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Beverly Hills Weekly

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Issue 476 • November 13 - November 19, 2008

Should Beverly Hills be going to China?

**Beverly Hills begins 'Sister City' relationship with
Pudong, despite some resident concerns**



cover story • pages 9-10



letters & email

“Travels With Ray” [Issue 475]

How happy we all were to see the cover story on Everybody’s Favorite Mailman: Ray Schwedhelm! If only the other mail carriers could be 1/2 as good!! We were soooo saddened when they switched him from our street! I hope the Post Office appreciates him ... Because everyone here in Beverly Hills certainly does!

*Evelyn Grampp
Reeves Drive
Beverly Hills*

“Election Notes and Possible Museum For BH” [Issue 475]

Shocked!! I’m absolutely speechless to see your note at the end of Rudy Cole’s column in your Nov. 6th issue that Mr. Cole was the campaign manager on Measure E — the DAY AFTER ELECTION DAY. Let me get this right — Rudy gets to be the campaign manager of Measure E, tout the Measure and write about the merits of it and we don’t get to know about it until the day after we all vote! So its full disclosure but a day too late. Let me get this right — Mr.

Cole gets to now expound about the inner workings of the E campaign and the residents who worked so hard for its passage because he saw them first hand while he was paid to work alongside them? Let me get this right — will Rudy be writing about all the residents who worked so hard on the No on H campaign or will his opposition to the No on H campaign trump any coverage of his fellow residents on this one? I hope Rudy does some legwork and reports on the amazing residents who worked so hard to get the facts on the Hilton expansion out to the residents of our city and into the light of day.

*Susan Mishler
Beverly Hills*

[Editor’s note: Rudy Cole disclosed his role in the campaign in a previous issue.]

“Columnist Faces North, Homeowners Group That Is” [Issue 474]

Considering the magnitude of the Measure H campaign, it is astonishing that neither the Weekly nor Courier offered any analysis. It would have been useful to see the claims of both sides, for example whether the Hilton would offer employees parking, fact-checked by one of our papers.

Instead here is a sampling of what our local papers proffered.

The Courier published pro-Hilton editorials and was reduced to printing front-page advocacy masquerading as news articles, but it found no space for objective inquiry. And the Weekly’s belated coverage was no better. Its unhelpful ringing endorsement consisted

mostly of knighting developer Beny Alagem as a “mensch” and telling us that we should give him a “shot.” Never mind that, for one, he bought his way into political mailers, an accepted but underhanded practice foisted on the electoral process.

And the Weekly’s own Rudy Cole’s commentaries endorsed the project for months, concluding recently by writing that opponents were not all “devious, evil people” and that the “dirty tricks” should have been left to the opponents.

Our community was let down on this issue. No further comment is needed.

*Richard Baker
Beverly Hills*

When Rudy Cole’s column in [Issue 474] referred to “unfortunate examples of argument by fear or deception” and “real old fashioned appeals to the dark side... unleashed by three disgruntled board members with some personal axes to grind,” what did he mean specifically?

As to “deception,” the Yes on E mailers never mentioned the amount of the bonds, \$334 million. That is deception and Rudy Cole is the paid campaign manager of Yes on E.

Mel Spitz, Gerald Lunn and I received no compensation for publicizing the position we took on Measure E. We three former board members paid for the city-wide flier out of our own pockets.

I am not disgruntled, as Mr. Cole charac-

letters cont. on page 9

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



BOOK WORMS NORTH REXFORD DRIVE

Councilmember Jimmy Delshad and Mayor Barry Brucker join Beverly Hills Librarian Nancy Hunt-Coffey and staff members Aleksey Conrad and Sharon Clark to celebrate some of the over 1,100 children who participated in the Beverly Hills Library Summer Reading Program.



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Five Beverly Hills precincts favor McCain

Trousdale narrowly favors Prop 8

By Jacquelyn Ryan

The initial election results for 20 Beverly Hills precincts were returned on Thursday, showing five precincts that favored Sen. John McCain, one precinct that approved the controversial same-sex marriage ban Prop. 8, and that more than half of the voters in the precinct surrounding El Rodeo voted against Beverly Hilton's Measure H.

According to the election returns from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office records,

approximately 64.43 percent of Beverly Hills' 21,121 registered voters cast a ballot in last week's presidential election. The unverified returns do not include absentee or provisional ballots.

Beverly Hills voters as a whole voted with the state in selecting the president and on the state measures with the exception of propositions 8 and 9, which were both voted down in the city.

Five precincts in Beverly Hills voted for McCain over President-elect Barack

Obama. Precinct four, which encompasses the Trousdale area, gave 252 votes to McCain over 177 votes for Obama. Precinct six, which covers the area northwest of the Beverly Hills Hotel, voted 216 to 154 in favor of McCain. Precinct eight, which includes Hawthorne School, voted 256 to 191. Precinct 10, which includes El Rodeo School bounded on the south by Wilshire Boulevard, gave McCain 235 votes to 186. Precinct 16, the Burton Way area including the Sunrise Senior Center, voted for McCain with 245 to 211.

In 2004, seven precincts largely in the north (3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 16, 46) voted for President George W. Bush in the presidential election over Democratic nominee Sen. John Kerry.


This year, citywide, Obama won with 7,987 votes to McCain's 5,278. Obama won by the largest margin in precinct 39, bounded by Whitworth, Beverwil,

Olympic and Maple, with a tally of 409 to 161.

Precinct four, the Trousdale area, was the only Beverly Hills precinct to vote in favor of Prop 9, which gives crime victims more power in the justice system, and Proposition 8, which would amend California's state constitution to restrict marriage as only between a man and a woman. The vote for Prop 8 was 217 to 212; for Prop 9 was 186 to 156.

