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Photo: Barry Weiss

HOW TO SUCCEED MORENO DRIVE

The Beverly Hills High School Performing Arts Department presents the Broadway musical, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying", March 22-24 at 7:30 pm. in the school's K.L. Peters Auditorium. Dennis Bendersky as J. Pierpont Finch and Olivia Holland-Rose as Rosemary lead a cast of 42 talented actors, singers & dancers. call 310-229-3685 for ticket information.

Mammoth park renovation plans draw support, opposition

Southwest Homeowners turn out to protest Roxbury Park overhaul

By Rudy Cole

Residents and beneficiaries of the city's parks will soon come together in an effort to salvage plans for an ambitious renovation of both La Cienega and Roxbury Parks following an often raucous public hearing Monday before the city's Recreation and Parks Commission.

City officials appeared to admit that earlier plans for a Community-Sports Center in the Industrial Area would be abandoned since "ninety percent" of proposed uses for the Center would now be included in the new Roxbury Park.

One member of the audience said this was another example of "pushing on the southwest section anything the North Homeowners don't want." Another speaker said "imagine the opposition if they [the city] tried to put all these new buildings on Beverly Gardens," (the park adjacent to Santa Monica Boulevard.)

A proposal by Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowner Association president Ken Goldman to bring "resident and user groups together" to work out a possible compromise plan won support from the Commission and city staff.

Original plans called for a presentation to the city council in April, but city officials said the project would now be placed on hold

pending a meeting of the "residents and stake holders."

Most of the opposition was to plans for massive enlargements of Roxbury Park which would include an aquatic facility, a community center meeting room, enlarged youth sports fields and the abandoning of lawn bowling and croquet. Far less drastic changes at La Cienega Park are planned and these seemed not to face similar problems with park neighbors.

City Consultant Pat Hirsch estimated that renovation costs for both parks would be about \$60 million with \$38 million earmarked for Roxbury. Hirsch, who has helped advise cities such as Glendale and Burbank and also UCLA on recreation facilities, did not give specific sources of funding but a bond issue, which would require voter approval, was mentioned by city staff as one possibility.

Among the dozen or so speakers who opposed expansion was Spalding drive resident Peggy Kaus who said that increased uses would mean loss of privacy and more noise for nearby residents.

Other speakers warned that the park would not be used by residents and would only increase visits by non-residents. Objections were also raised to an underground parking

facility which "would require considerable security to make parking at night safe" another resident warned.

An earlier meeting in February, attended mostly by park users including youth sports associations, generally approved the improvements at both parks which expand fields for soccer and Little League. They will be represented when the various interest groups are brought together by city officials

Lawn bowling, which has been a tradition at Roxbury Park for decades, and croquet are the most likely losers if current plans are approved. Of the 21 remaining members of the lawn bowling group, only two are Beverly Hills residents and only one of 14 croquet club members live here.

On the other hand, of the Active Senior group, major facility users, almost 70 percent are reportedly residents of the city.

Recreation and Parks supervisor Pat Agnitch told the Weekly that "essentially, we will be starting over again" with all options on the table. She welcomed the plans to bring "stakeholders and residents" to a joint meeting.

About sixty people attended the meeting, mostly homeowners in the southwest. Representatives of soccer groups, including Michael Karlin, were present, but did not speak. Sports association representatives made their views known at the February public hearing. Representatives of the school district are also expected to be invited to the meeting of resident and user groups which will be held within the next few weeks.

briefs

Six Honorees to be Inducted in to Beverly High Alumni Hall of Fame Tonight

Six Beverly High graduates will be inducted tonight in to the school's Alumni Hall of Fame.

This year's inductees are former L.A. City Councilmember and County Supervisor Ed Edelman (Class of Summer '48), Television director Jay Sandrich (S'49), Casting director and Casting Society of America co-founder Mike Fenton ('52), Former PacifiCorp CEO Don Frisbee (S '41), and Philanthropists Frank Ulf (S'49) and Betsy Roberts Ulf (S '49).

Principal J Guidetti, Former Principals Ben Bushman and Dan Stepenosky, and Athletic Director Carter Paysinger are all scheduled to attend the ceremony.

Fox Honored by National Association of Broadcasters

Robert L. Fox, a past president of the Beverly High Alumni Association, was honored recently by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB).

Fox will be one of a half-dozen innovative broadcasters who will be presented the coveted Pioneer Award at the 2007 Pioneers Breakfast in April during the NAB Convention in Las Vegas. The awards

briefs cont. on page 6



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES

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NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES: PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

Application forms for the Planning 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 Friday, April 6, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.

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Events, Places And People

With Some Help From Flacks
By Rudy Cole

Shall we forget about local politics for awhile? Was that a collective sigh of relief I felt? So instead, some notes on events, some luncheons and some thoughts on the noble profession of flackery.

One "big tent" item. The Belvedere, the stylish laid back dining room in the Peninsula has a truly ecumenical patrons list. On a recent Saturday night we were in one corner and at a safe distance there was former Mayor **Robert K. Tanenbaum & Patti** (the Tanenbaum we all like) with **Lalo & Donna Schifrin** (she's a member of the North Homeowner's board). At still another corner we spotted **Ardyth & Sam Freshman** with Sam's former law partner, the ever genial **Warren Deutsch**. That last name had some notoriety during the **OJ Simpson** trial when Warren's niece **Linda**, then an AP writer, became the pool reporter.

