

city & schools • Beverly Hills Reacts to Tuesday's Election Results Page 3 **rudy cole** • What Does The Election Really Mean? Page 8 **sports** • BHHS Football Team To Play At Culver City Tonight Page 6

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Issue 371 • November 9 - November 15, 2006



Subway Update: Can You Dig It?

Plans for a subway through Beverly Hills move forward.

cover story • page 10



letters & email

Restaurant Guide

Again, Rudy Cole is being unfair (issue #367). By commenting in his column that I do not follow his column, and that as I am a vegetarian and he would like me to 'enjoy the next shipment of raw spinach at the restaurant of my choice,' I find very insulting.

To begin with I am a woman, not a 'he' as Rudy stated, and I am not a vegetarian, and never have been. I was commenting on his choice of a coffee and pastry café, pointing out that Urth Caffé (in my humble opinion) has a wonderful choice of coffee, tea and pastries. I did not promote their vegetarian dishes, and by the way, they serve chicken.

Carole Boag
Beverly Hills

Cole Responds:

Probably, columns should also come with warning labels for the humor impaired. Chill - it was a JOKE, an effort to be

FUNNY. Obviously, a failing try. As for my thinking the reader was a man, I always assume women have better comprehension skills.

Letuce now make peace.

Height Limits?

I read with great interest that the William Morris Agency is proposing to build a 6 story building in Beverly Hills and that they have lined up a contractor who will build the building by 2009. This is the latest of several building projects which exceed the 3 story height limit. This project along with the other projects are pushing these buildings because they believe and are sure that the Beverly Hills Planning Commission and the Beverly Hills City Council will approve of their projects, even though they violate the 3 story height limit. Our city officials have sent and are sending a message that they will approve such projects. Each of these projects will find a reason or reasons why their project should not be subject to our zoning restrictions. What is never articulated is the fact that the higher you build a building, the more valuable the building becomes, the more money the builder makes on the building. There is also no mention that the larger buildings will require more city services and cause more traffic and gridlock. At the appropriate time, I urge all citizens to voice their concerns to our city officials.

Justin W. Goldner
Beverly Hills

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SNAPSHOT



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Current and former administrators gather for the dedication of the new turf on Beverly High's Nickoll Field last Friday. (L to R) Former Principal Dan Stepenosky, Athletic Director Carter Paysinger, Principal J. Guidetti, Former Principal Ben Bushman.

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Beverly Hills Reacts to Tuesday's Election Results

Local officials weigh in on passage of statewide bonds

By Ryan Vaillancourt

With all five state bond measures passing yesterday, and Democrats taking a majority in the US House of Representatives, Beverly Hills looks poised to capture more funding for transportation and schools.



Mayor Steve Webb

Proposition 1A, which restricts state sales tax on gasoline for motor vehicles to transportation needs, passed with 76% approval.

Proposition 1B, which passed with approximately 61% approval, will allocate roughly \$19 billion dollars for statewide transportation needs.

Among future local projects that could

benefit from the transportation bonds is the proposed Westside subway extension.

"If we have any hope obtaining federal funds for a subway system to the Westside it is going to be through a Democratic congress," Mayor Steve Webb said. "With the democrats hopefully in control of the senate and the house it will enhance the ability for us to obtain that funding."



Superintendent Kari McVeigh

Also passing was proposition 1D, which allocates \$10.4 billion to schools statewide. Of the five bond measures, 1D had the lowest support with 56% of the vote.

The measure is intended to provide relief to overcrowded public schools and improve earthquake safety. Bond funds will also go toward general facility improvements throughout the state.

"We are absolutely thrilled," Superintendent Kari McVeigh said. "1D is going to allow us to continue modernization efforts in a district that has five schools that are very old. We have plans already submitted to the state and we're hoping with this money that we'll be able to get some of those plans going."

"With the democrats hopefully in control of the senate and the house it will enhance the ability for us to obtain that funding."

- Mayor Steve Webb -

Board of Education President Myra Lurie said Proposition 1D will help BHUSD to fund ongoing modernization efforts.

"Clearly, the public understands the need to provide updated, adequate, and safe school facilities in order to educate our children," Lurie said.

As of Wednesday morning, Democrats had captured a majority in the house, winning 34 seats. Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) is expected to become the new Speaker of the House.

"I am excited about the possibility of Nancy Pelosi becoming the first woman Speaker of the House," Lurie said. "As a Californian, she understands the unique concerns and issues that our state faces in the area of education."

