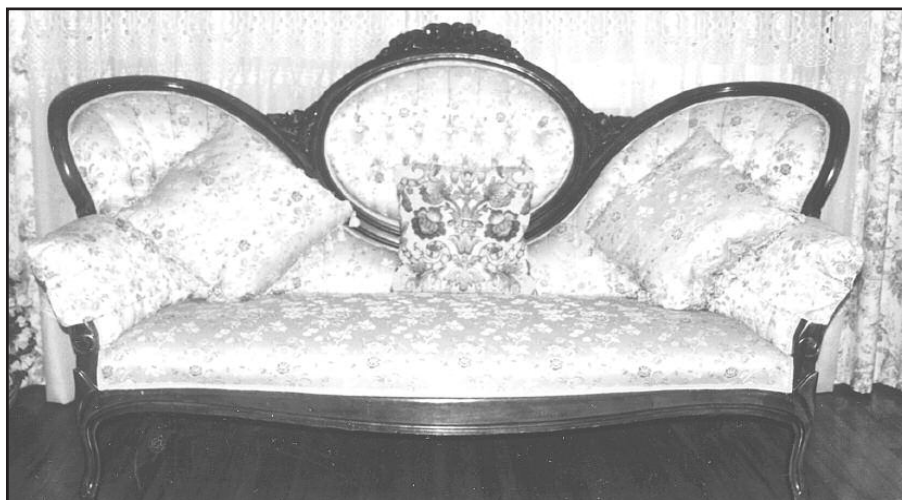
Your three major opponents are all still active in the community. Let me ask you about each one. Richard Stone?

Richard was an attorney, very bright, very brilliant fellow and a solid, kind of unruffled type of personality. He was the only person on the City Council to vote against the

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proposition to have the Motion Picture Academy [on Wilshire], that applied for a permit to only have, I believe, parking for 20 cars. [Stone] opposed that [and] I thought he showed a lot of character in voting against that. And later on, the city gave the Motion Picture Academy the land on which the water plant was located on La Cienega, which was actually a reservoir. Back in those years the tennis courts used to be called the Reservoir Tennis Courts. In any case, the Academy did get their building with only about 20 parking spots on it. [Stone] was later on the Board of Education after I moved to Newport Beach.

Chuck Aronberg?

He was an ophthalmologist and also a very bright person. I think he was dedicated to environmental issues, particularly.

Joe Tilem?

Joe was a really wonderful person and a solid attorney. He ran a very principled campaign, [it] was a very clean campaign and he won.

What were the main issues in the city?

There were issues concerning development of Wilshire Boulevard, and I believe it was around that time that there was a retail overlay zone that was proposed on Wilshire and that eventually enabled Saks [Fifth Avenue] to expand. Saks did not always have the space from corner to corner; it was just one building and enabled Neiman [Marcus] to come in where I. Magnin used to be in that location. It also enabled the city to put solid, important retail development on Wilshire which has eventually become the backbone of city revenues. Three important pillars, so to speak, of city revenues are hotels, car

dealerships and retail at that time. So the retail overlay zone was an important factor.

The thing about water is that it's not a sexy issue and people don't think of it as being an important issue, but when they put their hand on the faucet they want water to come out. So it was a very important issue and basic to the city. Parking was always an important issue and there was a desire at that time, which did not come about until years later, to take the city parking lots and build structures from Beverly Drive over to Canon.

Later on in 1984, after I lost the election, I remained on the Civil Service Commission and the council appointed me to the Metropolitan Water District and I served on that as the sole representative of the city until 1992. I actually resigned from my position with the city when I was on the Metropolitan Water District. In 1992, there had been a drought for several years. Beverly Hills has 1.5 percent voting power on the MWD and I was appointed to serve on the executive committee and was chairman of the Water Quality and Environmental Compliance Committee and a member of the Engineering Committee and what happened was the MWD had not raised their water rates in many years and we were 100 percent reliant on MWD for our water because by that time we had sold off all the land on which our wells were located and the best wells were in West Hollywood. The MWD in 1992 suggested that there be an increase of about 23 percent, or \$5 per family per month, and the council did not feel that was fair and the cost of water to me is an extremely crucial issue and it was very important to ensure supply. There was aging infrastructure that had to be upgraded, and of course, if you have aging infrastructure and you don't keep your sup-

ply going, then your bond rating goes down and that results in increased costs somewhere down the line. I made many presentations to the council and brought representatives from the MWD and the city did not want me to vote for the increase and I felt it was important to think strategically about our future to assure a consistent water supply. So I resigned and told the city in my statement, which I just looked at, that they should have the opportunity to appoint someone whose views were more congruent with their own. I brought many proposals to the city prior to that concerning grants the MWD would give the city if it would redevelop its wells, but the city was not interested in doing that. I believe they moved forward later [with wells] on Burton Way.

You were also a teacher at the time you ran for council.

I was a teacher from 1961-1964 in L.A. Unified and I was home until 1977 and I went back to work after the election as a teacher, coordinator and dean of an inner city high school in South Central Los Angeles and eventually an assistant principal and principal at a high school in East L.A. The last job I had was as Director of Testing for all of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Since then, I have worked for the district as both interim principal and high school director. I also have a position coaching principals. I just finished teaching graduate courses in educational leadership for various colleges.

Many of the schools and environments you worked in as a teacher seemed to be quite opposite from your life in Beverly Hills.

Understatement of the year (laughing). In the toughest schools you learn the most, you get the best experience and you get the most diversified kinds of experiences. The kids need you.

Did you think about working in the BHUSD?

I was invited to apply when I mentioned it to my son's school principal, Walt Puffer [interviewed in issue #293], but I wanted to go to a large school district where I could get diverse experiences and there would be many different schools to work at.

At various times in my career I consulted [Puffer] for advice and he gave me very wise counsel.

You later moved from Beverly Hills to Newport Beach and Indian Wells.

We moved in 1995, just as I became principal at Wilson High School in Los Angeles. My husband was a principal in a real estate investment management company and it was sold to a company based in Newport. We divide our time between homes in Newport Beach and Indian Wells.

What are you doing now?

I'm just finishing teaching graduate courses in educational leadership. I'm not going to be doing that anymore [though]. I also coach principals in leadership for the LAUSD, and right now I'm interim high school director for Los Angeles Unified School District in the Commerce and South Gate area and I'll be doing that for the next few months.

As Interim High School Director in Commerce and South Gate [Local District 6], I supervise the instructional program at *where are they now? cont. on page 12*



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Old And New Scams

Notes on TV and local politics.

By Rudy Cole

This is about some infamous scams, not all perpetrated by unprincipled lawyers, but a new wave of threats to sue have apparently been received by some of our community's eateries.

Despite some stern disciplinary actions by the State Bar of California and a recent referendum limiting so-called frivolous lawsuits, some local restaurants have received warnings that if they do not provide handicapped parking, they will be sued. The alternative follow-up letter is most often a willingness by the lawyers not to bring action if the restaurants pay for legal "costs."

