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Issue 333 • February 16 - February 22, 2006

COC Submits Fourth Report On Measure K Funds



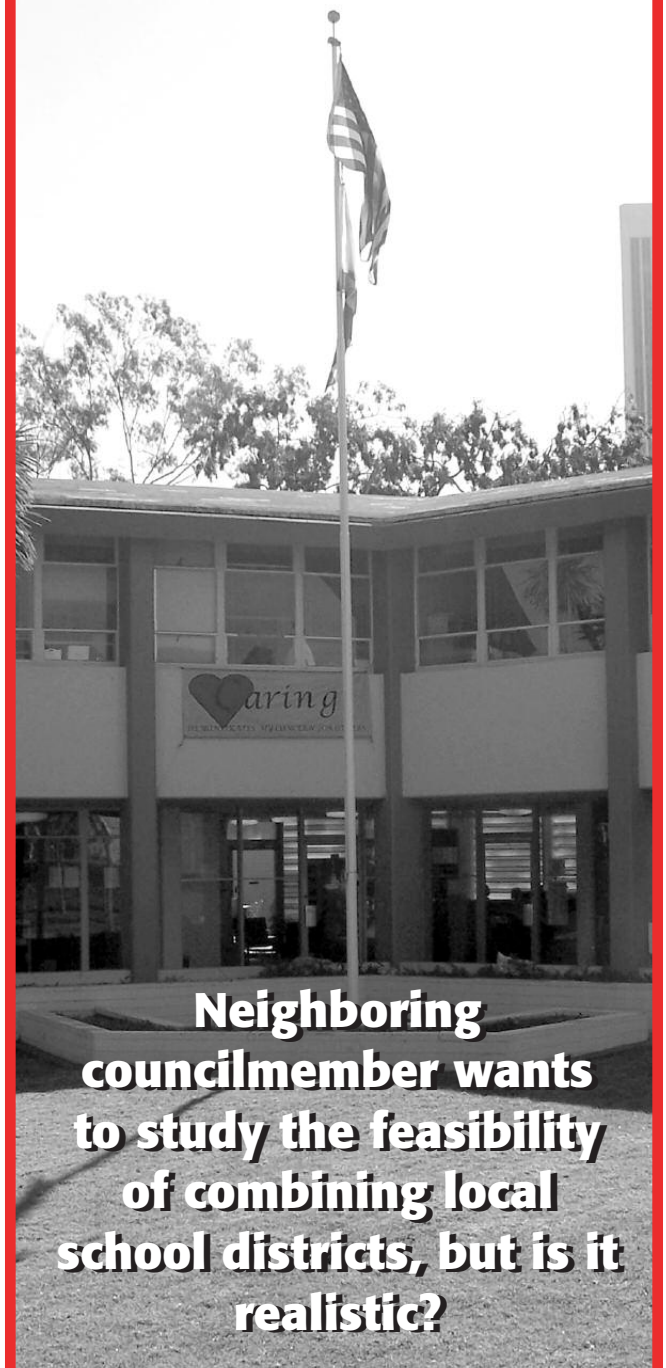
Citizens' Oversight Committee cites need for improved timeliness and up-to-date financial outlines.

Outage Sparks Council Questions



Edison sheds dim light on extended power outages; council not satisfied with answers.

West Hollywood Wants In



Neighboring councilmember wants to study the feasibility of combining local school districts, but is it realistic?



letters & email

Bob Perlberg
Westlake Village
via bhweekly.com

“Love Is In The Air”

After 94 years “Love Is In The Air”--still. We met in the early 1920s at dancing school where my future wife swore she’d teach me how to dance or kill me in the effort. We married in 1936.

My wife died 11 years ago after 60 years of a wonderful marriage that produced four grandchildren and (so far) four great grandchildren. I’m still in the same house we bought in 1948 because everything in it reminds me so much of her.

My girlfriend says I’m still a lousy dancer.

Ernest Ach
Beverly Hills

“Update from Manhattan Beach”

I was pleased to discover that the school librarians of Manhattan Beach have not met the same fate as those of the Beverly Hills USD [cover story, “Update from Manhattan Beach”, issue #328]. Dr. [Gwen] Gross states, “The [Manhattan USD] has been able to maintain choral, orchestra, band, chamber orchestra, all our librarians, and maintain a lot of additional programs that many school districts do not have.” If only the BHUSD was so lucky during her tenure. Our K-8 librarians were reduced by 50 percent, resulting in the current ratio of one librarian for

every 1,600 students, teaching a mere 10 days per month at any one school. Our students deserve better.

Karen Boyarsky
Beverly High librarian

“Where Are They Now?”

I read with interest your “Where Are They Now?” feature on Ken Gelms [issue #332]. I had the pleasure of being one of KJG’s students in 1962 and 1963. What a wonderful teacher, mentor and confidant. He was an outstanding journalist who imparted the five W’s and the H (who, what, when, where, why and sometimes how) in a way that made every headline and each story really live.

Looking back more than 40 years, his influence on my career has been profound, for the better. The discipline he demanded, the attention to detail and factual content, and the emotional way that he got his points across surely shaped my career.

My gosh, I can close my eyes and see him chasing Robbie Rubin Long out of the class, screaming at Pepper Salter to tighten up her column, cajoling Mr. Jackson in print shop, and befriending a young cub reporter who needed a friendly word of encouragement.

There are just a handful of teachers who left a large imprint and made me a better person. Ken Gelms stands at the top of the list.

“Stop The Feuding and Fussing”

I agree with much of Rudy Cole’s Feb. 9 column about the City Council’s historical and recent record on turning down most over-building proposals. In my experience, the council has virtually always listened closely to residents and has carefully scrutinized and spent meeting after meeting considering the smallest of details to protect our community from over-development. But Rudy was incorrect in two of his observations. “In recent years, some of the more vocal anti-growth leaders tried to prevent Barneys New York.” The Southwest Homeowners’ Association worked long and closely with the city and with Barneys and came up with a mutual development plan and numerous conditions that would permit a well-designed, important department store on Wilshire, while at the same time protecting the nearby residential neighborhood. We compromised, we negotiated in good faith, and ultimately came up with a win-win that does not impinge, for the most part, on the homes to the south.

Rudy also mentioned the proposed Four Seasons at Wilshire and Rodeo and misstated that, “A retail development on the same property [was built] generating far more traffic.” The Southwest Homeowners took the lead role in opposing the Four Seasons project. It would have been a 12-story hotel, with restaurants and ballrooms and (which Rudy

letters cont. on page 8

WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND?

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140 South Beverly Drive #201
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

You can fax us at:
310.887.0789 fax

email us at:
editor@bhweekly.com



SNAPSHOT



(Musical artist Emo Dagger and his band perform for the students of Good Shepherd School in celebration of Catholic Schools week. Among the students enjoying the free concert is first grader Sarah Ivy.)

ROCK ‘N’ ROLL FOR THE SOUL
SOUTH LINDEN DRIVE



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Preliminary Summit Survey Results Announced

First-ever parent and district staff survey to provide insight into future goals.

By Andrea Simpson

The BHUSD announced the preliminary results from the Summit Survey in which more than 500 district parents participated, according to Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Susan Liberati at last week's Board of Education meeting.

Representatives from the board, administration, PTA Council, PTA units and BHEF formed a committee in April of last year to discuss ways in which to prioritize district goals and create new fund-raising opportunities. As a result, the committee created a survey of 90 questions that was sent to parents, teachers, classified staff and administrators throughout the BHUSD. The deadline was Jan. 31.

The committee also created a five-step protocol for fund-raising which includes: 1) assess the needs of the schools and the district, 2) goals are established, 3) planning, 4) fund-raising, and 5) celebration.

Out of 517 parents who participated, grades K-3 received 142 votes (27 percent); grades 4-5, 89 votes (17 percent); grades 6-8, 105 votes (20 percent); and grades 9-12, 181 votes (25 percent). Broken down by school, Beverly Vista received 55 votes (11 percent), El Rodeo

52 votes (11 percent), Hawthorne 86 votes (18 percent), Horace Mann 103 votes (22 percent), and Beverly High 181 votes or 32 percent.



Director of Educational Services Susan Liberati

On the survey, participants had five choices from which to choose including 'strongly agree', 'agree', 'moderate', 'strongly disagree' and 'disagree.'

Selected in no particular order by Liberati to announce at the meeting, the first statement said, "The campus is safe and secured properly." According to the survey, about 20 percent of parents strongly agree and about 51 percent agree, with about 21 percent answering moderate. According to staff, 12 percent strongly agree, 33 percent agree and 32 percent answered moderate. 17 percent disagree.

Another question stated: "I am satisfied with all communication from school/district to home." For parents, 20 percent strongly agree, 44 percent agree, 20 percent answered moderate, with 7 percent who marked disagree. For

staff, 9 percent strongly agree, about 58 percent agree, about 17 percent answered moderate, with about 5 percent marking disagree.

With regards to the statement: "I receive enough information from the PTA", about 36 percent of parents strongly agree, 48 percent agree and 11 percent answered moderate.

Another question stated: "I use e-mail five times a week or more," to which 100 percent of parents answered that they did.

When asked to respond to whether or not teachers explain what a child is expected to learn in each grade level or subject, more than 90 percent of parents strongly agree and agree, with about 5 percent who disagree. For staff, more than 80 percent strongly agree or agree.

When asked if they were interested in receiving more information about education in math, more than 60 percent of parents agree.

For parents, more than 80 percent answered strongly agree, agree and moderate.

In response to: "There are enough foreign languages," only about 9 percent of parents strongly agree, with about 35 percent agree, 21 percent moderate and 19 and 16 percent strongly disagree and disagree. Nine percent of staff strongly agree, 32 percent agree, 18 percent moderate and 16 percent disagree.

More than 65 percent of parents agree there

is clarity on the new report card in grades K-5, with 20 percent marking moderate.

Almost 100 percent of parents agree instrumental music is important, as well as more than 95 percent of staff.

At the meeting, board member John Millan asked Liberati if there have been any conclusions made based on the results. Liberati said because the deadline was Jan. 31 and it is the first time a "customer satisfaction" survey like this has been done, she needs to "digest it more deeply" over the next few weeks at which point the final results will be released.

Board member Myra Demeter commented that she felt Liberati had not given the proper representation of results in the pie graphs illustrated in the report to the board because Liberati had not included all the categories including 'strongly disagree' and 'disagree.' Demeter added though that the survey results are a good learning experience.