Having a more local effect might have been Proposition 90, which would have restricted the eminent domain powers of all state governments. Proposition 90 failed to pass with roughly 52% of voters voting against it.

Critics of Proposition 90, including City Manager Rod Wood, warned that the legislation would have effectively eliminating practical zoning restrictions and cost tax payers excessively.

"The defeat of Proposition 90 takes away the threat of unrestricted building in our city," Mayor Webb said.

Democrat Debra Bowen defeated appointed Republican Secretary of State Bruce McPherson with nearly 59% of the vote.

"I am overjoyed that my good friend Debra Bowen won for Secretary of State," Webb said, "she's been a good friend to Beverly Hills and she will continue to provide us with assistance when needed."

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briefs

Arts 4 All Dinner at McCormick & Schmick's

Seafood restaurant McCormick & Schmick's will celebrate its twelve-year-anniversary in Beverly Hills by underwriting a Nov. 15 dinner to support Arts 4 All, a comprehensive K-12 program that makes art education available to students in all five of the city's public schools. In 2004 the BHUSD, which includes Beverly High, Beverly Vista, El Rodeo, Hawthorne, and Horace Mann, was chosen as a vanguard district by the Los Angeles County Arts Division to incorporate Arts 4 All into its schools' academic programs.

"Our goal is that Beverly Hills will become a model in arts education in the state of California," says Maxine Moshay, executive director of the Beverly Hills Education Foundation (BHEF), which works to maintain excellence in Beverly Hills public schools and augment the state public school budget.

Community members who would like to support the program and attend the dinner can do so by becoming an Arts 4 All Muse with a \$75 tax-deductible contribution. The event will also feature an opportunity drawing with arts-related prizes and food and wine pairings. RSVP to BHEF: (310) 557-0651.

Beverly Hills Activist to Celebrate 90th Birthday

On December 2, Marjorie Fasman will be joined by family and friends to celebrate her 90th birthday. Fasman is known for throwing legendary parties at her North Rexford Drive home.

Although born in San Francisco, Mrs. Fasman spent most of her life in Beverly Hills where her father Sol Lesser was a successful film producer. Growing up in Hollywood's early days, she had a front row seat at the movie industry as it grew. By the time she graduated from Fairfax High School, she was suggesting story lines and situations to her father, many of which were used in his own films, like the original Tarzan series of the 1930s.

After WWII, Mrs. Fasman settled in Beverly Hills with her first husband, Morris Pfaelzer, and raised their family, first on North Alpine, then on North Rexford Drive. An energetic activist in liberal political and environmental causes for over 50 years, she and her second husband, Michael J. Fasman, whom she married in 1961, opened their home to gatherings for charitable endeavors, and liberal candidates and causes.

Mrs. Fasman's community service has been personally recognized by President Bill Clinton. She also has received the Corita Kent Peace Award from Immaculate Heart College and the UCLA Golden Bruin Award.

Today she continues to reside in Beverly

Homecoming Victory



BHHS Junior cornerback Dominique Sandifer (#1) returns an interception in the 20-7 Homecoming Game victory against Morningside High School. Blocking for him (Left to right) are (#74) Brandon Kim, (#12) Nathan Forrest, (#22) Gerald Hill and (#3) David Roston. For complete coverage see Steven Herbert column on page 6.

Hills, has four grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren. She's very active with new projects like writing (an autobiography and a documentary on the Venus de Milo), ballroom dancing and continuing support for favored political candidates and charitable causes.

Greystone Mansion Open for Tours

The Fifth Annual Beverly Hills Garden & Design Showcase Festival Weekend was held last weekend at the Historic Greystone Estate. Patrons viewed the

newly designed gardens by renowned landscape architects and designers and perused a large outdoor Garden Marketplace with vendors, live entertainment and outdoor dining while making their way down into Greystone mansion.

At this year's Weekend Festival Event, the Award for Best Garden Design was awarded to Alfonso Mellior, with Natalie Sandoval, of Mellior Creative Gardening for their "Romantic Wilderness" Design. The award for Most Unique Garden resulted in a tie between Maria Kane of

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El Rodeo Elects New Student Council Reps



El Rodeo had its first official, "Friday Flag Salute" on November 3rd and it was lead by the newly elected student council. Posed here are the 2006-2007 Student Council Reps.. From left to right, back row, fifth graders: Cami Collins, Alex Messachi, Celine Hakimianpour, Alex Marmureanu, Kian Soltani, and Eli Forouzan. Middle row, fourth graders: Hope Gilderman, Reese Brucker, Greer Brucker, and Mason Leib (not pictured Justin Kramer and Tyler Gabbay). Front row, third graders: Michelle Pismo, Tara Hechmati, Jane Rothstein, Justin Friedman, Ariana Garrotto, Max Walder, Jacob Hankin (not pictured James Marzouk)

Maria Kane Garden Design and Kristian Kennedy-Laws of Botanical. The Best Design Details award was given to Jim Alexander of Landscape Art and Design.