One local victim was totally puzzled by the demand. True, the restaurant, on South Beverly Drive, does not have handicapped spaces, however, it also has NO parking. Under our codes, restaurants under 1,000 feet are not required to provide parking-- and this diner is exempt. But threats to sue are not taken lightly and we suggested the owner seek help from the Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau and our city attorney. **Dan Walsh**, Chamber CEO, said he had heard about this new scam and invited victims to call him at the Chamber if

they need help.

These letters of legal extortion were quite common a few years back. The old Friar's Club received one charging that it was permitting smoking in the bar area, when that was still legal. It turned out that the same exact letter had been received by hundreds of restaurants throughout the area. Some decided to "pay" the suggested amounts to avoid litigation, but most refused. None that I know of actually lost any lawsuits.

Some restaurant targeted scams are less ambitious. One small coffee shop owner called me about 10 years ago with a problem: They had received a very polite complaint from a "customer" asking to be reimbursed for dry cleaning. The supposed patron said he was a frequent customer, always enjoyed the food and service, but on his last visit, a server had spilled soup on his pants. He enclosed a receipt-- the kind easily available at stationary stores and asked that the restaurant send him a check at a post office box in West Los Angeles. The owner was inclined to pay, but before she mailed the check she received the same identical demand

at another restaurant she owned.

The police told her this was a post office issue and suggested she call their fraud division. What she learned was unsettling. They were well aware of the scam, but had too limited resources to take any action. Strange, since they were supplied with a mailing address. However, she did not pay the cleaning bill.

Tribeca, the late restaurant on North Beverly Drive, was once the victim of a more ingenious scam. A well dressed customer arrived at the very busy bar and asked the bartender to look at a beautiful and very expensive new wrist watch he had just received as a gift. He took off the watch, showed it to the server and nearby customers, asking their opinions. While they were admiring his watch, he said he was going to visit the bathroom and asked the bartender to keep an eye on the timepiece. What Tribeca owners think happened next was that he quickly pocketed the watch, gave it to a confederate who left the bar. When the watch owner returned he demanded to know what happened to his watch. The bartender insisted it was not there when the patron left, but at least one customer said he thought he had seen it. The police were called, the bartender and the bar area searched, but with no sign of the watch. The patron insisted that he too be searched to prove that he had not retrieved it as the bartender charged. The restaurant's insurance company decided to pay the claim. Tribeca's owners were certain they had been set up.

One of the most clever scams was used about 30 years ago in the Hancock Park area of Los Angeles, and it did not involve restaurants. The late and great Los Angeles Police Chief **Tom Reddin** told me the story.

This very respectable looking middle-aged couple were the perpetrators. They had carefully examined newspaper rental ads for an expensive home that was advertised for rental. The owner they sought was one who was either leaving the city for some period of time or lived in some other community. The couple had carefully created identification with a phony bank account, business references and other proofs of their credit worthiness. When they found the ideal house, an attractive four bedroom home on a very attractive street, they made their approach. They said they were anxious to rent and would be willing to pay the full amount of the one year lease in advance with a cashier's check. The owners, about to leave for Europe, were delighted with the offer and quickly signed the lease. Today, the same house would probably rent for \$8,000-\$10,000 per month, but in those less inflated times, the \$1,000 per month was quite reasonable.

When they were certain the real owners had left for Europe, the couple placed ads in newspapers offering to rent the house at a ridiculously low amount, but insisted that the renter pay, by cashier's check, for two years in advance. Dozens of people responded and each was given a lease for two years after they had delivered the cashier's checks. They were also warned that they could not again see their home for about 14 days since the couple wanted some privacy before they gave up possession. This should have alerted the victims since the house

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had no furniture. In any case, the would-be renters thought they had scored a real steal and said they would arrive to pick up their keys on the first of the month.

Some 20 tenants had "rented" the home. According to Reddin, there was a near riot on the first of the month. Many of the new renters arrived with moving vans and others only to arrange possession. The "owners" were nowhere to be found. As the victims pounded on the doors, peered in windows and searched the area, more and more furniture delivery trucks arrived, creating a major traffic jam on the streets. You can only imagine the reaction of the early arriving renters as more and more trucks entered the street.

The scam artists were never seen again, but there were countless lawsuits against the real owners who were themselves victims.

This phony rental scam has continued to surface, but mostly when apartments are "sub-leased." Renters need to be absolutely certain that the apartment manager or owner has given permission for a sub-lease before forking out any money.

Received an e-mail from *Weekly* colleague **Steven Herbert** re: the cancellation of NBC's "West Wing." According to the network, low ratings will bring the much honored show to an end this May when a new president wins election, whoever that will be.

Herbert suggested supporting efforts to save the show, and we feel that is certainly worth trying, but I didn't have much success trying to bring Garfield back to the *Los Angeles Times* comic section.

"West Wing", the winner of countless Emmy's, certainly gave the senior network prestige and just maybe that should count in their calculations on program continuity. Although not perfect, "West Wing" is one of the most believable series ever dealing with government and politics. In fact, their most recent episodes portraying a campaign for president, is almost totally believable.

Comparing "West Wing" to "Commander in Chief" is difficult-- the new series has some excellent acting, but is too often far from believable on storylines. Interestingly, "Commander in Chief", although "political", has been earning good ratings.

The show probably suffered when it was moved to Sunday evening-- many programs fade when they are relocated. However, with some of the mindless programs that somehow made it to the schedule-- many being canceled after only a few airings, just maybe NBC could be convinced to continue "West Wing" if there is sufficient response from fans. Drop NBC a line.

I am not in the desirable demographic, so my personal viewing habits don't count for much, but I really, honestly can't stand the latest "Bachelor" offering, and I made the mistake of giving it two tries. At first, the concept of a good looking, successful surgeon needing a television show to find a bride was incredulous, but this guy has turned out to be, at least in my viewing mind, unbelievable and beyond egotistical.

The women contestants have even less believability. They are far more into the competition-- the winning of the rose, than any convincing would-be brides. Their inane comments, including the ever present "Oh my god."

are demeaning to themselves and their audience. Yes, most are marvelous to behold, but just one possible intelligent comment or even question to the "bachelor" would have been somewhat provocative. Do they watch "West Wing." Are they politically liberal or conservative? How do they feel about women's issues, including *Roe v. Wade*? Or just more basic queries on "How many serious relationships have you had?" and "How were you selected for the program?" Anything, something more substantive than "I really want a rose" and "I can see myself getting involved with you." Banish the whole crew to the next "Survivor."

Many Beverly Hills business leaders had their first look at the two major contenders for the state assembly seat being vacated, because of term limits, by our Assemblymember, **Paul Koretz**.

West Hollywood Mayor **Abbe Land** and former Los Angeles City Councilmember **Mike Feuer** made a joint appearance in a debate format at the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee meeting at Spago's earlier this month.

It would be hard to find any differences on issues between the two liberal Democrats, although I did ask. Instead of outlining possible disagreements, both said their experience and abilities are what distinguished them from each other. They also are relying heavily on endorsements, and each has an impressive roster. On endorsements, the edge would have to go to Feuer, but on performance, at least at this event, Land was slightly more effective and relaxed-- Feuer, stiff and formal.

