

Beverly Hills Weekly

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SERVING BEVERLY HILLS • BEVERLYWOOD • LOS ANGELES

Issue 387 • March 1 - March 7, 2007

OUR COUNCIL ENDORSEMENTS



WEBB



DELSHAD



"Experience Money Can't Buy"



letters & email

“Council Candidates Sprint Toward Finish Line”

Recently Beverly Hills City Councilman Delshad answered a question about why he didn't openly advocate the Persian position in Beverly Hills matter by saying, "I am not a Persian councilman's am a Beverly Hills councilman." I applaud him and agree 100%.

My question to Mr. Delshad is, "Do you feel the same way about Persian architecture? With respect to exterior front entrances?"

*Harry Vardon
Beverly Hills*

The Feb. 2 Courier on p. 13 had a full page advertisement of [Shahram] Melamed, who is running for one of two seats on the City Council. Let us examine what appears and what is missing in this ad.

1. The advertisement reads: RESPECT OF MY PEERS - elected Vice Chair of our Planning Commission ahead of my turn.

Would Mr. Melamed please explain:

a.) In the capacity of Vice Chair, how much more good do you provide to OUR PC?

b.) Is RESPECT OF YOUR FELLOW COMMISSIONERS what you strive to gain? Are you not serving as a link between the residents and the Council? Collusion does not allow diversity, freedom of thought and the voice of individuals who may be in a minority. The RESPECT should be earned from the residents.

c.) The "election" was so scripted, that not only did the Chair read a statement that was likely written-or at the very least reviewed-by a lawyer, but the City Attorney had to investigate and rule out any possible Brown Act violations relating to this vote.

What a fantastic, past-midnight "election" it was, that broke our traditions of rotation. It all started when we walked into the room and Mr. Melamed remarked (a) that I should not have sent a letter to the Weekly urging the Commissioners against breaking the tradition and (b) "these are only titles." For someone that titles mean little, he was quick to vote himself into a title, which he did not deserve, and to open the door to possible repetitions of the same both at the commissions and Council levels.

2. Missing in the ad, under the caption "as a resident:"

* Appeared repeatedly as a "private resident" against any project in his house immediate neighborhood, asking for instance that Parking & Traffic will change traffic flow in the alley behind his house due to a new construction, and appearing against major development on the South side of Wilshire across from where he lives.

Can we really trust a "recused commissioner" to have no influence over his "peers" (whose respect he so honestly gained) when he appears and requests that actions be taken to make his and his family's lives more livable?

*Ari Bussel
Beverly Hills*

Is there anyway to halt the daily phone calls from the Delshad campaign? Some of which occur twice in the same day? Because even considering the "Do Not Call" list's political exclusion, this many calls are an intrusion and definitely send the wrong message about this campaign.

*Richard Baker
Beverly Hills*

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

email us at:
editor@bhweekly.com



SNAPSHOT



Photo: Sherman Zieve

“NORMAN PRIDE “
Main Street, Disneyland

The Beverly Hills High School Marching Band, led by Josh Zieve, David Rolapp, and Sasha Hindra, performed on Main Street, Disneyland under the direction of Richard Farmer.

Beverly Hills Weekly

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Publisher & CEO
Josh E. Gross

Editorial Assistant
Ryan Vaillancourt

Sports Editor
Steven Herbert

Contributing Editor
Rudy Cole

Photographer
Judy Okun

General Manager
Eiman Matian

Advertising Representatives
Diana Pourmoradi
Soshi Azadian

Legal Advertising
Michael Saghian

140 South Beverly Drive #201
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
310.887.0788 phone
310.887.0789 fax
CNPA Member

editor@bhweekly.com
All staff can be reached at:
first name @bhweekly.com
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Obama Raises \$1.3 Million At Beverly Hilton Event

Democratic contributors descend on Beverly Hills

By Steven Herbert



Senator Barack Obama

Sen. Barack Obama raised \$1.3 million for his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination at a celebrity-studded reception at the Beverly Hilton Feb. 20, and gave a 25-minute speech, which mixed his usual themes with comments tailored to the many entertainment industry figures in the crowd.

Addressing an audience of about 300 that included directors Steven Spielberg and Ron Howard, actors Eddie Murphy, Ben Stiller and Morgan Freeman, actress Jennifer Aniston and Dixie Chicks singer Natalie Mains, Obama said the entertainment industry has huge power to impact change.

Obama, D-III., specifically cited the Academy Award-nominated global warming documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," whose producer, Lawrence Bender was in attendance.

Thanks to "An Inconvenient Truth," the "obscure debate" about climate change "suddenly is in everyone's living room ...

and suddenly transforming the conversation."

Obama said that when Americans see movies like "Schindler's List," "Philadelphia," or "Hotel Rwanda," they can feel what it's like "in the other guys shoes," and a sense of empathy.

"What an enormous power that is," Obama said. "What an enormous responsibility."

Obama spent about 30 minutes circulating through the crowd with his wife Michelle before giving his speech. Obama also autographed copies of his books, "The Audacity of Hope," and "Dreams from My Father."

The event raised \$1.3 million, according to Jeffrey Katzenberg, who hosted the reception, along with Spielberg and David Geffen, his DreamWorks SKG partners.

Tickets were \$2,300 each, the maximum contribution allowed by federal law. People who sold at least 20 tickets were invited to a dinner with Obama at Geffen's mansion, The New York Times reported.

By comparison, candidates rarely raise more than \$50,000 to \$100,000 at an event this early in the campaign, with former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards raising about \$100,000 at a Los Angeles-area event last week, according to The New York Times.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CITY CLERK
BYRON POPE, CMC
455 N. Rexford Drive

Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817
(310) 285-2400
FAX: (310) 385-0862

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on **Tuesday, March 13, 2007, 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 a proposed change to the Municipal Code that would add language to clarify how front yard setbacks on properties with either no defined setback or a "0" setback will be determined. In addition, the ordinance would expand the scope of the City's tree protection ordinance to protect certain trees located between the front or street side property line and the existing main residence, whereas the existing ordinance only protect such trees that are located in the front or street side setback areas.

The proposed ordinance is entitled:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING SECTIONS 10-3-2404, 10-3-2504, AND 10-3-2901(A) OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING FRONT YARD SETBACKS AND REGULATION OF TREES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

More specifically, the proposed ordinance would add language to Code Sections 10-3-2404 and 10-3-2504 to clarify the requirement for establishing front yard setbacks if they are not specified or are designated as "0" on the "Residential Street Setback Map" for the City on file with the Division of Building and Safety. In addition, the ordinance would amend a provision of the Tree Ordinance (10-3-2901) that protects any native or heritage tree that is located in the required front or street side yard setback to any native or heritage tree located between the front or street side property line and the existing main residence.

This ordinance has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Staff has determined that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the adoption and implementation of this ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment. Under the authority provided by the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed ordinance is therefore exempt from the environmental review requirements of CEQA.

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 available for review or purchase in the Planning Division, Room G-40, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

BYRON POPE, CMC
City Clerk



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY

CITY CLERK
BYRON POPE, CMC
455 N. Rexford Drive

Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817
(310) 285-2400
FAX: (310) 385-0862

NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY: FINE ART COMMISSION

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

In order that we may preserve the integrity of the application and interview process, please direct all inquiries to the City Clerk, City Manager or the Director of Community Services. Please DO NOT contact the City Councilmembers or the members of the Fine Art Commission regarding the Fine Art Commission vacancy.

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

The deadline for filing applications for this Commission is Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

BYRON POPE, CMC
City Clerk



Live Election Night Coverage



**Hosted by Josh Gross and Rudy Cole
Tuesday March 6th
KBEV CHANNEL 6 7:30 p.m.**

briefs

Beverly High Invites Parents of Current 8th Graders to Preview School

Parents of current 8th graders are invited to meet Beverly Hills High School Principal J Guidetti and Director of Counseling Kevin Sweeney on Monday, March 12th at 6 p.m. in the Salter Family Theater at Beverly Hills High School. Topics of discussion will include transition to Beverly High, preview of April individual counselor appointments, getting involved in clubs, activities, theatre, art and sports, learning about class schedules, class selection and summer school. This evening is for 8th grade parents only. Call (310) 229-3685 for more information.