Greystone Estate remains open to the public for exclusive Design House and self-guided Garden Tours daily through November 17 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily. Weekday tour tickets are \$30 per person, infants and children under 12 are not admitted and gourmet lunch will be available for purchase on the Terrace. The

Garden & Design Showcase, as well as the following Design House tours provide a rare opportunity for the public to view one of Beverly Hills' most cherished properties. For more ticket information, please call 310.550.4793 or visit www.beverly-hillsgardenshowcase.org.

'All the President's Men' to be Shown at Movie Academy Nov. 16

The Academy Award-winning 1976 film, "All the President's Men," will be

shown next Thursday, Nov. 16 at 8 p.m. at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences headquarters at 8949 Wilshire Blvd. in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of its release, an academy official said.

A panel discussion with members of the cast and crew moderated by Newsweek film critic David Ansen will follow the screening.

"All the President's Men," which recounts Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward (Robert Redford) and Carl Bernstein (Dustin Hoffman) unraveling the Watergate scandal, won Oscars for best supporting actor (Jason Robards), art direction, sound and best adapted screen-

play. It also received Academy Award nominations for best picture, a category won by "Rocky"; best director (Alan J. Pakula); best supporting actress (Jane Alexander) and film editing.

Tickets for the screening are \$5 for the general public and \$3 for Academy members and may be purchased in advance at the academy headquarters beginning Wednesday, by mail, or if still available, on the night of the event when the doors open at 7 p.m. Seating is unreserved.

Free parking for the screening will be provided in the garages located at 8920 Wilshire Blvd. and 9025 Wilshire Blvd.

More information about the screening is available by calling (310) 247-3600.



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BHHS Football Team To Play At Culver City Tonight

Winner will be crowned Ocean League champion.

By Steven Herbert

The Beverly High football team bounced back quickly from being shut out for the first time since 1991 a week earlier by scoring 20 second-quarter points in a 20-7 victory over Inglewood Morningside Friday night at Nickoll Field, keeping alive its chances of successfully defending its Ocean League championship.

Dex Lucci, who had sprained the index finger on his right (throwing) on the third play of a 20-0 loss to Inglewood Oct. 27, threw 50- and 46-yard touchdown passes to Dominique Sandifer and Ramon Judkins, sandwiched around Gerald McGee's two-yard touchdown run as the Normans improved to 7-2, 3-1 in league play.

The Monarchs (5-4, 2-2) scored their lone touchdown on Travis Harvey's 36-yard pass to Shawnta Husband in the third quarter on what Beverly Hills coach Carter Paysinger described as a breakdown in its secondary.

"I thought we played well offensively in the first half," Paysinger said. "In the second half, they made an adjustment and started blitzing more. It took us a while to adjust to it, but we

adjusted to it and we played very well in the fourth quarter."

The Norman defense "played well the entire game," Paysinger said, holding an opponent to eight points or less for the fourth time this season.

Defensive lineman Danny Berkowitz, and linebackers Sae Bin Park, Michael Kerman and Benji Rosen drew praise for their play for Beverly Hills from Paysinger.

The Normans out-gained Morningside 393 yards to 319.

Judkins ran for 101 yards on 22 carries and caught two passes for 60 yards; McGee "played very well," running for 68 yards on 13 carries; Lucci "did a great job coming back from his injury," "threw the ball well and ran the team efficiently," completing seven of 13 passes for 156 yards; offensive lineman Mike Rostovtsev "did a real good job, particularly in the second half of recognizing and picking up their blitzes," and Sandifer "had a real big game for us," catching three passes for 87 yards and rushing for 68 on his only carry, Paysinger said.

The victory moved Beverly Hills up two places to seventh in the Southern Section Western Division poll released Monday.

What's Next

The Normans are scheduled to play at Culver City (8-1, 3-1) tonight at 7 p.m. in a game where the winner will capture the Ocean League championship.