Both are likeable, talented, loaded with integrity and holding strong public service credentials. It is indeed likely that Beverly Hills, which has less than a third of the district's voters, could decide the race. Abbe is expected to run well ahead in West Hollywood where she has finished first in her races for City Council, even after she returned.

Feuer, who represented much of the Los Angeles portion of the district when he was the exciting new member of the Los Angeles City Council, will probably do well in L.A. precincts. This means that Beverly Hills could pick the next assemblymember.

The primary will be held this June and the district has a heavy enough Democratic registration to make it safe for party nominees.

The district is one of the most politically important in the state, mostly because it provides enormous amounts of campaign contributions for candidates of both parties. It is also the home district of the governor.

Personally, I have known both for many, many years and this will be a hard choice. It is too bad we can't elect both. Either will make a great public servant, and we have had some of the best from **Anthony Beilenson** to **Alan Sieroty**, who began in the office.

Incidentally, the Chamber's Director of Economic Development, **Anita Zusman Eddy**, did a highly professional job as moderator of the debate.

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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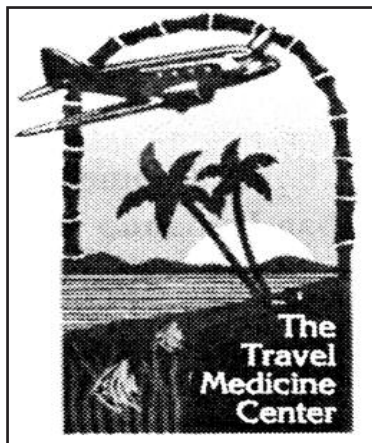
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briefs

Beverly Hills Retailers Report 2005 Sales Met

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce announced last week that its retail sales survey results for the fourth quarter of 2005 found 62

percent of retail businesses surveyed reporting sales to be the same, or better, when compared to retail sales figures for the fourth quarter of 2004.

Despite increased energy costs, persistent online and offline promotions and decreased foot traffic, the slow-starting 2005 holiday shopping season finished with strong sales in the luxury departments.

Some of the luxury items in high-demand last holiday season included women's boots, cashmere and handbags.

The last-minute demand for these items caused many Beverly Hills retailers to experience gains at the end of December. Half reported an increase of at least 10 percent from 2004's holiday shopping season.

Although many retailers did not meet pre-season projections, as almost half of those surveyed said that their actual sales fell short of expectations, the majority of retailers reported year-over-year growth and were in line with the National Retail Federation's report of 6.4 percent growth in

2005 holiday sales across the nation.

Longstanding Beverly Hills retailers such as St. Johns, Barneys New York, Saks Fifth Avenue, Brooks Brothers and Gearys Beverly Hills also reported an increase in store traffic due to aggressive in-store promotions and marketing strategies that made luxury items more accessible to all shoppers.

"Many of the retailers that were able to adapt their pricing and promotion strategies to attract shoppers during these challenging economic times were rewarded with increased traffic and sales throughout the final weeks of 2005," said Anita Zusman Eddy, Director of Economic Development and Government Affairs for the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Mercedes-Benz of Beverly Hills Invites Beverly High Seniors To Apply For Scholarships

Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) with support from Mercedes-Benz of Beverly Hills and Mercedes-Benz dealers nationwide announced last week that it will make \$1.5 million in scholarship funding through the program "Drive Your Future" available to students who are the first generation in their families to attend college.

"With the escalating costs of a college education, access to financial resources is a challenge for many students in our community," Steve Smythe of Mercedes-Benz of Beverly Hills said. "Through Drive Your Future, MBUSA together with the dealer network is trying to make it a little easier for Beverly Hills-area high school students to be

Successful in pursuing their educational

goals. These students are going to be the leaders of the next generation and we want to do what we can to help them realize their potential."

Drive Your Future, now in its third year, will grant \$10,000 scholarships (\$2,500 per year for four years) to 100 high school seniors across the country who demonstrate financial need and exceptional achievement in the areas of academic performance, leadership and school and community activities.

An additional \$500,000 will establish performing arts scholarships for college-bound students who plan to pursue a degree in music, theater/drama, dance or film. MBUSA will grant \$10,000 scholarships (\$2,500 per year for four years) to 50 high school seniors across the country. These scholarships are part of a new initiative, Drive Your Future Performance Awards, which aims to inspire young people to reach to achieve their dreams by providing access to music and arts education programs as well as support in the form of scholarships.

The program was developed to respond to a critical need for scholarships to help students offset the costs of postsecondary education. Administered by Scholarship America, Mercedes-Benz Drive Your Future is part of a broader philanthropic initiative aimed at educating and empowering future generations to help them become the leaders of their generation.

Students can visit www.mbusa.com/drive-future.com to learn more about the programs and access application materials through the Feb. 10 deadline. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.

For more information, call Mercedes-Benz



Beverly Hills Farmers' Market will celebrate the Chinese New Year "Year of the Dog" with a showcase of Chinese Herbs, Doggie Fortune Teller and Chinese Harpist. To celebrate the start of the Chinese New Year this Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Market, the Tea Garden & Herbal Emporium will be showcasing its Chinese herbs and tonics, fine teas, bath and beauty products made in Bali, and sharing the secrets of Eastern philosophy. The Tea Garden will also be bringing Chinese herbs and fine, rare teas and even pet herbs like "Doggie Maku," known to assist dogs with digestion and improve their coats. A Doggie Fortune Teller will advise dogs and dog owners if the dogs will have a "ruff" life. The Beverly Hills Farmers' Market is located on Civic Center Drive and is open from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information, call the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market at (310) 550-4796. Pictured (L-R) attending last November's Garden & Design Showcase at Greystone Estate are Tea Garden Herbalists Desiree Romero and Keith Briggman.

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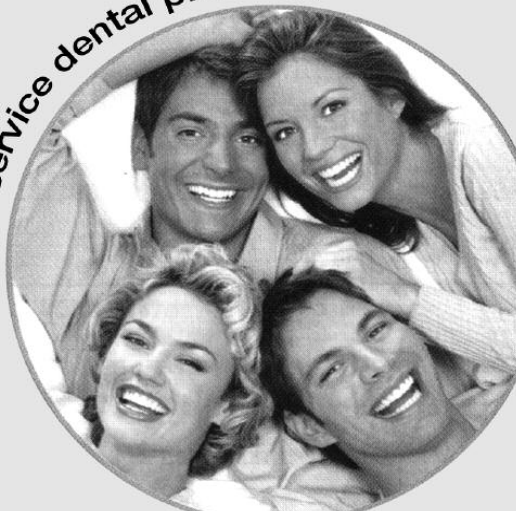
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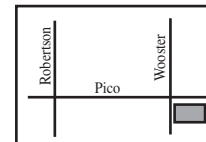
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Rodeo Drive Jewelry Robbery Series To Debut March 22 on NBC

"Heist," billed by NBC as "a fast-paced cop-and robbers drama" about a group of professional thieves who are plotting to simultaneously rob three Rodeo Drive jewelry stores on Oscar week, will premiere March 22, the network announced.

