

Beverly Hills Weekly

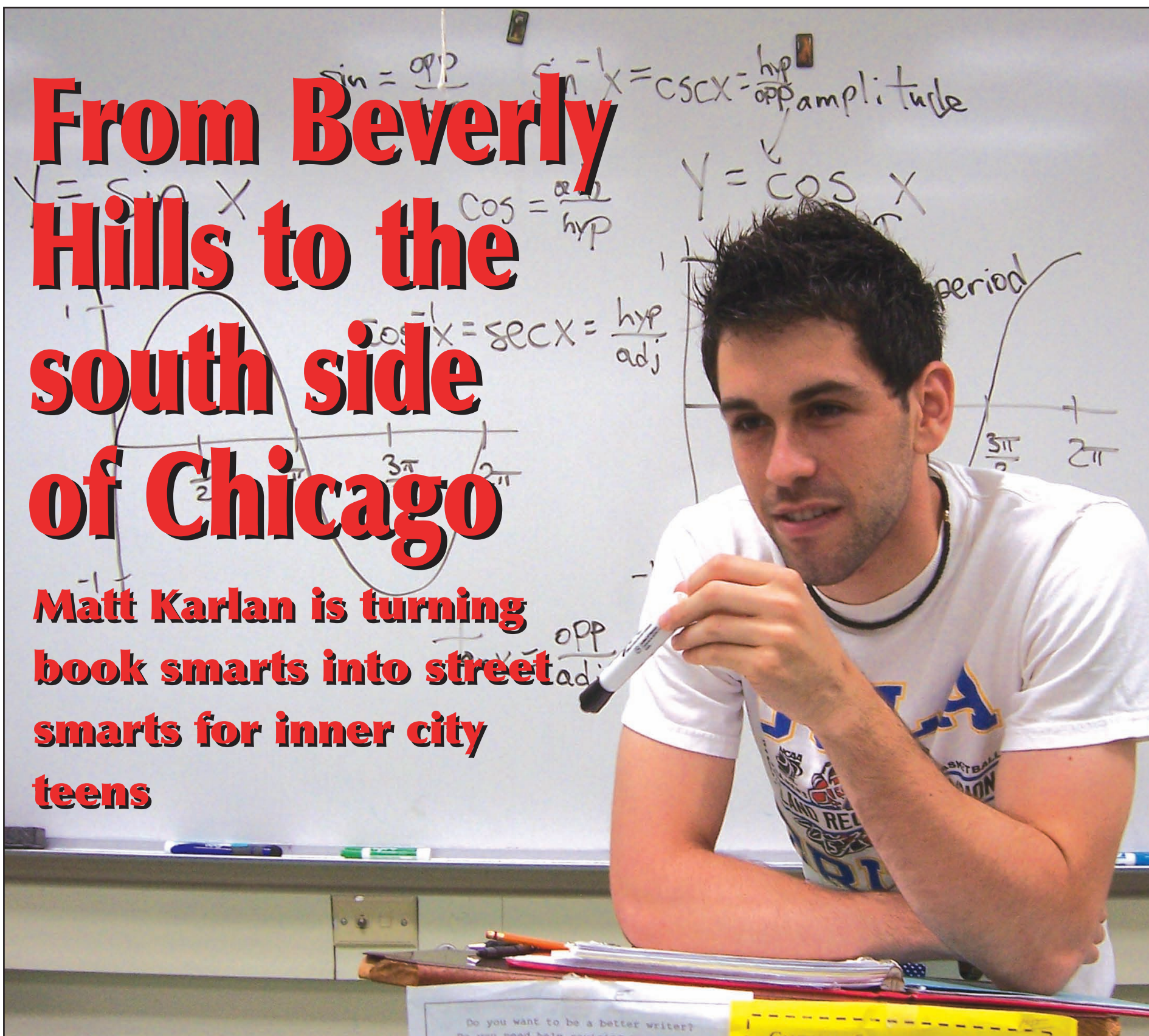
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Issue 510 • July 9 - July 15, 2009

From Beverly Hills to the south side of Chicago

Matt Karlan is turning book smarts into street smarts for inner city teens



cover story • pages 6-7



letters & email

[Summer Reading] Issue 509

Thank you for the refreshing article in issue 509 titled "Summer Reading." I have been a patron of the BHPL all my life; the first item in my photo album is my Bookworm Certificate, circa 1961 (the Library was still in City Hall). The worm having turned, I am currently the president of the Friends of the BHPL and I would like to make the community aware that, were it not for the support of the Friends, the summer children's reading programs and the Friends book club described in your article would not exist. During the coming year, the Friends will provide approximately \$100,000 for the purchase of books, audio and other media material; \$20,000 for speakers and programs for both children and adults, as well as funding for the literacy program and the Teen Zone.

At our most recent Board meeting the Library's Director, Nancy Hunt-Coffey told us that the City would be cutting funding for the end of the summer Children's Reading Program party that attracts 1,000 children and parents to the Boat Court, as well as discontinuing the Library's Homebound Delivery Service. The Friends immediately offered to pay the cost of continuing

these wonderful programs. Betty Harris, a long-time member of the Friends, is picking up the cost of delivering books to the Roxbury Senior Center Library for the coming year, which was also on the cutting room floor. Nancy told us that Library usage is up, at the same time that services are being drastically cut due to budget constraints in the City.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge our residents, as well as other consumers at our wonderful Library, to support

BHPL by joining the Friends, by visiting our Friends Bookstore (currently the only bookstore in the City) and by donating gently used books to the Bookstore. Membership forms and envelopes are currently available in the bookstore next to Kelly's at the Library as well as at the checkout counter.