In the final results, members Nooshin Meshkaty and Alissa Roston said they would like to see a breakdown of grades K-5, middle school and the high school to take a look at direction in terms of possibly adding classes or making changes.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: February 23, 2006

TIME: 7:00 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

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2006, will hold a public hearing beginning at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider:

A request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow the construction of a new 1,817 square foot rooftop gymnasium and restroom facilities, extension of the existing rooftop pool deck area, and two trellis structures, to intersect a forty-five degree (45°) height envelope for rooftop uses for an existing eight-story hotel located at **9360 Wilshire Boulevard (Beverly Pavilion Hotel)**. The application includes a request for a Development Plan Review (DPR) and Open Air Dining Permit to allow eight tables and 32 chairs to be located on private property, within a portion of the existing enclosed ground floor area of the hotel. The existing exterior walls of the dining portion of the hotel would be removed and set back 12 feet, to allow for open air dining with a covered roof. Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) 10-3-3109 allows rooftop uses to exceed height, story, and density limitations provided that the uses meet certain standards, pursuant to the granting of a CUP. BHMC 10-3-3100 allows open air dining for more than two tables or seating for more than eight chairs on private property on a site located within 170 feet of a residential zone, provided that the open air dining plan meets certain standards and pursuant to the granting of a DPR.

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. Staff has determined that the proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under the authority provided by the CEQA Guidelines 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 the Planning Department at 310.285.1123. Copies of the application and plans, are on file in the Planning Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Room G-40, Beverly Hills, CA. 90210. For updates regarding this item as scheduled on the agenda, a recorded message is available at 310.285.1165.

Danny Castro
Senior Planner

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Battle On The Big Screen

By Irv Rudman

A Must-See

Carlos Reygadas has returned after the critical success of "Japón", his first feature film, with a gutsy and challenging follow up in "Battle in Heaven", opening tomorrow. Its signature opening shot, although very provocative, sets the scene. Reygadas's ambitious and visionary work is a tour-de-force interrogation of the deplorable hypocrisies of the world and the senseless unfairness of life, as personified in Mexico's struggling working class.

In addition to his daily task of raising and lowering the Mexican flag, Marcos (Marcos Hernández) works as a chauffeur for a general's family, driving the rich, young and beautiful Ana (Anapola Mushkadiz) around town. Marcos and his wife (Berta Ruiz) and young son are desperately poor and extremely overweight, a problem that stems from eating cheap, processed foods. Their lives are upended when a crime committed by Marcos and his wife takes a disastrous turn, forcing Marcos to make a journey of repentance that offers some of the most incredible images of Mexico City ever seen onscreen.

Elsewhere in this troubled environment, Ana and her affluent friends, bored with what little they have to do, work for kicks as prostitutes in a place they call "the boutique." A character whom we take at first to be a junkie turns out to be the chief of police; the women on his force are little more than sexual objects. Everyone is in a rush, there is no time for pleasantries and familial bonds fail to remain sacred. But all around the chaotic city is nature at its most beautiful-- vast and spectacularly shot.

"Battle in Heaven" transcends the small story of Marcos, his wife and Ana. Reygadas makes profound statements through subtle use of music, unexpected camera movements and the juxtaposition of

visuals. The effect is tremendously powerful-- both as cinematic storytelling and political statement-- and, with only two features under his belt, Reygadas is already widely acclaimed for his signature style.

Don't miss this film.

Check your local listings for show dates and times.

Reality TV On The Silver Screen

Sometime between 8 p.m. on July 1 and 7 a.m. on July 2, 2002, Doug Bruce lost himself. That morning, riding alone on a New York subway headed towards Coney Island, he could not remember his name, where he worked, who his friends were, or how much money he had in his bank account. He was without his identity.

Rupert Murray's first film, "Unknown White Male" opening Feb. 24, is the true story of how Bruce, a successful former stockbroker, struggles to learn who he was and who he will become. The documentary chronicles this profound journey.

Two MRIs, two CAT scans, 26 blood tests and an army of psychiatrists cannot properly diagnose what turns out to be the rarest and most startling form of memory loss: retrograde amnesia. Was Bruce the victim of a robbery resulting in a slight head injury or the effects of a small cyst on his pituitary gland? Or was Bruce subconsciously reacting to the death of his mother a few years before? It is a testament to Murray's smooth but honest narrative that the film asks all the right questions even if many of the answers remain elusive.

Murray walks us through Bruce's quest. He assembles dozens of childhood photos, decades of home video, extensive interviews with family members, friends, ex-girlfriends, psychiatrists, neurologists, and philosophers-- and the touching participation of Bruce himself.

Murray shows us how Bruce transformed overnight from what friends describe as man shaped by the abrasive trading rooms of the Paris stock exchange into a reflective, emotional, articulate photography student.

We watch how he reconstructs a life for himself by retaining what he admires about his former self while casting off what-- and whom-- he dislikes. It is at once a nightmare and a dream come true: a chance at rebirth.

We watch Bruce, now 35, play catch up with popular culture and current events, experience the serenity of a snowfall and the excitement of fireworks. And we watch him reconstruct relationships with family members he does not recognize and fall in love with a woman who knows only the post-accident version of her lover. Paraphrasing John Locke, one of the film's interviewees, observes that Bruce is certainly the same man but questionably the same person.

"Unknown White Male" is part objective documentary, part intimate autobiography. But most of all, it is the rawest form of reality TV.

Again, don't miss it!

Check your local listings for show dates and times.

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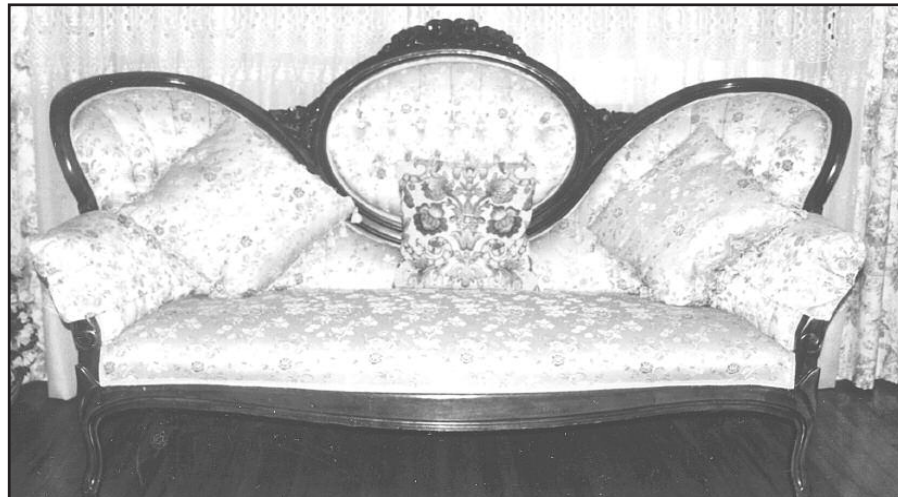
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February, 2006

Dear Neighbors,

Federated Department Stores, the owner of Robinsons-May, has announced that they will be closing the Beverly Hills store this spring. As the owners of the property, we would like to share our plans to redevelop the site with you.

9900 Wilshire represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to create an exciting signature project at the gateway to Beverly Hills. Our plans for **9900 Wilshire** include 252 luxury condominium residences designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Richard Meier, FAIA. The Richard Meier design covers only one-third of the eight-acre site. The majority of the property will be landscaped gardens designed by the internationally acclaimed landscape architects, the Olin Partnership. The design will also include a 1/2 acre public garden along the Wilshire Boulevard frontage, which lies directly across from the El Rodeo School.

We are committed to creating the best possible project for our City. Our plan for 9900 Wilshire is:

- **Traffic Neutral:** It will not generate more traffic than the existing department store.
- **Environmentally Responsible:** **9900 Wilshire** will qualify for a LEED Gold rating, using 25% less energy, 50% less water and emitting fewer greenhouse gases than comparable residential buildings. Two-thirds of the site will be open space with landscaped gardens and water features.
- **A Steady Source of Revenue:** **9900 Wilshire** will generate more than \$1.6 Million of net new revenue to our City per year and more than \$60,000,000 over the next 30 years. In addition, the upfront development fees provide \$2 Million to the Beverly Hills schools, and more than \$5 Million for the City's public parks.
- **Filling a Need:** Beverly Hills needs new luxury condominiums. Beverly Hills residents should not have to move to Century City or the Wilshire Corridor when the time comes to sell their home. It should be a goal of our City to keep our residents in Beverly Hills.

We are at the very beginning of an open process of community input and public hearings. Please feel free to call anytime. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss the project and to answer any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,



David Margulies



Arnold Rosenstein

P.S. You can also receive more information, get news updates or join our interest list by visiting our website at www.9900wilshire.com.

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where are they now?



Rick Palzer

Hawthorne teacher, 1982-1999
La Jolla, CA

How did you first get to Beverly Hills?

I graduated in 1980 from Cal State Northridge and I taught two years at two different private schools, but I realized that the only way I was really going to get into a public school was to finish my credentials and so I did. In 1982, I went to an on-campus interview with Charlene Royer and she was terrific. She encouraged me to finish the application process. I got a letter about three weeks later saying, "Dr. [Milt] Rowen [interviewed in issue #306] wants to see you at Hawthorne." I didn't have any clue as to who he was and I had already gone in on a couple interviews but didn't hear from them so didn't know what was what. So I went in there, spent about a half hour with him, and at the end of the interview said, "Was there anything I can do or tell you to convince you that I want the job?" And [Rowen] looked at me and said, "Oh, you already have the job, I'm just showing you around." I had no clue

that I had the job and that's how I came to Hawthorne.

What was the attraction to teach in Beverly Hills?

It was interesting. I grew up in Northridge and my dad was a school teacher and my mom was in the pet shop business; we owned three pet shops, and I just knew I wanted to be a teacher all along. But I had never even thought about Beverly Hills. I grew up in the Valley and we didn't really have any money, but when I saw that there were five different districts I could interview with and Beverly Hills was one of them, I thought, "Why not," and I did.

How did Hawthorne change over the years?

Because we went through so many principals things changed. Milt Rowen told me to think of Hawthorne as a way of life. I was



Beverly Hills changed my life, so I understand now what he meant because it really was-- everything revolved around Hawthorne.