Portions of the series are filmed on Rodeo Drive, producers said Sunday during NBC's presentation at the winter Television Critics Association press tour.

"Heist's" producers include Doug Liman, who directed the films "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" and "Swingers."

T-Lot Valet Parking Operation To Move To Dayton Way

The City of Beverly Hills will move the T-Lot valet parking service on the 200 blocks of North Beverly and Canon drives to a street valet parking service on Dayton Way beginning Monday.

The relocated valet service will be on the north side of Dayton between Beverly and Canon. Dayton is a one-way street, eastbound. Initially, the valet parking will operate from 7 a.m.-7 p.m., seven days a week, but will be adjusted depending on demand. Fees will be \$2 for the first hour, and \$1.50 for each half hour thereafter.

The T-Lot parking is moving to make way for construction of a public parking facility which is part of the Montage Hotel and Public Parking Project.

Residents Can Register To See The Palm Springs Follies

The 15th season of the Palm Springs Follies begins next month with The Four Coins at 8:30 a.m. and returning at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3. The Palm Springs Follies will recreate and rekindle the traditions of Ziegfeld's Follies. The show includes music, dance, comedy, and the "long-legged lovelies", who will perform in their lavish and creative costumes. On our return home, we will make a brief stop at Hadley's Fruit and Nut Farm for snacks and when registering select your lunch choice in advance. Residents are \$85, non-residents \$98. Register by calling (310) 550-4753.

The Getty Villa Excursion Next Month

The city-organized day to The Getty Villa will begin with a buffet luncheon at the Soup Plantation restaurant Feb. 17 at 10:45 a.m. and returning at 6 p.m. After lunch the group will travel to the newly reopened Getty Villa near Malibu. After years of renovation and remodeling, this landmark museum is available to the public again. The Villa is a re-creation of a first-century Roman Villa and gardens. The Getty Villa is dedicated to the study of the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome and Etruria. Various tours such as collection highlight tours, orientation tours, architecture and garden tours will be available during the visit. Participants are asked to bring a warm jacket and wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are optional, so you may enjoy visiting the Villa at your own pace.

The cost is \$25 per person, and to register, call (310) 550-4761.

Library Presents "Tale Tellers" This Weekend

The City of Beverly Hills Public Library presents the First Storytelling Concert in its "Tale Tellers: Storytelling Concert Series for Adults." The performance will be held on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 8 p.m., at the Beverly Hills Public Library, located at 444 North Rexford Drive in Beverly Hills. Tickets are \$10 and are available in-advanced or at the door. Two-hour free parking is available adjacent to the library.

This performance will feature Gay Ducey and Milbre Burch as they tell "Don't Look Up! Stories of Mothers, Witches and Other Wise Women." The evening will feature stories about the multiple identities and endless responsibilities of mothers. This performance is for adults and mature teens only.

On Sunday from 3-4 p.m. Burch and Ducey will perform for the entire family at "TattleTalers: Family Storytelling Festival", a series for children ages 5 and older featuring folklore and literary stories that include audience participation and music. Burch and Ducey will delight audiences with "Because I Said So - Stories of Mothers and Kids!", featuring stories about the mishaps, mistakes, triumphs and trials of family life.

Also as a special engagement for seniors on Saturday from 2-3 p.m., Ducey will perform as The Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library presents "Tell-All: Storytelling Concert for Seniors", at Roxbury Park Recreation and Community Center in Room 103, located at 471 South Roxbury Drive. Light refreshments will be served. Not recommended for children younger than 12.

To purchase tickets for the Storytelling

Concert Series for Adults, or for more information, call (310) 288-2211.

Theatre Forty Presents "The Manor - Murder, Madness At Greystone"

The City of Beverly Hills Community Services Division and Theatre Forty once again present the original play titled "The Manor - Murder and Madness at Greystone." Shows are taking place starting Feb. 25-26 and March 18-19 at Greystone Mansion at 1 p.m.

The fictional play takes the audience throughout the first floor of the mansion observing the triumphs and travails of a prominent 1920s family riding the tide of good fortune. The play continues as an error in judgment sparks a downward spiral that ends in senseless tragedy. Rooms throughout the main floor of Greystone Mansion will be decorated to set the stage as audience members follow the play's characters throughout the performance.

"The Manor" mystery is produced by Kathrine Bates and David Hunt Stafford, and is directed by Beverly Olevin.

Ticket prices are \$33 for Beverly Hills residents and \$44 for non-residents; light refreshments will be served at intermission. Advanced ticket sales are encouraged.

For tickets to "The Manor" at Greystone Mansion, call Theatre Forty at (310) 364-3606. For further information, call the Theatre Forty information line at (310) 364-3606 or visit www.beverlyhills.org.

-- Compiled by Steven Herbert and Jennifer Kamm

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letters cont. from page 2

did not, the business that had their number in the wireless area code would be at a disadvantage because all of its customers would have to dial 10 digits to reach them, while customers of the competitor who had a land line phone would only have to dial seven digits.

I believe that this was a good argument in the mid to late nineties when cell phones were not as ubiquitous as they are today. Now we are faced with an explosion of wireless services including cell phones, pagers, Blackberries, Treo's, wireless modems, etc. All of these require telephone numbers. Add

to that a recent statistic that showed that for the first time a near-majority of 18-24-year-olds have only a cell phone as their primary telephone, and one can see that the demand for telephone numbers these days is coming from wireless services.

So we have to ask ourselves: Should all of us be inconvenienced for the sake of "area code equality", the principle which has remained unchallenged since 1995? Or, would we be better off dialing 1 plus 10 digits to call our cell phones, pagers, PDA's, etc. if that meant that we could still dial seven digits for all of our land line calls?

As the article in issue #327 indicated, the

writing is almost certainly on the wall for the 310 area code: we will have an overlay with mandatory 1 plus 10 digit dialing beginning Aug. 26 of this year.

But if you believe, as I do, that wireless phones should be put into their own area code lessening the need for more area codes in the future, I encourage you to write to your State Assembly and State Senate representatives along with the California Public Utilities Commission (<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/contactus/index.htm>) and make your thoughts known. No one has yet proposed that all future cell phones and pagers be put into their own area

code. Nor has anyone proposed that all existing cell phones and pagers keep their seven-digit numbers, but just have a new "wireless" area code attached to them (with some kind of transition period where the wireless number would be dialable in both the old and new area codes).

Until some group challenges the "discrimination" logic of the 1995 FCC decision, putting cell phones and pagers into their own area code will remain where it is today: A good idea, and nothing more.

Marc O'Krent
Beverly Hills

where are they now? cont. from page 7

three high schools and one middle school. I evaluate the principals of the schools and determine the effectiveness of the curricular programs. A director constantly observes classrooms and offers support and guidance to the administrative staff. I work directly for the local district superintendent. This is the second time I've done this job on an interim basis in the LAUSD since I retired in 2001. The first time was in 2004 Local District D in West Los Angeles supervising Fairfax, Hamilton, University and Westchester High Schools. The difference between being a teacher, a principal and a director is in the scope of the assignment. A teacher is concerned with his classroom, a principal is concerned with his school and a director is concerned with many schools.