L.A. Contemporary Dance Company Presents "Uninhibited Space."

The L.A. Contemporary Dance Company presents "Uninhibited Space," an evening of dance showcasing 4 World Premieres, choreographed by Terri Best, Ryan Heffington and Kate Hutter. Performances are March 15 - 25 (Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m.) and a discussion will follow the performance on Saturday, March 17th. The performance will be at Diavolo Dance Space at the Brewery Arts Complex, 616 N. Moulton Ave. Los Angeles. The fee is \$20 general admission and \$15 for students. Free parking is available.

Aviva, My Love Will Kick off The Israel Film Festival at Grauman's Chinese Theatre

Shemi Zarhin's Aviva, My Love will kick off the 22nd Annual Israel Film Festival as the opening night film at the Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood on March 7th. Over 30 films, documentaries, television dramas and series will screen at various venues including the Laemmle Sunset 5 Theaters in Hollywood, WGA Theater in Beverly Hills, Laemmle in Encino and Fallbrook 7 in West Hills. Tickets are \$45 for opening night and \$10 for all other screenings, and will be available February 23rd at www.israelfilmfestival.com.

Gila Almagor will be honored with the IFF 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Opening Night Gala Award Dinner on March 6th at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, presented in conjunction with the Consulate General of Israel in Los Angeles. Sony Pictures Entertainment Co-Chair and CEO Michael Lynton chair the event. The dinner is open to the public and tickets are \$350 per seat.

City Council Honors Members of Beverly High Robotics Team

Members of the Beverly Hills High School Robotics Team were presented with a proclamation at the February 20th City Council meeting. The team will be competing in an event at the Los Angeles Sports Arena on March 8-10. More information on the 80-member team can be found at their website, www.bhrobotics.com. Top row, from left to right, are Adam Phillips, Gavriel Dorian, Councilmember Barry Brucker, Vice Mayor Jimmy Delshad, Eileen Kahn, Mayor Stephen P. Webb, Erich Sorger, Jason Kahn, Rahul Kalra, Lauren Ahsan, Avi Hecht, Angel Say, Councilmember Linda J. Briskman and Councilmember Frank M. Fenton. Bottom row, from left to right, are Taryn Black, Jesse Carmona, Jordan Istrin, Zach Kahn, Nicole Weinstein, Asa Zernik, Daniel Kim, Shauna Trinh and Eric Cho. Kneeling in front is Eugene Hong.



Members of the award-winning Beverly Hills High School Robotics Team were presented with a proclamation at the Feb. 20 City Council meeting. The team will be competing in an event at the Los Angeles Sports Arena on March 8-10. More information on the 80-member team can be found at their website, <http://www.bhrobotics.com>. Top row, from left to right, are Adam Phillips, Gavriel Dorian, Councilmember Barry Brucker, Vice Mayor Jimmy Delshad, Eileen Kahn, Mayor Stephen P. Webb, Erich Sorger, Jason Kahn, Rahul Kalra, Lauren Ahsan, Avi Hecht, Angel Say, Councilmember Linda J. Briskman and Councilmember Frank M. Fenton. Bottom row, from left to right, are Taryn Black, Jesse Carmona, Jordan Istrin, Zach Kahn, Nicole Weinstein, Asa Zernik, Daniel Kim, Shauna Trinh and Eric Cho. Kneeling in front is Eugene Hong.

Jimmy Delshad, Eileen Kahn, Mayor Stephen P. Webb, Erich Sorger, Jason Kahn, Rahul Kalra, Lauren Ahsan, Avi Hecht, Angel Say, Councilmember Linda Briskman and Councilmember Frank Fenton. Bottom row, from left to right, are Taryn Black, Jesse Carmona, Jordan Istrin, Zach Kahn, Nicole Weinstein, Asa Zernik, Daniel Kim, Shauna Trinh and Eric Cho. Kneeling in front is Eugene Hong.

Maple Counseling Center Selected As Finalist In Beverly Hills Whole Foods Market 5% Day

The maple counseling center (tmcc), a private, nonprofit community mental health center serving Beverly Hills and surrounding

areas, announced that they have been selected by Beverly Hills Whole Foods Market as a finalist for its upcoming 5% Day.

The Beverly Hills Whole Foods Market will have a customer voting period to select the nonprofit that will be the lucky recipient of the proceeds from its 5% day. The 5% Day customer voting period will be from March 1 - 14 at the Beverly Hills Whole Foods Market located at 239 North Crescent Drive. Each customer may vote once per day, so we encourage you to shop often and cast your ballots for the maple counseling center (tmcc).

For more information, please call the Center at (310) 271-9999 x213.

The Ultimate Endorsement

You do not need someone else to tell you how to vote. My entire campaign for City Council has been based on a discussion of the six key issues that will determine our future. Hundreds of individuals and groups have endorsed my campaign, including six Hon. Beverly Hills Mayors. But the ultimate endorsement in this election is your vote. I ask you to give me a mandate to be your voice at City Hall.

Nancy Krasne

Read Nancy's other endorsements:

www.electkrasne.com

Email: nancy@electkrasne.com

Tel. (310) 498-1010

I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE MARCH 6

Endorse Nancy's 6 Point Plan for Our City



ETHICS

4-year ban on lobbying by former Councilmembers and families.



OVERDEVELOPMENT

No eminent domain; honor commitments to local business, eg, Dutton's; limit code waivers; voters ratify new General Plan.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Wireless city; power lines underground; green water reclamation.



TRAFFIC & PARKING

Traffic summit; DASH shuttle; 2-hours free parking.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

Enhance JPA; new state & federal funding; premises security; new joint use facilities.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Smart signals; promote from within; neighborhood policing near schools.

NANCY

EXPERIENCE · COURAGE · INTEGRITY
Krasne

for Beverly Hills City Council

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Nancy Krasne for City Council ID #1288369

police blotter & arrest summary

February 27, 2007

Robbery: Occurred between 0628 and 0629 on 02/20/07 in the 100 block of South Willaman Drive. Suspect #1: Male White, 20-25, 6'00"±-6'05"±, 170 lbs. to 180 lbs., black hair. No further description. Suspect #2: Male. No further description. Suspect #1 walked up to the victim, brandished a handgun and demanded victim's purse. Victim, in fear of her life, complied with the suspect. Suspect fled the location in a vehicle driven by suspect #2.

Loss: \$950+

Burglary/Hot Occurred between 2300 on 02/21/07 and 0600 on 02/22/07 in

Prowl:the 9700 block of West Olympic Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location and removed property while the victim was asleep.

Loss: \$5,725

Burglary: Occurred between 0431 and 0436 on 02/26/07 in the 9300 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected.

Loss: Unknown

Occurred between 1000 on 02/24/07 and 0900 on 02/26/07 in the 100 block of North Gale Drive. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location via an unsecured pet door. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$800

Occurred between 1600 on 02/23/07 and 0930 on 02/26/07 in the 9400 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) entered the unsecured location and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$1,000

Occurred at 1930 on 02/24/07 in the 1000 block of Laurel Way. Unknown suspect(s) removed the front gate of a construction site

and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$800

Occurred between 1900 on 02/19/07 and 1000 on 02/24/07 in the 100 block of South Spalding Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$4,000+

Occurred between 0800 and 1000 on 02/23/07 in the 9800 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Male White, 61, 5'010"±, 165 lbs., brown hair and blue eyes. Suspect used the services at the location and fled without paying.

Loss: \$35.73

Occurred between 0900 on 02/22/07 and 1000 on 02/23/07 in the 100 block of South Spalding Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used force to break several storage closet doors at the location. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: Unknown.

Occurred between 1600 on 02/21/07 and 2020 on 02/22/07 in the 100 block of Spalding Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$600

Occurred between 1830 on 02/20/07 and 2020 on 02/22/07 in the 100 block of Spalding Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$100

Grand Theft: Occurred between 0100 and 0105 on 02/24/07 in the 900 block of North Crescent Drive. Suspects: Three Male Hispanics, 20+. No further description. While victim was asleep in her parked

vehicle, suspects opened her vehicle door and removed her property. Suspects fled the location.