*Barbara Linder
Beverly Hills*

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

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

You can fax us at:
310.887.0789

email us at:
editor@bhweekly.com



SNAPSHOT



THE STRAY CAT CLUB
NORTH REXFORD DRIVE

Colleen McFadden (L) and Christine Montgomery (R), of Beverly Hills, help tie each others ribbons in support of "the cat lady," Katherine Varjian, at Tuesday's City Council Meeting. See briefs on page 3.



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briefs

City Council gives urgency ordinance a cat nap

The urgency and permanent ordinances before the City Council Tuesday were tabled until its Aug. 4 meeting, three days before Katherine Varjian is due back in court.

Varjian, who has been cited multiple times by the city for feeding feral cats, goes back to court Aug. 7 to find out if she was breaking any laws by doing so.

"[We] don't want to put people in jail for something that is so kind and human and loving for the animals," Vice Mayor Jimmy Delshad said. "But we need to recognize the rights of individuals who this type of feeding interferes with their homes and lives."

More than 100 people lined the walls and hallway of the council chamber to show their support, and opposition, to the ordinance.

"Society has domesticated these animals," Christine Montgomery, of Beverly Hills, said. "So we have an obligation to take care of them."

The proposed ordinance prohibits the feeding of animals or placing of food on public property and publicly accessible areas. It was unintentionally omitted in Jan. when the City adopted the Los Angeles Municipal Code. It said the ordinance would protect public health and safety, as well as keep possums, coyotes and insects out of the area.

"This is not a solution by just passing an ordinance," Delshad said. "It's an easy way out and we owe it to our community to look deeper into it and find a solution that works."

The Council spent about half of its six hour meeting hearing from citizens and suggesting solutions to the problem.

"If the council was willing to do a hybrid of this ordinance, which allows at least for the short term, those who are licensed or certified by organizations such as fixed nation then we might at least have a higher caliber of animal care," councilmember John Mirisch said.

The council needs some sort of ordinance by Aug. 4, so Varjian's prosecutors have a basis for their decision in court Aug. 7.

Youth sports agreement passed by Council

In a 3-2 vote, the City Council approved the youth sports fee for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Vice Mayor Jimmy Delshad and Mayor Nancy Krasne voted against it.

"I do believe what we are doing is punitive I believe it's discouraging of children and our families from playing sports," Delshad said.

The resolution authorizes the implementation of sports league participation fees, including \$10 per player fee for residents and \$30 per player fee for non-residents, as well as a \$4 per hour fee for use of fields.

Near the end of the discussion Krasne offered to put up \$1,000 in a scholarship to help those players who couldn't afford to

pay the fee.

"The mayor has a heart and does not want to deprive a child of playing," Krasne said.

During public comments Rick Wolfen, a Beverly Hills resident in opposition to the fee spoke his mind to councilmember John Mirisch about comments Mirisch made earlier in the evening. Wolfen quoted Mirisch as saying "membership has its privilege."

"If you want to charge a differential fee I agree with you, they should play a premium for playing here," Wolfen said. "But don't suggest things like membership has its privilege. That sounds xenophobic."

Mirisch said he was merely trying to put Beverly Hills residents first.

"That is my policy to put our kids first whether it be our schools or our parks and I find nothing wrong with that," Mirisch said.

According to a staff report, \$120,000 is expected to be collected per because of the approved fees.

Hawthorne School still has no principal

Despite knowing the position would be vacant for more than a month, the district has yet to fill Hawthorne School's principal position yet, superintendent Jerry Gross said.

"We're still in the process and still evaluating the finalists that have been forwarded to us," Gross said. "We were hoping to be taking a decision to the board on the 14th but we're not 100 percent sure; we're still checking references and those kinds of things."

Director of Human Resources and former Hawthorne principal, Alex Cherniss, declined to comment on what would happen if a hiring recommendation wasn't made on the 14th.

"School doesn't start until the end of August," Cherniss said. "We will have someone in place by then."

Gross said he could not release the names of the finalists, but confirmed Assistant Principal Kathy Schaeffer is one of four being considered for the position.

Board of Education election filing period opens soon

The filing period for the Nov. 3 Board of Education elections begins Monday, July 13 and ends Aug. 7, Marcia Ventura, spokesperson for Los Angeles County Registrar/Recorder, said.

Ventura said requirements for running should be posted on <http://www.lavote.net> next week.

Voter registration is open until Oct. 19, 15 days before the election. For information on running or voting call (562) 462-2748.

