

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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SINCE 1965

JANUARY 14, 2011

THIS ISSUE



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Colin and the Ladies; Sony's Big Bang Launch; Up-and-At-It-Barry; A Love Story.

Editorial from Rabbi Pressman

AND MORE



DIG IN—The Beverly Hills City Council (minus Mayor Jimmy Delshad, who could not attend), helped the CVB's Ali Kasikci and the Chamber's Todd Johnson kick off the project. *Courier Photo by Adam Popescu*

Groundbreaking For New Chamber And CVB Building

By Adam Popescu

The long-awaited new home for the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and the Beverly Hills Conference and Visitors Bureau was unveiled Tuesday, as members of both organizations and high ranking City staff gathered at 9400 Santa Monica Blvd. for the project's groundbreaking.

The crowd included a delighted group of local business and community leaders, including fourth-fifths of the City Council, former City staff and educators and members of the media.

"I think this is a win for the City, the businesses, the Chamber," Todd Johnson, chamber board chair and general manager of Lawry's The Prime Rib said Tuesday. "We've worked long and hard on this new building."

Bruce Schulman, chamber CFO and general manager of Mercedes-Benz of Beverly Hills called the day the beginning of a new era of cooperation and leadership between the City and the chamber.

(see 'GROUNDBREAKING,' page 14)

Two-Hour Parking Could Be Back On The March Ballot

By Adam Popescu

On Thursday, Jan. 6, the California Court of Appeal granted a temporary stay of the Jan. 4 Los Angeles Superior Court order to block the two hour parking initiative, putting the fate of the 2P measure back in limbo.

Right now, the City of Beverly Hills is waiting on pins and needles to find out the court of appeal's decision whether or not to uphold the stay order that puts the measure

(see 'PARKING,' page 16)

BHUSD Unhappy With City Amendment To JPA Pact

By Marla Schevker

The Board of Education and the Beverly Hills City Council came to an agreement in late November on how to handle the Joint Powers Agreement monies set aside for turf repair, but the Board has decided to return to the bargaining table after seeing the City's proposed amendment.

The original amendment, found in the Board of Education's December 14 agenda and allegedly agreed upon by the Board of Education and the City

of Beverly Hills, was approximately one page in length.

The document stated that for the fiscal year 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, the city will provide the district four annual payments of \$2.5 million and approximately \$150,000 of each payment will be put into a reserve account.

This account can only be accessed if both the City and the Board agree on its use.

(see 'JPA,' page 16)

The Courier Endorses Lili Bosse For BH City Council



See Our Editorial On Pg. 39 To Learn Why We Picked The City's Current Planning Commission Chair For Our Choice As The Next City Councilmember.

As Kobar Trial Approaches, City Accused Of Prejudice

By Adam Popescu

The latest round of the Kobar medical development saga has revealed a potentially jarring claim: City bias against the disabled.

The Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC), a non-profit dedicated to promoting the rights of people with disabilities, claims the City is discriminating

against the handicapped, asserting that a Feb. 16, 2010 City Council resolution is illegal under state and federal laws, specifically the Americans with Disabilities Act and California's Unruh Civil Rights Act.

The City Council resolution specifies the handicapped placard problem three times in the

(see 'KOBOR,' page 14)

Love Connection Between Hubbard And Christiansen?

By Marla Schevker

Recent e-mails obtained by *The Courier* through the California Public Records Act shows that Former BHUSD Superintendent Jeffrey Hubbard and former Facilities Director Karen Christiansen did have a relationship, beginning in late 2004.

Although the e-mails are not

sexually explicit, they do imply a relationship beyond colleagues between Hubbard and Christiansen. Christiansen calls herself Hubbard's "beck and call girl" on several occasions and they often say "I miss you" and "I love you." She calls him "sir" and he calls her "hot stuff."

(see 'STRATEGIC CONCEPTS,' page 15)



PARTY TIME WITH LES GIRLS—Wendie Malick, Valerie Bertinelli, Betty White and Jane Leeves at TV Land's premiere party in Hollywood for their *Hot in Cleveland, Retired At 35*. More photos in George Christy's column on Page 6. *Photo by Scott Downie/Celebrity Photo*

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 (Publisher 1965 - 2004)
 The Courier is proud to be a  Education Partner.