Loss: \$230

Occurred between 2200 on 02/24/07 and 0115 on 02/25/07 in the 9600 block of Sunset Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) removed victim's property which was left unattended at the location. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$11,000

Occurred between 0900 and 1350 on 02/23/07 in the 300 block of South Peck Drive. Suspect: Female Black, 36, 5'00"±, 109 lbs., black hair and brown eyes. Suspect removed currency from the victim's dresser at the location. Suspect fled the location.

Loss: \$400

Occurred between 0200 and 1400 on 02/23/07 in the 9600 block of Sunset Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) removed victim's property while it was being transported to another location.

Loss: \$1,610

Occurred between 1748 and 1752 on 02/22/07 in the 100 block of South Maple Drive. Suspect #1: Male White, 25-30, brown hair and brown eyes. Suspect#2: Male White, 25-30, blond hair. No further description. Suspects entered the location and removed property. Suspects fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$1,600

Occurred between 2330 on 02/19/07 and 0815 on 02/20/07 in the 300 block of South Elm Drive. Unknown suspect(s) removed victim's locked bicycle from outside the location. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$2,250

Occurred between an unknown time on 02/04/07 and 1735 on 02/20/07 in the 8800 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Female, 38-45, 5'03"±, 120 lbs., black hair. No further description. Victim purchased merchandise from the suspect and paid the suspect with a check. Suspect cashed the check and never delivered the merchandise.

Loss: \$3,500

Assault with a Occurred between 0935 and 0943 on 02/26/07 between

Deadly Weapon: Wilshire Blvd. and Santa Monica Blvd. Suspect: Male White, 30s, 5'08"±, 175 lbs., brown hair. No further description. Victim was traveling on his bicycle when he became involved in a verbal argument with the suspect who was on a motorcycle. Suspect then struck the victim's rear tire with his motorcycle and fled the location.

Battery: Occurred between 1750 and 1755 on 02/22/07 in the 300 block of South Beverly Drive. Suspect: Female White, 40s, 5'06"±, 220 lbs., brown hair. No further description. Suspect entered the location in a rage and violently pushed and struck the victim in the upper body. Suspect fled the location.

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We Are All for Councilmember Jimmy Delshad



Officially Endorsed by
the Beverly Hills Police Officers Association and
the Beverly Hills Firemen's Association

Let us tell you why...

Fighting for ethics in government

"Jimmy Delshad has been a champion of ethics in local government, introducing the strongest and most robust ethics ordinance in Beverly Hills History."

Hon. Barry Brucker
Beverly Hills City Councilmember

Improving our schools

"As the Council Liaison to the School District, Jimmy Delshad supported the passage of the City's largest contribution in history to our school district., and he led the effort for major city funding of the artificial turf at the High School."

Hon. Myra Lurie
Beverly Hills Unified School District Boardmember

Making us safer

"I am proud of Jimmy Delshad's commitment to our health, safety and quality of life. As the Council Liaison to the Police, Fire and Emergency preparedness departments, Jimmy worked to develop our high tech CCTV camera system linked to statewide law enforcement databases so we can protect our children, homes and neighborhoods."

Lili Bosse, Founding Member
PACT (Police and Community Together)*

*Titles for identification purposes only; not to imply organizational support.

Protecting our neighborhoods from overdevelopment

"Jimmy Delshad worked with the Beverly Vista Neighborhood Association to help create a win-win situation between the developer of the Legacy project and neighborhood residents. Jimmy protected our neighborhood from increased traffic intrusion and congestion."

Anitra Escovitz, Member
Beverly Vista Neighborhood*

Rebuilding our infrastructure

"Jimmy Delshad has been a leader on the Council, supporting a \$10 million a year upgrading of our City infrastructure which includes our roads, sewers, reservoirs, utilities, fiber optic communications and internet systems"

Hon. Virginia Maas
Former Beverly Hills Unified School District Board President

Relieving traffic and congestion on neighborhood streets

"Jimmy Delshad has been a leader in using his business and technology background to create the 'Smart Traffic Signalization' system that will ease congestion on our City streets."

Hon. Les Bronte
Former Beverly Hills Mayor

**Join us and more than a thousand of our
Beverly Hills neighbors who have endorsed
Jimmy Delshad for re-election**

**Proven Leadership. Proven Results.
Re-elect Jimmy Delshad**

1-800-DELSHAD www.Delshad.com

Paid for by Jimmy Delshad for Beverly Hills City Council, ID# 1245420. Jimmy Delshad for Beverly Hills City Council 269 S. Beverly Drive, Suite 727, Beverly Hills, CA 90212

from the hills of beverly



Rating Candidates

City Council Election Rundown
By Rudy Cole

Are they qualified to serve?

There are six candidates for city council, five of whom have waged a vigorous campaign for two seats. So much of the future of this city rests with the voters next Tuesday that cutting through the rhetoric, the personal ambitions and the distracting issues is going to be very difficult for the 35 percent who will be making the decision.

This next council will decide on what kinds of development we will have for the next 20 or 30 years choices that will impact the quality of life of every resident and business in Beverly Hills. The council will vote on a new General Plan granted that doesn't resonate very deeply because we are so used to fighting over one development at a time instead of looking at our total future needs.

Who will lead us? Some candidates have very impressive credentials, others are new to city government. Frankly, that

shouldn't matter nor should who has the best list of name supporters. Once the time comes to vote, what matters then is their ability to understand and their desire to do what is actually right for our community. Owing too many people may be a disadvantage when the roll calls begin.

So, for what it's worth, my take on the five leading aspirants. But first, some clarifications that have really nothing to do with my evaluations, but in the interests of fairness: The Courier editorial said that **Nancy Krasne** is the most pro-development candidate. On the contrary she was often a minority on the planning commission and strongly opposed many developments, but did, with conditions, vote to approve the Montage project, as did every member of her commission, including **Shahram Melamed** and all five of the then members of the city council.

As for the Courier's criticism of the police and fire associations making

endorsements in city elections, which they said creates a conflict of interests, every endorsement by any group or individual raises the possibility of some kind of conflict. This is hardly a practice unique to our city. Teachers in Los Angeles play a dominant role in the election of school board members and Los Angeles police unions traditionally make endorsements in mayoral and council elections. We may not always agree with their endorsements, but not their right to make them. P.S. Should newspapers refrain from endorsements because councilmembers will one day vote on the placement of legal notices?

One other note: I have known five of the six candidates for many years and congratulate them for their willingness to serve, even though I feel there are reasons not all are truly qualified.

I have tried very hard, however, to put personal biases aside, not always easy when you live here and know the people so well.

To begin: There are three candidates, and only three, I feel are well qualified, and I have some reservations about those too. Using alphabet as my excuse for this order, they are:

Nancy Krasne: She was appointed by different city councils to two key city com-

missions, Planning and Architectural. She has absolutely no personal financial interest in any development now or in the future, will not come back to represent developers and, even when she makes waves, which she frequently does, votes her conscience and her beliefs. Strengths: Personal integrity, knowledge about the planning process and a long record of involvement in the community. Nancy will, however, have to work with the council majority, adjust to staff realities and try to avoid divisiveness. Well qualified.

Maggie Soleimani: It is very refreshing that someone with her youth and enthusiasm wants to enter public service. She is clearly not an insider and has never served on a city commission, although she has an impressive leadership record. Remember, some of our best ever councilmembers never served on any city commission and were also outsiders when they were elected. Her professional training as a lawyer will add an important asset to the council especially since she has no ties to developers and has pledged never to represent any when she leaves the council. What she most needs, if elected, is to remember she was elected by all the voters and not just because of the backing of one association. Well qualified.

Steve Webb has had more experience in public service than anyone who has ever run for city office. He was co-chair of the Livable Streets committee, on which I served, member of Traffic and Parking and

Purity You Can Trust.

When your family's health is foremost, you can rely on YOSEMITE WATERS to provide quality drinking water. Enjoy good tasting water that is completely free of chemicals, unfriendly bacteria like cryptosporidium and unwanted matter such as lead, which is found in most household plumbing systems.