The overall vote count for Measure H, which would bring a Waldorf=Astoria hotel and two condo buildings to the Beverly Hilton lot, is still too close to call. The L.A. County Registrar-Recorder has been counting late absentee and provisional ballots since Friday. The total as of Tuesday evening showed the Yes on H side winning by 16 votes with a total of 7,017 to 7,001 votes.

city and schools cont. on page 9

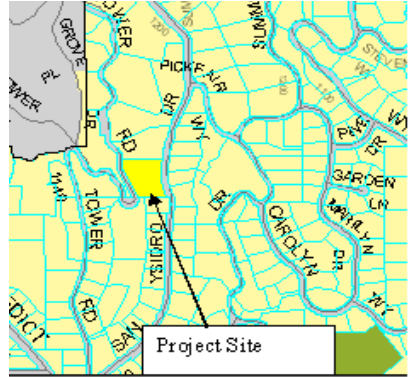


NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, November 20, 2008

TIME: At or after 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210



Project Site

The Planning Commission sitting as the Board of Zoning Adjustments of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on THURSDAY, November 20, 2008, will hold a public hearing beginning at 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider:

A request for a variance to allow construction of retaining walls with a maximum height of 7.5 feet within the required front yard setback in excess of three feet height limitation and series of retaining walls with a maximum of 16 feet to be located within the side and rear yards in excess of the 7-foot height limitation and a Hillside R-1 Permit to allow a six-foot high retaining wall and two new pilasters in excess of three feet in height within the required front property line at 1150 Tower Road.


This project 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. It has been determined that this request is qualifies for a Class 3 (e) Categorical Exemption under the authority provided by the CEQA Guidelines Section No. 15303 (e) and no significant environmental impacts are anticipated.

Any interested person may attend the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the Commission.

If you challenge the Commission's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Rita Naziri in the Community Development Department at 310.285.1136. Copies of the applications, plans, and Categorical Exemption are on file in the Community Development Department, Planning Division and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 N. Rexford Drive, Room 100, Beverly Hills, CA. 90210.

RITA NAZIRI
Senior Planner

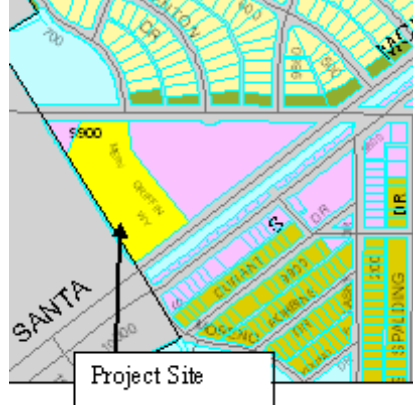


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LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210



Project Site

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2008, will hold a public hearing beginning at 1:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider:

A request for a Development Plan Review and Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 67844 to allow subdivision of one existing parcel into seven lots, and to subdivide the air rights to permit the individual sale of 235 residential condominium units and five commercial condominium units in connection with the development of a mixed-use project at 9900 Wilshire Boulevard.

This project was previously 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. In 2008, the City Council certified an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 9900 Wilshire Project, which contemplated further implementing actions such as the proposed subdivision that is the subject of this notice. There have been no changes to the project or the circumstances surrounding the project, nor is there any new information, which would require any revision to the EIR due to new or more severe environmental impacts than those identified in the EIR. Nor has staff identified any new mitigation measures or alternatives that are capable of further reducing the environmental impacts associated with the project.

Any interested person may attend the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the Planning Commission. Comments may be submitted in writing to the Planning Department prior to the meeting date and written or oral comments will be accepted at the Planning Commission meeting at the date and time noted above.

If you challenge the Commission's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Community Development Department, Planning Division at 310.285.1123. The file, including the EIR prepared for the project, can be reviewed in the Community Development Department, Planning Division by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Room 100, Beverly Hills, CA. 90210.

Jonathan Lait, AICP, City Planner

briefs

Hilton winning by 16 votes in latest count

Initially behind by 68 votes on election night, the Beverly Hilton's Revitalization Plan has taken a lead of 16 votes in the latest Measure H ballot tally by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office.

As of Tuesday evening, the Measure H tally showed 7,017 votes (50.06 percent) in favor of Measure H and 7,001 votes (49.94 percent) opposed.

The L.A. County Registrar has been counting since Friday thousands of late absentee and provisional ballots that were not included in the initial results from the Nov. 4 election.

While Measure H is still close, the divide is widening from the Registrar's first absentee and provisional ballot tally that occurred Friday afternoon. That tally showed the Hilton losing by only nine votes. The Measure H vote total from precinct ballots on Election Day put the Hilton behind by 68 points.

Both The Beverly Hilton and The Citizens Right to Decide Committee, which gathered the signatures the force the issue to a vote and led the unofficial No on H campaign, has sent a team to the L.A. County Registrar's Norwalk office to oversee the absentee and provisional vote counting.

"We've been able to examine the vote-by-mails," said CRDC treasurer Larry Larson. "We wrote down the business addresses



Wedding Bells

Beverly High girls soccer coach Ryan Franks (Beverly High Class of 1996) and intervention counselor Ali Norman were married on Aug. 3 in Del Mar at Seagrove Park.

Ryan and Ali met in the fall of 2002 after Beverly High cheerleading coach Heather Humphrey introduced them.

[where some voters had registered] and will investigate those voters" to verify whether or not they could legally vote in Beverly Hills.

While voters can use a business for a mailing address, a business address cannot be used to register to vote. Larson suspects several non-residents and non-citizens "were sent" to vote Yes on Measure H in the Nov. 4 election.

Larson says that if the Hilton wins in the final certified vote, the CRDC is prepared to file a lawsuit "based on voter fraud to set aside the election."

"The election for Measure H is not over until every vote is counted. There are still a large number of absentee ballots and provisional ballots to be counted. We will not have the final results until the County processes all the ballots," said spokesperson for The Beverly Hilton Marie Garvey, who noted that the Hilton will not further comment until the results are finalized.

The L.A. County Registrar will continue counting votes every Tuesday and Friday until

all votes are counted and the election results can be certified. The process could take until Nov. 28, according to the L.A. County Registrar's Canvass Update Schedule.