We went through lots of principals, I think four of them in the first eight or nine years, and changing principals changes the atmosphere of the school. Then we finally settled down with Dick [Douglas] and Rochelle [Ginsburg] and I think all of the '90s was much more stable and Hawthorne was a great place to be. And of course, the school had become more multi-cultural when I got there until today.

We recently asked former teacher Sandy Becker [interviewed in issue #323] why Hawthorne has historically had such a hard time holding on to one principal. She said, "Dick Douglas and Rochelle Ginsburg were a great team... I don't know what happened after they left. Things started falling apart because you'd get someone come in, they'd only stay for a short time and then someone else would come in."

I, of course, have visited Hawthorne several times since I left. I still have friends there and I have gotten that feeling from them, that Hawthorne has changed and it's not the place that it used to be. I haven't heard that it's bad, but just that it's not the place it used to be, and I think it's because Hawthorne went through such a rough time in the '80s with so many principals and finally settled down with wonderful people for a good 10 years. I left the same time Dick and Rochelle left. Afterwards I heard there were different principals and it just wasn't the same. I think when you don't have continuity like that it's difficult to be such a happy place all the time. I know for myself, architecturally, I think they destroyed the entrance to Hawthorne. I think it's awful; I think it looks like a sterile dentist's office. Hawthorne had such charm and the main office when you walk into it today looks so different. To me, it's just lost a lot of that. Granted, the building doesn't make the school, but when you look at Hawthorne it's been there so long I think the building is part of the environment. I am sure the fact that they changed the whole front office and took away all of its charm and made it so sterile, that wasn't so fun for people to look at, especially for those people who had been there forever.

Hawthorne went through many principals and administrators during your tenure. Let me ask you about each one. Dick Ubick?

He was a wonderful, wonderful man. I'm

so sorry that he's gone. [He] just couldn't have been a better guy. He was totally pro teacher, pro student, pro parent. I can't say enough good things about him. I have wonderful memories of him. I remember we used to go to Idyllwild and we just had a great time. He was totally into the outdoors and hiking, just loved it.

Ann Picker?

She was principal during a time when I think the district was going through a lot of turmoil. Different people have different opinions about Ann Picker. I kind of look at her as she was brought in to sort of fix or straighten Hawthorne out, and in my opinion and I believe this is the truth, there was nothing wrong with Hawthorne. She was a good lady as far as she was pro education, but she and the teachers just didn't seem to get along. I personally didn't have any trouble with her. The district went on strike [in 1989] and it was a very difficult time. It was really tough for me because at that time I had certainly been with the district for a long enough time [and] I didn't really want to go on strike, but at the same time I wanted a raise. I wanted to support my fellow colleagues so of course I went on strike and we got through all that. I think that Hawthorne, like a lot of the schools in the old days, Beverly Hills was very set in its ways and principals stayed in their place for a long time. I think the new superintendents wanted to make things brighter and better and that's just the theory that some of us got; that they brought Ann Picker in to stir things up. But like I said, Hawthorne was a smooth running place, we had a great faculty, scores were good and it still is a great school from my understanding. I just think it was the district mentality.

Dick Douglas and Rochelle Ginsburg?

They came to Hawthorne the year I was on leave. So when I came back in 1991, neither one of them new me, and they turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to Hawthorne. Dick Douglas was just a wonderful guy who's now superintendent in Montecito, and Rochelle Ginsburg [was] just the epitome of professionalism. I don't think I've ever met anyone more professional than Rochelle Ginsburg; just a wonderful lady. The two of them [were] a great team. I say that from my heart and I believe a lot of people felt that way.

Before you switched grade levels you took time off and traveled around the world. Tell us about that.

One of my younger sisters had unfortunately died in 1990 and that was very tragic for myself and my family and I just needed some time away. I used the opportunity and took a leave and bought a one-way ticket east. I spent almost four months traveling around the world. I spent about six weeks in Europe, almost three weeks in Kenya, then two weeks in the Orient, then another two weeks in Australia, and at the end I spent two weeks in New Zealand. I stopped in Tahiti for a week and then came home. I met people all throughout my journey and I have

where are they now? cont. on page 12

Elegant Smile Dental

by Dr. Nejat

as seen on
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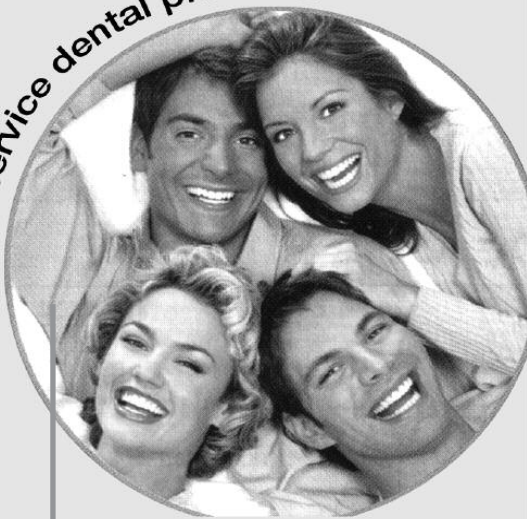
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Responses To Readers Mail

Thoughts on traffic, communication and the Academy.
By Rudy Cole

We get e-mail, and sporadic postal mail, and phone calls, many needing a response. However, some self-imposed rules: Unless your communication is a letter to the editor, I will request permission to use your name before publication.

Made the mistake once of publishing a letter that was friendly but personal, and that was the last I heard from that reader.

So, please save me some time and let me know if you mind seeing your name in print when responding to our opinions.

Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowner President **Ken Goldman's** letter met the criteria and is in the letter's section [see pg. 2]. The first part of his letter missed the point. The shoe doesn't fit and I was not writing about Goldman or the Southwest HOA. It's as if I had warned of the threat from terrorist controlled nations and received a protesting letter from the Canadian ambassador. Obviously, the Southwest group is NOT among the "more vocal anti-growth" groups

that, as one example, tried to block Barneys New York.

However, as Ken knows all too well, the Municipal League did launch a failed effort at a referendum that could have killed Barneys' plans. Historical note: The petitions did not come close to the required number for forcing a vote to overturn council approval.

(Disclosure note, at the time, although not now, I was professionally involved with Barneys.)

Ken says I "overlooked" the ballrooms in the Four Seasons bid. On the contrary, this is what I wrote: "Its [the Four Seasons] insistence on a major banquet facility would have created a daytime traffic nightmare when both the Beverly Wilshire and the Four Seasons had simultaneous events." Note to Ken: I am a very sensitive type and want to be understood. Please read copy carefully before showing displeasure.

Seriously folks, although we do disagree

on many issues, Ken is very, very different than the knee jerk, anti-council reactionaries who too often tear apart without proposing viable alternatives or give anything back to their community. I am grateful to Ken Goldman for leading the effort to form the Police and Community Together (PACT) organization when our finest were under attack by a former mayor. Ken has also been a leader in youth sports and his wife, Lori, has served on city commissions and donated much time to our public library.

Congratulations to Ken Goldman for his appointment to the Traffic and Parking Commission. Whoops, that was the other Ken Goldman.

Two messages I truly enjoyed: "Your observations on city planning were right on target. Incidentally, your note is long overdue," from my favorite banker. "Very much enjoyed your column, but you can't put off your root canal," from my dentist. Not one word from the ex's lawyer.

Another reader questioned whether some of the anti-council groups were "legitimate" and/or had members or held elections of officers. Good questions. Often critical of city councils for not "being more open" these same organizations need to be more transparent themselves. However, I strongly opposed requiring registration or disclosure of membership lists as one councilmember

proposed some years back when groups wanted official recognition. The "openness" should be voluntary, but it would serve the public interest if many made public their own rules on elections of officers, meetings or how and when decisions are made on community policy matters.

A correspondent urged that more, not less, matters be placed on the ballot-- especially plans for a recreation center. Is that good government? Not exactly. While it may appear to be "more democratic" to have initiatives or referenda on disputed questions, too often that defeats the very concept of representative government.

Consider the responsibility of the council: A hotel project will bring additional revenue to the city, but will also anger those who fear any increased building activity. Now, if the city doesn't have sufficient money to provide for the best in public safety or support for our schools, the rage of the voters will be immediate. Militant anti-growth forces dismiss the consequences, but they have no responsibility for fiscal realities. The elected official does and must take rational and responsible actions to consider the total needs of their constituents.

In a broader sense, this nation has gone through periods of very heightened hysteria. Immediate, popular votes could have demolished democratic values and totally silenced minority rights and opinions. That's why we have a government, the best ever designed, that has checks and balances and is, yes, a representative form of government. With

rudy cole cont. on page 13

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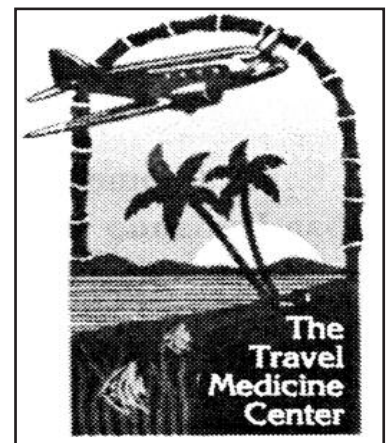
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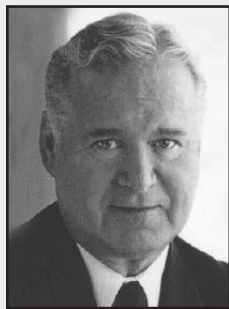
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North Homeowners Respond

Homeowners group addresses quality of life issues.

Part II

By Robert K. Tanenbaum

The first opportunity we had to view City Hall's response to our "Newsletter To Our Fellow Residents" occurred on Jan. 26, when it appeared in the *Weekly* (issue #330). Today, in the interest of fairness and to provide a factually accurate record, we offer our reply.