We were with **Sooky & Sam Goldman** and their guest, the very talented **Bea**

Wain Baruch who made Deep Purple a standard. She was married to one of the great announcer voices, the late **Andre Baruch**.

Last Friday we attended the annual gala of the Le Lycee Francais de Los Angeles at the Beverly Hills Hotel honoring **Quincy Jones** with the **Esther & Raymond Kabbaz** award, named for the school's founders, for his "Distinguished Service to the French-American community."

The daughter of the school's founders and current head of the school, **Clara - Lisa Kabbaz**, received a very special recognition from the French Government - "Knight of the Order of the Academic Palms" founded by **Napoleon Bonaparte** in 1808 to recognize outstanding achievements by people in the French Ministry of Education and revised in 1955 to honor men and women who make "outstanding contributions to the promotion of French culture throughout the world."

The award was presented by French Consul General **Phillipe Larrieu**. **Josette** serves on the school's board and is vice principal of the elementary school. A former Lycee student who now has her own child at the school, **Daphne Behrman** was at our table. **Daphne** works for Beverly Hills in Human Relations and before that was a staff member of the Beverly Hills Y.

Quincy Jones, who is one of the most respected people ever to work in any of the entertainment industry professions, and who has been honored and attended more dinners than the late **Red Buttons** and **George Jessell** combined, also has a remarkable memory.

I reminded him of a dinner we both attended some 20 years ago for "Neighbors of Watts" the organization supported by an incredible group of women in Beverly Hills who funded the **Ella Fitzgerald** Day Care Center.

Jones not only remembered, but listed almost all the people at our table.

(My cats wear name tags.)

Speaking of good dining in restaurants, if you haven't yet tried **Circa 55** at the Beverly Hilton, hasten therewith and especially the wonderful Sunday buffet.

My political luncheons are still at **Caffe Roma** where, on alternating weeks, I broke

bread with **John Millan**, newly installed president of our Board of Education and school superintendent **Kari McVeigh**.

Millan succeeds **Myra Lurie** who so ably led the district through a very difficult period. Millan's special expertise in school construction was and will be very helpful as the district completes the renovation and building program, especially the soon-to-be opened Science & Tech Building.

While we were eating that holder of the education purse strings, Gov. Arnold, dropped or rather hobbled, by our table. **Schwarzenegger**, not known for his appreciation of native humor, did not know how to respond to Millan's question of when he would be going skiing again.

Myra Lurie actually arranged our luncheon with **McVeigh** and it was both interesting and informative. My first impressions of **McVeigh** were not at all accurate. She is very sociable, good sense of humor and a quick learner about the realities of life in our village. I did lobby her for a parcel tax or bond issue that would, this time, not be a band-aid, but rather a major fix of the school's needs. Some supposedly wise consultants kept the last bond issue at a lower level fearing that too big a number would not fly. The result? Much more that needs fixing if we want the kids to have a physical environment that matches our vision of excellence. However, the first chore is finding \$3.5 million to complete the science & tech building's inside needs.

Another luncheon was with the newly

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named Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Director of Communications **Jacqueline Paynter** and chief executive **Dan Walsh**. Jackie has a rich background in communication and is also a quick learn. Our luncheon was the Friday following the week of the election and there were inevitable campaign discussions around us. Former planning commissioner **Mitch Dawson**, Mayor **Steve Webb** and soon to be Mayor **Jimmy & Lonnie Delshad** all stopped by to meet Jackie.

In Sacramento, the most powerful state leader can make or break a restaurant by his or her patronage. When **Willie Brown** wielded the speaker's gavel he dined at a formerly unpretentious Chinese restaurant which quickly remodeled and expanded as his Assembly and state Senate colleagues and a large entourage of lobbyists rushed to be seen in Brown's neighborhood.

With Webb's departure, it is now up to Delshad if Caffe Roma continues as the local political favorite. Incidentally, the diner covered itself quite well in the election. Facing the patio were two signs supporting Webb and Delshad, but inside, quite discretely, there was another for **Nancy Krasne**. My favorite Mexican restaurant, Lucy's Adobe, never removed **Jerry Brown's** picture from their window, even when his convoluted political career took him from Governor of the state to Mayor of Oakland and back to Sacramento as our new Attorney General.

I don't know the quality of your e-mail, but mine is very challenging. Someone must know something because I am, on a

daily basis, offered suggestions on how to "increase my manhood" and at the same time given options to meet exciting ladies in "your neighborhood." Is there some possible connection between the two? Note to senders: She who rules reads all my emails.

Newspaper people and public relations folks do have a love-hate relationship and that may be why I often dislike myself, since I have labored in both worthy professions. Newspapers see pr types as important sources and annoying pests, depending on the message.

My e-mails are overloaded with plugs for everything from new books to unheard of motion pictures to products I am not able to understand, see above.

But my favorite flack story involves the late newspaper tycoon, the scion of the Chandler family, Norman, then publisher/owner of the Los Angeles Times. He once showed me a press release, and it did not amuse him.

It was for a play opening at the old Biltmore theatre from a New York publicity firm and the press release described the play, the leading actors, the date and times and some puff notices. At the end of the release, Chandler read this addition: "If you publish this notice we would be pleased to present you with two tickets for a Wednesday matinee. Just bring a tear sheet (copy of story) to the box office as proof and we will be pleased to have you as our guests." As I recall it, that play was never reviewed.