I also just finished a stint for two years as president of the Pacific Symphony League. We are a fund-raising arm of the Pacific Symphony, which is now in its 26th year and

we're about to open a new concert hall next September and Placido Domingo will be singing.

There has been a lot of new school construction in the Commerce area.

The Commerce, South Gate, Maywood and Cudahy area has long been the most overcrowded in LAUSD. Most of the schools were on a year-round schedule to accommodate the students. LAUSD Superintendent Roy Romer embarked on an ambitious program of building schools to correct this 30-year-old situation. As a result, about 15 new schools have been built in Local District 6. Only one or two schools remain on year-round schedules. When building is completed this year, no schools in Local District 6 will be on a year-round schedule. The schools I supervise are in South Gate on beautiful new, large campuses with palm trees and greenery everywhere. They look like colleges.

Tell us about your family.

My husband [Herb] is a real estate attorney specializing in managing pension fund real estate assets. Our sons, Phillip and David, [who are] 38- and 41-years-old, are graduates of the Beverly Hills schools and the UC system. They live and work in the Los Angeles area.

Do you still keep in touch with anyone in Beverly Hills?

No, I don't keep in touch, but I'm very grateful to Donna Ellman Garber, who was always more than kind to me, and Ben Norton, who was very gracious at all times.

Do you ever run into anyone from Beverly Hills in Newport Beach?

There are people who have homes here-- Nancy & Herb Bernhard. We did keep in touch somewhat with [the late] Greta Furst, and I've been somewhat in touch with Donna Ellman's life, although I haven't seen her

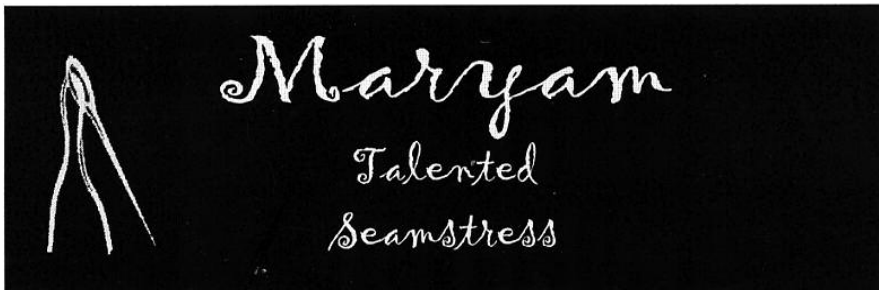
very often. My relationship with her was very meaningful to me.

Do you miss Beverly Hills?

I still think Beverly Hills has cache, but I just have a new chapter of my life that I'm living now. I've just moved on. I always enjoyed being active in the community and I believe that the opportunities I had there I would not have had [if] I lived in the City of Los Angeles. I think I had great opportunities for growth, personal growth and leadership opportunities and really helped me in my work. I've always been grateful, even for the negative things that happened to me in the city [and] the resilience I developed through my experiences in the city.

-- Interview by Andrea Simpson

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Japanese Encephalitis Hits Asia Hard

How the disease spreads and how to avoid the 'biting' effects.

By Alan Spira M.D., DTM&H

Heavy rains poured down upon most of the tropics this past year. We saw numerous hurricanes in the Caribbean, while Asia suffered heavy monsoons and cyclones, and there has been much human suffering as a result.

During the rainy season, and for many weeks after, standing water serves as the perfect environment for mosquito larvae, and as you would expect, this year there has been an explosion in the mosquito population. With increasing numbers of mosquitoes we typically see increases in many different diseases.

This year has been notable for a surge in the number of cases of Japanese Encephalitis.

Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) is the main cause of brain infection and inflammation in Asia. This disease is normally thought of as a rural disease, as ecologically it needs animals, like pigs, to serve as reservoirs. However, in Asia the distinction between rural and urban is often blurred and many cities have patches of agriculture and livestock. This summer a Belgian girl on a two-week trip with her family to Shanghai contracted the virus and died. She never left the city, which is among the most urbanized and populous metropolitan areas on the planet. Larger numbers of infected people have been

seen not only in east Asia and southeast Asia (Indochina), but also in India. For the past several months an epidemic has been burning in the center of India, primarily in the state of Uttar Pradesh. There have been more than 4,000 cases, but the numbers of new cases have begun to ease off.

The disease is spread by a night-biting mosquito, but not the same night biter that causes malaria. When the virus makes its way to the central nervous system it can cause a whole range of symptoms, from headache, memory problems, coordination difficulty to seizures, coma and death in approximately one-third of those with clinical illness.

While this is a serious disease, it is remarkably easy to avoid. The two measures which should put any traveler to Asia at ease are immunization and personal protective measures. The Japanese Encephalitis vaccine has a standard three-dose regimen given over 21 to 28 days and is effective in protecting against the disease. If you plan to travel to Asia, you should ideally begin the series at least four weeks before departure and get all three doses for maximal protection. Personal protective measures are the standard individual

methods of preventing mosquito bites. These consist of appropriate clothing, wearing DEET-based mosquito repellents in a 20-50 percent concentration on exposed skin (but never on mucous membranes such as eyes, nostrils or lips), spraying clothing with permethrin (which lasts several weeks after just a single application), sleeping in an air-conditioned room or under a mosquito net at night, not wearing perfumes nor colognes, and using mosquito coils as needed.

This outbreak highlights the importance of seeking professional and expert help before travel. A travel medicine specialist will know about any disease outbreaks around the globe, what precautions to take, and which vaccines to recommend, whether you are traveling on business, pleasure, adventure, study or on a mission. You can find a list of such specialists on the World Wide Web at two places: www.istm.org and www.astmh.org. With sensible immunizations and proper education, you will be healthier and safer.

Alan Spira, M.D., DTM&H (BHHS '80) is the Medical Director at The Travel Medicine Center in Beverly Hills.

police blotter

City of Beverly Hills

Week of: January 24, 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.

Police Blotter

Robbery: Occurred between 2255 and 2305 on 01/21/06 in the 200 block of South Robertson Blvd. Suspect #1: Male Black, 20-22, 5'5". No further description. Suspect #2: Male Black, 20-22, 6'0", 160 lbs. to 165 lbs. No further description. Suspects entered the location, while one suspect watched the front door, the second suspect used a weapon to threaten the victim to open and

empty the registers. Suspects removed contents from the registers and fled the location undetected. Loss: \$1,200