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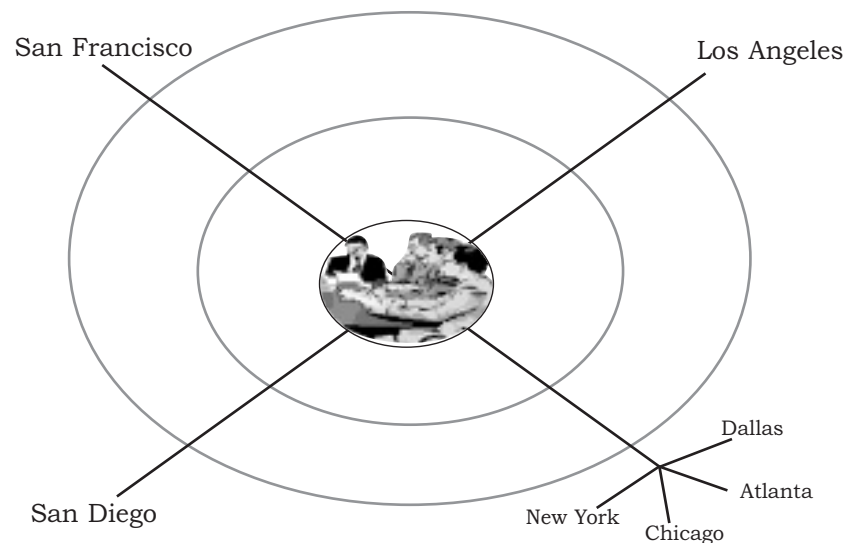
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- ◆ Reservation-based or Reservationless
- ◆ Recording Capability

5 ¢/minute Local Access

10 ¢/minute Toll Free Access



The Telephone Connection
310-789-7900

Planning Commissions and knows the workings of government extremely well. I have had my differences with Steve almost as often as we agreed. He was wrong in voting to remove two hour free parking especially since he sent a letter to voters saying that would not happen if they voted for the Montage and he is, and here I am probably in a very distinct minority, too eager to build a subway through the city. However, his experience is an important asset: Well qualified.

Now, for the qualified:

The toughest person to put in that category is **Jimmy Delshad**. Jimmy is hard working, probably wants the office and the desire to be mayor more than anyone who ever ran for council in our history. He has a wonderful helpmate in Lonnie and he is very likeable. But just because he is so eager to win, he has waffled on issues, made blunders in proposing projects such as making Rodeo Drive a pedestrian only street and, frankly, made far too much out of his desire to be mayor. He has not demonstrated sufficient knowledge to have that office and his appeals have divided the city along lines we never had before. He made the issue himself: If elected he would be mayor, and for that office Delshad is not prepared. One of the paradoxes of Delshad's campaign is that he has made pledges that have won him the support of both the landlords and tenants organizations. For his sake, he should hope they don't compare notes. Another example is his total change of positions on

widening Santa Monica Blvd. At first he claimed credit for convincing the state to give it to Beverly Hills, explaining that this would now permit widening of the north side, now he says, because of resident objections, that he is against widening.

And the not so qualified:

Shahram Melamed has a wonderful family and they have given much to our city. I have known Shahram and his family for many years and even encouraged him to seek appointment to the two commissions on which he served. But the Shahram in this campaign is someone I don't know at all.

His anger, his aggressive confrontations would not serve us well on our city council. The democratic process and how it functions is also not his strength, which is too bad because he wants so much to be a Councilmember.

Maybe with some better control of his anger and two more years of study, he can try again. Bring back the old Shahram.

Lizza Morales has not waged much of a campaign, but her championing of renter issues has been forthright and not politically advantageous. She has not had ads, mailers or, as far as we know, even coffee hours to meet voters.

She has enlivened the forums, but often missed the subject matter. Not yet ready for prime time, but fun to watch.

One other issue, the big distraction in the election, the Farsi ballot. First, none of the candidates, except the incumbents,

could have had anything to do with this problem that has been magnified by our colleagues in the press. The Courier editorial was divisive and not helpful in calming community concerns while The L.A. Times editorial, although well intentioned, made us appear to be a community of racists, which we are clearly not. Just imagine, I'm the moderate in this debate by the two extremes.

Some notes on the election, which has absolutely nothing to do with their qualifications of office:

Best literature: By far, Nancy Krasne. Highly professional, attractive and slick.

Not clear on the job title: Steve Webb's pieces continued to call him a councilman. The legal name, adopted by ordinance to end gender distinctions, is councilmember. It's the law.

Best lawn signs: Steve Webb and Maggie Soleimani. The bright red for Webb, who has the added advantage of a short name and the equally bright green for Maggie, and smart to use her first, shorter name on the signs, won the signs war.

Terrible law signs: Delshad and Melamed. Delshad's were color deprived, Melamed's artistically creative, but crooked signs are not readable.

Best ads: Soleimani and Krasne. Soleimani's quotes were convincing;

Krasne consistent.

Most signs: Webb. Not close at all.

Hardest campaigners: Delshad. He walked and talked to more people than all the other candidates combined.

Final notes: Yes, there are three members of the Iranian community running in this election, but they are very far apart on issues and personal appeals. When it comes time to vote, the election will be decided on qualifications and issues and not ethnicity. Appeals to voters because of their cultural identity shouldn't work in either community. The pairings and second votes will be fascinating. There should be two for incumbents, but also Maggie-Steve votes, Krasne-Maggie votes, because of North endorsements, and much mixing and matching.

Wouldn't it be great for our city if a majority, and that begins with you kind reader, actually voted Tuesday?

As for endorsements, this falls short, I know, but the publisher, even when we disagree, reserves that right (see Weekly editorial on page 12).

Endorsements and such: Most surprising endorsement in this election is that of **Richard Stone** for Soleimani and Krasne. Four years ago, it was the letter he and others mailed that led to the election of Delshad. Equally unexpected was the

rudy cont. on page 15

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Nancy Krasne

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for City Council*

Let's regain control of our City

VOTE ON MARCH 6, 2007

The residential character of our City depends upon your vote



Maggie Soleimani

Crisis - Development/Destination Gridlock

The Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association is not prepared to sit idly by and witness and permit the slow undoing of all that has made our city great. We believe that this forthcoming city council election on March 6, 2007 is a watershed event. It presents us with an extremely serious choice: Do we "stay the course" and keep the incumbents Steve Webb and Jim Delshad in office for another four years and, in so doing, stand-by watching our city deteriorate into an asphalt jungle of high rise commercial development causing destination gridlock traffic; or, do we change course and elect clear thinking, smart, rational, independent, resident oriented individuals?

Campaign Analysis

During this election campaign and for the past four years, the incumbent city council members, Steve Webb and Jim Delshad, have provided overwhelming evidence, in our judgment, that they are unfit to continue to serve as our elected representatives. In many respects they are prisoners of their own flawed rhetoric, failed policies and misguided excessive development mindset.

(1) Over the past four years, City Hall, under the present leadership of Steve Webb and Jim Delshad, has trashed our city's mandated village designed 3 story/45 foot height and density limits and engaged in spot zoning and permitted over-sized, excessive development resulting in burdensome traffic.

(2) During this campaign an examination of precisely what Steve Webb has said makes the case for his unfitness to serve: a) Mr. Webb is quoted as saying that he doesn't know what "over-development" means!

Steve Webb, it means excessive, as in too much, burdensome and oppressive. Yes, that is precisely what he is quoted as saying. We do not suggest that Mr. Webb is not intelligent enough to understand what too much development is all about. His comment is more a mirror into his thought process which reveals to us an attempt to parse sneeringly and cavalierly disregard that which is passionately taken to heart by us residents. Simply, we want our elected officials to respect and support the continuing nature of our village community with its height and density limits carefully recorded in our City's Municipal Code and General Plan.

b) Mr. Webb has also stated that city staff has advised him that the City need not preserve the Industrial Area for municipal services. Mr. Webb wants to build a mega sports facility in the Industrial Area that he, Webb, estimates will cost between 60 million and 80 million dollars! First, we believe that our elected officials set and

establish policy, not our city staff. Second, our residents in two prior elections mandated that the Industrial Area must be set aside for municipal purposes. Grateful to those residents who had that foresight to preserve the Industrial Areas 5 acres for municipal services, our city, right now, needs to construct a wastewater reclamation treatment facility that will aid immeasurably water conservation, and, at a small fraction of the cost of Steve Webb's proposed mega sports facility.

c) Ethics - One of Steve Webb's election claims of achievement is that he takes credit for the City Council ordinance barring ex-councilmembers from lobbying at City Hall for one year. Steve Webb neglects to mention that he voted against the modest Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association proposed two year ban. Moreover, the City Council's one year ethics moratorium was required by state law, already.