The Centaurs rose two spots to fifth in the Western Division poll following their 68-6 victory over Hawthorne, which lost to Beverly Hills, 49-8, Oct. 13.

Culver City quarterback Darius Banks, a junior, leads the state in passing yards with 3,071, according to statistics compiled by Maxpreps.com.

"Containing him is going to be tough because they throw to so many different receivers," Paysinger said. "All those receivers are real good. In some games, we try to take away the top players and the strengths of the opponents. In this case, there are so many of them, it will be difficult to try to stop them. You're going to be able to slow them down by taking away a couple of their options, but they seem to feel comfortable going to other options. We just have to try to figure out what they want to do most and take that away."

Girls' Golf

Beverly Hills 253, Santa Monica 273

Clair Choo shot a team-low six-over-par 42 for the Normans in an Ocean League match Oct. 17 at Rancho Park Golf Course.

Boys' Cross Country

Dana Hills Invitational

Junior Jon Simmons was the top Beverly Hills finisher finishing third in the Division 2 juniors race Sept. 30, completing the 3-mile course at Dana Point Dana Hills High School in 15:37.9.

Nick Kelley of Apple Valley Granite Hills was second in 15:34.8. Luis Gallardo of Santa Ana Mater Dei won in 15:29.4

The Normans finished fifth in the team competition with 119 points, five behind fourth-place San Diego Scripps Ranch. Temecula Great Oak won with 39.

Girls' Cross Country

Dana Hills Invitational

Junior Valerie Wirtschafter was the top Beverly Hills finisher, finishing 38th in the Division 2 junior/senior race Sept. 30, completing the 3-mile course at Dana Point Dana Hills High School in 19:57.8.

The Normans finished 16th in the team competition with 387 points, 11 behind 15th-place Palmdale. Capistrano Valley won with 67.

What's Next?

The Norman boys' team is scheduled to compete in Heat 3 of the Division II prelims Saturday at 2:18 p.m.. The girls' team is scheduled to compete in Heat 4 of the Division II prelims Saturday at 4:10 p.m. Both races will be held at Mount San Antonio College in Walnut.

Girls' Volleyball

Beverly Hills def. Inglewood, 25-14, 25-12, 25-11

Deborah Frantz had 15 kills and Rebecca

sports cont. on page 11

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Michelle & Alan Kaye



Michelle, Kathy and Soraya Melamed

from the hills of beverly



What Does The Election Really Mean

Will The Real Arnold Now Step Forward?

By Rudy Cole

California is truly the Great Exception that **Carey Mc Williams** described in his monumental study of our state's politics.

Here we are, a true blue state in the sea of red giving an overwhelming reelection vote to Republican **Arnold Schwarzenegger** while delivering an equally wide margin to Democratic senator, **Dianne Feinstein**.

If Los Angeles County represented the majority, **Phil Angelides** would have been elected. So much for carrying your own hometown.

What McWilliams wrote was that California has a political history unlike others because we never produced and lived through the political machines that dominated many states and most eastern metropolitan areas. Or put another way, our own **Will Rogers** once said "I do not belong to any organized political party, I'm a Democrat."

However our political parties are structured, it was the Democratic leadership of California that fostered the primary campaign of Angelides over state controller **Steve Westly**.

Angelides had the backing of Feinstein, Sen. **Barbara Boxer** and most of the rest of the party's leadership, including most local activists.

It was, by any standards, a terrible campaign. True, the primary victory over Westly exhausted Angelides, was enormously costly and very divisive. They were not nice to each other and, in fact, Arnold managed to replay many of Westly's worst attacks on Angelides. Hard to survive that kind of primary for a final election win.

Angelides, a really nice guy with a good record as state treasurer, missed the most important issue of the election until the very end: The voter rejection of the governor's state ballot measures. Here was a newly elected governor trying to demolish the traditional balance of power in state government by very radical proposals that managed to alienate nurses, law enforcement, fire fighters and the education community. His j11

ratings were lower than **George W. Bush's**. True, the governor handled his debacle very

well. He moved quickly to patch up differences with the Democratic controlled legislature, explained that he knew the people wanted a more collegial state leadership and made any number of compromises that produced a state budget without all the turmoil of the past. He reinvented himself as a moderate, and it worked.

What Angelides had a right to ask is which governor would we have after the election. And, what Democratic leaders need to explain was how they hoped to win with Angelides. Was he really the best the Democrats could produce?