Burglary: Occurred between 0800 and 0809 on 01/18/06 in the 400 block of North Bedford Drive. Suspect: Male Hispanic, 28, 5'7", 190 lbs.,

police blotter cont. on page 17

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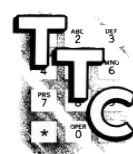
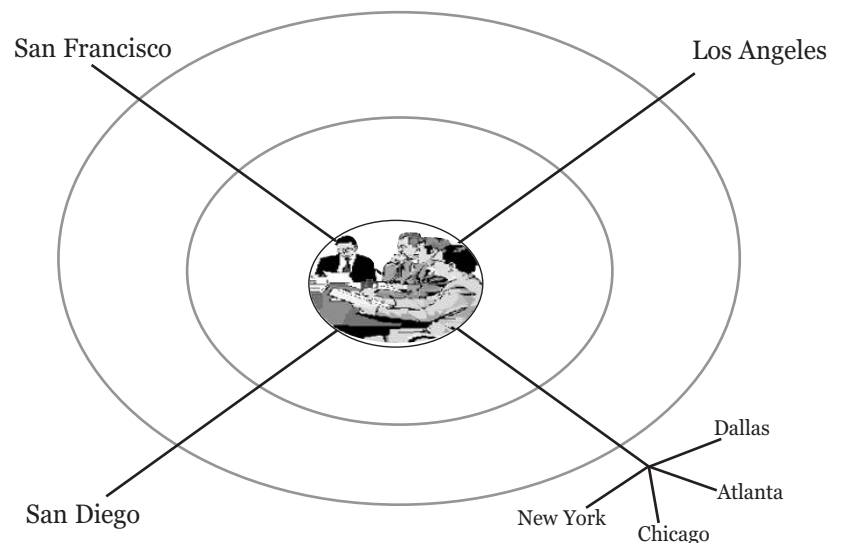
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REBUILD PLANS CREATE DIVIDE ON LINDEN

Proposed building plans lead a Beverly Hills block to take sides.

By Jennifer Kamm

Construction plans for a home at 800 North Linden Drive have created divide among residents on a Beverly Hills block over one property owner's right to privacy and another's right to approved construction.

Neighbor Robert Schwab at 802 North Linden Drive, opposes the approved plans for a new, larger house directly next door at 800 North Linden and expressed his discontent at last Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Councilmember Barry Brucker lives at 805 North Roxbury Drive. Brucker recused himself from Tuesday's meeting due to the fact that he lives within 500 feet of the property (across the alley).

Two former mayors, Richard Stone and Max Salter, live across and next to the property in question. Half a block over, Mayor Linda Briskman formerly owned a home at 806 North Roxbury.

Currently all construction in Beverly Hills is classified under Track I or Track II. The property to be built on the corner lot of 800 North Linden, a two-story Italian villa

style residence with a basement, falls under Track I jurisdiction. The application was reviewed by staff and approved last December.

According to architect Hamid Gabbay, who is also Design Review Commission Chairperson, under Track I the property owner chooses a design from a catalog the city has provided and construction can commence once the design has been approved by the city.

"If the proposed development has an unusual design or is not represented in the catalog, the construction is categorized as Track II and property owners must seek approval from the Design Review Commission," Gabbay said.

In the Design Review process, under Track I determination only the applicant has the right to appeal the department's decision on a specific project style, according to Director of Community Development Mahdi Aluzri. If the project does not qualify under Track I, the decision can be appealed to the Planning Commission and

further to the City Council.

"On this specific case the neighbor actually could not appeal the decision but rather asked the City Council to call up the decision, a general process. They have the right to do that on any administrative decision by any city official or a commission," Aluzri said.

Schwab, a developer, believes the new remodel will impact the amount of privacy at his residence. Through the course of construction, trees that serve as a border between the two houses will be eliminated, creating a direct view of Schwab's backyard from a second-story window of the new residence.

Despite protest from Schwab, city officials say the building plans for 800 North Linden comply with all city codes and guidelines.

"It's fairly similar to the recent developments we've seen north of Santa Monica," Aluzri said.

The height of the house is planned for 32 feet, the maximum height allowance per-

mitted by the city, and the square footage of the first and second floors of the house will amount to 8,665 feet. The basement and garage will comprise an additional 6,000 square feet.

"Most new developments are pretty much to the maximum floor area which is dictated by the formula-- 40 percent of the lot area plus 1,500 square feet," Aluzri said.

Neither Schwab nor his attorney, Ron Rosen, were available for comment.

800 North Linden property owner, Dale Riley, and his attorney, Michael P. Flattery, also declined comment claiming "it's a pending matter." Former Mayor Joseph Tilem has reportedly been hired recently by the 800 North Linden property owner.

"People buy stuff and they improve the property, and actually, I'm sure they [the developers of 800 North Linden] are going to build a beautiful home because they're spending a lot of money and all it will do is enhance all the properties around it," Salter said.

Salter acknowledged that he does not

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know specifics about the building plans, yet remains confident that the developers won't do anything to affect the continuity of the neighborhood.

"People that are spending this kind of money, in my view without knowing the people or anything about them, they're not going to create what you'd call a monstrosity. I don't believe that's the case," Salter said.

Behrouz Mahboubi lives at 803 North Linden Drive and says he is a friend of Schwab, yet maintains a different outlook on the construction issue.

"The guy who bought 800 Linden has paid a lot of money for the property. I believe it's over \$4 million dollars. Then he tore the building down and he did a nice job, very organized claim and everything, and then he spent a lot of money doing the plans and went through the city. And all of a sudden, somebody doesn't feel good about it," Mahboubi said.

Mahboubi has lived on North Linden for almost 16 years and believes that residents, including Riley, should be able to build whatever type of house they want as long as it is approved by the city beforehand.

"In a way, I sympathize with him [Riley]. I'm sure the City of Beverly Hills is very strict about height, about square footage, about how much you build. All the sudden somebody is coming up and saying, 'Listen, I don't like what you're building here because it puts a shadow on my house, for example, or you can look into my backyard.' I don't think that's fair," Mahboubi said.

Stone, who lives directly across the street from Salter supports Schwab's disapproval and spoke on his behalf before the City Council.

"There should be something that prevents just this incessant building of the largest house you can build on a block that intrudes



Linden: block showdown

on the neighbors in every way. Clearly, privacy is one of those ways," Stone said.

To combat this issue, Stone said the council should step in and provide not just setback regulations, but also demand modulation remedies.

"[For example] you cannot build a straight front [and] 50 percent or more has

to be indented by at least 20 percent or something like that," Stone said.

To prevent the concept of mansionization and "big, square, maximum huge boxes with columns in the front" from invading Beverly Hills communities, Stone thinks the City Council should take specific action

Although Stone supports Schwab, he admits to having "mixed feelings" about the issue at hand.

"I've always felt that a person's home is their castle and they should be able to do whatever they want. But the other side of that is when you see on a pervasive basis, endless buildings all looking similar, all dimensioning the properties around them. And I'm not talking just value, but because they are so big and ugly, with no real style," Stone said.

Stone agreed with Schwab's argument regarding a compromise in privacy when asked about the possible removal of the shrubbery that borders the two residences.

"I would be very upset if that [shrubbery and trees] were torn down and people, particularly on the second floor next door, could look straight down into the backyard," Stone said.

801 North Linden Drive property owners, Djavid & Zohreh Hakakian, were not available for comment. This property was formerly owned for many years by the late Norman Tyre.

During discussion of the street-wide debate, Salter attributed the discrepancy with the concept of change.

"Generally speaking, most people cannot stand change," Salter said. "That's really the issue."