Beverly High grad performs in all-women production of 'Pirates of Penzance'

Beverly High graduate Dr. Dahlia Lainer Carr (Class of 1991) will perform with the Jewish Women's Repertory Company (JWRC) in an all-woman cast of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera "Pirates of Penzance" next month.

"Pirates of Penzance" is a comic opera following the life of a boy coming of age in the company of pirates, featuring the well-known song "I am the very model of a modern Major-General."

The performance will be for an all-women audience in the K.L. Peters Auditorium at Beverly High on Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 3 and 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$25, or \$30 at the door. The pro-

ceeds from the production will be donated to non-profit organization Aleinu, which aids families in crisis.

Carr is a physician who specializes in Rheumatology. She practices in Beverly Hills.

For more information or to buy tickets, go to jewishwomenstheater.com or call (310) 535-1653.

Kleinert engaged



Michelle Kleinert (Beverly High Class of 1983) and Jeff Bader recently became engaged.

Kleinert is the daughter of Simone and Joseph Kleinert of Swall Drive. Bader is the son of Carol and Lewis Epstein of Wayland, Mass., and Chris and Herb Bader of Cape Cod, Mass.

Kleinert is the Executive Director of the Lastfogel Foundation at the William Morris Agency. Bader is the Executive Vice President of ABC Entertainment.

briefs cont. on page 9

Don't let the Hilton steal the Measure H election!

The Hilton has spent over \$3.1 million during the campaign in an effort to buy this election; by contrast, the Citizens' Right to Decide Committee, NO on measure H, spent only approximately \$80,000. The Hilton's Measure H campaign reached a new low mark in BH for dirty tricks and smear tactics and they are now prepared to spend hundreds of thousands more on expensive election attorneys in an attempt to buy the election.

We need to make sure that the Hilton does not use its deep pockets to try to buy this election.

Despite all money spent by the Hilton, over 7000 residents have said NO to runaway development and NO to a project that is too big for BH. After an initial Election Day lead of 68 votes, the NO side now trails by 16 votes after the latest round of tabulation.

Do not let Beverly Hills become Florida 2000!

If you have any information regarding possible voting irregularities, such as non-Beverly Hills residents or non-US citizens who voted on Measure H, please help us by calling (323) 782-1144. You can also call anonymously.

Your contribution to The Citizens' Right to Decide Committee can also help pay for election attorneys who will protect the interests of all the NO on H voters and ensure that the Hilton does not steal this election. We are all in this together and hope we can count on your help.

For Beverly Hills.

Please urgently send your checks to: Citizens' Right to Decide Committee

6303 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA 90048
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AN OPEN LETTER TO LINDA BRISKMAN

Dear Linda,

We are writing to urge you to run for reelection to the Beverly Hills City Council.
NOW MORE THAN EVER, we are concerned about the state of the City!

Tremendous challenges lay ahead:

- looming financial crisis and economic uncertainty
- completion of the General Plan
- maintaining advocacy in Sacramento and Washington, DC

The upcoming election brings the possibility of the Beverly Hills City Council having 4 of 5 members with 2 years or less experience to deal with these critical issues!

NOW MORE THAN EVER, the City of Beverly Hills needs intelligent, proven leadership, someone experienced in making the tough decisions.

Beverly Hills citizens expect world class police, fire and city services. We expect outstanding schools, attractive neighborhoods with strong property values and a thriving business community. With your experience and leadership we know that you will protect these things that we cherish.

NOW MORE THAN EVER, LINDA, IT IS NOT TIME TO STEP DOWN BUT TIME TO AGAIN STEP UP AND SPEAK UP FOR THE PEOPLE OF BEVERLY HILLS.

Sincerely,

Frank Adler, Laura Adler, Fran Behrstock, Roger Behrstock, John M. Bendheim, Jr., David Bennett, Pamela Bennett, Barry Berkett, Martha Berkett, Orit Blau, Alan Block, Jan Block, Michael Blumenfeld, Tom Blumenthal, Carole Boag, Nancy Bresler, Sandy Bresler, Hon. Les Bronte, Terry Brown, Philip Brown, Lya Cordova Latta, Bruce Corwin, Toni Corwin, Debbie Cowan, Roger Cowan, Mitch Dawson, Lonnie Delshad, Hon. Jimmy Delshad, Hon. Mark Egerman, Dr. Lynn Egerman, Arnold Epstein, Chana Epstein, Joe Fallas, Leona Fallas, Sylvia Fenberg, Hon. Frank Fenton, Judie Fenton, Hon. Steven Fenton, Dar Gabbay, Haleh Gabbay, Hamid Gabbay, Nahid Gabbay, Hon. Donna Ellman Garber, Stephanie Gardner, Sherman Gardner, Jill Garland, Peter Garland, David Gersh, Susan Gersh, Michelle Gold, Dr. Julian Gold, Ruth Goldberg, Marshall Goldberg, Donna Goldstein, Betty Hayman, Fred Hayman, Anita Hecht, Don Hecht, Hedieh Mahboubi Hekmatti, Frank Hekmatti, Judy Henning, Wini Hervey, Ashley Hightower, Joan Hirsch, Mike Hirsch, Dr. Gary Hoffman, Marcelle Hoffman, Katherine Javor, Thomas Javor, Dr. Debra Judelson, Dejah Judelson, Lee Kapelovitz, Michael Karlin, Helen Katelman, Harris Katelman, Alan Kaye, Michelle Kaye, Joseph Kendall, Erika Kobor, George Kobor, Laurie Konheim, Lyn Konheim, Carmen Korey, Tom Korey, Joanne Kozberg, Roger Kozberg, Kerstin Leavitt, Judith Linde, Ian Linde, Bahador Mahboubi, Behrouz Mahboubi, Dar Mahboubi, Houman Mahboubi, Jonathan Mahboubi, Kamyar Mahboubi, Mahi Mahboubi, Maria Mahboubi, Melody Mahboubi, Minoo Mahboubi, Rebecca Mahboubi, Bruce Meyer, Raylene Meyer, Stephanie Middler, Lou Milkowski, Gloria J. Milkowski, Adam Mills, Jade Mills, Daniel Moaddel, Moiez Moaddel, Eliza S. Moaddel, Mehran Moaddel, Parasto Moaddel, Jack Moaddel, Roya S. Moaddel, Doris Moshein, Dr. Jack Moshein, Ali Mottaghi, Dr. Daniel Nazarian, Dr. Sharona Nazarian, Jack Nourafshan, Bijan Pakzad, Dr. Murray Pepper, Hon. Lillian Raffel, Stuart Raffel, Stacey Raskin, Mark Raskin, Laurie Resch, Ron Resch, Herb Reston, Felice Reston, Jeanne S. Reynolds, Hon. Vicki Reynolds, Sue Rosen, Stuart Rosen, Jackie Rosenberg, Arlene Rosenblatt, Alex Rosenblatt, Arnold Rosenstein, Brian Rosenstein, Sam Rosenwald, Richard Rosenzweig, Sheri Safan, Steve Safan, Janet Salter, Hon. Max Salter, Michael Schwab, Allen Shamooilian, Fay Shamooilian, Melissa Shamooilian, Richard Shamooilian, Paulette Storm, Sam Storm, Howard Sunkin, Bijian Tehranfar, Janet Tehranfar, Diana Tehranfar, Foster Tepper, Theresa Vaughan, Patty Vericella, Pasquale Vericella, Ciella Wall, Ron Wall, Bonnie Webb, Hon. Steven Webb, David Weissberg, Sheryl Weissberg, Hon. AJ Willmer, Anjuli Willmer, Jeff Winer, Katrin Yadgari, Amanda Yukelson, Daniel Yukelson, Joseph Yukelson