Nationally, the campaign was not just about the war although the Bush administration's handling of the occupation was an important factor. The scandals involving House members and the rush of sexual misconduct turned off much of the Republican base and voters simply tired of being pushed by social issues such as gay marriages and gun control. Even though gay marriage bans won in some states, Democrats still ran ahead in some of the districts that voted their "family values" issues.

What historians and social psychologists will study and explain in years ahead is the incredible link among gay bashers and hidden gay predators. How much impact on the election was the disclosure that a fundamentalist, anti-gay church leader was supposedly having sex with a male prostitute. Could make even far right types wonder.

Back in California, the GOP must also view Arnold's big win with some displeasure. The coat tails did not bring into office many other Republicans, certainly not the most conservative such as **Tom McClintock**, the nominee for Lt. Governor. Arnold hardly spent many political chips for McClintock or the rest of the slate. The Republicans who won at the state level did so on their own. The secretary of state had good marks for improving the state's voting procedures and **Cruz Bustamante's** lame effort to win votes because he had lost weight did not overcome the attacks on his campaign funding.

It also didn't help Bustamante's try to move from Lt. Governor to Insurance Commissioner when he took one of the early daggers thrust at **Gray Davis** in the recall election.

Interesting, how difficult it was to pass education bond measures both locally and in the state. Probably the answer lies, in part, to the decline in parents with school age children who actually vote. Our aging population impacts support for schools in the state and it also effects support in our own community.

It will be interesting to study the absentee vote on the oil measure. Bill Clinton put much of his prestige on the line for Prop. 87, but it was late in the election. Did the absentees provide the largest plurality of votes? Voters were obviously fearful of higher gas prices.

Anti-smoking zealots may not, as was expected, be able to win every vote. The effort to use a massive tax increase on tobacco as a tool to prevent smoking didn't work. Yes, Big Tobacco spent a fortune against the measure, but the "health industry" did not lack resources and waged a very strong campaign

Digestion Problems?

"Free Report Reveals The Shocking Truth About the "secret" Treatment Your Doctor Probably Doesn't Know...And Likely Hopes You Never Learn..."

BEVERLY HILLS – A new, free report has recently been released that reveals the "untold story" behind digestion problems. Digestion Problems misdiagnosis and mistreatment is rampant and leads to countless years of unnecessary suffering. This free report reveals a natural procedure that is giving digestion problem sufferers their "lives back." - with "miraculous" results for many. If you suffer from digestion problems you need this no B.S., no "gimmicks" free report that is giving hope to digestion problem sufferers everywhere. For your free copy, call toll-free 1-800-713-6950, 24 hr. recorded message.

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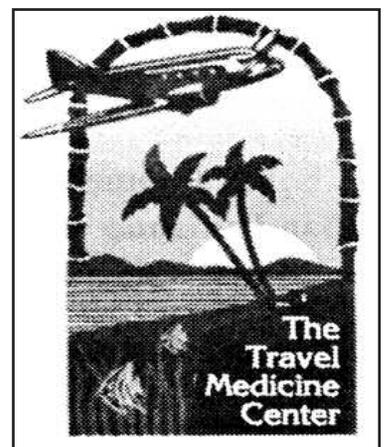
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California had a special reason to be pleased with the changing of the leadership in the Congress. Our own **Nancy Pelosi** will be the first woman speaker of the House of Representatives, the second most powerful elected office in the nation.

Mrs. Pelosi was once chair of the Democratic party of California, which is how I first saw her in action. She was a great consensus builder, dedicated to making the party more inclusive and effective. She has been an excellent congresswoman and will certainly rate high on any list of presidential or vice presidential lists.

What the Democrats still lack is a future candidate for governor. Arnold can, if he chooses, run for a third term since his first election was to the uncompleted Davis term. Is there a future leader in the party? None comes quickly to mind. Maybe it is time to call central casting.

Final thought: Which Arnold will we now see? Will the cooperative mood in Sacramento continue? The early Arnold was clearly listening to the far right advisors he brought to the capitol, including those who worked in previous Republican administrations. The new governor reached out and a Democratic controlled legislature responded with love and affection, despite his previous efforts to demolish their role in government. Remember, Arnold even once threatened to sponsor a state constitutional amendment that would have made the legislature part time, crippling that branch of government. We'll see.

In Beverly Hills, the gala even season is in mid term with the most successful ever of the

Black and White police association ball at the Hilton. Completely sold out, great success in both the silent and live auction and a good entertainment program.