Speaking of the Times and Caffe Roma

luncheons, reminded me that I recently met their op-ed writer **Erin Kaplan** and cityside reporter **John Mitchell** who used to cover the Westside when the Times had a Sunday and Thursday regional supplement. One lunch with me and Kaplan gets reassigned. Incidentally, it was wrong of me to complain to them of the Times decimation of their comic pages and the loss of Momma and now Candorville. What happened to the other great strips such as Broom Hilda, the Far Side, Wizard of Id, Garfield all replaced by a pathetic roster of mediocrity – with the exception of For Better or Worse and the ageless Blondie, Crankshaft and the Drabble – the only reason to still turn the pages.

Final note on publicity workers: We are told the city will soon hire a top professional to handle information dissemination, and not too soon, although some recent releases have been helpful. However, a planning commissioner suddenly resigns and not one press notice is prepared. That would not happen in Spartanburg where our former city manager, **Mark Scott**, inherited a first rate publicity staffer. She could not have been more helpful in keeping us informed on Scott's timed arrival.

When the new gun on pr arrives, possibly the minutes and synopsis of commission meetings could be brought up to date – some are six or more months behind on the city's web site.

OK, one political note: Being mayor may not be the best title to put on your bal-

lot designation when you run for reelection. **MeraLee Goldman**, **Tanenbaum**, **Annabelle Heiferman** all departed office via election while serving as mayor. Nor is having the most lawn signs, the support of almost every "important" community leader and both newspapers and the police and fire associations backing a guarantee of success. The only nod **Steve Webb** failed to garner was that of the National Women's Political Caucus and that was gender bias for sure.

In case you missed the notice, the induction of Delshad and the looking back speech of Webb has been reset for March 27 under a city hall tent.

It will be Delshad's and Webb's night, but all ears will be tuned to newly elected **Nancy Krasne** who will certainly bring a new perspective to city government. Nancy and Jim just returned from a recuperative trip to Italy and she is primed to move for an immediate restoration of two hour free parking. She will begin with **Frank Fenton's** vote and should easily gain a third.

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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briefs cont. from page 3

"honor their career commitments to the profession of radio and television broadcasting and service to the industry and the community at large," notes Gordon Hastings, president/ceo of the Broadcasters Foundation, which gives the awards. Some of the past recipients include: Mickey Luckoff, James Schulke, and Jeff Smulyan.

Fox, a Class of Summer '46 graduate, of Beverly High, also holds a degree from UC Berkeley.

Final City Council Election results: 166 ballots disqualified

Final, certified election results from the March 6 City Council election indicate a total of 6510 ballots were cast. Votes disqualified include 166 provisional ballots which were disqualified due to voters not being registered or other registration irregularities, and 37 absentee ballots which arrived in the mail after election day, too late to be counted.

West Hollywood Councilmember Turns Down Mayor's Job

In a move that caught his colleagues by surprise, newly reelected Councilmember Sal Guarriello Tuesday passed up his turn to be mayor of West Hollywood citing "personal reasons" for refusing the office.

On March 6, Guarriello won reelection for a third term along with Councilmembers Abbe Land and John Heilman, but finished third among the three winning incumbents. His closest challenger was former mayor and



The Beverly Vista Recreation and Parks Jazz Band performed their winter concert at the Beverly Vista Campus on Wednesday March 14, 2007. The new session of classes begins April 18th. Pictured is the band with the director/instructor Bill Bradbury

councilmember Steve Martin who had 1,867 to Guarriello's 2,200. Land led all candidates with 2,635 votes.

Councilmember John Duran will become Mayor and Jeffrey Prang Mayor pro-tem (vice mayor) at an installation ceremony on May 7.

Although none of the councilmember's would comment on the "surprise" move, city insiders say that Guarriello may not have been able to garner the three votes needed to assure election as mayor.

LAPL/Robertson to Hold Used Book Sale

The Los Angeles Public Library/Robertson branch will hold a used book sale on Sat. March 24 from 10am to 3pm. Most items are \$2 or less. The library is located at 1719 S. Robertson Blvd at Airdrome. For more information, call (310)

840-2147.

Huang Recognized as Young Optometrist of the Year

Minna Huang, a 1987 graduate of Beverly Vista and a 1991 graduate of Beverly High was named Young Optometrist of the Year for 2006 by the California Optometric Association (COA) during its annual

meeting in Sacramento. Dr. Huang was honored for her significant contributions to organized optometry and her local society, the San Diego County Optometric Society.

Dr. Huang received her Doctorate of Optometry in 2000 from the Ohio State University College of Optometry. She is currently adjunct assistant professor of the Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton, CA, and volunteer clinical instructor of the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine.

Edwards, Clinton Set For Beverly Hills Fund-Raisers Friday, Saturday

Former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., are scheduled to hold fund-raisers for their campaigns for the Democratic presidential nomination in Beverly Hills homes Friday

and Saturday.

The fund-raisers come as a key deadline is approaching — the March 31 end of the quarterly fund-raising period. The candidates' reports, due April 15, could force presidential hopefuls to drop out of the race or propel candidates who were also-rans into the top tier.

With the large and costly-to-campaign-in states of California, New York, Florida, Illinois and New Jersey among as many of 19 states that could hold primaries Feb. 5, the 2008 presidential campaign will be "the longest and most expensive election in American history," Michael Toner, then a member of the Federal Election Commission, said recently.