We desperately need to end the revolving door of influence peddling at City Hall. Too many former Mayors and Planning Commissioners are representing developers before City Council, staff and Planning Commission meetings. Steve Webb has made it apparent that he intends to participate in this revolving door lobbying scheme once he leaves office. The calculus of this revolving door feather-my bed equation appears as follows: As a council member get in bed with developers + ignore 3 story/45 foot height and density limits expressed in our Municipal Code and General Plan + permit and encourage spot zoning allowing excessive development city wide = a lucrative lobbying career representing developers before your ex-colleagues and City Hall cronies. The result of the lack of ethics at City Hall is the equivalent of placing a "For Sale" sign on our city's borders.

ADVERTISEMENT

(3) Widening the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard and the encroachment into Beverly Gardens Park:

On December 19, 2006 the Beverly Hills City Council, led by Webb and Delshad, voted to approve a Memorandum of Understanding, a contract, between the City of Beverly Hills and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the design and construction for the widening of the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard by encroaching into Beverly Gardens Park. This contract agreement provides, in exhibit C of the contract, for construction to begin in November 2007 and to require 14 months to complete. It's all in black and white and its terms are precise and definite.

The Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association apprised our fellow residents of this misguided Council action. Some residents protested and went to City Council where Mr. Webb sidestepped the issue and advised, contrary to the precise language of the Memorandum of Understanding, that there is no need to worry since all this is about is simple planning. Of course, it is much more than that. It is an agreement for the design and construction of the widening of the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard and the encroachment into Beverly Gardens Park with construction to begin in November of this year according to the contract.

Most significantly, neither Steve Webb, Jim Delshad nor anyone else at City Hall thought it important enough to notify any of our residents about the proposed widening of the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard and the encroachment into Beverly Gardens Park. Since we have apprised our fellow residents of this matter, many have petitioned City Hall seeking redress. As a result, Jim Delshad now writes to residents directly impacted by his December 19, 2006 decision and vote to approve the widening and encroachment that he, Delshad, will vote against it.

He voted for it on December 19, 2006 and now he says he will vote against it! But the contract was approved on December 19, 2006 and there is no requirement for a subsequent vote, nor is one scheduled. Nevertheless, Jim Delshad now says

he'll vote against it. He did exactly the same with 2 hour free parking. He promised during an election to keep it in place and a few months later, after the ballots were counted, voted to abolish it city wide. At moments like these, words fail.

Resolution - Help Save our City: The incumbents Steve Webb and Jim Delshad must go!

We must change direction. Incumbents Webb and Delshad must be defeated. If not, it will embolden them and their colleagues to continue to act in concert with developers as though our city is truly for sale. There are presently more than 15 development projects on hold until after the March 6th election. Neither Steve Webb nor Jim Delshad addresses any of them, hoping that the pending development will go unnoticed. For example, have we heard one word from them about the impending Hilton/Waldorf Astoria Towers project? It is a major matter of public concern yet not a word from them. Election cycles present the opportunity to debate matters of "public concern." No responsible candidate much less public official should remain mute on excessive development issues that so dramatically effect the quality of our life, particularly when we are facing destination gridlock.

If Steve Webb or Jim Delshad cared about maintaining our quality of life by limiting excessive development, we would have heard their positions. Their silence is deafening and may be construed as acceptance of this massive proposed development scheme.

The Hilton/Waldorf Astoria Towers projects proposes a 170 foot tower at the intersection of Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards and two 150 foot towers at Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevard connected by Merv Griffin Way. The project, pursuant to code, requires 3773 parking spaces but the Hilton proposes only 1442. Where will

all those cars park and which streets will be impacted? Remember the Hilton project is directly across the street from our residential neighborhood and the El Rodeo School. We know that our residential streets will be enormously impacted; yet, not a word uttered by Steve Webb and Jim Delshad who have already conferred with the Hilton developer and consultants on several occasions.

Has some dastardly saboteur or supernatural force prevented the incumbents from sharing with us residents their thoughts regarding these matters of enormous public concern? Or, can we come to the legitimate conclusion based on their dismal record that Steve Webb and Jim Delshad support commercial development consisting of 170 foot and twin 150 foot towers with grossly inadequate parking which is situated directly across the street from a residential neighborhood and a school.

We must root out the incumbents if we wish to avoid Hilton type massive development resulting in gridlock traffic which will destroy our quality of life. To do otherwise on election day will be the equivalent of surrendering to misguided politicians and their developer/consultant partners. Then the Beverly Hills, as we've known it, lived it and loved it, will be no more only to be replaced by Frank Capra's "Pottersville."

Our Endorsement

Both Nancy Krasne and Maggie Soleimani are committed to the values and issues that we hold dear. Nancy and Maggie are smart, well-educated, sincere, honorable, family-oriented, high integrity individuals. They recognize that City Council service is a privilege and an honor not to be parlayed into personal financial gain and not to be motivated by ego gratification. They are without arrogance. They are team players, good listeners who will represent the interests of our residents.

For Example:

- They are committed to respecting the height and density guidelines in our General Plan and Municipal Code which will terminate the on-going

detrimental developer/City Council partnership that generates a resident-be-damned culture at City Hall. Simply, they will hold the line on high rise, high density excessive traffic generating projects.

- Nancy and Maggie are committed to restoring two hour free parking city wide! Merchants, residents and shoppers have delighted with this signature Beverly Hills attraction. Maggie and Nancy recognize that two hour free parking has been in effect in our City for over twenty years and that it was the product of our forward thinking leadership that sought to enable our City to compete economically with neighboring malls. Significantly, both Steve Webb and Jim Delshad promised to keep in place two hour free parking only to break that promise a few months after they made it!

- Nancy and Maggie agree that it is in the best interests of our City that the Industrial Area be preserved for municipal services and will respect the prior votes of their fellow residents on this crucial matter.

- Both, working together, will change the pro/excessive development culture at City Hall. Instead of experiencing Steve Webb gavel down residents at Council meetings while indulging developers, Maggie and Nancy will listen attentively, keep open minds, while giving the residents fair and equal opportunity to be heard at City Hall.

- Maggie and Nancy both support an end to the "revolving door" lobbying by ex-council members. They embrace at least a three year prohibition on former Council Members/Planning Commissioners from lobbying at City Hall.

In the final analysis, we believe that the candidates with the finest character who evince a thorough grasp of the crucial issues we face, and who offer fair and reasonable solutions to resolve them, ought to receive our endorsement. We believe earnestly that Nancy Krasne and Maggie Soleimani are our best bet. They offer the promise and hope of a better tomorrow.

**VOTE
MARCH 6, 2007
or by ABSENTEE!!!**

Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association Board of Directors: Al & Mariane Barbanell, Victor Bardack, Nancy Barth, Chris Brix, Arthur & Jackie Burdorf, Mary Levin Cutler, Jerry Dobkin, Dr. Matthew Finerman, Donna & Ray Flade, Harold Foonberg, Brenda Freeman, Marilyn Gallup, Bernard Gelbort, Debra Gordon, Betty Harris, Ruth Kraft, Larry Larson, Louis Lipofsky, Donna Schiffrin, Trinka Soloway, Arlene Tanenbaum, Robert K. Tanenbaum

policeblotter & arrestsummary

February 20, 2007

Loss: Unknown.

Robbery: Occurred between 1322 and 1327 on 02/19/07 in the 400 block of South Doheny Drive. Suspect #1: Male Hispanic, 25-30, 5'02"±-5'05"±, 130 lbs. - 150 lbs., black hair. No further description. Suspect #2: Male Hispanic, 25-30, 5'02"±-5'05"±, 130 lbs. to 150 lbs., black hair. No further description. Suspects grabbed the victim's purse causing her to fall to the ground. Suspects then fled in a vehicle with the victim's property.

Loss: \$170

Occurred between 2213 and 2214 on 02/13/07 in the 400 block of South Maple Drive. Suspect: Male Black, 18-19, 5'09"±-5'10"±, black hair. No further description. Suspect #2: Female Black, 18-19, 5'06"±-5'08"±, 120 lbs. to 130 lbs., black hair. No further description. Suspects approached the victims and pointed a handgun. Suspects demanded money and property. Suspects fled the location.