The council voted, with Brucker absent, to review the city staff's and Design Review Commission's decision at a hearing Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.

because he says current regulations are not stringent enough.

"The whole purpose is so you don't see a flat face broken up with columns. You see light and shadow. The shadow effect gives you a totally different look," Stone said.

Salter and Stone have both lived on the block for more than 40 years.

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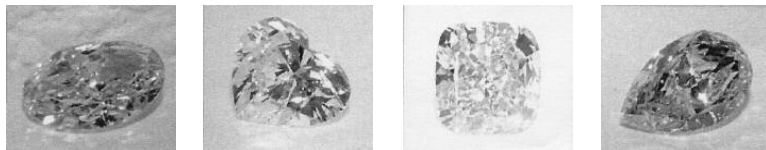
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sports & scores



BHHS Girls' Soccer Team Routs Inglewood

Norman girls' basketball team closes nonleague play by defeating El Segundo.
By Steven Herbert

Emily Litvak scored the first of her two goals 49 seconds into the game and Nikki Sharaf also scored twice as Beverly Hills High School defeated Inglewood, 8-0, in the Ocean League girls' soccer opener for both teams Jan. 11 at Inglewood.

Amanda Brandeis, Tess Callner, Sami Pop and April Shannon also scored for the Normans.

Freshman goalkeeper Rebecca Gold didn't need to make a save to record her fifth shutout of the season.

Beverly Hills 3, Hawthorne 0

Litvak scored in the 71st minute and assisted on Tess Callner's 18th-minute goal in an Ocean League game at Nickoll Field Jan. 13.

Joey Sundy scored in the 33rd minute off Rachel Kove's assist.

Gold made four saves.

The Normans led in shots, 19-4.

What's Next?

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

Boys' Soccer

Beverly Hills 1, Lawndale 1

The Normans are expected to be awarded a forfeit victory in the nonleague game at Nickoll Field Jan. 7 because the Cardinals had several players play in both the junior varsity and varsity games in violation of Southern Section rules, Beverly Hills coach Steve Rappaport said. Junior forward Daniel Pourbaba scored for Beverly Hills on a 38th-minute penalty kick after Daniel Benabou was fouled

in the penalty area. Lawndale scored on a 30th-minute penalty kick. The Normans led 13-9 in shots. Goalkeeper David Roston made eight saves for Beverly Hills. "We didn't finish," Rappaport said. "We had lots of opportunities." Midfielder-defender Shaun Bolour had "an excellent game," Pourbaba "had a very good game" and sweeper Evan Zarider "had a very good game," Rappaport said.

What's Next?

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

Girls' Basketball

Beverly Hills 55, El Segundo 50

The Normans overcame a three-point deficit to start the fourth quarter to close nonleague play with a victory at El Segundo Jan. 9.

Allison Galer scored 12 of her 29 points in the fourth quarter as Beverly Hills outscored the Eagles, 19-11.

The Normans (8-4) trailed 39-36 entering the fourth quarter after being outscored 17-11 in the third quarter.

Beverly Hills led 25-22 at halftime, outscoring El Segundo, 11-6, in the second quarter with Norman forward Rosie McClaren scoring six of her 17 points and freshman guard Sophie Payson making its lone three-point basket of the game.

Beverly Hills was outscored 16-14 in the first quarter, with Galer scoring eight points.

Gwynne Evans added four points, Payson three and Negin Mostadim two for the Normans.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play host to Inglewood Friday at the Swim-Gym and play at Hawthorne Wednesday in Ocean League games beginning at 6 p.m.

Boys' Basketball

Valencia 57, Beverly Hills 51

The Normans were outscored 14-2 in the decisive third quarter and the Vikings scored twice off offensive rebounds to thwart Beverly Hills' comeback in a non-league game at the Swim-Gym Jan. 3.

The Normans (8-6) led at halftime, 32-28, but got only a basket from Cosmo Morabbi in the third quarter and trailed 42-34 entering the fourth quarter.

Beverly Hills pulled to within two late in the game on Daniel Leisner's two three-point baskets.

Morabbi scored 13 of his team-high 17 points in the first half, including three three-point baskets. Leisner added 14, including nine of the Normans' 17 fourth-quarter points.

Beverly Hills outscored Valencia, 15-14 in the first quarter, with Morabbi scoring eight points, with two three-point baskets, and Leisner making the first of his three three-point baskets.

The Normans outscored Valencia, 17-14, in the second quarter, with Morabbi scoring five points, including a three-point basket, and Mabhod Zargar four.

George Medrano added seven points for Beverly Hills, six in the first half, Joel Israel five, Zargar four, and Cliff Frazier and Ben Smyth two each.

The loss was the Normans' second of the year to the Vikings. Valencia was a 59-57 winner in the 21st Annual Simi Valley Varsity Tipoff Classic seventh-

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place game Dec. 3 at Simi Valley High.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play at Inglewood Friday and play host to Hawthorne Wednesday at the Swim-Gym in Ocean League games beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Wrestling

Beverly High is scheduled to play host to Santa Monica today at 3 p.m. in an Ocean League dual match in the Wrestling Room.

Girls' Water Polo

El Segundo 17, Beverly Hills 5

Tiffany Zarrin and Grace Oh each scored twice for the Normans in an Ocean League game at the Swim-Gym Jan. 10.

Beverly Hills (1-7, 0-1 in league play) trailed 2-1 at the end of the first quarter and 7-1 at halftime. The Eagles, ranked second in the Southern Section Division VI poll released Monday, scored twice more to increase their lead to 9-1 before

Emily Ives scored for the Normans with 4:36 left in the third quarter. Zarrin scored later in the quarter, which ended with Beverly Hills trailing 13-3.

Oh scored twice in the fourth quarter.

Norman goalkeeper Marissa Srour made seven saves.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play El Segundo today at the El Segundo Plunge and play host to Los Angeles Milken at the Swim-Gym in Ocean League games beginning at 3 p.m.

Boys' Water Polo

Culver City 9, Beverly Hills 8

The Normans' late comeback fell a goal short in an Ocean League game at the Culver City Municipal Plunge Nov. 2.

The Centaurs took a 9-6 lead on Shawn Balentine's goal with one minute, 20 seconds to play. Isaac Bookhoor scored with 1:05 and 24 seconds remaining, to pull Beverly Hills within one, 9-8, but it could not get any closer.

The Normans (11-12, 2-5) led 4-2 when Andrew Hopp scored 3:23 before half-time, but Nico Schlanger and David Battigatti scored for Culver City in the final 56 seconds of the half, tying the score, 4-4.

The Centaurs opened the scoring in the second half on Kevin Chong's goal, 2:59 into the third quarter. Beverly Hills retied the score 1:12 later on Danny Berk's second goal of the game. Battigatti's goal with 41 seconds left in the quarter gave Culver City a 6-5 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Centaurs increased their lead to 8-5 with 4:43 left on goals by Taylor Heuser and Battigatti before Bookhoor scored the first of his three goals in the quarter with 2:20 to play.