"We're heading into the first \$1 billion election," Toner said, adding that to be competitive, a candidate will need to raise \$100 million by the end of the year.

Candidates are collecting contributions at a record-setting pace and could collectively report raising nearly \$100 million in the quarterly report, The Washington Post reported.

George Lucas, Colleagues Expected For April 23 Beverly Hills 'Star Wars' Screening

"Star Wars" will be shown April 23 as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences begins the fourth part of its "Great To Be Nominated" series at the Academy's Samuel Goldwyn Theater at 8949 Wilshire Blvd.

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sports & scores



BHHS Baseball Team Wins In Return To Nickoll Field

Norman softball team defeats St. Monica, Lawndale

By Steven Herbert

The Beverly High baseball team made a triumphant return to Nickoll Field Friday, defeating Los Angeles Marshall, 2-1, in an eight-inning nonleague game, its first game on campus in several years.

Michael Kerman singled in Erik Munzer with the winning run as the Normans (6-1) won their fifth consecutive game. Munzer opened the inning by reaching first on the third error of the game by Oscar Robles, the Barrister third baseman, then stole second.

Matt Ross (2-0) pitched a two-hitter, striking out seven and not walking a batter.

Ross retired 14 of the final 15 batters he faced after Robles led off the fourth with a single. Jose Mendieta was the only Marshall batter to reach base during that span, reaching first on an error by Justin Schwarz, the Beverly Hills shortstop, leading off the seventh.

Both teams had two hits. Kerman had the both Norman hits, tripling leading off

the third and scoring when Charlie Bogart reached first on an error by Robles.

Peter Betancourt homered with one out in the second for the Barristers (2-6).

The installation of artificial turf on Nickoll Field will allow the team to again play there, coach Vonzie Paysinger said.

Beverly Hills had been scheduled to make its return to Nickoll Field March 14 for a game against Pasadena La Salle, which did not show up for the game, whose coach claimed he did not know it was scheduled to play at Beverly Hills, Paysinger said.

The Normans are scheduled to play two more games at Nickoll Field this season, April 17 against Inglewood Morningside and May 10 against Inglewood, both beginning at 3:15 p.m.

Beverly Hills 9, Fillmore 2

Alex Rosenthal pitched a four-hitter, John Skura drove in three runs and

Schwartz went three-for-four as the Normans won a nonleague game at Fillmore March 13.

The Normans scored twice in the first. Joey Axelrod led off with a single and hobbled to second base with an apparent groin injury when Flash right fielder Jason Hurtado overran the ball. Schwartz followed with a triple, driving in pinch-runner Monty Zimmerman. Schwartz scored on a single by Skura, Beverly Hills' No. 3 hitter.

The Normans increased their lead to 3-0 in the third when Schwartz led off with a single, moved to second on Skura's ground out, stole third and scored on Brandon Cohen's ground out.

Beverly Hills scored three times in the fourth, taking a 6-0 lead. Axelrod singled in Munzer, who singled. Skura's single drove in Bogart and Axelrod.

In the fifth, the Normans combined Darien Richardson's one-out single with back-to-back two-out doubles by Jason Kantor and Bogart, their No. 9 hitter, for two runs.

Kerman doubled in Schwartz, who singled and stole second, with the final Beverly Hills run in the sixth.

Rosenthal (2-0) allowed only one runner past first base over the open 5 2/3 innings, until Fillmore strung together singles by Jeremy Taylor and Sal Ibarra and Jonathan Avila's two-run double in the sixth for its two runs.

Rosenthal struck out four and walked one.

The Normans out-hit the Flashes, 14-4,

with Bogart, Kantor, Richardson and Skura each getting two hits.

— Jordan Klein

Honolulu Iolani 12, Beverly Hills 3

The Normans' five-game winning streak was ended as the Raiders scored six runs in the third inning to take an 8-0 lead in a nonleague game Monday at Nickoll Field.

Beverly Hills (6-2) scored all three of its runs in the fourth. Schwartz, who went three-for-three, led off with a double. Skura followed with a double, scoring Schwartz. Cohen followed with a single, driving in Skura. Cohen advanced to second on an error, stole third and scored on Munzer's ground out.

Skura (2-1), who pitched a no-hitter against North Torrance in his previous start March 8, allowed eight runs (all earned) and eight hits over five innings, striking out seven and walking eight.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to open Ocean League play Tuesday at Culver City at 3:15 p.m.

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

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Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association

Open Letter to the Community VII - March 22, 2007

P.O. Box 1053 Beverly Hills, California 90213

PEOPLE'S AGENDA

Final Election Commentary

Editorial Note: The Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association extends its profound sense of gratitude to all of you who participated in our cause to save, maintain and enhance our quality of life. We desperately need to replace the existing excessive development, destination gridlock generating, anti-resident culture at City Hall. With your active participation, together, we will prevail.

We may rejoice momentarily but we must remember that the excessive development, anti-resident City Hall culture still has four votes on the City Council. In a sense, we are experiencing a "Churchillian" moment: if we are to restore, maintain and enhance our quality of life, then the election of Nancy Krasne may be viewed not as an end of this process, or as the beginning of the end, but more like the end of the beginning. The election of Nancy Kranse is an inspiring start.

Again, thank you all! There is much more to do.