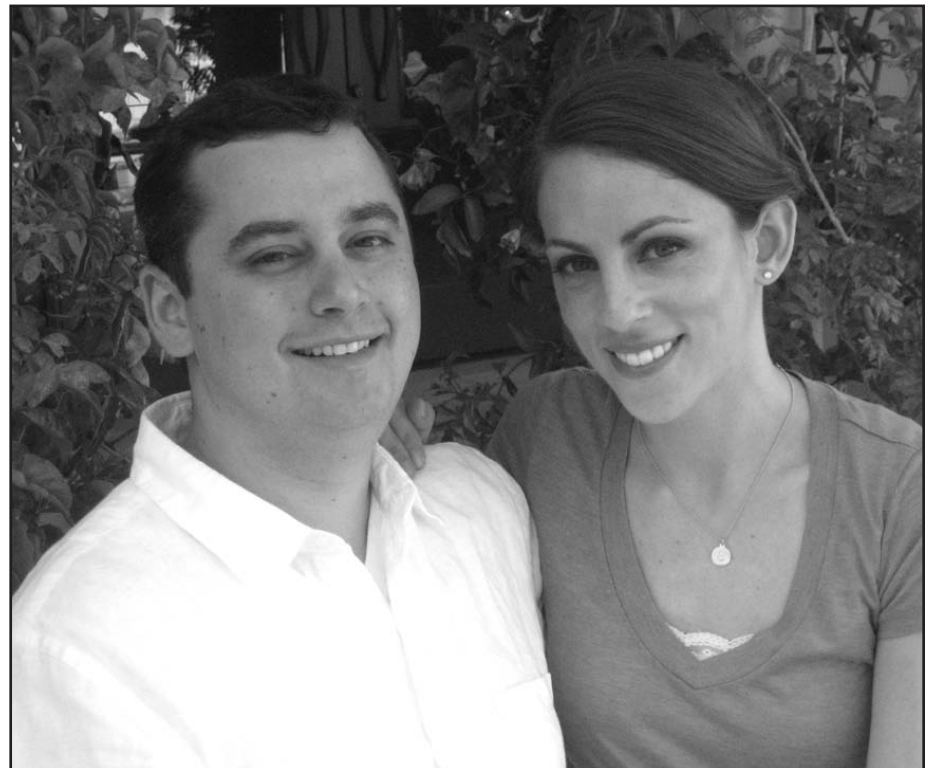


Jimmy Delshad

Beverly Hills secures a spot in the World Series of Poker

Dream Team Poker, which was co-founded by Vice Mayor Jimmy Delshad and is based in Beverly Hills, has secured a two-day spot at the

briefs cont. on page 4



Wedding Bells

Terry and Rona Leuin of Beverly Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Shelby Clare Leuin M.D. to Jason Handwerker M.D. of Lexington, Massachusetts, son of Jacob and Claudia Handwerker. Shelby is a 1995 graduate of Beverly High, where she was a member of the Madrigal Singers and the Varsity volleyball team. She received her B.A. in biochemistry from Columbia University in 1999. She received her M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco and completed residency in Otolaryngology at Harvard Medical School.

Jason is a graduate of Lexington High School, after which he graduated MIT where he majored in chemical engineering and biology. He received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School, followed by residency in Radiology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. He completed a fellowship in Neuroradiology at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Currently, Shelby and Jason are residing in Denver, Colo., where Shelby has begun a fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology at the University of Colorado, Denver Children's Hospital and Jason has accepted a position as a Radiologist in the Denver area. A fall wedding is planned in Beverly Hills.



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCY

ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

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

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

Application forms for the Architectural 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 290, 455 N. Rexford Drive, or call 310.285.2400 to receive an application and information by mail or by e-mail.

The deadline for filing applications for this Commission is Friday, July 24, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

BYRON POPE, CMC
City Clerk

briefs cont. from page 3

World Series of Poker July 12 and 13 at the Rio in Las Vegas, Nev.

"For the first time in their history they've given us two days of their series for us to run our Dream Team Poker at the Rio," Delshad said.

DTP was founded about a year and half ago and is a three-person, team-based system of playing poker, rather than playing individually.

"It gives them more chance to win money and gives casinos more players," Delshad said. "It brings an element of major fun into poker games, which are usually serious, quiet and subdued."

He said it gives players more chances of winning and allows them to take time outs to discuss upcoming plays, like in other organized sports such as football.

Delshad said one of DTP's goals is to form leagues similar to other organized sports as well. This would incorporate another form of gambling into it, because people could then bet on different teams in the league.

"All of us are poker players and when we were discussing things, we wanted to bring a novelty to the game," Delshad said. "We thought that because poker is more of a social gathering, maybe if we created a team format it would bring more fun to it."

He said anyone can enter three-person teams to play at the Rio in July. Cost of admission is \$500 per person and payouts will made to the top three teams, as well as



Hawthorne School PTA co-President Lorraine Eastman and family celebrated Independence Day with a BBQ. Pictured fresh from the pool is: (Top Row L-R) Kayley Shaby, Alexandra Shamash and Brendan Eastman. (Bottom Row L-R) Shayna Eastman, Tyler Shamash, Griffin Shamash and Adina Eastman.

the top three players. For more information visit <http://www.dreamteampoker.com>.

City launches Mass Notification System

Beverly Hills residents and businesses are able to be notified even quicker in the event of earthquakes, fires, unexpected road closures or any other emergency situation.

The Mass Notification System sends emails and voice messages to anyone regis-

tered, alerting them of things such as evacuations in their buildings or neighborhoods.

To add cell phone numbers and email addresses to the MNS visit <http://www.beverlyhills.org/notification>.

Beverly Hills sixth annual international music festival in August

Sixty musicians are schedule to perform eight concerts from Aug. 7 to Aug. 17 at the



Recent Arrivals

Dylan Seymour Marks was born to Jeff and Dana Marks (Beverly High '91) of Beverly Hills July 5 at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Dylan weighs 5 lbs and 7 oz and is 18 inches long. Proud grandparents are Joan and Mel Berman of Beverly Hills, Wendy Mudd of Redwood City and Bob Marks of Santa Monica.

Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.

Contemporary to classical music will be performed by students to world-renowned musicians.

New to this years line up are conducting and composing programs.

General admission tickets are \$25, senior and student tickets are \$15. The church is located at 505 North Rodeo Drive.

For more information and to purchase tickets call (310) 779-7622.

arrest summary

MARK EDWARD CHAMBERLIN, 56, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/25/2009 for DUI.

SUET CHUI, 37, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 5/25/2009 for domestic battery.

ALVARO KATSUJI TANABE SOTO, 28, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/25/2009 for driving without a license.

JONATHAN MICHAEL SMITH, 20, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/25/2009 for possession of marijuana, 28.5 grams or less.

LEONID RUDYAK, 59, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 5/24/2009 for threat of crime with intent to terrorize.

MIGRAN MARKOSYAN, 28, of North Hollywood, arrested on 5/23/2009 for driving while license suspended.

HORACIA RIOZ MARTINEZ, 29, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/23/2009 for driving without a license.

ANGEL ALBERT PENILLA, 28, of Sacramento, arrested on 5/23/2009 for DUI.

MATTHEW CHARLES HOWARD, 35, of Reseda, arrested on 5/23/2009 for bench warrant/misdemeanor.

ALLEN DONNELL SILAS JR., 19, of Long Beach, arrested on 5/23/2009 for outside warrant/misdemeanor.