Met with some school alumni leaders last week to discuss creating greater interest in school sports. The game on the new turf was a good example of our community becoming involved. The football game, which our team won, was reminiscent of the American tradition of a community turning out for a special showing of support for our own school. Sports can help give our city an even stronger tie to our schools and Friday night football is very much a part of that tradition. The Friday night was very well attended and is encouraging to those who want to broaden the program, including **Steven Fenton** and **Allen Fischer**, two school alumni leaders. Our own **Josh Gross** is president of the alumni association.

Great theatre is available with Theatre Forty. Visit their web site for dates and times of current offerings and treat yourself to a wonderful evening.

No, I have not, nor will I, see "Borat," but for acting and an historical effort at accuracy, I would strongly recommend "The Queen" and **Helen Mirren** would receive my vote, if I had one, for best actress. Wonderfully entertaining, sensitively constructed and strong performances by a good cast. See it and enjoy.

How did Beverly Hills vote? An analysis of our votes next week.

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

policeblotter & arrestsummary

CRIME AND ARREST SUMMARY

November 7, 2006

Robbery: Occurred between 1300 and 1306 on 11/03/06 in the 100 block of North La Cienega Blvd. Suspect #1: Male Black, 20-25, 6'0", 170 lbs., brown hair and brown eyes. Suspect #2: Male Black, 20-25, 5'8"-5'9", 180 lbs., black hair and brown eyes. Suspect #1 entered the location and pointed a handgun at the witness and demanded money. Suspect #2 removed property and cash and both suspects fled the location.

Loss: \$5,500

Occurred between 2130 and 2135 on 11/02/06 in the 300 block of North Oakhurst Drive. Suspect #1: Male White, 21-25, 5'7", 160 lbs. No further description. Suspect #2: Male White, 21-25. No further description. Victim was approached by the two suspects while entering his vehicle. Suspects removed victim's money and fled the location.

Loss: \$65

Occurred between 1350 and 1351 on 10/31/06 in the 100 block of South Camden Drive. Suspect: Male Black, 17-18, 5'10", 170 lbs., brown hair. No further description.

Suspect #2: Male Black, 17-18, 5'5", 175 lbs., black hair. No further description. Suspects approached the victim from behind and held a handgun to her head. Suspected removed the victim's purse and fled the location.

Loss: \$2,040

Burglary: Occurred between 1022 and 1145 on 10/31/06 in the 400 block of North Maple Drive. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location through an unlocked window. Suspect(s) removed property and fled the location undetected.

Loss: \$3,000+

Occurred between 1500 on 10/27/06 and 0900 on 10/28/06 in the 200 block of North La Peer Drive. Unknown suspect(s) entered the location and removed property. Suspect(s) fled the location undetected.

Loss: Unknown

Grand Theft: Occurred between 1030 and 1100 on 11/04/06 in the 9000 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Male Black, 40+, 6'0", 170 lbs., black hair and brown eyes. Suspect entered the location and removed property. Suspect fled the location.

Loss: \$2,000



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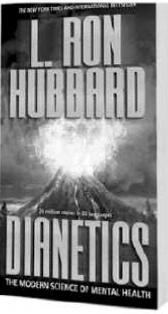
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coverstory

SUBWAY UPDATE: CAN YOU DIG IT?

Plans for a subway through Beverly Hills move forward.

By Ryan Vaillancourt

The Beverly Hills Mass Transit Committee is inching its way toward a recommendation to the City Council regarding a subway in Beverly Hills.

Though a final recommendation is not slated until January 9th, the committee announced on Thursday at a Town Hall meeting that it has decided on a specific route alignment for the proposed subway and determined two ideal station locations.

The “subway to the sea,” if it does get built, will be an extension of the existing Metro Red Line subway which currently runs along Wilshire Boulevard between Union Station in downtown Los Angeles and Western Avenue. The red line also branches northeast from Vermont Avenue to North Hollywood.

“The reality is that there’s a very extensive rapid transit rail system that already exists in Los Angeles and what we’re talking about is a way to extend it in a way that will serve the city of Beverly Hills,” transit and planning consultant Dick Kaku said. Kaku is a transit expert and has been hired by the city to advise the transit committee on technical issues.

One of two potential alignments considered by Kaku and the mass transit committee was along Santa Monica Boulevard. The other was along Wilshire Blvd.

The Santa Monica Boulevard alignment would have started at the Red Line station at Hollywood and Highland and continued on to Century City. The other alignment, along Wilshire Boulevard, was considered more ideal because it is denser in population and employment.