Publius

People's Agenda

To preserve and enhance our quality of life, we put forward our People's Agenda to City Hall for adoption.

1. Restore two hour free parking city wide.
2. Rescind the December 19, 2006 City Council Resolution calling for the widening of Santa Monica Boulevard and the accompanying encroachment into Beverly Gardens Park. Declare that the widening of Santa Monica Boulevard and encroachment into Beverly Gardens Park will not occur.

3. Inform developers that the 3 story/45 foot height and density limits are still in effect in our City and that proposals like the Hilton/Waldorf Astoria Towers Project with its planned 170 foot tower and two 150 foot towers (The Tri-Towers) in close proximity to residential neighborhoods and the El Rodeo School, are, and will always be, unacceptable.

4. Repeal the 26% water rate hike.

5. Start plans for a water reclamation facility in the Industrial Area.

6. Declare that the Industrial Area will be preserved for municipal services only, and that it is an Eminent Domain free zone!

7. Declare that the proposed mega sports facility at a cost of between 60 million to 80 million dollars planned in the Industrial Area will not be built.

8. Ensure that all of our public schools have state-of-art technology in the classrooms so that our children will receive quality education consistent with the finest private schools in the area.

9. Ethics - enact an Ethics ordinance that bars for a period of four years all ex-Councilmembers, Planning Commissioners and their family members from representing clients before the City Council, staff, or Planning Commission.

10. Duttons Bookstore - Let's bring back Duttons Bookstore or another one similar in nature. We need a bookstore here in our City!

Council Report Card

As part of our continuing effort to keep you informed as to the goings-on at City Hall, we will keep tabs on the voting and public record of the City Council

members and report back to you on such matters. First up, Barry Brucker:

• Excessive Development/Gridlock

For the past several years, the City Council has trashed the 3 story/45 foot height and density limits reflected in the Municipal Code and the Beverly Hills General Plan. The result has been spot zoning, massive development and destination gridlock traffic! There are presently more than 15 development projects on hold awaiting post-election decisions. The enormity of this build-out qualifies as a matter of major public concern-yet, you remain silent.

• Widening of Santa Monica Blvd.

On December 19, 2006 you and your colleagues voted to approve an agreement with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for funding for the design and construction for the widening of Santa Monica Boulevard from Wilshire Boulevard to Doheny Drive, with an encroachment into Beverly Gardens Park. Contrary to your campaign promise to keep the residents advised of City Hall activity, you never bothered to inform the residents, especially those most directly affected by the planned design and construction!

• Two Hour Free Parking

You voted to abolish two hour free parking!

• 26% Water Rate Hike - Compounded Over A 9 Month Period During 2006

You personally voted in favor of it without any reasonable requirement to do so from the Metropolitan Water District.

• Montage Hotel Project/Measure A

You personally voted in favor of it and while running for Council never divulged the \$2.5 million in debt service our City is now obligated to pay for the next 20 years. Also, you neglected

to inform our residents that the public parking would be in excess of 86% tandem parking - 4 levels subterranean with cars stacked one in back of another.

• Eminent Domain

You and your colleagues endorse the concept of Eminent Domain in the Industrial Area that may result in evicting the Amanda Foundation, its animal protection/welfare facility, from its present location, most likely forcing it out of business in our city!

• Forum Control

You and your colleagues, during this election campaign, arbitrarily by fiat, set down rules for the conduct of candidate public forums. Without any public input, you simply decreed that if the forum were not at City Hall and the moderator were not approved by City Hall, then you would not permit the forum to be aired on our City Public Cable Access channel. Accordingly, you denied us residents the opportunity to view in the comfort of our homes the candidates for City Council answer questions asked by their fellow residents. And why, because City Hall couldn't control it.

On January 10, 2007 at Roxbury Park Auditorium, we conducted a Candidate Forum. You refused to air it. Also, your arbitrary and un-democratic edict resulted in the League of Women Voters refusing to participate and comply with your intrusive policy. For the first time in decades, the League withdrew its Candidate Forum. Moreover, cost was never the issue - we offered the tape of our Forum free of charge as a public service to all.

In our judgment, this voting record is so dismal that rather than having us ascribe a grade, we suggest that you grade Councilmember Brucker's record yourself and please notify us of the result.

(Our next evaluation - Councilmember Linda Briskman - Stay Tuned)

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 Schifrin, Trinka Soloway, Arlene Tanenbaum, Robert K. Tanenbaum

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City Council Deception du Jour

On February 21, 2007 at 7 P.M. inside the Verandah Room, at the Peninsula Hotel, we invited the public to participate with us in an election Rally to support Nancy Krasne and Maggie Soleimani. Presentations were made by Board members who discussed matters of public concern. Victor Bardack, past President for many years and present Board member, was delivering his prepared remarks regarding the City Council's December 19, 2006 vote to approve the Resolution adopting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the contract between Beverly Hills and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to widen the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard, with its encroachment into Beverly Gardens Park, when Council member Barry Brucker disrupted the meeting by shouting at Victor Bardack that he, Brucker, wanted to tell the "truth". Victor Bardack cautioned Barry Brucker that he was interrupting the meeting and that this Rally was not an appropriate time to debate. Brucker continued to interrupt. The Chair, Robert K. Tanenbaum, Board President, advised Brucker that he would be given fair opportunity to present his views after the agenda planned presentations were completed.