MARTIN RONALD DERSHEWITZ, 62, of Larkspur, arrested on 5/23/2009 for DUI.

CLAUDIA MEZA CERDA, 30, of Fountain Vall, arrested on 5/22/2009 for DUI.

SANTINO ANTHONY DAVIDSON, 37, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/22/2009 for attempted robbery.

HUGO ENRIQUE CAUDILLO-CORDERO 27, of Van Nuys, arrested on 5/22/2009 for driving without a license.

ELVA LEANNE MCNEIL, 41, of Palm Springs, arrested on 5/22/2009 for driving while license suspended.

JOSE ESTABAN OSORNIO-RESENDIZ, 31, of Oxnard, arrested of 5/22/2009 for driving without a license.

DAVID CHRIS COMER, 40, of Pacific Palasades, arrested on 5/22/2009 for DUI.

ROGELIO RODRIGUEZ, 58, of Tarzana, arrested on 5/22/2009 for driving while license suspended.

LISA SHIELDS, 43, of New York, arrested on 5/22/2009 for possession and selling of controlled substance.

DEAN MONTIQUE MICHAEL, 33, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/22/2009 for driving while license suspended.

PABLO MARTINEZ, 33, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/22/2009 for driving without a license.

JULIE MARIE GROLL, 31, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/21/2009 for DUI.

MICHAEL SCOTT SELDIN, 42, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/21/2009 for DUI.

MELISSA SOPHIE WENKE, 25, of Santa Monica, arrested on 5/21/2009 for driving while license suspended.

RODOLFO JOHNATHAN ZAMUDIO, 27, of Lake Balboa, arrested on 5/21/2009 for driving while license suspended for DUI.

MALE JUVENILE, 17, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 5/20/2009 for contempt of court/disobeying court order.

RONALD ELIAS MARESTIEN, 29, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/20/2009 for driving while license suspended for DUI.

MATTHEW AARON DIAZ, 19, of Camarillo, arrested on 5/20/2009 for second degree robbery.

JAMES PATRICK MORGAN, 20, of Camarillo, arrested on 5/20/2009 for second degree robbery.

ALVARO CELIS ZARATE, 24, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/19/2009 for driving without a license.

ANDREW YOON CHUL STENDER, 28, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/19/2009 for possession of marijuana, 28.5 grams or less.

GARRETT FORBES SHAW, 29, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/19/2009 for DUI causing bodily injury.

BLANCA ESTELA FUENTES-OLANDES, 28, of Los Angeles, arrested on 5/19/2009 for driving without a license.

RONALD WILSON, 50, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 5/18/2009 for disorderly conduct.

DILLON BENABOU, 18, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 5/18/2009 for burglary.

OLIVER JARRETT 19, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 5/18/2009 for buglary.

BEHROUZE BEROOKHIM, 56, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 7/5/2009 for miscellaneous violation.

CARMEN MARIA CASTELLANOS, 28, of Canyon Country, arrested on 7/5/2009 for DUI.

arrest summary cont. on page 8

from the hills of beverly



Chamber, CVB Split

Other news in our village

By Rudy Cole

It's official: following months of controversy, the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and the Conference and Visitor's Bureau officially separated on July 1, 2009.

The split was first "ordered" by the council last year when it told the Chamber of Commerce that it would no longer receive funding from the city for tourist promotion, and instead wanted an independent agency to perform that chore.

With two new members and despite appeals and protests from the Chamber board, in May the council reaffirmed the decision. An independent study committee consisting of some leading hoteliers and merchants has been working for weeks to create the new organization.

However, at least for the next six months the CVB will continue to work out of the Chamber's offices on South Beverly Drive and the Chamber will receive \$90,000 to cover costs for rent and other services.

At the same time, the Chamber itself will be exploring other housing venues. Although they own the valuable property now used by both agencies, the loss of city funding will probably mean either the sale or lease of their headquarters building. One possible use would be demolition of the structure and the creation of a much needed city parking facility.

The impact on the Chamber has been very serious. They have reduced staff, including a full time public relations position, and those remaining will share responsibilities for welcoming visitors, including tourists, to the Chamber offices – the receptionist job has also been cut.

Although the Chamber will continue to receive some financial support from the city including money for economic development, it will not be the same organization.

How and why did this happen? The Chamber is still the largest membership organization in the city and the association is led by some of our most powerful business and civic leaders.

Even an independent, outside "audit" of the Chamber ordered by the city council stopped short of recommending a split of the two agencies. The council persisted in arguing that a separate CVB could more effectively promote tourism. Funding for visitor promotion comes from the transient occupancy (bed tax).

There is a back story. As has been reported before, the Chamber became embroiled in a bitter dispute with another city newspaper when it failed to place its publisher on the Chamber board of direc-

tors. Neither side in this dispute is without fault.

Whatever the real motives of the split, there was never any showing that the job of promoting business and tourism was not effective or fiscally responsible. A separate CVB will now have to pay higher rents, hire more staff and, most important, lose the leadership and talents of the very able Chamber CEO, **Dan Walsh**.

What the Chamber probably failed to communicate effectively are the tax benefits the city receives as a result of their programs. Instead, it told the council about all the great services it provided to members and this met with some blank stares from the council.

The current director of the Conference and Visitor's Bureau, **Kathryn Smits** will move with the newly created agency and she too has earned high praise for her expertise in tourism and her professional approach to the separation process. As for Walsh, his contract is likely to be renewed next month. His salary and benefits already have been drastically reduced. Retaining Walsh became a hidden, side issue in the last council campaign, largely because of the Chamber's issues with the newspaper publisher.

Project Angel Food, a major fund raiser supporting AIDS/HIV victims, is likely to be able to hold its annual fund raiser at 9900 Wilshire as it has for several years.