The City Hall response is bizarre. It is riddled with obvious inaccuracy, deception, falsification and disingenuousness. Let's analyze City Hall's response to our newsletter in detail:

1. ROBINSON'S MAY-- THE 9900 WILSHIRE PROPOSED CONDO/RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

City Hall says that it has an obligation to review this proposal. Why doesn't City Hall explain to developers that we have a General

Plan and specific zoning that doesn't allow 12-story buildings in Beverly Hills? Our concern is that a proposed 12-story structure with 250 condos and concomitant commercial directly across the street from El Rodeo School at the intersection of Whittier and Wilshire, which is already at gridlock, is inappropriate and requires a tad more from City Hall regarding this project which exceeds the limits of our city's General Plan-- well, how about a shared expression of the serious consequences of oversized development at that site? We are not asking for or expecting any prejudgment from the City Council. We are desirous of a commitment from City Hall not to engage in spot zoning and require development, particularly in highly sensitive and already congested venues, to conform to and

letters cont. from page 2

overlooked) 55,000 square feet of retail space. It would have produced far, far more traffic than Two Rodeo currently generates. Imagine the conversion of hotel, restaurant, banquet and retail traffic right across from the Beverly Wilshire. The community voted by more than two-thirds to turn down this proposal despite being outspent probably 100 to 1 by the Four Seasons developers. I am convinced that the community made the right decision. Incidentally, the Four Seasons developers-- unlike Barneys-- never once offered to sit

down with us and never once offered to compromise one inch.

The Southwest Homeowners' Association has been a responsible, active and productive voice in our city for over 30 years. We are proud of our record and positive role in our city.

Ken Goldman
Beverly Hills Southwest Homeowners'
Association President

Editor's Note: See Rudy's response on pg. 7

respect our city's General Plan.

2. 26% WATER RATE HIKE

Here's how City Hall increased our water rate 26 percent at a compound interest: 1) In July 2005-- 6 percent increase, in Jan. 2006-- 8 percent increase and in July 2006-- 12 percent increase.

Simply, by September 2006, we will endure a 26 percent rate hike compounded with each prior increase already calculated and charged to us.

So what is the City Hall response: "There is no tax."!!! Well, that's certainly reassuring.

3. MONTAGE PROJECT-- (THE FINANCING DILEMMA AND IMPACT REPORT DUPLICITY)

a. Financing Dilemma

Of enormous concern to all of us is the dismissive, cavalier and childishly simplistic response the city offers with respect to handing over to the developer a lump sum \$32,270,000 before construction. City Hall says there is "no debt service obligation because the city is loaning money to itself (from one fund to another) at a 6 percent rate."

Would it offend common sense to suggest to you that regardless of the specific fund debited, our city is in the hole for the \$32,270,000? And from exactly which fund was the cash drawn? And what is the plan to repay the fund? Why is all this so important you ask-- because if the City Enterprise Funds, e.g. the Water Enterprise Fund, Rec and Parks Fund, Wastewater Fund, or a portion of the General Fund, financed the

Montage project, then two requirements kick in:

1. There must be a specific plan to repay the loan, and during
2. The obligation repayment period the city must pay a finance charge at a fair market value-- which in the real world is referred to as a "debt service."

Now we are entitled to know precisely which city "fund" City Hall used.

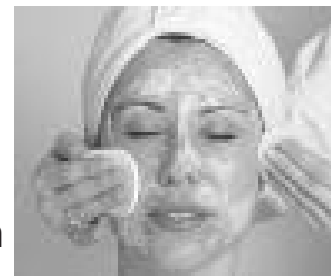
a. Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Duplicity

In response, City Hall reported to us a flat-out falsehood when it attempted to explain why the Cirrus Medical Office Project, abutting the Montage on Canon Drive and expected to generate, based on its own numbers, 50,000 cars per month, was specifically OMITTED from the EIR and NOT disclosed to us during the Montage/Measure "A" debate. City Hall deceitfully stated: "The application for the Cirrus Project was filed after the Montage was approved. Nevertheless, a growth factor for additional traffic resulting from the future development was included in the EIR." Sounds good, doesn't it? But unfortunately it's a deliberate distortion, a shameful City Hall deception. Why, because City Hall is obligated pursuant to state law to include EIR "cumulative impacts" that are "reasonably foreseeable probable future" projects. The Montage EIR was not certified until July 28, 2004. It made no mention of the Cirrus project. Yet, on December 16, 2003, the city planning staff met with Cirrus project reps. On March 2, 2004, the city received the Cirrus project traf-

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fic study indication that the project will generate approximately 50,000 vehicle trips per month based on 1,626 daily trips. And on April 8, 2004, the Cirrus project applicant presented its project, complete with detailed specifications, diagrams and full-blown renderings, to the city Planning Commission. Why did City Hall NOT inform us, the people, prior to the Montage Measure "A" election, of this acutely intense traffic estimate at 66,000 cars per month?

4. SPORTS CENTER PROJECT

We stated in our newsletter that "at a projected cost of somewhere between \$60 and \$80 million, the City Council is promoting in the Industrial Area the development of a recreational center."

City Hall's response countered by stating that the \$60-80 million estimate has no factual basis: if ever there was a statement against interest uttered by the City Hall politicians. We learned about that \$60-80 million Sports Center cost from the City Hall. If in fact it has no factual basis, why did City Hall disseminate it to the public? Is it now the order of things that City Hall hands out information that has no factual basis, we critically analyze it and then City Hall denies it?

Also, it must be noted that this proposed 80,000 square foot project in close proximity to residential is a bad idea. If it continues on its merry path to completion, it will undercut significantly the gravitas of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) in place between the city and our school district.

The JPA results in \$7 million in city funding of our school district. It is essential that

the Joint Powers Agreement remain in place and, if necessary, be increased. However, the city funding via the JPA rests upon the mutual understanding that the city is leasing school property for recreational use for city residents.

What we do matters as it is a reflection of who we are. Is it too much to require that City Hall act honorable? Would it offend notions of decency that we expect that modicum of respect?

Accordingly, we ask, yet again, that City Hall honor its commitment made months ago and restore two-hour free parking immediately citywide! We ask that City Hall enact an ethics code that prohibits council members and Planning Commissioners from lobbying and/or representing clients before City Council or Planning Commission for at least two years after completing their council or Planning Commission service. We ask that we receive an accounting of the state of our city's finances, particularly specifying the exact source (fund) of the Montage Hotel \$32,270,000 city financing, all borrowing from Enterprise Funds in the past five years and a detailed description of each of our city's Enterprise and General Fund accounts.

We expect those who hold public office to enhance the dignity of their office while they serve. To accept anything less from City Hall would be to endorse those in government unworthy of public responsibility.

Robert K. Tanenbaum is a former mayor of Beverly Hills, speaking on behalf of the Beverly Hills North Homeowners' Association.

briefs

Koretz Endorses Mike Feuer In 42nd Assembly District

Assemblymember Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) endorsed former L.A. City Councilmember Mike Feuer to succeed him as the Assembly representative from the 42nd District, announced Tuesday.

"I am particularly impressed by Mike Feuer's intelligence, ethics and integrity," Koretz said in a press release statement. "His contributions to the community are outstanding."

Feuer's primary opponent, West Hollywood Mayor Abbe Land, ran unsuccessfully along with Koretz for the Assembly seat in 1994. Koretz, who was also unsuccessful in 1994, later ran again and won in 2000.

Koretz and Land served together on the West Hollywood City Council prior to Koretz being elected to the Assembly.

high and high school students for participation based on educator nominations. The programs seek motivated students with academic promise, leadership potential and a desire to serve their communities. Nominated students are invited to attend summits held on U.S. college campuses to gain an edge in college admissions and pursue their interests in leadership or a desired career field. Programs are focused on leadership, legal careers, health care, international diplomacy and theater and the arts.

New City Stormwater Regulations

According to California's Water Resources Control Board and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Ballona Creek, into which runoff from Beverly Hills and other Los Angeles cities flows, is "impaired" by unacceptable levels of pollution.

In response, the State and Regional Boards have developed and adopted new "Total Maximum Daily Loads" (TMDLs) for the trash, metals and toxic sediments and bacteria found in Ballona Creek.

Beverly Hills, whose stormwater and



Beverly High hosted the second annual Curriculum Day last Wednesday, Feb. 9, with principals, counselors and department chairs from surrounding high schools in attendance. Pictured (bottom row, L-R) are Julie Ruisinger, Mira Costa High School; David Vannasdal, Arcadia High School; Lynn McCormack, Oak Park High School; (top row, L-R) Beverly High Principal Dan Stepenosky; Janet Anderson, South Pasadena High School; Larry Misel, Agoura High School; Damon Dragos, La Cañada High School; Loren Kleinrock, San Marino High School; and David Jackson, Calabasas High School. Not pictured but in attendance: Tom Gasper, Saint Monica's High School; and Patty Hagar, Whitney High School.

Beverly High and Math Teacher Honored

Beverly High and math teacher Debi Malouf have been awarded the People to People Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award by People to People Ambassador Programs.

Twenty five schools across the nation have been selected to receive this award in 2006. The People to People Eisenhower Distinguished School award honors top schools and teachers for their accomplishments in educating from a holistic perspective, developing students' minds and their character. Malouf is named for her continuous commitment to the People to People mission and values that People to People Ambassador Programs represent.

People to People was founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, to bring the world together through educational journeys that connect people across borders. People to People Leadership Programs select top junior

runoff enters the Ballona Creek through catch basins, covers approximately 5 percent of the Ballona Creek Watershed.

According to new standards, by September 2006, the city must have eliminated 80 percent of the baseline trash load running into the Ballona Creek Watershed. By 2015, the city is expected to eliminate trash from entering the storm drain through catch basins.

Since the passage of the current trash TMDL, Beverly Hills has created an award-winning public service announcement on stormwater, and distributed 4,000 18-month environmental message calendars throughout the city's school district. The city has also increased street-sweeping in the business district from six days a week to seven days a week.

The regional board has suggested the city implement capture treatment systems, which capture particles from water in mesh screens, and additional education, outreach and litter

briefs cont. on page 10

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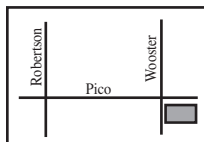
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briefs cont. from page 9

laws to accomplish zero trash by 2015.

In regard to reducing metals and toxics in sediment, the city currently conducts inspections of catch basins before every rain, uses vacuum-type street sweeping vehicles and monitors construction sites to ensure best management practices are being used. These measures are all in accordance with board recommendations.

The TMDL for bacteria is expected to be approved this year.

Currently, the city has a Stormwater Enterprise Capital fund that allocates \$50,000 each to street and stormwater improvements each year. City staff recommends that the council remain involved in the water cleanup process, but warns that meeting the evolving standards will require significant cost increases in the coming years.

District Tries To Put A Stop To Trespassing Skateboarders

The BHUSD is in the process of trying to discourage the popularity of the curbs and railings surrounding the high school from being used and damaged by skateboarders in the community.