****apologies to people whose names came in after the deadline*

*****If you would like to urge Linda to run for reelection please e-mail her at:**

Linda4BH@yahoo.com or call her at 310-467-3740

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from the hills of beverly



Time To Lower Our Voices

And remember our common goals

By Rudy Cole

It would take a small army of social psychologists to sort out all the emotions involved in our latest installment of angst and hysteria over a development plan, this time Measure H for Hilton.

Listening to the appeals of the combatants, you could easily be convinced that life as we know it in Beverly Hills was threatened. Vote against H and there would be no money for police, fire and schools. Vote for and Beverly Hills would immediately become a Century City or, dare we even use the word, Westwood.

What is even more puzzling is the anger directed at the Beverly Hilton owner, **Beny Alagem**.

Do we cannibalize our own? No opponents of development launched a referendum challenging a massive condo project just west of the Hilton. The owners of 9900 Wilshire are young, eager entrepreneurial brothers from England, the **Candys**. Now the fate of their American dream may become a nightmare. But Alagem is very much a part of

our community; his sister-in-law is even a teacher in our public schools.

What about past Hilton owners? Would **Merv Griffin's** star status have cooled any referendum? Just possibly.

As for the original owner, **Conrad Hilton**, he didn't exactly endear himself to our denizens when he presided at the opening of the Hilton in Cairo, calling **Gamal Nasser** the "George Washington of the Middle East," yes, the same tyrant who wanted to eradicate Israel. Interesting, since Alagem is Israeli.

Built in 1955, no successive owner spent as much as Alagem to restore its original luster and bring the Hilton out of the commercial traveler category to a more Beverly Hills like hotel.

Not Griffin, and certainly not Conrad Hilton, ever gave as much back in support of community charities as Alagem. And none had his vision of revitalization that includes bringing a Waldorf Astoria to our gateway at Wilshire and Santa Monica.

If the Hilton wins in the referendum, and it

appears likely it will, Alagem needs to make a very concerted effort to turn back the anger of his immediate neighbors, the homeowners in the El Rodeo neighborhood. They were fed some fearful consequences of a Hilton approval: Employee parking on their streets; industrial pollution during construction and a high rise condo with views of their swimming pools. These were legitimate concerns and they could and should have been addressed far more realistically. Instead, the Hilton campaign became as distorted and sensational as that of some of their opponents.

However, it might be interesting to examine our two other hotel referenda, one very recent, the Montage, and the other in 1984, the Four Seasons. The Montage won, the Four Seasons lost big.

What made the Montage campaign so different? It too had a condo element and obtained entitlements on height and density beyond our codes. But unlike the Hilton, the Montage owners were total strangers to Beverly Hills.

The Montage had a unanimous council vote, the Hilton won with three. The Hilton was not able to win Planning Commission approval for its condos, although the appointed members did favor part of the condo project and all of the hotel improvements, as did the dissenting members of the council.

What the Montage also had was a very credible advocate in then Mayor **Mark Egerman**. Not quite as glamorous since he too became a land use lawyer representing

clients before the council soon after leaving office, Mark was a very trusted councilmember, mayor, and, before that, member of the school board. I remember one north homeowner telling me that it was "only because I trust Egerman that I voted for the Montage."

Another difference in the two referenda: The Montage could explain away some of the opposition as being economically and competitively motivated. The massive funding of the anti-Montage referendum came from the owners of the Peninsula Hotel. True, they had a very legitimate complaint: The Montage was receiving zoning exceptions they were denied. However, it diminished the purity of the stop the Montage drive.

Why did the Four Seasons lose? In part, because it refused to even consider any compromise and, unlike the Hilton, which argued their hotel could not be financed or created without the condo elements, the Four Seasons simply wanted more banquet, public assembly areas and more rooms than their across the street neighbor, **Hernando Courtright's** Beverly Wilshire. The Four Seasons was placed on the ballot by the city council, and not by petitions circulated by opponents.

The reason: Some then members of the council and the Four Seasons convinced themselves it would have voter approval and win more rooms, banquet facilities and height than the council could politically approve! It was clobbered at the polls and now gives all its tax dollars to Los Angeles.