At no time did Mr. Brucker ever approach any Board member, including the Chair and/or Victor Bardack, to request an opportunity to be heard. Nevertheless, it has always been our policy and practice at our meetings to permit the public to participate. Needless to say, it is unbecoming for anyone, much less for an elected official, like Mr. Brucker, to disrupt a public meeting by shouting down any individual who is addressing the audience.

Since we believe in an open, free, democratic marketplace of ideas through stimulated discussion, the Chair recognized Mr. Brucker and gave him unlimited time to present his views. Mr. Brucker did so without interruption. In substance, he stated that the December 19, 2006 City Council vote approving the contractual agreement between Beverly Hills and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to widen the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard, with an encroachment into Beverly Gardens Park, was not binding, was done only to preserve Metropolitan Transportation Authority funds, and if the widening and

Park encroachment were to occur, there would be an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) required. Let's analyze each of Mr. Brucker's assertions:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a binding contractual agreement between the parties, in this case, between the City of Beverly Hills, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). It was precisely and definitively drafted by lawyers representing the respective parties. In this contractual agreement, the City of Beverly Hills is the grantee and Metro, the grantor. The purpose of the contractual agreement is to provide a grant to the City of Beverly Hills in the amount of \$1.7 million dollars in funding for the "widening" of the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard from Wilshire Boulevard to Doheny Drive. This grant of funds combined with Beverly Hills contributing \$941,000 dollars contemplates the cost for the widening of Santa Monica Boulevard and encroachment into Beverly Gardens Park.

Contrary to Mr. Brucker's assertion that this contract is not binding, both parties entered into it expecting each side to honor its contractual commitments. Implicit in all contracts are the covenants of good faith and fair dealing. It would be reprehensible public policy for public officials like Councilmember Brucker and his colleagues to enter into binding contractual agreements with other public agencies and have no intention to engage in good faith performance of their contractual obligations.

We believe that the City Council had every intention of going forward with this agreement. If not, why did the Council hire a consultant in the amount of \$50,000 to assist in the project? Why, also, have there been surveying crews along the edge of Santa Monica Boulevard in the very area where the work is contemplated? Let's face some facts. The City Council went forward with this agreement without ever notifying the residents, particularly those living in close proximity to Beverly Gardens Park. It hired a \$50,000 consultant. It is on-line to comply with the Project Milestones listed in Attachment C of the contract. The seventh Project Milestone calls for "construction" to begin November 2007 through January 2009 (14 months)!

2. Mr. Brucker's second point was that the City Council only voted to enter into the contractual agreement to preserve the grant money. But the grant money was only to be used for the widening and could only be obtained if the city

performed its obligations pursuant to the terms of the contract and consistent with the stated Project Milestones. The City is already on-line in a timely fashion to comply with the first two Project Milestones.

3. Mr. Brucker's third point was that if the city was going to widen Santa Monica Boulevard it would require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). No where in the contract is there any provision for an EIR. In fact, the contract contains a detailed timeline (Attachment C - Project Milestones - posted below) with actual construction to begin in November 2007 and to last for 14 months.

Unfortunately, in attempting to defend the indefensible, Mr. Brucker engaged in a painfully pathetic spin about a matter of enormous significance to all of us residents. Had he and his colleagues respected our rights and interests and notified us of their intentions, perhaps the City Council would not have sought the grant from Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and never signed off on a contract with it. In our judgment, the lesson to be learned is that City Hall owes all of us the proper respect of fair notice of its intentions with a meaningful opportunity to be heard.

ATTACHMENT C

Memorandum of Understanding
(the contract between the
City of Beverly Hills and
The Los Angeles County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority)

SCOPE OF WORK

The 5-foot considered for widening is within the grass area as a part of larger landscaping of the Beverly Gardens Park and there is no major building obstruction or right of way acquisition issue. Nor, it will affect the landscape of this park.

PROJECT BUDGET: A total of \$2,592,000 is budgeted for this project. The local match is \$941,000 (35%) and the funding amount from Metro is \$1,751,000.

PROJECT MILESTONES:

- Project MOU process to be completed by Dec 2006
- Design Consultant selection and RFP to be completed by Mar 2007
- First Quarterly progress report due on May 31, 2007

Join us in our determination to set an Agenda that will be resident friendly, welcomes smart village-oriented development, is traffic neutral and always enhances our quality of life. If we are truly at the end of the beginning of this process of restoring values and standards at City Hall, then we will need your active participation. Please help the cause; we'd enjoy hearing from you. One of our major goals is to have in place public officials whose sole agenda is to serve the residents and enhance the dignity of our government while they serve.

ues through Jul 2007

- 2nd quarterly progress report due on Aug 31, 2007
- Bid process and contract award 8/07, 9/07 & 10/07
- **Construction to begin Nov 2007 through Jan 2009 (14 months)**
- Quarterly report and invoice #3 due on Nov 30, 2007
- Quarterly reports and invoice #4 (2/08), #5 (5/08), #6 (8/08), #7 (11/08)
- Final report (#8) due by Feb 28, 2009.

Jim Delshad's Election Eve Epiphany

During the final days of the election campaign, Jim Delshad engaged in what may be described as calculated conversions of political convenience or simply, Saturday, Sunday, Monday surprises and policy about faces:

1. Widening the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard - Notwithstanding his September 29, 2006 Beverly Hills Courier interview wherein Jim Delshad stated that one of his goals is to widen Santa Monica Boulevard and his December 19, 2006 City Council vote to widen Santa Monica Boulevard, during the weekend prior to the election, Jim Delshad handed out campaign literature stating that he now was against widening of Santa Monica Boulevard.