The district has welded acorn nuts into the 24 railings around the campus to deter the use of skateboarders and protect the equipment, but according to Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Mick McClatchey, some of the acorns have already been removed and need to be replaced.

The district is also looking into modifying the curbs with L-shaped brackets and last

week removed about 200 square feet of concrete sidewalk between the C and D buildings, replacing it with an exposed aggregate, rough surface. If it acts as a deterrent, the district may move it to the front of the campus.

According to McClatchey, a majority of the skateboarders are not Beverly Hills students, but rather those you live just outside the city.

McClatchey said some of the curbs are so damaged, these modifications may not work.

As a last resort, the district may have to install planters in the affected areas, McClatchey said.

In addition, McClatchey said police patrols have been increased in the area.

BHUSD To Undergo Disaster Planning Training

The BHUSD is modifying its disaster preparedness plans at all five schools. Starting this month through June each school will be involved in disaster drills targeted toward earthquake preparedness.

"Earthquakes are very different-- they don't just happen and go away, and that is our weak area that we really need to pay attention to," Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Mick McClatchey said.

At this point the district will not collaborate with the city because the BHUSD is not as prepared at this time.

"If we were to do something with city, they would be the beneficiary because it's so much further along," McClatchey said. "We're focusing on going slow and then moving faster and progressively."

There will be a drill each month with each

getting more challenging. It will culminate in a disaster drill involving the whole district June 1. The district is exploring training children in seventh and eighth grades in DART training. Staff will be trained March 20 in search and rescue and first aid.

Interest In Use of Closed Circuit TVs At Schools Expands

The BHUSD is interested in increasing security at the schools and is reviewing school alarm systems and the concept of installing additional Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV) on all the campuses.

Closed Circuit Television involves using television cameras mounted in public areas or on streets with the pictures wirelessly sent to the police station or district for review. The city is also considering the idea.

Beverly Vista and the high school have CCTV systems, but the high school's needs to be upgraded, according to district representatives. There are 32 cameras on the main campus and nine in the Swim Gym.

According to Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Mick McClatchey, if an incident were to happen, they may be able to catch the perpetrator. However, the system is passive with no one currently monitoring the TVs during the week or on weekends.

To employ observers is a huge cost, McClatchey said.

"We want the capability for it to be at the desktop of all the administrators, something more web based, so we can access information without going on campus," McClatchey said.

McClatchey added that the district would

also like to be able to view the monitors more effectively during the nighttime hours.

The district is reviewing consultants and vendors, and researching funding sources.

School Playgrounds Open For Community Use

Three of the four elementary school playgrounds have been open for community use since the beginning of the school year in the fall of last year, and the fourth was officially opened last weekend. According to Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Mick McClatchey, a school alarm was causing problems and led to the delay in opening the campus. The playgrounds are open Saturday-Sunday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and the district has also hired a service to increase patrols around the schools.

Under the Joint Powers Agreement, the district receives more than \$7 million from the city in exchange for the use of its facilities.

League of Women Voters Meeting Feb. 25

The League of Women Voters of Beverly Hills will be hosting its Energy Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 9:30 a.m. at 617 N. Rexford Drive, with guest speaker John Gautrey, PE with IBE Consulting Engineers. The discussion will involve protecting the environment and future through sustainable building design and development, and to learn about the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system and the state of the art strategies for water savings and energy efficiency. RSVP to

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Beverly High Class of 1956 Looks For Missing Classmates

The Class of 1956 is looking for lost classmates for the upcoming 50th reunion to be held in September. Missing classmates include Denise Alexander, Rae Kloz, Judith Serf, Belinda Brundage, Betty Hoe Lapp, Heidi Seuter, Lorna Harrison Buerger, Dan Lawlor, Margot Hellman Sherman, Susan Platt Bagley, George Lebecki, Robert Siegel, Fred Swartz, Richard Eisenrod, Tom McClosky, Marguerite Strategos, Sandra Freedman, Gayle Ebert Mynatt, Rita Tapper, Stuart Freedman, Stephanie Berzon Miller, Dorothy Franklin Harris-O'Hare, Arthur Pollack, Peter Good, Marthermarie Nourse Pate, Kristine Tollsted, Barbara Gassman, Joseph Perenzan, Dee Weber, Judith Gilbert, Rosita Parker, Susan Davis Weiland, Michael Goode, Ann Williams Price, Sandra Wieselmann, Joanne Gugenheim, Joani Greene Rome, Richard Heymann, Johanne Johnson Rosumny, Martha Hicks, Debrah Rubin, Thomas Hohl, and Thomas Sawyer.

Contact Joan Kline Yeoman at: JYeoman11@aol.com.

Congressman Sherman Says It's Time for Tough Iran Sanctions

Congressman Brad Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks) welcomed a United Nations nuclear watchdog agency vote to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council over Tehran's nuclear program two weeks ago.

Sherman, however, predicted that China would use its permanent seat on the council to

stymie any meaningful action against Iran. Beijing has extensive economic and diplomatic ties with Tehran.

"It is clear that China will defend Iran with its veto, so Iran knows it will not face any Security Council sanctions," said Sherman, a senior member of the House International Relations Committee, in a press release statement. "We need to subtly inform China that it cannot count on open access to the U.S. markets while it protects Iran's nuclear program."

Sherman added, "It is time to take the Iranian nuclear threat seriously and for the Bush administration to show some backbone in dealing with Tehran. The president's efforts in this area have been incredibly lame. This president has done nothing in five years to stop or even slow down Iran's march toward nuclear weapons."

A leading critic of the Bush administration's refusal to enforce the Iran Libya Sanctions Act, Sherman renewed his call for a total embargo on Iranian goods sold to the United States. Americans spend some \$150 million a year on Iranian products.

"We need to act now, before Iran develops a nuclear bomb, before it arms terrorists with a weapon that could wreak unheard of havoc," said Sherman, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation.

New Library Planned for West Hollywood

Plans for a new West Hollywood library were approved last week by the West Hollywood City Council. The multi-functional building will complete the first phase of the

\$65 million West Hollywood Park Master Plan, whose goal is to increase the green area of the park from just over one acre to 5.25 acres.

The roof of the library building will contain tennis courts, a restaurant and an event space with a 400-person capacity. The building will also contain a stacked parking lot.

In addition to the Gay and Lesbian reference room and the International Languages Room containing the Russian archive, the new library will feature a children's theater, a young adult section, a West Hollywood History Room, a career development center, and a nearly 6,000 square foot community conference room.

The city is seeking a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver Certification, the standard development by the U.S. Green Building Council for certifying high-performance sustainable green buildings, for the library.

So far, planning for the project has cost approximately \$1 million.

Total construction costs are projected to be around \$50 million. West Hollywood Mayor Abbe Land and Councilmember Jeffrey Prang made a lobbying trip to Sacramento at the beginning of the month to discuss the library's future and the Library Bond scheduled for the June ballot, which is expected to provide the \$18 million seed money to begin construction.

The council voted unanimously last week to seek candidates for the position of fund-raiser.

Beverly High Alumnus Wins Writers Guild Award

Jenji Kohan, a 1987 Beverly High graduate, received the Writers Guild Award Feb. 4 for episodic television comedy for her script for the pilot of Showtime's "Weeds."

Kohan, who had expressed frustration about CBS' decisions in her last broadcast series--2004's short-lived "The Stones"-- said the difference between broadcast and cable television is "you trade money for freedom."

"In a way, I've bought my freedom," Kohan said backstage at the ceremony at the Hollywood Palladium. "It's not TV by committee. I've had an enormous amount of freedom to write what I want."

The second season of "Weeds" is scheduled to premiere this summer, a representative of the pay cable channel said.

"Weeds" stars Mary-Louise Parker as suburban California mother who resorts to selling marijuana to support her family after her husband unexpectedly dies.



Beverly Hills resident and mother of five Susan Kolko is teaming up with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to help fund-raise sponsorship dollars as she prepares to take part in the upcoming 17th Annual Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge at the 2006 Boston Marathon. Kolko will be running in the Boston Marathon with a fund-raising goal of \$15,000 towards the Dana-Farber Institute's overall goal of \$3.6 million in support of basic cancer research. Last year, community sponsored donations to Kolko amounted in more than \$12,000. Her run and the sponsorship donations she receives are in honor of four members of the community who are in recovery or are currently fighting cancer: fellow runner Lisa Harris is a Beverly Hills resident, Beverly High teacher and mother of two, currently battling cancer in the hopes of joining Kolko in future marathons; Gina Mandel is a cancer survivor and mother of four who works at Beverly Vista; Cheryl Weisberg is also a cancer survivor and mother of two who recently founded the Cheryl Weisberg Lymphoma Foundation at Cedars-Sinai; and Caroline Stover, who is a cancer survivor and mother of two children at El Rodeo. All donations will fund the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Basic Cancer Research at the Dana Farber Institute. For more information, or to make an online donation, visit www.dana-farber.org.

Kohan, also one of "Weeds'" executive producers, began her career writing for "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" after graduating from Columbia University and abandoning dreams of being a spoken-word performance artist.

She was a producer on HBO's Emmy Award-winning "Tracey Takes On," The WB drama "Gilmore Girls" and ABC's "Wednesday 9:30 (8:30 Central)."

Kohan's television writing credits also include episodes of "Friends," "Mad About You," "Sex and the City" and "Will & Grace," which was created by her brother David ('82) and fellow Beverly High graduate Max Mutchnick ('84).

-- Compiled by Steven Herbert, Anna Scott and Andrea Simpson

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where are they now? cont. from page 6

friends today that live in Kenya and talk to them all the time.

When I came back a good three months before school started I kept asking Dick Douglas, "What am I going to teach? What am I going to teach?" He didn't know and he just kept saying, "Don't worry, you have a job." I knew I had a job, I wasn't worried. I just wanted to know what I was going to teach (laughing). The week before school started he told me third grade and I thought, "Oh my goodness, third grade. They're little." I was hoping for fourth or fifth. I asked him, "Well, how old are those little guys?" He said, "They're eight." I was used to 12-year-olds. As it turned out it was just the best. Third graders are great because No. 1, they're old enough where they don't need you to tie their shoes, to blow their nose, they can go to the bathroom on their own, and they are still old enough to work for 20 or 30 minutes on their own. It's also a great age because they love you-- they love your jokes, everything. I remember having boys and girls fighting to hold my hand in line; it was the cutest thing.