The city council Tuesday asked city staff to reconsider a decision that blocked use of the former Robinsons-May property.

Clearly, the organization does valuable work and is also to be commended for using money raised, not only for its own projects, but in support of local needs including Maple Counseling Center, Beverly Hills Education Foundation and both the police and fire associations.

However, before jumping all over city staff for refusing to issue the permit, the use of 9900 became very questionable this year. How could the city approve an event at a venue it was citing for code violations? Angel Food and the city will now deal with the safety problems and assure there are no hazards to the public, according to the organization and city officials.

The city council will probably place a moratorium on the construction of new

medical offices in the city, following a recommendation from the planning department and city staff.

This has some history. At least 40 years ago, the then city council voted to increase parking requirements for all new medical buildings, effectively reducing the number the city would permit. The reasons were clear: the city wanted to encourage more retail and office occupancy that supported retail sales, including restaurants. Medical office visitors and physicians are the least likely to dine or shop in the city, they argued, and also pay less in city taxes than other users. At about the same time, and for similar reasons, the city limited new financial institutions from coming to Beverly Hills by lowering the frontage permitted in new buildings.

With the demand created by both UCLA and Cedars-Sinai, the city moved quickly to avoid a return to the time when medical uses dominated much of our commercial space.

The argument that the city has a low occupancy rate because of the demand for medical offices, is probably not entirely valid. Medical offices require very special facilities and most office buildings are not, by themselves, able to provide those needs. Aside from the loss of patrons for shops and restaurants, medical uses create more traffic and parking demand than almost any other use. Four of the councilmembers voiced support for an urgency ordinance, including Dr. **Willie Brien**. The lone dissent was from Mayor **Nancy Krasne**.

Kudos to our newly appointed director of Community Development, **Susan Healey Keene**, for her able presentation to the city council on this matter.

Commission chair **Nan Cole** and member **Lili Bosse** also backed the proposal.

In a brief interview earlier this week, Director Keene also told us that she hoped the goals portion of the proposed new general plan would come to the city council before the end of the year. She also confirmed that the planning department would go forward "this summer" with the Gateway project, the change of zoning being proposed for the transportation zone between Little and "Big" Santa Monica Boulevards. Plans for an Eli Broad supported art museum on a portion of the land has been placed on hold, primarily because Broad wanted the city to pay for a parking structure.

Not sure about our priorities. Although the city holiday decorations have become far more appealing in recent years and, thanks to the good work of Chamber economic development director **Anita Zusman Eddy**, now includes South Beverly Drive, should we really be spending nearly a million dollars to continue

the lighting and street decorations at this time of economic uncertainty, and how about that for a metaphor for recession?

We are making major cuts in police and fire funding, reducing hours when our library remains open, including times when students need it for homework, and drastically reducing support for social support groups, including senior programs. Are the holiday programs justifiable, this year?

Which brings us to AYSO and the soccer organizations battle with city hall.

Although I have not really examined all the conflicting arguments, the city seems determined to increase charges paid by the organization for use of city sports fields. Apparently, this would mean a big hike for non-resident kids.

While we do charge more for non-residents for many city services, including senior programs, there appears to be considerable question about the large increase soccer parents outside our city will now have to pay.

Although AYSO is not the only sports group involved, they have been the most vocal in protesting the increases. First, AYSO rules prevent exclusion of non-residents. Second, there are obvious benefits in having our young players interact with kids from other communities and also having those soccer moms and young players know more about Beverly Hills aside from Rodeo Drive. No, it is not the same as playing against rather than with team mates.

We also need to be very careful on how we deal with payment differentials for non-residents. As one example, the City of Los Angeles underwrites the expenses of the Greek Theatre, which non-residents, including our denizens, enjoy. We are not quite so exclusive as to discourage visitors from shopping in our stores, dining at our restaurants and staying at our hotels.

These youth sports groups provide a major benefit for our community and as Vice Mayor **Jimmy Delshad** correctly pointed out; if they were not here the city would have to organize its own youth sports programs.

Some discussions last week about supporting "restaurant row" on La Cienega Boulevard also merits some reality checks.

La Cienega was, once, a major home for both Los Angeles and Beverly Hills restaurants. Many of these are long gone. The exception is the very durable and highly successful Lawry's and a few others.

Actually, North Canon Drive and South Beverly Drive each have more eateries within the city than La Cienega. If the city is going to promote restaurants, it should be city-wide and not just what really is no longer a true restaurant row on La Cienega.

What once gave La Cienega a special charm was the plethora of art galleries on the street and the Monday night "art

rudy cont. on page 6

rudely cont. from previous page 5

walk.” The “walk” is history and many of the major galleries are not within our city limits, if they are still even in business.

Speaking of restaurants, Caffe Roma may indeed soon reopen. The Beverly Hilton pool-side dining and early evening social hours are becoming very popular. All the many venues available for dining, tea and cocktails at the Montage are also doing extremely well.

Corrections: In a recent story about an arrest, the Los Angeles Times had to quickly print a correction: They inexplicably reported that the local chief of police was jailed, not the suspect. I can only assume the chief was annoyed, but not nearly as angry as the voice message from a woman who pointed out that I had given the wrong name for the person who did the set decorations for “The Voyage Inheritance,” the current Theatre Forty production. It was a great set and the correct name of the designer is **Jeff G. Rack**.

Mark Scott, our long time former city manager who now serves in that same capacity in Culver City, told this column that rumors of his possible return to Beverly Hills to replace the soon to retire **Rod Wood** are “absolutely not true.”

Scott said that he had a “wonderful time” working in Beverly Hills, loved our community, but had absolutely no interest in returning. He said he was extremely happy in Culver City and has no thought of leaving.

Despite reports that he had been contacted by some official about the city

manager’s job, Scott said that too had not happened and would not change his mind.

In two weeks, the council will vote to approve a search team that will begin the process of finding a replacement for Wood. The appointment will require a majority vote by the city council.