“What we discovered was Santa Monica Boulevard, as busy as it is, through that portion of Santa Monica from West Hollywood through the city of Beverly Hills to Century City, until it gets to Century City, doesn’t have the density of development that we’re looking for,” Kaku said.

The committee also considered extending the existing red line from Western only to San Vicente Boulevard and then going around the Beverly Hills triangle via San Vicente and Santa Monica Boulevards. Another route would have taken San Vicente only as far north as Beverly Boulevard, and cut west along Beverly Boulevard to Santa Monica Boulevard. These alignments however, all fell short of the criteria used by Kaku and the committee for choosing an ideal route.

Besides employment and population density, Kaku looked into the availability of stations along each potential route that could be approximately one mile apart, and within walking distance to as many riders as possible.

Also considered was the existing transit activity on the proposed routes. Based on these criteria it was determined that an alignment along Wilshire Boulevard, with stops at La Cienega and Beverly Drive would be ideal.

“The entire Wilshire Boulevard alignment all the way from Wilshire and Western, all the way through Beverly Hills does contain relatively high density development, relatively high public transit usage, [and] lots of public transit service,” Kaku said.



Proposed site for Beverly Hills subway station at Beverly Drive and Wilshire Boulevard.

Dan Walsh, CEO of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber is very attracted to the notion of a subway station at Beverly Drive.

“The Wilshire and Beverly station would deliver visitors as well as employees and workers to essentially the heart of the city,” Walsh said. “It’s very close to the shopping center that is currently world-renowned in the triangle, the emerging growth of a fabulous restaurant street of Canon, and then South Beverly, which is emerging as our newest gem in terms of its shopping appeal, so it’s just ideal.”

Some community members, however, are not convinced that a subway anywhere in Beverly Hills is a good idea.

At Thursday’s meeting some raised the issue of crime and terrorism as they relate to the existence of a subway. Committee co-

chair Allan Alexander though, said that recent security studies provided by the MTA suggest that subway stations are not a crime threat and that an overwhelming majority of committee members do not consider crime to be an issue.

“The interesting comparison is that there are approximately 128 bus stops in the city of Beverly Hills with approximately 6,000 buses stopping in Beverly Hills every day and there is no significant crime associated with that mass transit system and when it

comes to bus stops, it is not a contained system like what you have with subways,” Alexander said.

A subway along Wilshire Boulevard would run along the northern border of a significant residential neighborhood, represented by the Beverly Hills Southwest Homeowners Association. President Ken Goldman said the group has not reached an official position on the subway, but he expects that safety and security to be concerns among members.

“Right now the crime rate in Los Angeles on the Metro is very very low because security and security staff are very well funded,” Goldman, who is also on the mass transit committee, said. “One concern is what if the funding is greatly reduced in the future?”

Goldman also addressed the concern that construction of the subway stations could

suspend business activity in nearby areas.

“[The MTA] tells us that the intersections at those two locations [at Beverly/Rodeo Drive and La Cienega] would not be closed during the week and would be under construction for 8 to 10 weekends, so that should minimize the inconvenience and loss of business,” Goldman said.

Other concerns include the feasibility of tunneling underground through Beverly Hills and especially the mid-Wilshire region to the east. In 1985 there was an explosion in the basement of a Ross Dress For Less store due to underground pockets of methane gas. Representative Henry Waxman (D-Los Angeles), whose district includes Beverly Hills, orchestrated a federal ban on future tunneling in the Fairfax area.

The tunneling ban may soon be lifted though. After the release of a 2005 study by the American Publican Transportation Authority, which found that the risk in tunneling along Wilshire “would be no greater than other subway systems in the US,” Waxman introduced legislation to repeal the ban. The bill was passed by the House but waits to be heard by the Senate.

With the ban removal at least under way and with strong support for the Westside subway extension from Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who also chairs the Los Angeles County MTA Board of Directors, a subway in Beverly Hills looks likely. It’s just not clear when.

“We’re talking anywhere from 10 to 20 years before it would be in place,” Alexander said. “It’s so hard to predict.”

But even if shovels don’t break ground for twenty years, it is essential that the City of Beverly Hills starts planning now, Mayor Steve Webb said.

“In order for us to effectively lobby the federal, the state and the local government, the city needs to take a formal position on this matter,” Webb said. “Because this is something that’s happening today in other communities we need to be out in front.”

Once the mass transit committee, which was appointed by Webb in April of 2006, makes its final recommendation, the city will start to lobby for route alignments and ideal station locations. Other communities are likely to lobby for different alignments.