Loss: \$977

Attempted Robbery/Battery: Occurred between 1945 and 1947 on 02/15/07 in the 100 block

of South Beverly Drive. Suspect #1: Male Black, 20-25, 6'00"±, 175 lbs., brown hair and brown eyes. Suspect #2: Male Black, 20-25, 6'03"±, 180 lbs., brown hair and brown eyes. Suspects approached the victim and asked her for the time. Suspects then forcefully tried to take victim's purse by kicking her. Suspects fled the location.

Burglary: Occurred between 0200 and 0230 on 02/19/07 in the 8600 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location via an unsecured area and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Occurred between 1851 on 02/15/07 and 0530 on 02/16/07 in the 300 block of North Foothill Road. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$1,531

Occurred between 2000 on 02/13/07 and 2030 on 02/15/07 in the 900 block of North Crescent Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$195,000

Occurred between 0830 and 0902 on 02/13/07 in the 400 block of South Clark Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) ransacked the location and fled undetected.

Occurred between 1100 and 2300 in the 100 block of North Wetherly Drive. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) then ransacked the location and fled without removing any property.

Loss: 0

Occurred between 0730 and 1904 on 02/12/07 in the 1600 block of Carla Ridge. Unknown suspect(s) used force to gain entry to the location. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$1,000

Grand Theft: Occurred at 1000 on 02/17/07 in the 100 block of North Le Doux Road. Suspect: Male Hispanic, 50+. No further description. Suspect removed items from the location without permission.

Loss: Unknown

Occurred between 1400 on 02/11/07 and 1130 on 02/17/07 in the 9600 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) removed property from the front of a retail store. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$2,000

Occurred between 0800 and 1030 on 02/16/07 in the 100 block of South Spalding Drive. Suspect: Male Hispanic, 28, 5'05"±, 168 lbs., black hair and brown eyes. Suspect used the services at the location and fled without paying for the services.

Loss: \$1,600

Occurred between 0830 and 1600 on 02/16/07 in the 8800 block of Burton Way. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location and removed victim's wallet from her purse. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$600

Occurred between 1905 and 1930 on 02/16/07 in the 9800 block of South Santa Monica Blvd. Unknown suspect(s) removed victim's wallet from her purse while it was on the floor near her. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$600-\$800

Occurred between 0600 and 1500 on 02/13/07 in the 9600 block of Burton Way. Unknown suspect(s) removed victim's wallet from inside the victim's bag at the location. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$510

Occurred between 1400 on 02/09/07 and 1100 on 02/13/097 in the 100 block of South Rodeo Drive. Unknown suspect(s) entered the unsecured location and removed proper-

ty. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected. Loss: \$1,000

Occurred between 0500 on 02/10/07 and 2130 on 02/12/07 in the 300 block of North Crescent Drive. Unknown suspect(s) picked up and carried away property which was left unattended. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$600

Assault with a Deadly Weapon: Occurred at 1914 on 02/16/097 in the rear of the 9300 block

of Charleville Blvd. Suspect: Male Black, 19, 6'01"±, 160 lbs., brown hair. No further description. Suspect was engaged in a dispute with the victim due to blocking the alley. Suspect exited his vehicle and confronted the victim. Suspect struck the victim in the face and fled the location.

Arrests: VALDEZ, RICARDO JESUS, 19, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/19/07 for driving without a license.

ROSS, ANDREW, 47, transient, arrested on 02/19/07 for riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

MEHDIAN, SHAHNUM JOSHUA, 22, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/19/07 for carrying a concealed firearm.

FARHADIAN, SHARONA, 29, of Granada Hills, arrested on 02/18/07 for driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

BHALESH, HUSSAIN HABIB, 37, of Nevada, arrested on 02/17/07 for burglary.

HUSTON, CAMERON JAMES, 21, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/16/07 for driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

MURCIA, JUAN JOSE BARRIOS, 39, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/16/07 for driving without a license.

KRUPNICK-NEWSTAT, ORSON MAXIMIL, 19, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/16/07 for vandalism.

FEMALE JUVENILE, 17, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/15/07 for driving without a license.

BURSY, WILLIE JAMES, 65, transient, arrested on 02/15/07 for assault with a deadly weapon none firearm.

ARCEO, IRMA ARCEO, 45, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/15/07 for a misdemeanor warrant.

SAMUELS, ALLISON LOUISE, 41, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/15/07 for taking a vehicle without the owner's consent.

MECHANIC, NICKY EVAN, 40, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 02/15/07 for possession of a controlled substance for sale.

STRIKE, DONNA LEE, 29, of Pennsylvania, arrested on 02/15/07 for driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

BLOUSTINE, RICHARD SCOTT, 41, of Corona, arrested on 02/15/07 for a felony warrant.

VARRETTE, ELIA OLGA, 31, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/14/07 for a felony warrant.

ARAGON, DAVID GONZALEZ, 26, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/14/07 for driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

VASQUEZ, ELIAS, 20, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/13/07 for receiving known stolen property.

BERNAL-RAMIREZ, MARCO ANTONIO, 24, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/13/07 for receiving/known stolen property.


SMITH, BOBBY, 30, of Compton, arrested on 02/13/07 for driving with a suspended license.


GAVIN, LESLIE ANN, 32, of Los Angeles, arrested on 02/13/07 for driving without a license.

CONTRERAS, MICHAEL JONATHAN, 19, of Huntington Park, arrested on 02/13/07 for petty theft.

SANCHEZ, JAIME, 28, of South Gate, arrested on 02/13/07 for driving without a license.

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editorial

WEBB • DELSHAD

“Experience Money Can’t Buy”

What started out as one of the most boring City Council elections in recent memory has ended up being one of the most exciting.

Four of the six Council candidates have waged serious, professional campaigns. So we limit our discussion to them.

Four years ago, we endorsed Steve Webb and Jimmy Delshad (see issue #178, “We need a Council that looks like Beverly Hills 2003”). Delshad defeated incumbent Mayor MeraLee Goldman (today a Beverly Hills Courier travel columnist), in what was considered an upset victory that year.

This time we are sticking with Webb and Delshad for another term. Since we have historically supported a two-term limit for City Councilmembers and Board of Education members, this is the last time we plan to endorse either candidate. But for the reasons stated below, we feel both incumbents have critical experience money can’t buy. They have both earned another term on the Council and deserve your vote on Tuesday.

Council: Do as I say, not as I do

The Council and city staff are incredulous as to why the widening of Santa Monica Boulevard issue seems to have so much traction and staying power, despite their repeated denials that it’s ever going to happen.

But during the 2005 Montage election, the Council also promised all of us they had no plans of discontinuing two-hour free parking. A few months later, lo and behold, they voted 4-1 to remove two-hour free parking! So it’s no wonder why the voters seem suspicious at best about trusting the Council’s word again on this widening issue.

The two-hour free parking removal by the Council was, and still is, an incredibly moronic decision, especially so soon after the Montage campaign. P.S.: taking away two-hour free has done nothing to alleviate the chronic parking shortages we still experience here on South Beverly Drive. The only difference is it now costs us \$8 to park while enjoying a leisurely lunch at CPK. Kudos to Councilmember Frank Fenton, who was the only dissenting Councilmember to vote against this ill-conceived proposal, arguing that the economics of removing two-hour free—and lost revenue from shops— doesn’t make sense.

As much as we passionately disagree

with Steve and Jimmy on this specific issue, we don’t consider ourselves to be single-issue voters. Consequently we believe the incumbents need to be evaluated under the totality of their 4-year record, offset by the caliber and message of their challengers.

There’s no question the North Homeowners Association changed the tenor of this year’s Council debate with their mailers and series of advertisements, which appeared exclusively in the Weekly.

While some of their arguments may have been exaggerated, placing the incumbents in the most unfavorable light possible, we nevertheless support their right to speak out on the issues of the day. While we disagree with their final conclusion (that the incumbents are corrupt and unredeemable), we welcome their entry in to the race. Surely their active participation is one of the reasons why this race has tightened, and became a lot more exciting for us to cover within the last few weeks.