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.

coverstory

FROM BEVERLY HILLS TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO

Matt Karlan is turning book smarts into street smarts for inner city teens

By Amanda Renner

Matt Karlan, a 2004 Beverly High and 2008 Washington University in St. Louis graduate, started working with Teach for America at Ralph Ellison Chicago International Charter School on the south side of Chicago in August 2008. Since then Karlan has learned the difference between swank and slum.

Tell us how you first got involved with Teach for America.

Teach for America is a program that takes recent college graduates and tries to get them involved with teaching in underprivileged areas. It’s a long application process and they pick people based on how dedicated they think they will be to the ideals of Teach for America and for being a teacher. It’s a two year commitment. I got involved because I’d heard about it and I was always a huge math lover and wanted to continue with that somewhat after college. I thought it would be a really good opportunity to bring math and a love of math to students who might not typically get a teacher who has that kind of enjoyment for the subject.

You mentioned you loved math, what teachers helped you develop your appreciation for the subject?

I’ve been into math since I can

remember, at least first grade. When I was in first grade I was taking second grade math classes.

Most of the math teachers I admired in high school are retired. I like Lee Morris a lot. He got me to think at a higher level and challenged me to more than other teachers I’d had. Ira Moskow was an older, eccentric teacher. He was kind of the older version of the teacher I am now. He was really excited about math. I didn’t need help getting excited about math, but he

got other kids excited about it. That’s what I want to do with Teach for America; get kids excited about math and what they’re learning.

What kind of math classes are you teaching?

Last year I taught pre-calculus to honors kids and I taught basic algebra. Next year I’m starting an AP statistics class that will be the school’s first AP math class. The school has only been in existence this will be our fourth year.

It is a charter school. We’re starting two or three AP classes and I made sure math was one of them.

What do you think it will do for these kids?

It will give them exposure to a rigor that they are not used to at all. It is going to be for the most advanced students in the school, but even they have no idea what kind of work ethic and level of difficulty a college level course will bring. If we’re really preparing them for college then AP classes are necessary to really get them prepared so when they go to college they know what is expected of them.

What kind of students are you teaching?

It’s a very high percentage of free and reduced lunch students. I was in advisory this year, which is a group of students who you advise and about 85 to 90 percent of my freshman had free or reduced lunch, so it’s a pretty low income school.

The school itself is well funded; but the students who go there are low income.

What kind of area is the school in?

There are small houses and apartments around it. Some are dilapidated.



Ralph Ellison Chicago International Charter School

You can drive 10 minutes and get somewhere a little more reasonable, but most of the neighborhood is pretty nasty.

Do you expect any of your students to go on to college after next year?

We're hoping they go to college next year. We're preparing them to go to college and they've gone on college tours to the University of Illinois to Marquette University, they visit schools all over. They're excited to go to college and there is a big focus on ACT scores here. So they will hopefully have the requisite scores to get into a good college.

Because of their demographic do you get a lot of troublemakers or are they pretty well behaved?

It's like any other high school, you have your mix. There are definitely troublemaker kids and the kids who get expelled for doing stupid things. But it's like because of the area and things like that people who would come to visit would probably be very surprised thinking "Oh it's going to be dangerous and the kids are going to be wild." But if you went to the school, 99 percent of them would be extremely nice to you and extremely polite. There is trouble like there is at any high school, but the majority of kids know how to behave when they have to.

Being in the south side of Chicago, do you see any rival gang tensions?

Yes. There was a fight in the hallway

at the beginning of last year between kids from rival gangs. No one has ever gotten horribly injured but we're [the school] is on 80th and there is the 80th Street gang and the 79th Street gang and it's like each street it seems has a gang. There are often fights between the gangs. There was only one instance that it played out in school, but a couple of times a year you hear about things happening outside of school. You have to be careful wearing things, incase they're gang affiliated and you just don't know it.

Have you seen improvement academically or behaviorally in the students you taught from when you first started in August to the end of this school year?

Of course, that is the whole point in doing it. A lot of the school is really focused on ACT scores, because that is a really big way to get into college. The math growth [in test scores] the year I have been there was better than the two years combined before I got there. It's been going really well. Behaviorally, it just comes with people buying into your system and realizing that if you pay attention and do the work you're suppose to good things will happen. I think I've gotten a good majority to believe what I'm preaching.

How do inner city Chicago kids compare and contrast from the kids in Beverly Hills?

There is a huge difference. You don't

get your spoiled rich kids. There is no AP culture. For example I was in all the AP and honors classes, but there's not really that culture. There is a very small group of honors kids and they actually have a sense of entitlement about being the "honors kids," which is kind of funny. There are some similarities in that they act like high school kids and follow the latest trends and they're excited by things that happen with celebrities and there is gossip. But they have much different home lives than kids at Beverly. I would say a resounding majority have things that happen to them in their lives that a very, very small minority of Beverly kids ever had to deal with.

Really unspeakable things I hear about. I get emails like this student's mother was shot, things along those lines. And it happens too much, definitely there's that kind of experience I never got at Beverly really.

In general, how does the south side of Chicago differ from Beverly Hills?

It's a very different sense of culture between Beverly Hills and the south side of Chicago just in how people act and what is appropriate.

It's obviously a much poorer area than Beverly Hills and racially it's very different. Sometimes I stay at work until 8 p.m. helping kids or finishing up work and people tell me I shouldn't leave that late because it's dangerous. I might just be lucky, but I've never had

any issues.

And are there similarities?

There is a strong sense of community. It's probably stronger on the south side of Chicago. A lot of people want to get out, but at the same time they are very proud of where they are from and have no problem telling you where they are from.

What do you miss about Beverly Hills when you are in Chicago?

The typical answer would be the weather. There are days when I do miss the sun just because I can't go running outside, because while out here in December its maybe 55 and raining at the worst, but there its negative 15 with wind-chill and my car won't start.