You went from teaching middle school grades to primary grades in 1990. Why?

I had taught middle school for a long time and wanted something different. When I came back from my around the world trip I wanted a grade change just because I had gotten a little tired of middle school. I was on leave so I knew I had a job and I asked for elementary and when I came back I was

fortunate to stay at the same school and it was just a wonderful experience, probably the best thing I've ever done.

In 1999, you moved to the Bay Area and then to Portland, Oregon.

At the time I was married and my wife wanted to be closer to her family. I got a job teaching sixth grade for Los Altos school district and they happened to be the No.1 school district in the state.

Then I moved to Portland for a year and taught fourth grade. I found myself single again and living in Portland [and when] I came back to California my parents had moved to San Diego, so I decided to move farther south.

Los Altos school district only has seven schools so it's very similar in demographics to Hawthorne, and very personal. It was not as multi-cultural as Hawthorne, mostly Caucasian and Asian. I worked for the Beaverton school district outside Portland and it's huge, so totally different from Beverly Hills and Los Altos districts. Instead of having five or seven schools, it had about 90 schools and nobody knows everybody and [it was] a totally different mentality.

Now you're involved in real estate in San Diego.

I'm happily now living in San Diego and I have a girlfriend named Julie and she has an 11-year-old daughter Adriana, and the cool thing about all that is that Julie happens to be a seventh grade school teacher.

When I came back to Southern California there were a few teaching jobs available, but the pay was so low it was almost like starting over again. Down here in San Diego most of [the districts] don't want to give you any credit for your experience. It would be like starting at the bottom of the pay scale once again and the pay scales aren't high to begin with. It was really like starting at 23-years-old again and I just couldn't do that. So I decided to do something else. My first passion in life has always been education, and the second has been real estate. I was actually involved in real estate even when I was in Beverly Hills. I thought I might as well pursue that further and I got my real estate license and I now work for REMAX Associates in Del Mar called Distinctive Properties. I like it because it reminds me of the Hawthorne family in the sense that everybody in the office is nice, friendly and helpful like a team.

What experiences did you bring with you from teaching to real estate?

As a matter of fact, a lot of it is the same. I happen to be very organized so my style fits in well to real estate. In school, we're dealing with our most valuable resource, our kids. But at the same time, you also have to deal with the parents and do the best job you can in education. In real estate, it's really the same thing. You're not dealing with kids anymore, you're dealing with grown ups, but the job is still to do a good job, to be professional, to be dependable, and to be honest. A lot of the characteristics and qualities of teaching I apply to real estate.

Tell us about the real estate market in San Diego.

It has, like all of Southern California, gone crazy. Right now things have leveled out, but we have not seen a bust down here in San Diego. What we have seen instead of the double-digit inflation things have just slowed down a bit. But we're really not seeing a drop right now which is good.

Where do you see the market heading?

I suspect it will stay level. Possibly some of the real high end stuff will drop a tad. But overall I don't think so. I've seen the real estate market go up and down and even

though there are times when it goes up real high and it comes down a little bit, it still slowly levels its way out. Eventually, it goes up a little bit all the time.

Do you have any desire to move back up north to L.A.?

Honestly, no. I don't miss the traffic or the pollution in L.A. at all. I do miss my friends though, but fortunately L.A. is only 100 miles away so I get up there every so often.

Who do you keep in touch with?

Because I was there so long I became part of a group of well established teachers who now most have retired. One of my good friends is Dee Richards, who lives in Malibu. Through her I stay caught up with all the other gals, and they're mostly women because that's the way it is in schools. I talked to George Fourgis [last week] and he's doing all right in Palm Desert. Every so often when I go into Beverly Hills I'll stop at Hawthorne and say hi to my friends-- Anita Naiman, Stephanie Axelrod and Bob Bailey. I keep in contact with lots of people.

What's your fondest memory of Hawthorne?

I would say the kids because I think there's about 1,500 kids who have come through my classes. It's the kids that really put a smile on my face. Every so often I'll run into someone and I'll hear my name and I almost always know it's a student because instead of saying, "Rick," I'll hear, "Mr. Palzer." Last summer my girlfriend and I were in Cancun and I turn around and hear, "Mr. Palzer," and I see this guy and he's taller than I am and he's very familiar and it's two brothers that I had as fifth graders-- Jason and Justin Kachan. That's what makes me smile when I think back on all the fond memories of the kids.

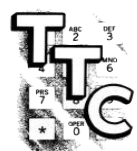
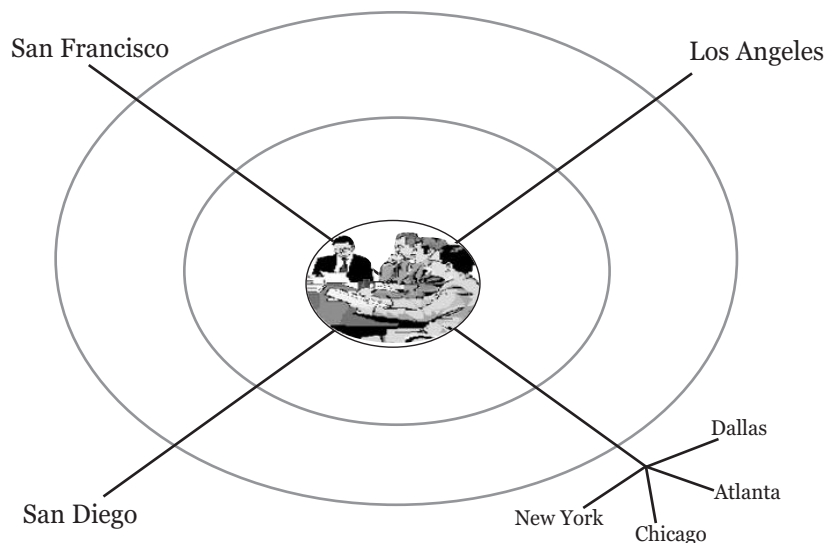
-- Interview by Andrea Simpson

Coming next week: Former League of Women Voters President Joann Ruden

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rudy cole cont. from page 7

modern technology, we could abolish Congress and submit every question to a vote by e-mail.

Isn't it interesting that we can vote on whether to spend money on school construction, but not on whether the nation should go to war? The framers made no provision, and no reforms have ever been adopted, to permit national referenda on any question. The closest we come is when we require votes of state legislatures to amend the Constitution. We are a democracy with a representative form of government. If we disapprove, we can throw the rascals out.

One more reader response: "You seem to dismiss traffic impacts on what you call 'smart growth' developments. I live here and I am very concerned about congestion and traffic, but some real stats need much better dissemination. For some reason, traffic causes, which have been studied and analyzed with every new proposal and stored in every crevice at City Hall, are not being used."

What would help the public debate on all major questions facing future developments is a clearer public understanding of the realities of our traffic woes. What I learned surprised me. Just one example: Seventy percent of the cars using Olympic Boulevard pass through the city! We always assumed that most traffic was caused by people going to or from Westwood, Century City, Mid-Wilshire and other points east, but we had no idea the percentage was so high. What the city clearly needs is a basic report on traffic patterns and counts for every important cor-

ridor. Our congestion issues are more regional than local, but we need the numbers.

Another reader states I am "too often" an apologist for the City Council. Hardly. I strongly disagree with many council decisions and have been critical of the city's failure to communicate important actions. Too often, as reported here, major changes have taken place in administrative positions with no public notice. We also strongly opposed the council's decision to abolish two-hour free parking. Apparently, the council will revisit this sometime soon. Obviously, the parking structures need major work and the increased revenues were intended to make this possible, but the effects on shoppers has not been good and the city will reexamine their actions.

Incidentally, kudos to Councilmember **Frank Fenton** for being the lone vote against the loss of two-hour free.

I wrote and continue to feel that the selection of a new fire chief was not handled well and was insensitive. Do I approve of the work of the city manager? Yes, most of his actions have been long overdue, but they-- his administrative decisions-- need far more exposure and understanding. As an example, the choice of a new assistant city manager was made without even informing all members of the City Council. It was the city manager's call, but **Rod Wood** would have made more points internally and in the community if that choice and others were circulated in a timely manner. The city has some good professionals in communication, but what would probably be constructive is a full-time

director of publicity.

Nice of the Motion Picture Academy to continue their traditional luncheon for Oscar nominees at the Beverly Hilton-- the headline in the *Los Angeles Times* that the event will take place in our village and at the renovated Hilton is important. However, the Academy has some issues: Each year, they use the entire side of one of their walls to promote the televising of Oscar night. The billboard size sign wins approval from city staff because it is "only" for a special event. In the past, and no such sign has ever been of the size and scale of the Academy's signage, the option for obtaining exceptions of our codes has been for community charities or city events. This hardly qualifies on either counts. Smack up against residential, the artwork would not be permitted for any business. As you know, we have very tough rules on signs and a total prohibition on billboards.

The Academy also received very special consideration on parking requirements, to the detriment of its neighbors. There is no where near enough parking to satisfy daily, much less, event needs of which there are many. The Academy represents an industry that is critical to our economy, but staff and council need to reexamine event activities and permission for placing the oversized sign on their building.

The Academy could, of course, make amends by returning the Water Works building on La Cienega. How about a trade? Return that property for public use and you can keep your signs.

Good decisions: The City Council adopted responsible limits on demolition of apartments to condos, helping preserve a viable economic mix for our city. One opponent of the ordinance argued that many old buildings had hazardous electrical and inadequate plumbing. An interesting challenge for our code enforcement officers.

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce had an outstanding economic forecasting forum earlier this month attended by a sold-out audience at the Regent Beverly Wilshire. One good moment came when a panelist, a television analyst of the economy and the stock markets, was asked how stocks would fare in the immediate future. Her answer: "Your guess is as good as mine" to which the moderator responded, "You get the big bucks for your opinions and that's the best you can offer?"

Mayor **Linda Briskman** keynoted the event with a report on Beverly Hills that was cogent and thoughtful. We don't always agree, but I have to admit, she has had an outstanding year as mayor and kept differences on the council in rational bounds. Time flies, but her term ends next month when former Planning Commissioner colleague **Steve Webb** takes the gavel.

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



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COC SUBMITS FOURTH REPORT ON MEASURE K FUNDS

Citizen's Oversight Committee cites need for improved timeliness and up-to-date financial outlines.