It’s the farsi ballot, stupid

In the last few issues, we have extensively covered the so-called farsi ballot flap (see “Translated Sample Ballots Spark Community Backlash”, Issue #385). The Weekly’s story was later picked up by MSNBC and the L.A. Times.

We can understand why many voters think the ballot re-design looks confusing. It is confusing. And while its re-design may have been well-intentioned, it definitely bombed, big-time (however our friends Gloria Seiff, Lou Lipofsky and Rose Norton also overplayed the “race card” in their quotes in the Feb. 23 L.A. Times story on the subject).

But to vote against a particular candidate just to send a message to the Council against the ballot re-design is, in a word, silly. Whomever we elect is someone we’re going to be stuck with for four years, long after this ballot controversy will have blown over.

Incidentally, the answer for the next election is to just have three separate ballots printed, in English, in Farsi, and in Spanish, allowing the voter choose whichever one he or she wants. Case closed. End of story.

The Challengers

Maggie Soleimani and Nancy Krasne have each raised a number of compelling issues and have offered differing arguments as to why the incumbents should be

thrown out. Either or both may win, and if they do, we wish them well.

Krasne’s initial list of endorsers was thin and not particularly impressive, comprised largely of the usual Council dissenters. However she made up for this with an extremely well-run, well-articulated campaign, led by outside consultant Mike Meurer. Krasne’s ads and mailers looked the sharpest of the four and had a clear, coherent 6-point message that she hammered home repeatedly.

However Krasne’s well-articulated platform didn’t always jibe with her voting record on the Planning Commission. How can you allegedly be opposed to “overdevelopment”, yet have voted to approve the Montage project? How can you allegedly support a strong ethics ordinance when your principal mentor appointing you to commissions was ethically-challenged [former Mayor] Tom Levyn? It’s true that she’s the only former LAUSD school teacher running this year, but they’re not running for School Board— what does that have to do with serving on the Council? So Krasne has indeed put forward a compelling message, but to us, it doesn’t entirely add up.

Soleimani ran a more grass-roots type campaign, which was not as well organized as Krasne’s, but was comprised of non-insiders, wholly new to campaigning, including many school-aged parents. She quickly established herself as a serious candidate in December when she published an early ad with over 700 endorsers. This unexpected blitz provided her with significant momentum and established her as a credible candidate long before several of the other campaigns had even gotten out of the initial starting gate.

Soleimani’s flaws are that she’s very new to the Council scene. While we decry a local government that’s comprised entirely of insiders, for insiders, there is also nothing wrong with a little bit of commission service prior to running for such an important office as Councilmember (and ultimately, Mayor). Soleimani is thin in traditional civic political experience and this troubles us. In terms of a platform, her laundry list of gripes against the Council simply reaffirms what she’s against; not necessarily what she stands for.

If Soleimani is unsuccessful on Tuesday, we think she’d make a great appointment to the Planning Commission, where two vacancies will soon be arising. While on the Planning Commission, Soleimani would have and additional four years to further hone her political skills, possibly returning again in 2011 for another shot at the Council. We disagree with those who have suggested that Soleimani should consider running for the Board of Education in November if Tuesday’s race doesn’t go her way. Indeed, Soleimani and her supporters are a welcome, fresh face to city politics and we hope they will stay involved in the years to come regardless of the outcome of this particular election.



Steve Webb

We’re sticking with the incumbents because, in a time where there are so many new city department heads, Steve and Jimmy have critical experience money can’t buy.

Sure, we’ve disagreed with Steve plenty of times (see earlier discussion on two-hour free parking) in his four years on the Council. Steve can sometimes be blunt. He isn’t going to sugar-coat things, or necessarily tell you what you want to hear. But that’s the kind of guy he is: what you see is what you get. We admire that quality about him, even when we occasionally think he is wrong.

Webb served credibly as Mayor this past year, earning compliments from even his opponents in how he fairly handled the gavel. This year’s campaign seemed lethargic at times, but we understand that sometimes it’s tough to get your base fired up when you’re an incumbent running for re-election (as opposed to a first time candidate).



Jimmy Delshad

Jimmy is—to borrow the old Hollywood expression—“the hardest working man in showbiz”. What he lacked in traditional civic experience when he was first elected in 2003, he

has made up for in sheer energy. He attends every civic meeting, bar mitzvah, wedding—you name it. And let’s face it: that’s a big part about what being mayor is all about. In a small town such as ours, where access if everything, there’s a lot to be said for that.

Also refreshing is the fact that’s he’s conflict of interest-free. If we re-elect Jimmy, we don’t have to worry about perpetual recusals like we’ve seen from Councilmembers in years past.

Jimmy has unfairly bore the brunt of the farsi ballot issue, and to us that just isn’t right. He had very little to do with the ballot re-design and to single him out for it is wrong.

If he’s re-elected, you can bet Jimmy will shift right back in to overdrive. That’s because Jimmy doesn’t really know any other way to govern. Beverly Hills will be better served because of it.

Beverly Hills Weekly recommends a vote for Steve Webb and Jimmy Delshad.



sports & scores



Overtime Loss Ends BHHS Boys' Soccer Season

Norman track and field, boys' tennis teams open seasons today, baseball and softball Friday.

By Steven Herbert

The Beverly High boys' soccer season ended with a 2-1 loss to Oxnard Pacifica in a Southern Section Division IV second-round game Feb. 21 at Nickoll Field as Alejandro Almaraz scored the game-winning goal with five minutes left in the second 10-minute overtime segment.

The Normans (11-13-2) tied the score in the 58th minute as senior Sam Forrest scored on a breakaway. The scoring sequence began with junior Alex Lichtenberg sending a free kick to Forrest from midfield.

"After we scored, for about the next 15 minutes, the momentum was all for us, [but] we couldn't ball the ball in the net," Beverly Hills coach Steve Rappaport said.

After the 40-minute first half ended in a scoreless tie, Pacifica opened the scoring in the 48th minute on an Almaraz goal.

The Tritons led 14-9 in shots. Norman senior goalkeeper David Roston made 12

saves.

"We played a team that really had a lot of technical skill. I thought we played really, really well against a more experienced team, under a lot of pressure to really step up our game because their skill was so much better than ours," Rappaport said.

"Lichtenberg was unbelievable. He played like an A player. No other words to describe they way he kept us in the game."

Senior Trevor Charleston and junior Jake Weissberg had "good" games and sophomore Erik Munzer "did a really good job in a very difficult situation," defending "their best player," "keeping him from getting a lot of shots," Rappaport said.

Pacifica, the second-place team in the Pacific View League, lost, 2-1, at Baldwin Park in a quarterfinal Friday, ending its season 15-6-3.

Girls' Basketball

Studio City Harvard-Westlake 61, Beverly Hills 50

The Normans' playoff futility continued thanks to prolonged scoring droughts in the second and fourth quarters in a Division II-AA first-round game at Harvard-Westlake Feb. 17.

Seeking its first Southern Section playoff victory since 1978, Beverly Hills led for 31 seconds after Bettina Shore's lay-up gave it a 20-19 advantage with six minutes, 28 seconds left in the second quarter.

The Normans (17-11) were held to two points over the next 6:26, as they were outscored 15-2. Javonna Young ended the run by making two free throws with three-tenths of a second left in the quarter, as Beverly Hills trailed 34-24 at halftime.

Both teams scored eight points in the third quarter. The Normans pulled to within six, 38-32, on back-to-back baskets by Allison Galer, with 39 seconds left in the quarter.

The Mission League champion Wolverines (21-6) got back-to-back baskets from freshman reserve Sydney Haydel, the second with 1.6 seconds remaining in the quarter and following a Beverly Hills turnover, to lead 42-32 entering the fourth quarter.

Norman sophomore guard Sophie Payson made a three-point basket six seconds into the fourth quarter, cutting the deficit to 42-35, but they would never pull closer.

Harvard-Westlake freshman forward Nicole Hung scored all of the next eight

points on a three-point basket, free throw and two two-point baskets, for a 50-35 lead with 5:35 remaining.

Payson responded with her fourth three-point basket of the game with 3:58 left, ending a 3:54 drought, pulling the Normans to within 12, 50-38. The Wolverines led by at least 11 for the rest of the game.

Galer scored 20 before fouling out with 39.8 seconds left. Payson added 18, Taylor Craig and Shore four each and Didi Younesi and Javonna Young two each for Beverly Hills, the third-place team in the Ocean League.