I like Los Angeles being a driving town and I miss that. I miss going on long drives and in Chicago it's a lot of public transportation, which I don't have a problem with, but I enjoy the LA way of things.

What is your end goal in all of this?

The program, Teach for America, is pretty well known now, but I want to get the name of the program out there. As a person who is doing it, I would recommend it. It is such a rewarding experience and I'm thankful I'm doing it every day. I hope more people at least consider it.

sports & scores



New Normans Girls' Lacrosse Coach Outlines Goals

June BHHS graduate wins national championship.

By Steven Herbert

Newly named Beverly High girls' lacrosse coach Kate Marks said she wants to change the perception of the team, but acknowledges that will take some time.

"The perception of the team is that it's not competitive, but I feel nobody has given it a chance," Marks said. Girls' lacrosse completed its second season as a varsity sport at Beverly High this spring.

"I feel that compared to the boys' team, the girls' team just kind of gets thrown under the bus. People are like 'Oh yeah. We have a lacrosse team. Whatever.'" Marks said there is "probably going to be a rebuilding year or two, but I'm OK

with that."

Marks said she went to "a couple of games" during the 2009 season "and it just didn't seem like things were clicking so much."

To Marks, the team was comprised of players who thought, "I don't want to play PE, so I'll join the lacrosse team." Marks said she would prefer players "who want to play a sport because you love it, not because you don't want to be in PE class."

At Beverly High, students "want to play on a team that wins a lot," Marks said, leading to relatively high tryout rates and a larger pool of players for the

winning teams to pick among, and low turnouts and smaller pools for losing teams.

Marks' hopes of starting to improve the team this summer suffered a setback when only four would-be players showed up for a summer conditioning class she hoped to conduct.

A "feeder program" in the district's middle schools would help a great deal, Marks said.

"You'll never be able to compete with the teams in the Southern Section unless you have girls coming to the school that already know how to play," Marks said. "There's no you can put girls on the field that have two years experience and expect them to beat girls that have eight years experience."

Marks began working as a counselor at Beverly High during the 2008-2009 school year. She said she was surprised to learn that the school did not have a great lacrosse team because of the upscale nature of the sport.

Marks said she could have coached the team in 2009, but thought the combination of starting coaching at the school the same year began a new job would be "a little hectic."

Marks coached the past three seasons at Huntington Park High and one season at Manual Arts High before that. She is vice president of LAX in LA, a non-prof-

it organization that brings lacrosse to inner-city schools.

Marks was also an assistant coach at Mamaroneck (N.Y.) High School for three seasons and played at the Division I level at American University.

Cycling

Kit Karzen, a June Beverly High graduate, teamed with Danny Heeley to win the boys' 17-18-year-old division madison, Sunday at the USA Cycling Junior Track National Championships at the ADT Event Center Velodrome in Carson.

In a madison, each cyclist rides part of the distance, then has another rider take over, rests and later returns to the race.

Karzen and Heeley finished second in the event last year.

Karzen also finished fourth in the scratch race Saturday and fifth in the points race last Thursday.

All cyclists begin at the same point in a scratch race. In a points race, sprints are held at designated intervals, with points awarded based on the order of finish. Points are also awarded for the overall finish.

Tennis

Beverly Hills Junior Tournament

Beverly High junior Donovan Suh defeated Joel Suchil of Los Angeles, 4-6,

sports cont. on page 8

sports cont. from page 7
7-5, 6-1, in a quarterfinal match of the boys' 18 and under division.

Suh received a first-round bye and won his round of 16 by default when his scheduled opponent failed to show up.

The tournament at Beverly Hills Tennis began Saturday and is scheduled to conclude Sunday.

Pacific Palisades Tennis Center Junior Open

Jackson Leipzig of Beverly Hills lost to top-seeded Jaird Meyer of Los Angeles, 1-6, 6-2, 12-10, in the final of the boys' 12 and under division.

Leipzig, who was seeded second, defeated Jonathan Klein of Los Angeles, 6-0, 6-0 in the quarterfinals and Roscoe

Bellamy of Pacific Palisades, 6-1, 6-1, in the semifinals.

The tournament was played June 29 through last Thursday at the Pacific Palisades Tennis Center.

Boys' Golf

Beverly Hills resident Seiji Liu was among three golfers tied for seventh after Tuesday's first round of the American Junior Golf Association's West Junior Open at Robinson Ranch Golf Club's Valley Course in Santa Clarita.

Liu shot a one-under-par 71, three shots behind co-leaders Jeffrey Kang of Fullerton, Robin Jang of Los Angeles and Anthony Kim of Cerritos.

The three-round tournament is scheduled to conclude today.

Men's Soccer

Daniel Kohen, a June Beverly High graduate, is member of the U.S. team in the Maccabiah Games that is scheduled to open play in the quadrennial worldwide competition for Jewish athletes Sunday against Peru in Haifa, Israel.

Hockey

Brian Salcido, a 1999 El Rodeo School graduate whose father Frank was a long-time Beverly Hills Police Department officer, signed a one-year contract with the Anaheim Ducks, the National Hockey League team announced Monday.

Salcido had been a restricted free agent, meaning the Ducks would have the option of retaining him by matching any offers.

Salcido, a 24-year-old defenseman, played two games for the Ducks last season and had one assist.

Salcido was selected by the Ducks in the fifth round of the 2005 NHL entry draft out of Colorado College, signed with the team in 2006 and has played three seasons with the Ducks' American Hockey League affiliates, and has played in the past two AHL All-Star Classics.

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.

arrest summary cont. from page 4

DANA MARSHALL SHERRELL, 39, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/5/2009 for driving without a license.

LOUIS RIOS, 19, of Frisco, arrested on 7/4/2009 for DUI.