(Historical note: Mark Egerman, before he was elected to the council, was one of those opposed to the Four Seasons.)

Some numbers are interesting. Although leading by only a handful of votes, as of now the Hilton yes vote is 7,017 compared to the Montage approval vote of 4,482. Of course, part of the reason for the larger vote is that

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Mary Ann W. Tom W.

THG-08913

more people voted in the general election than in the council race in 2005. Still, a very impressive number of residents supporting any development in any election.

I fully understand the concerns of some of the Hilton neighbors, and the appeal of "just too big" did resonate. Unfortunately, the rational arguments the Hilton had made in response were lost in the last minute frenzy of ads and mailers diverting attention from reason and logic and relying on not credible fears and dire warnings of fiscal ruin if the Hilton failed.

Frankly, the overblown front page news coverage in another newspaper, totally diverted attention from the more positive arguments the Hilton had been making. No rational person was prepared to believe that the city would go bust if the Hilton lost. Loss of revenue? Needed tax dollars? Yes, but not quite up to pushing the editorial panic button.

Also, their last minute too cute ads and mailers quoting a hapless Hilton opponent, Councilmember **Nancy Krasne's**, strange note to a Hilton executive, an effort at conciliation, that "all my (Krasne's) friends are voting Yes" just doesn't work in this sophisticated city. The H campaign ads said join Nancy's friends in voting yes but the voters knew Krasne did not support a yes vote and the ads bombed.

Frankly, all this junk could have cost the Hilton the election. Conversely, the Los Angeles Times story about Councilmember Krasne's bizarre claim that she had been threatened by Alagem and had filed a police report, and which she first made semi-public

in emails to friends and the press, also stretched reality and, at best, can be attributed to Krasne's reaction to attacks on her by the other paper.

The campaign nonsense wasn't limited just to the Hilton. As we said before, the nastiness began with wild charges against some councilmembers by some anti-Hilton activists.

A far more temperate campaign message came from the **Richard Stone-Robert K. Tanenbaum** open letters. The two former mayors did not engage in personal attacks or smears even though some of their arguments were very answerable.

What was partially amusing was the sudden and probably only temporary political falling out of Mayor **Barry Brucker** and that other newspaper in town. It has only been weeks since Brucker led the battle to separate the Chamber of Commerce from the Conference and Visitor's agency, a major goal of our big sister publication. And how things change. At one point, the other paper, I simply can't remember their name, was crying for the head of our city manager. Now, the paper is a strong supporter even though they may have exacerbated **Rod Wood's** problems with Brucker and Krasne by overstating Wood's concerns about a Hilton loss effect on city finances.

Frankly, we have too much going for us as a community for all this overly emotional involvement in the Hilton referendum. Mayor Brucker and Councilmember Krasne need to pull back their anger at those with whom they disagree, including their three colleagues on the council. The Hilton must

do some major outreach. Both sides need to stop talking about retribution for straying from the gospel, because there is no purity on either side.

As for the other paper, we have heard some troubling reports at reprisals and boycotts of advertisers, and even though I question their judgment and fairness of reporting, press intimidation is not something we should ever condone. Don't read the paper if its editorials and news coverage are too biased for your tastes and that alone will send a message to advertisers, but stifling a free press is not what democracy is really all about and isn't that what the Hilton opponents demanded with a referendum?

It is interesting: The same paper can carry on a one sided attack on the business community's organization, the Chamber of Commerce, and no cry for a boycott. The paper can attack one of our most respected city agencies, our police department and their retirement benefits, and no appeal for retribution, just being pro-Hilton unleashed the furies.

Some final thoughts: Our community needs some political tranquilizers, now. This election, so historic for our nation, was an overly charged plunge into raw emotion and anger in our own village. We have too many shared values, too many reasons to be grateful for being able to live, work, educate our children and enjoy the finest in city services to allow ourselves to be so torn apart by any one issue. It simply makes no sense. We look to our elected officials to lead the healing, not divide us further.

As for Alagem, he too deserves better,

even from those most upset with some elements of the Hilton development. The council, and candidates in the next election, should not even try to divert attention from the real problems of the campaign by blaming the city manager: it will not work, and could cost those who try a defeat at the polls. Wood may not be Mr. Warmth, but he is probably the most able city manager in the state, and other cities know that all too well. And so does his very supportive city staff. It is time to remind all those involved that we have a city manager form of government and what that really means.

I just looked outside my window. Beverly Hills is still here.

As for the painfully slow count of the Hilton vote by the County Registrar of Voters, there needs to be some investigation of that office by the Board of Supervisors, determining why the Registrar implodes at every election and why it takes days and even weeks to obtain results in close elections. With so much at stake, it is intolerable that the Registrar can't complete its count more quickly. Another reason for mentioning this? The election procedures are controlled by the County and not our very able city clerk and his deputies.

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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sports & scores



Strong Second Half Gives BHHS Football Team Victory Over Morningside

Normans to play at Culver City Friday night in regular-season finale.

By Steven Herbert

Instead of a comeback from a double-digit deficit as it has done three times this season, the Beverly High football team turned a dominant second half into its most recent triumph, a 56-21 homecoming victory over Inglewood Morningside Friday night at Nickoll Field, which assured it of at least a share of the Ocean League championship.

The Normans (7-2, 4-0 in league play) led 21-14 after a first half that coach Carter Paysinger said his team didn't play "particularly well" and didn't "match Morningside's intensity level."

It was a different story in the second half, as Beverly Hills scored the first 35 points to wrap up their seventh consecutive victory.

The onslaught started with David Saedi running for two four-yard touchdowns in the third quarter, his second and third of the game.

Marcus Silbiger recovered a fumble in the end zone on a Monarchs' kickoff return for the Normans' third touchdown in the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Beverly Hills got a seven-yard touchdown run from Kenny Bassett and a 34-yard interception return by Silbiger for another score.