“I fervently believe that we need a subway system that goes from downtown to the Westside,” Webb said. “Where the alignment is and where the stations are is not my primary concern; my primary concern is for the city to take an official position so we can get out there and make sure that when money is allocated, money is allocated for the Westside.”

sports cont. from page 6

Rosen 17 digs for the Normans in an Ocean League match Oct. 10 at Inglewood.

Beverly Hills def. Inglewood Morningside, 25-8, 25-10, 25-3

Frantz had seven kills in 10 attempts and Nicole Winegred eight service aces for the Normans (9-6, 3-1) in an Ocean League match at the Swim-Gym Oct. 12.

What's Next?

The Normans were to play Cypress in a Southern Section Division III-A first-round playoff match Tuesday that was to begin after the Beverly Hills Weekly's deadline. If the Normans won, they would face the winner of the Downey Warren-Garden Grove match in a second-round match tonight at 7 p.m. Beverly Hills would play host to Garden Grove, while the site of a match against Warren would be decided by a coin toss. Under Southern Section rules, the team with the fewest home playoff matches is the host to the next one. If the teams have played the same number of home matches, the site is determined by a coin toss.

The quarterfinals are scheduled for Saturday and the semifinals for Tuesday.

Boys' Water Polo

Beverly Hills 11, Los Angeles Milken 9

Andrew Hopp scored four of his six goals in the fourth quarter as the Normans overcame a three-goal deficit entering the quarter to win an Ocean League game at Stephen S. Wise Temple Oct. 9.

Beverly Hills trailed 7-4 entering the fourth quarter, then got three goals from Hopp, two from Mikey Lee and one from Daniel Ilinsky to take a 10-7 lead, their first of the game, with 3:16 to play.

Lee and Ilinsky each scored twice and Micah Smith once for the Normans.

Beverly Hills goaltender Alex Rosenthal made two saves.

The Normans trailed 2-0 at the end of the first quarter and 3-2 at halftime.

Beverly Hills 17, Brentwood 4

Josh Shayefar and Smith each scored three goals for the Normans in a nonleague game at the Swim-Gym Oct. 13.

Hopp, Jonathan Pony and Carlo Flascha each scored twice for Beverly Hills, while George Agiashvili, Ilinsky, Lee, Daniel Mead and Jason Vogel each scored once.

The Normans (17-4) led 5-1 at the end of the first quarter, 10-1 at halftime and 13-1 entering the fourth quarter.

What's Next?

The Normans were to play Garden Grove Bolsa Grande in a Southern Section Division VI first-round playoff game Tuesday that was to begin after the Beverly Hills Weekly's deadline. If Beverly Hills won, it will face the winner of the Placentia Valencia-Burbank game Saturday at 3:15 p.m. Beverly Hills would play host to Valencia at the Swim-Gym, but would play at Burbank because the Bulldogs won the coin toss.

The quarterfinals are scheduled for Tuesday.

Girls' Tennis

Beverly Hills 17, Inglewood Morningside 1

Singles players Daisy Delmar and Molly Werner and the Kelly Brien-Akasia J-Riggins and Meredith Jones-Amanda Marmer doubles teams all won both of their sets in an Ocean League match at Beverly Hills Oct. 10.

Johanna Yadegar won two of her three singles sets for Beverly Hills (5-4, 3-0).

Singles players Shelby Bernstein and

Amanda Ellis and the Julie Housman-Sunia J-Riggins and Jacquelyn Maltzman-Raquel Rosenberg doubles teams all won their only sets for the Normans.

Beverly Hills also won three sets by default because the Monarchs only fielded two doubles teams instead of the required three.

Los Angeles Marlborough 16, Beverly Hills 2

Zarina Pisnoy won one of her three singles sets for the Normans (5-5), who got their other point from the Delmar-Akasia J-Riggins doubles team in a nonleague match at Beverly Hills October 11.

The Mustangs were ranked second in the Division II poll released Oct. 16, Beverly Hills fifth.

More coverage is available on www.bhweekly.com.

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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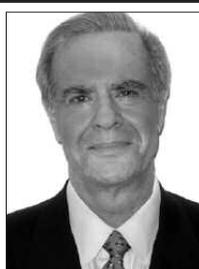
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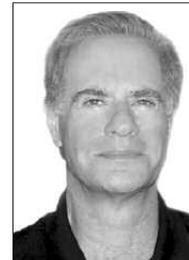
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