By Andrea Simpson

The Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) released its fourth oversight report on Measure K, the \$90 million bond fund program to make improvements to Beverly Hills schools, at last week's board meeting, covering the period March 1, 2005-October 31, 2005.

The last report was issued February 28, 2005.

Planned projects to be funded by the measure have included playground restoration at Beverly Vista, El Rodeo, Hawthorne and Horace Mann, upgrading the Science and Technology Center at the high school, and various small physical improvements to all of the schools.

According to its report, in March of 2005, the district began to re-evaluate both the delivery method and financial status of the Measure K Program. Over the past year and a half, the cost of construction materials in California has been escalating. Furthermore, a glut of school construction work in California has resulted in labor shortages. Costs and resource issues have caused project bids in school districts to be over budget.

The district felt that the most efficient and cost effective delivery method for the STC and BVB projects would be the multiple prime contracting delivery method for a greater degree of control over the project schedules, attracting higher quality contractors, direct control over the contractors, and the potential for lower project costs. The Board of Education hired Rudolph & Sletten as the construction manager for its two priority projects.

Since last February, the report indicates that three significant personnel changes in the administration of Measure K have taken place, including the addition of Mick McClatchey, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, who replaced Gary Mortimer, who retired. The district has also added a facilities manager, Mike Garcia, who reports to Karen Christiansen, the district's Director of Facilities and Planning. The board also terminated the services of the JCM Management Group last year after the district elected to use multiple prime contractors for the Science and Tech. (STC) building and Building B (BVB).

According to COC Chairman Paige Serden Lapinski, there was no reason to retain JCM to oversee the balance of the projects, with the dis-

trict performing scope evaluations on the remaining modernization work and deciding whether it would require outside help or manage the work internally.

Based on the financial information provided by the district to the COC, the total expenditures through October, 2005 were about \$33 million, leaving a cash balance of about \$60 million, which matched the L.A. County Bond Fund balance.

For the project management fees, the board approved budget totaled just over \$1.7 million, which was revised last September to about \$6 million, more than \$4 million more than the original budget. At the time, the Science & Tech. Center came out

\$1.3 million over budget. The remaining high school projects came in with a revised budget under the original budget of almost \$600,000.

The STC and BVB projects were estimated to come out between \$34-\$38 million, and last September came out to be \$45 million. They're now estimated to be approximately \$51 million.

The escalation in costs will have a direct impact on the scope of the remaining modernization and playground restoration projects, the report stated. The cash remaining after construction of STC and BVB for modernization and other projects would be just over \$18.6 million, but according to the budgets for the projects at all five schools as of last September, those costs would exceed \$23 million, leaving a program shortfall of just over \$5 million.

In other projects, according to the report, the Beverly Vista playground project came in under budget of about \$43,000. El Rodeo's and Hawthorne's projects all came in under budget for modernization and small projects by more than

\$500,000 each.

The June 2004 audit was delivered to the COC for its review during the summer of 2005, and while the report didn't identify any discrepancies or noteworthy items, the timing of the delivery of the report was "unacceptable," as written in the COC report. It states, "Should there have been audit items of note, for which this committee is charged to oversee, the failure to obtain timely

reporting could have had adverse effects on the Measure K project."

Now working with a new firm, the COC received the final audit Jan. 11 on time, according to Lapinski.

In its report, the Citizens' Oversight Committee made several recom-

mendations regarding financial reporting as the district moves into the most expensive phase of the Measure K Program.

The committee recommends that the district and the Board of Education update all Measure K budgets to reflect the increased costs for the priority projects in order to get an accurate financial picture of the entire program. The COC also calls for the Board of Education to immediately re-allocate any excess money after the completion of each Measure K project.

Additionally, the COC says it is "imperative" that the Job Status Report be updated in a more timely manner than in the past, and that the committee receive all reports and transmittals immediately after the board has received their documents.

"We get [reports] quickly after they go to the board, but it's always 30 days [after] when [the district] closes their books, so we're behind," Lapinski said. "It's not a matter of giving us the reports, it's the timing of which the information is

completed."

"As the activity level picked up when transmittals came in for STC and BVB it's a lot of information for the committee to digest if the board meets Tuesday and we get the information on Wednesday for our meetings," Serden said. "So historically what happens is as transmittals were given to us, a couple committee members would get them at same time as the board got packages, but because the volume has increased it was unfair to the other committee members to not have opportunity to review it so we've been spending a lot more time in our meetings and have a lot of follow-up in order to get questions answered."

Lapinski added the district is dependent on the county's accounting schedule, and the time factor hasn't been an issue until recently, leading the COC to require more updated budgets.

"It hasn't really been an issue up until now because there have been minimal expenditures," Lapinski said. "As we're going forward [the district] will be reallocating the budget because the budget we are working off of is the original budget. On March 7 there will be a massive transfer, so when the Board of Education approves the transfer we will be working with live budgets for the STC and BVB, but not yet for modernization because they will have not completed the evaluation of scopes."

Lapinski added that had the activity level been more active among the projects through October 2005, keeping track of funds would have been much more difficult had the two projects, STC and BVB, been underway. The COC will now be working with Rudolph & Sletten to provide completion on project statuses.

In its conclusion, the COC stated in its report that the scope of its information is limited to what is provided by the district, board, audits, and management, but it believes that the actual expenditures and commitments of the funds appear to fall within the parameters of the bond measure.

Lapinski said she is "confident" the COC's recommendations will be addressed and followed through. The next report will be released in the spring.

Karen Christiansen did not return the *Weekly's* phone calls.



Soon to be demolished: B building

OUTAGE SPARKS COUNCIL QUESTIONS Edison sheds dim light on extended power outages; council not satisfied with answers.

By Anna Scott

The City Council heard a presentation by Southern California Edison (SCE) last week on the company's delayed response to an extended power outage at the beginning of the year. The council was left with many questions still unanswered and SCE is expected to deliver a report to the Public Works Commission this morning to address lingering issues.

Power went out Jan. 5 for approximately 2,900 customers along Beverly Drive. Most of them

had service returned that night, but approximately 100 were without service for nearly three days. The outage was the longest of several that have occurred in the Beverly Hills area last year.

SCE was given a list of questions from the council in advance of last Tuesday's meeting, with the issues raised including the age and efficiency of Edison's equipment, the repair and replacement schedule for equipment, why SCE took so long to allow firefighters access to the

underground vault where the fire that caused the outage began, and the possibility of Beverly Hills merchants being compensated for loss of business during the blackout.

According to Councilmember Steve Webb, the SCE reps who delivered the Tuesday's presentation, Regional Manager Mark Olson and Superintendent Bola Ayorinde, "provided some information," but left "the most important question unanswered, which was to provide us with

an inventory of their existing equipment in Beverly Hills, how old it is and the master plan for replacement."

SCE offered general information on their inspection and maintenance process, providing council with a list of the average ages of various pieces of equipment used by Edison throughout Southern California and stating that "all equipment are rated and replacement is scheduled as necessary."

Edison replaced two underground high-voltage switches in Beverly Hills in January and estimated that they will replace more than 50 others by the end of the year, as well as 20 to 40 poles in the area. The upgrades were planned after an inspection last year determined the equipment would need to be replaced within the next year.

Councilmember Barry Brucker, however, feels this is not enough.

"It seems like their philosophy is to wait until the equipment breaks and then replace it," Brucker said. "This puts the community and its residents in a very precarious position."

Specific questions on the safety issues raised by the Jan. 5 blackout, submitted to SCE in writing by the council before the meeting, went unanswered, including the age of the transformer equipment that malfunctioned and whether the underground facility where the malfunction occurred has been inspected to determine any PCB leakages or contamination.

PCBs, once used as coolers and lubricants in transformers and other electrical equipment, were banned in 1977 because of evidence that they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health effects. Electrical devices made before

1977 with PCB capacitors may still contain traces of the chemical.

According to Edison, the average age of their transformers, cables and switches range from 18 to 30 years.

SCE says it is "unaware of the presence of PCB in any specific pieces of equipment."

When the council asked if city officials would be allowed to inspect the facility to determine the safety conditions of the switching equipment, Edison replied that they cannot provide access to an underground substation due to qualification and training requirement. However, they did offer that "for educational purposes a tour of an above-ground substation could be arranged."

With further regard to safety, Brucker brought up the fact that during last month's outage, the Beverly Hills Fire Department had to wait about 45 minutes after arriving on the scene for Edison officials to arrive and grant access to the underground vault where a high voltage underground cable splice had failed, impacting several circuits.

Nonetheless, the delayed response from Edison, Brucker said, created a "dangerous situation."

Olson defended SCE's safety procedures,

attributing the length of the January outage to a recently enhanced system.

"State required guidelines are requiring us to do more grounding of electrical equipment," Olson said.

Electrical grounding renders equipment inoperable, minimizing the chance of electrocution in the event of an electrical failure. New procedures, according to Olson, require more time to put the system into a grounded position.

"That was a factor in the January outage," Olson said.

Olson also noted that SCE conducts annual Emergency Training Exercises as required by the California Public Utilities Commission, the last of which was conducted in December.

Another topic that council felt went unaddressed was the issue of whether SCE would provide merchant compensation for businesses affected by the outage. Prior to last Tuesday, the council requested information on SCE's claims history and the criteria for filing and receiving benefits.

At the meeting, Edison responded with instructions on filing a claim through the SCE website.

Businesses hit the hardest by January's black-

out were restaurants that lost large amounts of inventory due to spoilage. Jason Schepps, General Manager of Islands on South Beverly Drive, said, "I lost product; I lost 64 hours of business."

Schepps, who attended the meeting, estimates the total loss of sales to be about \$30,000, and the total loss of product around \$15,000. Schepps, who was present at Tuesday's meeting, said the restaurant has filed a claim against SCE but that he "got the impression that unless it's something they could have seen was going to happen and could have prevented, it's not their problem."

The city is looking into becoming a community choice aggregator to supply the community with its own power. But even if the city implemented such a program, it would still be dependent on SCE's distribution infrastructure, which is what failed Jan. 5.

Edison will make a second presentation this morning at a special Public Works Commission meeting to address questions on safety and the condition of local equipment in more detail.

WEST HOLLYWOOD WANTS IN **Neighboring councilmember wants to study the feasibility of combining local school districts, but is it realistic?**

By Anna Scott



West Hollywood Councilmember Jeffrey Prang

In January, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa had advisors begin drafting a plan that would authorize him to appoint school board members, replacing the election process that currently exists. The move would leave smaller cities within the LAUSD with no say in choosing Board of Education members.