"In the second half, we were able to focus and play to our capabilities," Paysinger said.

The Normans' improved play in the second half was a result of the score being closer than the players thought it would be, Paysinger said.

Beverly Hills took a 7-0 lead on Dex Lucci's 24-yard touchdown pass to Erik Munzer in the first quarter. It increased the lead to 14-0 on Saedi's four-yard touchdown run. Morningside (3-6, 1-3) cut the deficit to 14-7 on Isaac Charles' 64-yard touchdown

pass to Roymel Brooks.

The Normans regained a 14-point lead on Lucci's 40-yard touchdown pass to Bassett. The Monarchs scored the final touchdown of the first half on Charles' 23-yard pass to Antonio Wilson.

Wilson scored the game's final touchdown on a 31-yard fourth-quarter run.

Bassett, lineman Caylin Hauptmann and Munzer drew praise from Paysinger for their play on offense, while lineman Daniel Kim "played well on the offensive and defensive lines," Paysinger said.

Despite the victory, Beverly Hills remained ranked 10th in the Southern Section Western Division poll.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play at Culver City (6-3, 3-1) Friday at 7 p.m. in the regular-season finale for both teams.

A victory or tie would assure Beverly Hills of the undisputed Ocean League championship and the designation as the league's No. 1 team for the Southern Section Western Division playoffs, and accompanying first-round home game, most likely against a No. 3 team.

If the Centaurs win, they would be co-champions with the Normans, but would be designated as the league's No. 1 team on the basis of the victory.

"Culver's interesting because they have the ability to run and pass the ball," Paysinger said. "They have a lot of athletes, just as many as other teams we've played in our league. From our standpoint, we've got to stop the run [and] make them as one-dimensional as best

we can."

Beverly Hills is 0-3-2 in its last five games against the Centaurs, including a 31-21 loss in 2007. Paysinger said fourth-quarter fumbles cost the Normans victories in 2006 and 2007.

Beverly Hills def.

Inglewood, 25-8, 25-17, 25-10

The one-sided match allowed Weiss to use her reserves extensively as Julia Ayeroff had six kills, Michelle Wolfe four blocks and Ore Ezer solo blocks for the Normans (13-9, 5-3) in an Ocean League match at the Swim-Gym Oct. 30.

Rosen had 11 service aces while Skootsky and Mallory Smith each had seven kills.

"We had a little letdown in the second game, gave up too many points, but overall, it was a win," Weiss said.

What's Next?

The Normans are scheduled to play host to Palos Verdes Chadwick in a Southern Section Division III-A second-round playoff match tonight at the Swim-Gym beginning at 7 p.m. If Beverly Hills wins, it would face the Claremont Vivian Webb-San Dimas winner in a quarterfinal Saturday at 7 p.m., whose site will be determined by a coin toss.

The semifinals are scheduled for Tuesday and the final Nov. 21-22 at Cypress College.

Steven Herbert has covered Beverly High sports for the Beverly Hills Weekly since 1999. 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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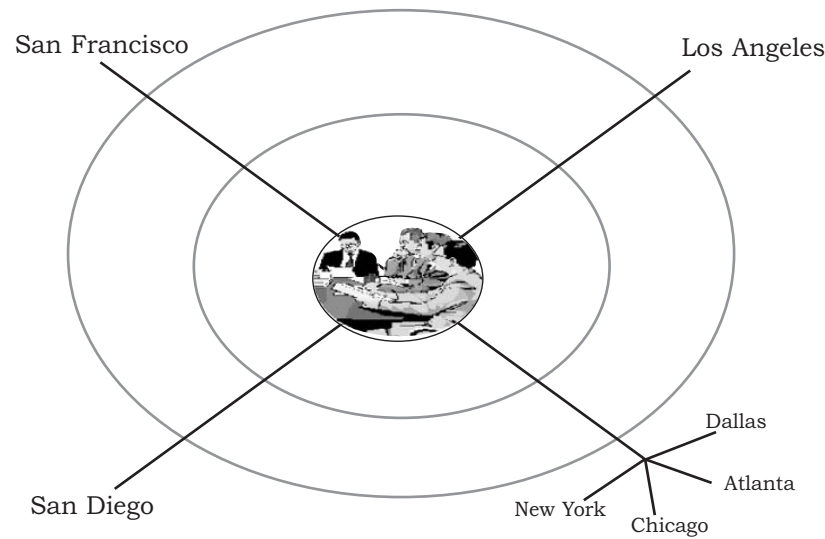
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letters cont. from previous page

terized us. I have a point of view contrary to Rudy Cole's. He seems to be offended by our not falling into lock-step with his paid-for position. He asserts that we have "some personal axes to grind." That is a false characterization, and one that I find offensive. Mr. Cole should use better judgment in the future before he makes unfounded state-

ments about the motivation of others unless he has proof. It is presumptuous of him to know what is in my head.

Cole's references to "arguments by fear or deception... disgruntled...personal axes to grind...two unhappy board members" are fallacious. It is not to Cole's credit that he denigrates other who have a point of view contrary to his. Shame on you, Rudy.

Herbert J. Young
Former Board of Education member
Beverly Hills

Rudy Cole appears to be playing "hit and run" again, just like at the Beverly Hills North meeting which I attended and in most of the columns he writes.

city and schools cont. from page 3

However, voters in the precinct that includes the Beverly Hilton, precinct 21, voted against Measure H, 224 to 210 in the results from precinct ballots on Election Day.

But Measure H fared the worst across Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills' precinct 10, which represents El Rodeo

School across the street from the Beverly Hilton. Precinct 10 voted 295 to 117 against Measure H on Election Day. Several opponents of Measure H cited health concerns for the students at El Rodeo as their main point of contention with the project.

Precinct 37, which surrounds Roxbury Park, was evenly split on Measure H with

an Election night tally of 261 to 261.

At least 27 more people at the polls in each precinct voted on Measure H than voted on Measure E.