2. Two Hour Free Parking - Notwithstanding his last election promise to maintain two hour free parking which he broke a few months after he made it and his appearance at our June 2006 Town Hall Meeting where he attempted to justify his broken promise to maintain two hour free parking, Jim Delshad, as of the weekend immediately before the March 6, 2007 election, circulated campaign literature stating that he was now in favor of the restoration of two hour free parking city wide.

3. Notwithstanding his past record of endorsing massive development, spot zoning resulting in destination gridlock traffic, Jim Delshad now says, as of the campaign's last days, that he is opposed to it all.

Very Well - Let's take him at his word, wish him well and request that he and his colleagues help preserve and enhance our quality of life by adopting our People's Agenda.

coverstory

LEADING FOR EDUCATION

The Weekly's exclusive interview with BHEF President Dev Hankin

BH Weekly: Tell us about BHEF's priorities for this coming year.

Dev Hankin: We hope to continue in the direction we've been headed this year, which is an increased drive towards more targeted fundraising and greater community outreach. I envision a future in which BHEF oversees and manages the funds of many working committees and boards working together to create a remarkable standard-setting school district. We have the Beverly Hills Athletic Alumni Association raising money for high school athletics, an Intramural Sports program running for grades 5-8, a Summer School Enrichment program that includes an arts academy, a designated fund for Arts 4 All to provide arts education for all children in all the arts at all of our schools, and a fund for Science and Technology. I hope to see these areas flourish and to continually identify new areas of giving. We want to continue to donate a quarter of a million dollars to the general fund for the BHUSD budget but we feel that people want to know more specifically where their generous donations are going.

Lili & Jon Bosse are being honored this year at your May 23 Apple Ball. Tell us about that.

The past BHEF boards had been somewhat reluctant to honor anybody other than teachers at the Apple Ball in fear that it would detract from the teachers. Lili and Jon Bosse, however, have done so much for our schools, our community and our teachers, that this was a unanimous decision by the board. It wasn't as easy to convince the Bosses though who really did not want to be thrust into the spotlight in this manner. Once they agreed, however, they have been remarkable partners and this will be the most successful Apple Ball in the history of the organization. They are truly incredible and we are honored to present them our inaugural Spirit of Philanthropy Award.

Tell us about the annual car show.

The Classics for Charity car show, Sunday, April 15 from 9-4 at Mercedes-Benz of Beverly Hills, is going to be fabulous this year. Mercedes-Benz of Beverly Hills has been hosting this event for 14 years and it is always a great day for everybody. This year's theme is Stars Cars so we will have many celebrity owned cars and cars that you will recognize from Film and TV in addition to gorgeous antique cars, hot rods and motorcycles as well as contemporary cars. There is wonderful food, music and fun activities for the entire family. The cost is only \$15 for adults, \$5 with student ID, and free for kids under 12.

Who are some new faces on your BHEF Board of Directors this year?

We have a remarkable board this year of hard working and devoted individuals. Some of the new faces, although not all, include Larry Sternsheim who is taking on a greater financial role, Jodi Galen, who has co-chaired the fall Apple Harvest Fair and this year's Apple Ball, Jana Garrotto, who has worked on all of our events, Jonathan Prince, who is creating a television show and merchandising for us, Cynthia Baseman who is a remarkable fundraiser, Fabienne Berman who co-chaired our Bloomingdale's event and Denise Avchen who is working on our Arts 4 All projects as well as Andy Geller, and Karri Steinberg. We also invited all of the PTA presidents at the five schools to sit on our board to enhance our ability to work together effectively. New on the Executive Board this past year are our Secretary Ronna Berlin, Dr. Steve Berlin (not related) co-chairing the car show, Steven Fenton, chairing BHAAA and Teen BHEF and our Treasurer, Julie Steinberg.

We also started Teen BHEF for kids grade 8-12 which has really taken off. It is amazing to see these new faces begin to understand the importance of philanthropy and how necessary private funding is for public education.

We have a new superintendent in the BHUSD this year. In what ways has BHEF interacted with her?

I worked closely with [former superintendent] Jeff Hubbard last year but even more so with Kari McVeigh. She has a unique understanding of the importance of fundraising for a public school district. She has truly become a partner in the effort. We share the belief that the Beverly Hills public schools can't be just "good enough," that they must set the standards for excellence and be a flagship for other public schools.

Tell us a little bit about your professional background, and how did you first get involved in BHEF?

I currently have a strategic partnership with an entertainment manager to produce film and television. I have worked in this industry as creative executive and co-produced movies such as *Patch Adams* and *Catch Me If You Can*. My experience with producing movies and putting projects together has well-prepared me for the many aspects of fundraising. I love the development process and the creative elements of running BHEF. So much of it involves sharing the story of how great our schools could be if we all find ways to work together and each play a role. Simultaneous to my professional career, I have always had a "second career" in philan-

thropy so I fell into this role naturally. I initially got involved in BHEF through my cousin Linda Gach Ray, largely because I was working and BHEF met in the evenings. I was very attracted to the community aspect of BHEF. I love that BHEF raises funds for the entire district, for all of the schools, so that we elevate the levels of excellence throughout the district and even the playing field. It's important for all five schools to assure that all five are well-funded, equitably. Eventually, all four elementary schools feed into the high school and we want the kids prepared and achieving at their highest levels to subsequently raise the standards at the high school.