Hung scored 23, including 14 in the fourth quarter for Harvard-Westlake, which lost to Corona Santiago, 65-64, in a second-round game Feb. 21.

Wrestling

Pioneer League Finals

Sophomore Weston Cage, who was seeded first, won in the heavyweight division, recording two first-round pins Feb. 7 at Santa Monica High School, while Beverly High teammates Brian Kim, Jake Marchiafava, Sae Bin Park and John Rodgers also qualified for the Southern Section divisional tournament with third-place finishes.

Track and Field

The Beverly High boys' and girls' teams are scheduled to open their seasons today with nonleague meets at Palos Verdes Peninsula beginning at 2:45 p.m. The Norman boys' team lost to the

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Panthers, 86-48, last season, while its girls' team lost 90-46.

Boys' Tennis

Beverly High is scheduled to open its season by playing nonleague matches at Corona Del Mar today and Manhattan Beach Mira Costa Wednesday, both beginning at 3 p.m.

Baseball

Beverly High is scheduled to open its season Friday by playing host to Long Beach Jordan at 3:15 p.m. at either La Cienega Park or Nickoll Field, playing at El Segundo Saturday at 7 p.m. and Lawndale Leuzinger Tuesday at 3:15 p.m.

Softball

Beverly High is scheduled to open its season Friday by playing Los Angeles Notre Dame Academy in a St. Monica High School Softball Classic game, continue tournament play Saturday at 9 a.m. and play host to Los Angeles Marymount in a nonleague game Tuesday beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Boys' Lacrosse

Beverly High is scheduled to play host to Los Angeles Windward Saturday at 1 p.m. and Downey Tuesday at 5 p.m. at Nickoll Field.

Swimming

The Beverly High boys' and girls' teams are scheduled to open their seasons Tuesday with nonleague meets against

South Pasadena at the Swim-Gym beginning at 3:30 p.m. The Norman boys' team lost to the Tigers, 88-74, last season, while its girls' team lost 106-57.

Boys' Golf

Beverly High is scheduled to play host to Palos Verdes Peninsula today at 2 p.m. at Rancho Park Golf Course and play La Canada at Angeles National Golf Club in Sunland Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in nonleague matches and compete in the Chaffey Tournament Monday at Empire Lakes Golf Course in Rancho Cucamonga.

The Beverly Hills Weekly is seeking correspondents to cover Beverly Hills High School sports. Correspondents must be able to file stories ready to print on all of the varsity events of the preceding week of the sport they cover. Interested parties can contact sports editor Steven Herbert by e-mail at stvherbert@aol.com, by fax at (310) 273-4519 or calling (310) 275-7943.

Steven Herbert 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.

rudy cont. from page 9

endorsement the two, who are not running as a team, just received from one of the most respected people ever to serve on our city council, **Leonard Horwin**. The BH North also backs Maggie and Nancy as does the National Womens Political Caucus. CTR supports Delshad, Morales and Soleimani, the Courier, as of this writing, only endorsed Webb, but blasted the police and fire associations for doing the same.

Time to bring our community together, and what most unites us? Public education, one of our most durable assets.

When the election rhetoric and anger have all been spent, a wonderful event will arrive just in time to make us once more aware of how much we do have in common.

The Beverly Hills Education Foundation will hold their annual dinner, fund raiser in May, and a united community will come together to honor **Lili & Jon Bosse**, our teachers and all those who continue to make us proud of being a part of the life and times of Beverly Hills.

It wasn't too many years ago that the same couple, **Lili & Jon Bosse**, who are this years honorees, put together the most exciting, unifying fundraiser in our city's history, and it was enormous fun. The food, the music and entertainers and the ambiance of a creatively decorated Civic Center Plaza, then called the Boat Court,

was memorable, and it too was for BHEF.

More than that, and we need it now, was the feeling those who attended had of being one community. It was a new phenomena, the involvement of the Iranian community, in a city function that had nothing to do with cultural issues, only something for all the kids, and Iranians and non-Iranians joined hands in making it work.

One of the co-chairs of this event is Maggie Soleimani who could by then be a new member of the city council. Whatever your views of her candidacy, Maggie too has been a uniting force in Beverly Hills and has paid her dues in support of our schools. Her involvement will also help make this an all-Beverly Hills bash. The other co-chairs have an equally impressive record of service to our schools: **Susan Forman, Jodi Galen** and **Susan Weisbarth**.

BHEF is also fortunate to have **Dev Hankin** as its president. The exact date is May 23 at the Beverly Hilton, save the date and return your invitation. Yes, it's for the kids, but it will be a memorable evening. More on the other honorees and event information soon.

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

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INTEGRITY AND LEADERSHIP SHOULD BEGIN IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY. IF NOT HERE, WHERE?



- ✓ **TO WIN VOTES IN THE LAST ELECTION, THE INCUMBENTS PROMISED TO KEEP TWO HOUR FREE PARKING.**
- ✓ **NOW, THE SAME CANDIDATES ARE PROMISING NOT TO WIDEN SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD.**
- ✓ **WHO CAN WE TRUST TO PROTECT THE RESIDENTS OF BEVERLY HILLS?**
- ✓ **NEW LEADERSHIP CAN HELP END GRIDLOCK, ASSURE INTEGRITY AND END THE RUSH TO MASSIVE NEW DEVELOPMENTS.**

WHAT YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS SAY ABOUT MAGGIE:

"We are delighted to support Maggie. She has demonstrated her concern for our community, she is a strong supporter of our public schools and she has great personal integrity and ability. She will be an outstanding member of our city council."

*LILLI AND JON BOSSE
City Commissioner, Civic Leader*

"Not words, but deeds. When we needed her, she was there for our schools. Now she will be there for the residents of our community. We need Maggie on the City Council.

*Hon. NOOSHIN MESHKATY
Member, Board of Education*

"As a leader, she has worked effectively for countless community organizations and our schools. She has served on a key city committee and is a graduate of Team Beverly Hills. Maggie is principled, intelligent and dynamic, and her personal integrity is unquestioned."

*Hon. BARRY BRUCKER
Beverly Hills Councilmember*

As a former PTA president of Hawthorne School and chair of Beverly's Ways and Means Committee, I understand the importance of having a representative on the council who has first hand knowledge about our city's schools. Having worked with Maggie intimately on major school projects, I know she is a dedicated leader full of integrity and strong ethical principles and will make our children a top priority. And how refreshing that she wants to join the city council because she thinks public service is an honor and a duty as opposed to an economic and career stepping stone."

*ELIZABETH CHAIT
Education, Civic Leader*

"It is encouraging that someone with Maggie's leadership abilities is willing to serve our city. She will be an outstanding councilmember."

*SHERRY NEMAN
Community Leader*

Maggie is well educated, a highly trained attorney who cares about people and will bring our community together".

DR. IRENE KASSORLA

"Maggie's strong leadership abilities and unwavering integrity make her the exciting candidate in this year's race. She will always work for the best interests of all our residents. Maggie will be an outstanding councilmember."

*STACIA KOPEIKIN
Civic Leader*

"I am pleased to lead a Business Leaders for Maggie Committee. As a businessman and commercial property owner, I know that gridlock hurts business and residents. Maggie Soleimani will make a difference and restore two hour free parking."

*ALAN ABRAMSON
Retail Property Owner*

"Our family has lived in Beverly Hills for three generations. We care about our community and we appreciate the excellent city services and first rate schools. Maggie Soleimani represents a new generation of city leaders who want to solve problems, unite our community, support our schools and end gridlock"

*ARDYTH AND SAM FRESHMAN
Civic Leader, Attorney, Businessman*

"I've lived in this city my entire adult life. I was raised here as a child, just as I am raising my own son here. I see the strengths which need to be supported and the weaknesses that need to be addressed, and I look at Maggie as a candidate who has the vision, the experience and the tenacity to address those needs."

*JONATHAN PRINCE
Resident, Civic Leader*

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 6,
2007**



**One vote for a better tomorrow
MAGGIE SOLEIMANI**

**ONE VOTE YOU
WILL NOT
REGRET**

Paid for By Soleimani for Council Committee, 9701 Wilshire Blvd, BH 90212