Measure E won with 8,368 votes to 4,613, as of the L.A. County's Registrar's latest count of absentee and provisional ballots on Tuesday.

Election Returns by Precinct Nov. 4

Precinct	Obama	McCain	Proposition 8		Proposition E		Proposition H		"Proposition H citywide, as of Nov. 11"	
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
									7,017	7,001
Precinct 3	290	244	190	333	301	160	224	280		
Precinct 4 Trousdale area	177	252	217	212	247	119	203	217		
Precinct 5 Sunset/Alta Drive	317	252	176	385	296	203	223	328		
Precinct 6 Beverly Hills Hotel	154	216	166	211	211	122	140	231		
Precinct 8 Hawthorne School	191	256	186	259	264	139	179	259		
Precinct 10 El Rodeo School	186	235	182	236	223	141	117	295		
Precinct 12 Civic Center Drive	276	142	138	277	220	127	188	194		
Precinct 13 Industrial Area	219	131	120	219	206	78	175	142		
Precinct 16 City Hall	211	245	205	243	238	151	228	202		
Precinct 20 East of Robertson	341	154	162	325	287	128	253	195		
Precinct 21 Beverly Hilton	347	115	108	353	273	129	210	224		
Precinct 23 A Charleville/Bedford	359	176	125	407	295	172	230	264		
Precinct 23 C Charleville/Bedford	388	166	153	402	306	183	255	265		
Precinct 26 Gregory/Crescent	310	195	182	314	302	124	249	226		
Precinct 30 Horace Mann School	372	191	156	392	325	163	272	252		
Precinct 36 Palm/Charleville	284	184	161	291	274	127	237	212		
Precinct 37 Roxbury Park	347	187	160	370	338	158	261	261		
Precinct 39 Olympic/Crescent	409	161	150	414	323	182	278	270		
Precinct 41 Robertson/Olympic	296	231	204	308	287	166	275	214		
Precinct 46 Burton/Oakhurst	324	176	170	325	291	129	242	222		

"Unofficial Count. Source: Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office (www.lavote.net). Nov. 6, 2008"
Does not include late absentee and provisional ballots.

In his Nov. 6 column, he insinuates that the No on H proponents started the "ugly nature of the of the Hilton battle" and that some of the No on H proponents "are devious, evil people".

I wish Mr. Cole would be specific and name some names. It is rather cowardly to hide behind such broad innuendo.

If he really knows something, please ask him to tell us outright.

As it is now, without any specifics on his part, one might honestly ask who really started the "ugly nature of the Hilton battle" and if "devious, evil people" is his catch phrase for anyone who disagrees with him.

He is allotted a full page of copy each week. That should be plenty of space to be specific.

Cristin Gregory
Beverly Hills

briefs cont. from page 4

A January wedding is planned.



Rachael Tanenbaum

Rachael Tanenbaum honored as visionary of the year

Visions, a division of the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF), will honor Beverly High grad Rachael Tanenbaum ('93) with a 'Visionary of the Year' award at its eighth

annual Monte Carlo night on Nov. 15 at the Peterson Automotive Museum.

The Visionary of the Year award goes to "people that have shown a dedication to the cause and have shown leadership and have been involved in the community," according to ICRF associate director Lynn Addotta.

Tanenbaum, daughter of former Beverly Hills Mayor Robert K. Tanenbaum, has been involved with the Israel Cancer Research Fund for 12 years and the Visions group for six years. She is the chair of the silent auction committee and has raised funds for several research fellowships.

Tanenbaum said after witnessing family—her paternal grandmother died of breast cancer—and friends battle cancer that she had resolved to help find a cure. So when she found ICRF while volunteering with community service organization "The Bruin Belles" at UCLA, Tanenbaum joined "eagerly."

"I'm very grateful for Visions, enabling [my] generation to be a part of ICRF, such a highly renowned organization, having made so many massive breakthroughs in cancer research," said Tanenbaum, who graduated from Pepperdine University with two teaching credentials in 2002. She currently is a studio teacher in the entertainment industry.

"She's a very enthusiastic member," said Addotta.

ICRF funds some of Israel's top scientific researchers in cancer, including two Nobel Prize winners in chemistry. Visions has raised over \$400,000 for cancer research since its inception in 2002.

For more information call (313) 651-1200 or go to www.icrfvisions.org. The goal of the event is to fully fund fellowships in the name of visions and our honorees.

coverstory

SHOULD BEVERLY HILLS BE GOING TO CHINA?

Beverly Hills begins 'Sister City' relationship with Pudong, despite some resident concerns

A recent trip to China by a delegation of Beverly Hills major players has resurfaced the debate over Beverly Hills' Sister City program.

Beverly Hills currently has three Sister Cities: Cannes, France; Acapulco, Mexico; and Herzliya, Israel. Cannes was the first city to partner with Beverly Hills, in November 1986 via the international non-profit organization Sister City International.

The Beverly Hills Global Partners (BHGP), a year-old non-profit umbrella group overseeing all Beverly Hills' Sister Cities activities, recently began orchestrating a sisterhood relationship with Pudong, China, a suburb of Shanghai.

The delegation of Beverly Hills residents, all members of BHGP, traveled to China from Oct. 30 to Nov. 4 to meet with approximately 70 Chinese officials and begin solidifying the "Sister City" relationship.

In the delegation were BHGP co-chair Bruce Cole, Cole's Public Works Commissioner Nanette Cole, Mayor Barry and Sue Brucker, PTSA president Alissa and Warren Roston, Conference and Visitors Bureau director Kathy Smits, Rotary Club president Robbie Anderson, Paula Kent Meehan, Chamber of Commerce chair Vicky Mense, and the *Beverly Hills Courier* publisher Clif Smith Jr.'s wife Candace and daughter Mary Evelyn Smith.

Brucker said he didn't know who selected the members of BHGP.

BHGP co-chair Cole has spearheaded the campaign to enter into a relationship with Pudong. His intentions behind that campaign, however, have been met with skepticism.