Chong and Andy Lowe opened the scoring for the Centaurs. The Normans got goals from Ben Cousineau and Berk, tying the score 2-2 at the end of the first quarter. Beverly Hills took a 3-2 lead 1:34 into the second quarter on Jason Lewis' goal.

Norman goalkeeper Mike Sadigh made four saves.

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.

police blotter cont. from page 13

black hair and brown eyes. Suspect entered the location, removed merchandise and concealed it in his jacket/pants. Suspect exited the location without paying for the merchandise. Loss: \$53.98

Occurred between 1325 and 1354 on 01/17/06 in the 9600 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect #1: Male Black, 25-29, 6'0" to 6'1", 180 lbs. to 190 lbs. No further description. Suspect #2: Male Black, 25-29, 5'7" to 5'8", 170 lbs.-180 lbs., black hair. No further description. Suspect #1 entered the location while suspect #2 stood outside as a look out. Suspect #1 removed property and both suspects fled the location in a vehicle. Loss: Unknown.

Grand Theft: Occurred between 1500 and 1545 on 01/23/06 in the 200 block of South La Cienega Blvd. While victim was away from her desk, unknown suspect(s) removed victim's purse from the location and fled undetected. Loss: \$860

Occurred between 1000 and 1900 on 01/23/06 in the 9900 block of Robbins Drive. Unknown suspect(s) entered the unsecured location and removed victim's property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$2,000

Occurred between 1720 and 1750 on 01/22/06 in the 9600 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) removed victim's purse while she was working out. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$81,465

Occurred between 2100 and 2130 on 01/21/06 in the 100 block of North La Cienega Blvd. The victim briefly left her purse unattended and an unknown person removed the purse

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and fled the location. Loss: \$710

Occurred between 1700 on 01/17/06 and 1000 on 01/18/06 in the intersections of Moreno and Young and South Santa Monica Blvd. and Doheny. Suspect(s) pulled copper wire out of conduit boxes and cut wires. Suspect(s) then loaded the wires into a vehicle and fled both locations undetected. Loss: \$1,040

Occurred between 1320 and 1405 on 01/17/06 in the 400 block of North Camden Drive. Suspect: Male Black, mid-30's, 5'11", slim built with black hair. No further description. Suspect entered the semi-secured location. Suspect then entered the back location and removed property. Suspect fled the location undetected. Loss: \$10,000

Occurred between 0030 and 0045 on 01/17/06 in the 9800 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location and removed property which was left unattended at the location. Loss: \$2,000

Occurred between 2200 and 2205 on 01/16/06 in the 9800 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) removed victim's property which was left unattended at the location. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$50,000

Battery: Occurred at 1505 on 01/20/06 in the 400 block of North Beverly Drive. Suspect: Female White, 55-60, 5'7", medium built. No further description. Suspect and victim were exiting the parking lot where vehicles merge into one lane. Suspect thought victim cut her off. Suspect approached the victim's vehicle and threw an object at the victim. Suspect(s) fled the location in her vehicle.

Occurred between 0145 and 0147 on 01/17/06 in the 9800 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Male White, 39, 6'0", 170 lbs., brown hair and brown eyes. Suspect demanded an alcoholic beverage and was refused. Suspect pushed and struck three employees. Suspect was arrested.

Occurred between 1120 and 1126 on 01/12/06 in the 200 block of South Moreno Drive. Both suspects are male juveniles. Suspects punched the victim several times. Suspects were arrested.

Forgery: Occurred at 1615 on 01/21/06 in the 300 block of North Beverly Drive. Suspect: Male Hispanic or Asian, 30's, 6'0", 200 lbs., brown hair and brown eyes. Suspect entered the location and fraudulently charged on a credit card without owner's permission and then fled the location undetected. Loss: \$870

Occurred at 1616 on 01/21/06 in the 300 block of North Beverly Drive. Suspect #1: Male Asian, 30, 6'0", 180 lbs., black hair and brown eyes. Suspect #2: Male Hispanic, 30's, 6'0", 170 lbs., brown hair and brown eyes. Suspects entered the location and chose merchandise from the shelves. Suspects then used stolen credit cards to purchase the merchandise. Suspects fled the location undetected. Loss: \$4,171

Occurred between an unknown time between 01/17/06 and at 0900 on 01/20/06 in the 100 block of North La Cienega Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) gained access to victim's office. Once inside, suspect then removed several checks and later produced similar copies to cash the checks.

Identity Theft: Occurred at an unknown time on 01/17/06 in the 200 block of South Gale Drive. Unknown suspect(s) obtained victim's personal information to open up a credit card account with-

out authorization.

Arrests

MORGAN, LEE DEAN, 24, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/24/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

MAXWELL, THURMAN LEE, 25, of Wilmington, arrested on 01/23/06 for driving with a suspended license.

ROQUE, MAURICIO, 23, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/23/06 for public intoxication.

WILLIAMS, ROLAND SILVERBURN, 30, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/23/06 for obstructing/resisting a peace officer.

TOFER, AREZO, 18, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/22/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

BRUMFIELD, ELIJAH III, 28, of Torrance, arrested on 01/22/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

MARTINEZ, JOSE, 21, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/22/06 for burglary.

PONZIO, LISA MARIE, 35, of Marina Del Rey, arrested on 01/21/06 for public intoxication.

ROSE, RYAN SCOTT, 21, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/21/06 for driving under the influence of alcohol.

VELASQUEZ, RICHARD, 21, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/21/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

VASQUEZ, JAYSON DANIEL RODRIGUEZ, 20, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/21/06 for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

DOUIEB, JULIEN, 28, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/21/06 for assault with a deadly weapon none firearm

MONROE, JAMES MCARTHUR, 25, of Inglewood, arrested on 01/20/06 for driving without a license.

YOLKHORSUREN, RADNAASUREN, 25, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/20/06 for kidnap to commit robbery/rape.

REED, ORLANDO, 42, transient, arrested on 01/19/06 for burglary.

LOPEZ, XIOMARA LIZETH, 28, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/19/06 for inflicting corporal injury on spouse.

CAI, QUNAN, 47, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/19/06 for trespassing.

MALE JUVENILE, 15, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/19/06 for driving without a license.

WARD, LORRAINE CHRISTINA, 59, of Sun Valley, arrested on 01/19/06 for public intoxication.

VASQUEZ-MUNOZ, CASAR AUGUSTO, 31, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/19/06 for driving without a license.

HOUSTON, MAURICE LAMONT, 36, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/19/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

VILLEGAS, NELSON, 28, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/18/06 for burglary.

MIDWIN, NICOLE FRANCES, 27, of San Jose, arrested on 01/18/06 for driving with a suspended license.

DOUROS, DEAN K., 34, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/18/06 for a misdemeanor warrant.

CLAYTON, REX KEITH, 39, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/17/06 for battery.

BENFORD, JAIME RAMON, 26, of Los Angeles, arrested on 01/17/06 for grand theft auto.

MALE JUVENILE, 14, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/17/06 for vandalism.

MALE JUVENILE, 14, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 01/17/06 for vandalism.

PERELMAN, REUBAN RYERSON, 22, of West Hollywood, arrested on 01/17/06 for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana while driving.

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