Why do you think it has become more difficult for educational charities to raise money in recent years?

Part of the problem raising money is that there are so many worthy charities trying to accomplish the same goal. Most people and companies can only give so much to so many. In Beverly Hills, we also have been competing against each other. I feel like this is the first year in a long time that the PTAs and BHEF have really tried to join forces to help everybody in this unified school district.

To what degree would you say BHEF is a liaison between the schools and the community at large?

This is one of our goals, to be more of a liaison between the schools and the community. We really need to re-establish ourselves as the fundraising arm of the district. At my installation speech last June I commented that the Backdraft Ball or Black and White Ball isn't attended by only the parents of the firefighters or police officers. As a community we all recognize their contributions to our community and support them. The schools are and always have been vital to the welfare and success of Beverly Hills. We must, as a community, assure their excellence and central role in this city.

You have two children at El Rodeo, and you also were educated in the BHUSD yourself. In your opinion, is the educational product of the Beverly Hills schools comparable to that of competing private schools?

This is tough for me to answer because I have only been in public schools. I can say that I believe my children are receiving the same level of education as their friends in pri-

mate school and that, at El Rodeo, several families who have moved here from schools such as Center for Early Education and Stephen S. Wise have said that they prefer the Beverly Hills schools. I believe that there are immeasurable advantages to public education to a child's future. To me, making sure that public education works throughout the country is the single most important political action we can take as citizens. I am saddened each time I hear of a Beverly Hills resident choosing private schools because I believe our schools are not only good but offer a level of diversity that is crucial to living in the "real world." I understand though that not every environment is right for every child and that sometimes parents need to make choices that involve private education. If [BHUSD] parents would [donate] a small percentage of what they spend in private school, we would have everything and more than what is available in private schools. I know the schools aren't as good now as when I attended and the only real difference is the amount of money coming in the door post-Proposition 13 in California.

What is BHEF doing to reach out to younger parents who are new to the district?

It's hard with new parents who have a kid in kindergarten at BV [for example] to convince them that they should think about the entire district. I can tell you though that time goes quickly and before you know it what didn't affect your kid, does. We send a new parent letter and I go to new parent nights at the school. It's really not enough though and I would love a new parent "event" to welcome them and begin talking about some of the reasons why we need to augment a diminishing state budget for public education in our community. Also, we could offer great insight and knowledge about the schools that could be a great asset to new parents.

What one thing would you most like to accomplish this year on behalf of BHEF or the BHUSD?

I would love for the Beverly Hills schools to set the standard for excellence in public education and be a role model for other districts to follow. This sounds trite but this is the goal!

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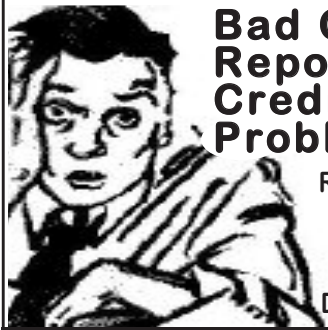
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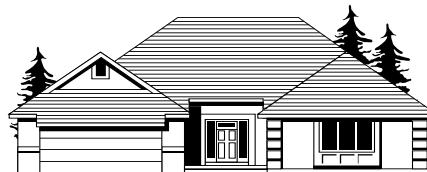
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254-Landscaping
255-Legal Services
256-Locksmith
258-Moving/Storage

LEGEND

260-Music Instruction
262-Painting
264-Pet Sitting
265-Photography
266-Plumbing
267-Piano Tuning
268-Roofing
270-Sandblasting
272-Security Services
274-Stained Glass
276-Tile
278-Tree Service
280-Tutoring
282-TV/VCR/DVD Repair
284-Video Systems
286-Windows
288-Word Processing
289-Lessons
290-Trainer

300-399 Rentals
300-House Furnished
302-House Unfurnished
304-Apartments Furnished

306-For Rent
308-Condominiums
309-Recreational For Rent
310-Rooms
312-Rentals to Share
314-Hotels/Motels
316-Garages Storage
318-Office Space
320-Commercial
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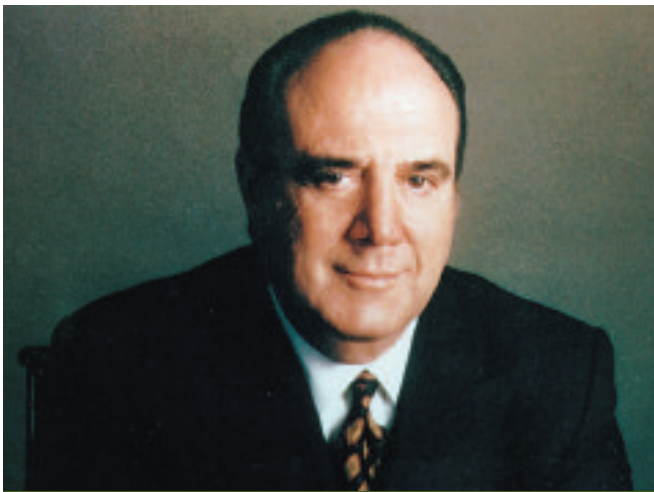
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