Cole has been involved with businesses in China since 1985. He currently holds several executive roles in banks and investment companies in China, including his role as chairman of Mamtek International, a Hong Kong-based sucralose manufacturing company, as well as vice chair of China Consolidated Investments, a diversified investment company. He is also vice chair of Morgan Stern Merchant Bank in Beijing and Hong Kong, as well as Morgan Stern Realty in Beverly Hills.

His close business relationship with the owner of the Grand Hyatt Shanghai in China's second tallest building, the Jin Mao Tower, ensured the delegation's accommodations in the hotel.

Cole, who could not be reached for comment by press time, told the City Council at the Sept. 23 study session that his desire to 'sister' with Pudong had no connection to his business dealings in China.

• Before the delegation's trip, the Beverly Hills City Council approved a \$35,000 grant from the City's general fund to BHGP to begin to establish a Beverly Hills tourism office and to hire one full-time employee to staff the office, per BHGP and Cole's request. The BHGP's original request was for \$100,000, with a line-by-line itemized breakdown of costs for office space, supplies, miscellaneous items, and a full-time employee at \$45,000 a year.

This was the first time that the Beverly Hills City Council has granted any money to a Beverly Hills Sister City Committee, with the exception of a few grants to Beverly High students taking part in the student-exchange program, according to President of Beverly Hills/Cannes Sister City Committee Paul Kuperstein.

The Cannes/Beverly Hills committee "has never received any funding from the Council. No Sister City committee does," said Kuperstein, adding again the exception of money for financially strapped students in the exchange program.

The Beverly Hills/Cannes Sister City Committee is comprised only of volunteers and all members pay their own expenses. There are 20 volunteer members in the Cannes-based Sister committee and between 10 and 15 volunteer members in the Beverly Hills-based committee. Kuperstein says they communicate weekly.

The members of the delegation to Pudong all paid their own personal expenses, according to Brucker.

• While in Pudong, the BHGP hired one full time employee, named Woo Pai. Pai is the daughter of Cole's business associate. According to the financial records submitted by BHGP when requesting \$100,000 for the Pudong office, the full-time employee would be paid \$45,000 a year. The BHGP anticipates the office earning the capital to pay the employee through merchandising and other business dealings.

The BHGP's mission in Pudong appeared to be based more on tourism than cultural exchange, according to Councilmember Linda Briskman at the

Sept. 23 Council study session when Cole presented the Pudong plan.

A large business component and merchandising plan is included in the BHGP statement submitted to the Council.

Brucker told the *Weekly* that the Smith family, though not residents, simply wanted to come along on the trip in "good faith." However, the *Courier* is included in the 'Business Membership' facet of the BHGP's proposal to promote relationships with Chinese businesses. For a \$20,000 annual fee, a business can purchase a golden membership that would include "free advertorials on major partnered local media; Discount media package on major sister city local media such as the *Beverly Hills Courier*," according to the materials presented by Cole at the Sept. 23 study session. No other local media is mentioned in the materials.

Clif Smith Jr. is also a member of BHGP.

• Based on this business and tourism emphasis, Briskman was concerned with this project doesn't fall within the definition of a Sister City—which is aimed at promoting cultural understanding—but rather a project for the Conference and Visitor's Bureau (CVB).

In fact, at one point Briskman suggested that perhaps the money for the Pudong project should come from CVB.

CVB director Kathy Smits says that the CVB already has a full-time employee in China, based in Beijing.

"Her scope is very broad-based," said Smits. "She covers the whole country." The CVB's latest tourism report shows that their outreach has brought in a higher percentage more tourists

Beverly Hills residents though are concerned that city money is being funneled to China. Beverly Hills Ruth Kraft addressed the Council at the study session explaining that she doesn't think city money should leave the city.

"I have to tell you that anyone in China who has the money to come to Beverly Hills has either been here or will be here. We don't need to send them money to publicize. We are known all over the world," said Kraft.

But Brucker says that Beverly Hills is not as well-known as residents might believe and that the "small" investment in Pudong's office will yield extraordi-

nary returns to Beverly Hills in tourist and retail dollars.

• Others residents have concerns about China's questionable human rights record.

"Is this the same Beverly Hills that at [then-] Mayor [Jimmy] Delshad's urging was moving to divest all holdings in companies that do business with Iran because of alleged human rights violations?" asked John Mirisch, who edits *BlogBeverlyHills.org*.

"While moving to divest from Iran is certainly the right thing to do, if the City is really concerned about human rights, picking China as the next country to partner up with seems extremely hypocritical. While China is undeniably a major economic force whose international influence is only bound to grow, China is also one of Iran's biggest international allies and can hardly be said to be the best global role model of respect for human rights. Yes, doing business with China seems to be inevitable these days, but it hardly should top the list of countries with which Beverly Hills should develop a sibling city relationship," Mirisch wrote in his blog.

The City Council's decision to divest from Iran in mid-2007 came on the heels of California's Assembly Bill 221, which required the state to divest its investments and pension funds from foreign companies with ties to Iran.

Beverly Hills held around \$482 million in public employee pension funds in 2007, though officials did not know what percentage of the money was in companies with ties to Iran.

According to Amnesty International's 2008 report on human rights violations, China's role in the human rights abuses in its own country as well as in Tibet and Darfur place it as one of the top countries in human rights violations. "Truthfully, I still have big issues with the human rights issues in China and I don't know that I want to be funding an effort there until I know more about it," said Briskman.

The council will discuss finalizing the relationship at a future council meeting.

According to Brucker, a delegation of Chinese officials will be traveling to Los Angeles on Dec. 14 and will be staying in Beverly Hills hotels for the duration of their stay.

Cole did not return phone calls by press time.

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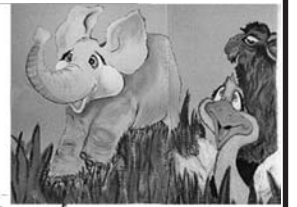
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