Should the mayor's plan ever come to fruition, a councilmember in neighboring West Hollywood wants to study the feasibility of leaving the LAUSD to combine with the Beverly Hills Unified School District.

West Hollywood Councilmember Jeffrey Prang, who introduced the idea of West Hollywood joining the BHUSD at a recent council meeting thinks the proposal may have merit.

"Mayor Villaraigosa is not the Mayor of West Hollywood. So I've been raising concerns that it would be undemocratic to give the Mayor of Los Angeles authority over what is now an independent jurisdiction where we have equal participation of our public in choosing school board members."

Although Prang acknowledges that there is no formal plan for Villaraigosa to take over the school board elections, "I've been hoping that in the context of the discussion they would at least be a little more clear that they understand we are independent," Prang said. "Mayor Villaraigosa is a friend, I consider him a political ally, but he won't be a mayor forever. Who knows what the next mayor will be like? Why would we give up our franchise to future mayors of Los Angeles?"

If such a plan were to be implemented, Prang said that there should at least be an

arrangement in place to allow smaller cities to break away from the LAUSD. He brought up the possibility of combining school districts because it would be very difficult for West Hollywood, which only accounts for about 800 students in the LAUSD, to create its own school district.

West Hollywood only has one public elementary school and one pre-school and no high school.

Prang concedes that the discussion is purely hypothetical at this point, and said that West Hollywood joining the BHUSD is "not a proposal on the table."

BHUSD Superintendent Jeff Hubbard does not think it's likely that Villaraigosa will gain control of the LAUSD any time soon.

"There would be a major fight there," Hubbard said. "The whole point of school boards is that locally they are elected to represent the local community associated with the district."

Furthermore, even if the mayor were to start appointing school board members, Hubbard does not see the BHUSD expanding its borders to include West Hollywood, "given the obstacles that West Hollywood would have to endure to even approach us."

The prospect of BHUSD adding territory to its borders has been mentioned before, most recently in the BHPO area. Currently part of the LAUSD, the BHPO begins at the city limits on the northern end of Beverly Hills and continues north to Mulholland, then west to Benedict Canyon and east to Coldwater Canyon. The area shares a zip and area code with Beverly Hills, but is otherwise not part of the city or school district.

The possibility of the BHPO joining the BHUSD has never reached the L.A. County Committee On School District Organization, but it has been a topic of discussion among BHPO residents. A hypothetical proposal to expand BHUSD's permit program to include residents of the BHPO was explored in a

Weekly article last June ["Bringing In The BHPO", issue #298].

One reason cited in the article that such a proposal might meet opposition should it ever reach the committee is that the annexation would raise property values in the BHPO without adequate compensation to the BHUSD.

As AJ Willmer, former chair of the Los Angeles County Committee On School District Organization, explains, "the process of annexation is not difficult, but the politics are."

There are two major processes by which annexation of West Hollywood into the BHUSD could occur. The first, Willmer said, would be if LAUSD and BHUSD officials both agreed to change boundary lines. The issue would then come before the county committee, but it would "essentially be a done deal." However, Willmer pointed out, "That doesn't occur very much."

It is an unlikely scenario in the instance of West Hollywood, he said, because Beverly Hills simply does not have enough schools to accommodate all of the students from West Hollywood.

"Right off the bat, we're looking at having to build another high school," Willmer said. "We're looking at a major housing issue."

The second, more common process would begin with a petition in the area that is applying to be annexed-- in this case, West Hollywood. After obtaining approval from the county committee to begin the process, a chief petitioner would have to obtain signatures from 25 percent of the registered voters in the area. After several public and deliberative meetings, if the committee approved the petition, an election would occur.

For this election, Willmer said there are no guidelines.

"We could, theoretically, pick out one house in West Hollywood and say that's the only place that's going to vote. We obviously

wouldn't do that, but we have no criteria. In all likelihood, we would want everybody in West Hollywood to vote and we would want everyone in Beverly Hills to vote as well," Willmer said.

If the chosen areas voted to approve the annexation, it could then move forward.

Earlier this year, a group of parents in the Ladera Heights area, whose children currently attend the Inglewood Unified School District, petitioned the Los Angeles County Committee On School District Organization to reorganize so that students living in the Ladera Heights area could attend Culver City Unified schools.

Although the number of students in Ladera Heights is relatively small, the Ladera Heights assessed property values were about 15 percent of the whole Inglewood school districts' assessed property values, according to Willmer. He explained that the committee did not approve the annexation because the Inglewood school district has some bonded indebtedness.

"If the annexation were to occur, the Ladera Heights residents would no longer have been responsible for the bonds they were paying in Inglewood and everyone else in Inglewood would have had their taxes go up immediately," Willmer said.

Should the West Hollywood/Beverly Hills issue ever come before the committee, Willmer said it is an unlikely scenario that it would be approved. Beverly Hills does not have enough schools to take on all of the students from West Hollywood.

Willmer added that, ideally, the committee would want everyone in both the LAUSD and the BHUSD to vote on the West Hollywood annexation.

For the moment, all discussions regarding Villaraigosa appointing school board members and any ensuing reorganization are purely speculative.

sports & scores



BHHS Girls' Soccer Team Finishes Second, Opens Playoffs At Home Saturday

Norman girls' basketball team to open playoffs today, boys' basketball and boys' soccer teams Friday.

By Steven Herbert

The Beverly High girls' soccer team defeated Inglewood Morningside, 2-1, Feb. 7 at Nickoll Field, assuring itself of second place in the Ocean League.

Alex Pop headed in a cross from Nikki Sharaf score in the 75th minute of the 80-minute game for the game-winning goal.

Becca Rosen gave the Normans a 1-0 lead in the 17th minute when she scored off Sharaf's cross.

The Monarchs tied the score on a 35th-minute free kick. Beverly Hills led in shots, 16-8.

Beverly Hills 2, Culver City 0

Amanda Brandeis scored an unassisted goal in the 65th minute, Joey Sundy scored her team-leading 13th goal four minutes later off Viviana Ostrezega's assist and freshman Becca Gold made four saves for the shutout in an Ocean League game last Thursday at Culver City, the regular-season finale for both teams.

Beverly Hills 8, Hawthorne 1

Freshman forward Emily Litvak had two goals and an assist while Brandeis had a goal and two assists in an Ocean League game at Hawthorne Feb. 1.

Emily Housman, Pop, Rachel Kove, Sharaf and Sundy also scored.

Gina Hendron made three saves in the first half and Gold four in the second.

Santa Monica 5, Beverly Hills 0

The Normans allowed four second-half goals to the league-leading Vikings in an Ocean League game at Santa Monica Feb. 3.

Beverly Hills had a chance to tie the score, but Housman couldn't score on a breakaway.

"We had plenty [of] chances," Norman coach Ryan Franks said. "After a 1-0 first half, we couldn't sustain the high pressure that we started the game with and we gave a good team too much space to operate."

What's Next?

Beverly Hills is scheduled to play host to Cypress, the Empire League's third-place team, in a Southern Section Division III first-round playoff game Saturday at 3 p.m. at Nickoll Field.

If the Normans win, they would face the San Luis Obispo-West Covina South Hills winner in a second-

round game Wednesday at 3 p.m. Beverly Hills would play at South Hills, while the site of a game against San Luis Obispo would be determined by a coin toss.

Under Southern Section rules, the team with the fewest home playoff games hosts the next game. If both teams have played the same number of home games, the site is determined by a coin toss.

Boys' Soccer

Hawthorne 1, Beverly Hills 0

The host Cougars scored in the first half of an Ocean League game Jan. 13.

Inglewood Morningside 2, Beverly Hills 0

The Normans failed to score on five breakaways and were shut out for the fourth consecutive game, despite out-shooting the Monarchs, 10-5, in an Ocean League game at Nickoll Field Jan. 20. Morningside scored both its goals in the second half. Junior goalkeeper David Roston made three saves for Beverly Hills.

Los Angeles Milken 1, Beverly Hills 0

The Wildcats scored in the 50th minute in a non-league game at Nickoll Field Jan. 21. The Normans led 12-3 in shots. "We were all over them," Beverly Hills coach Steve Rappaport said. "We just couldn't finish." Roston made two saves.

What's Next?

Beverly Hills is scheduled to play at Atascadero, the Pac 5 League champion, in a Southern Section Division III first-round playoff game Friday at 3 p.m.

If the Normans win, they would face the Compton Dominguez-Pasadena Muir winner in a second-round game Tuesday at 3 p.m. Beverly Hills would play host to Dominguez, while the site of a game against Muir would be determined by a coin toss.

Boys' Basketball

Hawthorne 63, Beverly Hills 60

The Normans were edged in what coach Luis

Turcios had called a "must-win" game at Hawthorne Jan. 13.

George Medrano scored 21 points and made two three-point baskets for Beverly Hills in the Ocean League game.

The Normans were outscored, 15-11, in the first quarter were tied 33-33 at halftime and trailed, 48-46 after three quarters.

Mabhod Zargar added 13, Daniel Leisner 10, Ben Smyth four, including a fourth-quarter three-point basket, and Cliff Frazier three for the Normans.

Beverly Hills 49, Santa Monica 47

Medrano scored 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and overtime in an Ocean League game at Santa Monica Jan. 18.

Cosmo Morabbi scored 18, including four three-point baskets, two in the fourth quarter and one each in the first and second quarters. Leisner added 11, Amit Friedman and Eric Lee two each and Smyth one for the Normans.

Beverly Hills 67,

Inglewood Morningside 42

Sherwin Batac, Lee, Medrano and Smyth each made three-point baskets in the first quarter as the Normans outscored the Monarchs, 20-8, in the opening eight minutes of an Ocean League game at the Swim-Gym Jan. 20.

Beverly Hills led, 34-15, at halftime and 52-26 after three quarters.

Morabbi scored 13, Smyth 11, Friedman 10, Leisner nine, Batac and Medrano eight each, Lee five, Zargar two and Julian Wheeler one.

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

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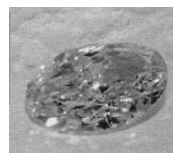
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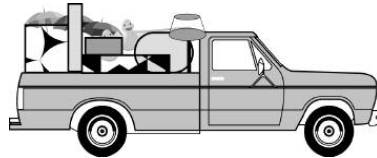
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