RONALD ROBERSON, 44, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 7/4/2009 for obstructing a peace officer.

MALE JUVENILE, 17, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/4/2009 for grand theft auto.

JESSICA MABEL RECINOS-JUARAZ, 18, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/4/2009 for grand theft auto.

MILLER ALAZ, 18, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/4/2009 for grand theft auto.

DAMON ALOYSIUS, 26, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 7/3/2009 for fugitive from justice.

LAURAL BRISENO, 26, of Alhambra, arrested on 7/3/2009 for DUI.

KENNETH JONES, 26, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/3/2009 for driving while license suspended.

GEOFFREY AARONWURM FELDMAN, 19, of Hollywood, arrested on 7/3/2009 for possession on marijuana 28.5 grams or less.

PEDRO ALEXANDER ZALDIVAR, 29, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/3/2009 for driving without a license.

ANITA GOHARI, 30, of Tarzana, arrested on 7/3/2009 for driving while license suspended.

LAMUNN LANIER PHILLIPS, 22, of San Bernardino, arrested on 7/3/2009 for driving without a license.

MARC BRIAN LEDERER, 45, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/3/2009 for possession of marijuana, 1 ounce or less while driving.

MARCO TULIO OLIVARES, 36, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/3/2009 for driving without a license.

MICHAEL PATRICK HENRY, 40, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/2/2009 for DUI.

ESTEBAN ESCAMILLA GARCIA, 45, of Hawthorne, arrested on 7/2/2009 for driving without a license.

ISMAEL DELALUZ-VALENCIA, 25, of Pacoima, arrested on 7/2/2009 for driving without a license.

MARSHAL SMITH, 39, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/2/2009 for miscellaneous violence.

ERICA LYNN MEJIA, 33, of Chatsworth, arrested on 7/2/2009 for DUI.

VLADAMIR VASILCHENKO, 60, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 7/1/2009 for battery on a peace officer.

FELIPE CALDERON CARLOS, 50, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/1/2009 for a bench warrant.

JOSE CRUZ GARRIDO, 27, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/1/2009 for driving without a license.

LEVY KATZ, 54, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/1/2009 for possession of a controlled substance.

MICHELLE MARIE GALLANT, 42, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/1/2009 for disorderly conduct.

EDGAR O. PAXTOR, 34, of Los Angeles, arrested on 7/1/2009 for infliction of corporal injury on spouse/cohabitant.

PAUL GAYE, 54, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 7/1/2009 for appropriate lost property over \$400.

ARISTEO JUAREZ PEREZ, 41, of Lennox, arrested on 6/30/2009 for driving without a license.

JOHN CAMERON HARRIS, 53, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 6/30/2009 for disorderly conduct.

JIMAN REZA, 28, of Santa Monica, arrested on 6/30/2009 for driving while license suspended.

MICHELE ILENE MACKLIS, 52, of Redondo Beach, arrested on 6/29/2009 for using access card account information.

JASON PETER HUMPHRIES, 34, of Los Angeles, arrested on 6/29/2009 for driving while license suspended.

JEREMY PAUL DEROSE, 32, of Los Angeles, arrested on 6/29/2009 for DUI.

JOSE FELIPE RICO-VARGAS, 25, of Los Angeles, arrested on 6/29/2009 for driving without a license.

ASHLEY YOUNG, 22, of Newport Beach, arrested on 6/7/2009 for DUI.

ROBERT PAUL KELLER, 26, of Burtonsville, arrested on 6/7/2009 for Vandalism, a misdemeanor for \$400 or more.

TIMIORTH SOLBERG, 25, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 6/7/2009 for disorderly conduct.

SUNG WOO CHO, 23, of Los Angeles, arrested on 6/7/2009 for DUI.

LYDIA VARGA, 36, of Los Angeles, arrested on 6/6/2009 for DUI.

DAVIDA SULLIVAN, 28, of Valencia, arrested on 6/6/2009 for DUI.

ERFAN BENSON, 31, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 6/6/2009 for inflicting corporal injury on spouse or cohabitant.

JACK ALBERT BRANE, 63, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 6/6/2009 for disorderly conduct.

JACQUEST FLORENTINO, 63, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 6/6/2009 for DUI.

CHRISTOPHER CHRIST CASTAGNIER, 36, of Los Angeles, arrested on 6/5/2009 for DUI.

STEPHANIE GENASHEA COLEMAN, 23, of Los Angeles, arrested on 6/5/2009 for DUI.

AKOP JAKE SANDALDZHYAN, 26, of Van Nuys, arrested on 6/5/2009 for driving while licence suspended.

JOSEPH MICHAEL HAYCOX, 25, of Las Vegas, arrested on 6/4/2009 for burglary.

BREEANNA MARIE TIFFANY, 19, of Las Vegas, arrested on 6/4/2009 for burglary.

RICHARD ALAN COLVIN, 72, of Los Angeles, arrested on 6/4/2009 for DUI.

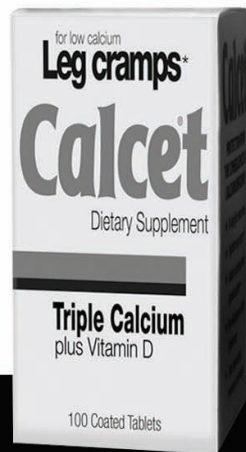
SAYO YAMAMOTO, 27, of Los Angeles, arrested on 6/5/2009 for DUI.

JOSHUA JOHN RANDALL, 33, of Santa Monica, arrested on 6/3/2009 for DUI.

RICHARD GARCIA, 53, of Beverly Hills, arrested on 6/3/2009 for public nuisance.

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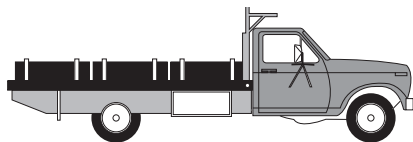
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