From the Publisher
CLIF SMITH

**THE COURIER ENDORSES
 LILI BOSSE FOR CITY COUNCIL**

The Courier almost always reserves its ballot recommendations until shortly before election day. We want to hear the candidates, question them, watch them in action and gather feedback from our friends and neighbors. This year, however, we have one candidate who is so well known and whose record of service is so clear that waiting is inappropriate in her case. We know what our position is, so we announce it today.

The Courier endorses Planning Commissioner Lili Bosse for the Beverly Hills City Council.

We regularly commend all who wish to serve. The commitment required to serve is serious and involves tremendous time, effort and energy. Thus, all who step forward deserve our respect. That respect does not automatically translate into The Courier's support. That requires substance and proof. Lili Bosse has such an outstanding record of service to Beverly Hills that her qualifications to serve cannot be doubted. Too many of us have watched her in action, dealt with her on public matters, and have had the opportunity to judge her to remain uncommitted to her candidacy. Unfailingly courteous, kind, always supportive, yet strong in her views and careful in her analysis of issues, Lili's presence always brings a smile to those with whom she comes in contact. She remains as she has always been—down-to-earth and a real person.

She has clearly paid her dues. She has been active in serving Beverly Hills for many years. The major issues she will face on the council will not be surprises to her. Fiscal responsibility, the unsustainable pension and salary obligations of Beverly Hills, revamping our planning department so that good, qualified projects do not languish for no good reason—she is uniquely qualified to deal with these issues.

She has served on the Planning Commission, the Traffic and Parking Commission, the board of Beverly Hills Education Foundation and served as its president. She has been commended by her Wilshire Temple, Sheba Medical Center—you name it and she has been there as an active contributor, supporter and leader. Her campaign platform identifies the real issues confronting Beverly Hills—fiscal accountability and sustainability. Our City enjoys a remarkable level of public services, but even we cannot afford the skyrocketing costs that previous councils have built into the system. The public employee costs and pension benefits are a sword hanging over our heads. Unions may run their own candidates, but the fiscal facts don't lie. This must be dealt with. Lili Bosse has promised to deal with these issues so that we can sustain our level of services, compensate our public employees fairly, and maintain the economic engine that allows us these services.

We believe she can and will do just that. So, with all that said there is no reason for delay. Our endorsement of Lili Bosse for City Council is unambiguous and unequivocal. We will welcome her election.

Even with our endorsement, we will not shirk our journalistic duties. She will be grilled, questioned and held to answer the same as the other two fine candidates—incumbent Nancy Krasne and newcomer Julian Gold, M.D.

We look forward to the campaign so that we can assess Krasne and Gold. Nancy Krasne has her own set of pluses and minuses. Julian Gold is an unknown quantity. Nonetheless, we commend them for entering this election and we will all be better for their candidacies.

The Courier will invite each of the three candidates to our editorial board grilling and will report our findings.

OPINION



RABBI JACOB PRESSMAN

T.V. DINNERS & T.V. VIOLENCE

The Book of Proverbs (22:6) teaches: "Train up a child in the way he should go, And even when he is old, he will not depart from it. In the same ancient world the Greek philosopher Socrates taught": ... and shall we just carelessly allow children to hear any casual tales which may be devised by casual persons and to receive in their minds ideas for the most part the very opposite of those which we should wish them to have when they grow up?"

"For children born and raised since 1945, the world is a very different place, made different by the two most significant technological changes in the history of man since discovery of fire and the use of the wheel. I mean the splitting of the atom and the inauguration of television; the first threatening to destroy his body, and the other to destroy his mind...a saturation diet of murder, violence, crime, vice of every kind, and cheap, tasteless, unimaginative trash."

The above two paragraphs are a direct quote from the sermon I delivered on Dec. 21, 1956 – 54 years ago! You can see how little effect I had upon our culture of violence. In those days the media tried to suppress the mayhem with censorship. One could not show the actual act of murder, only its consequences. Blood, and wounds were rarely shown. Language was sterilized. The first breach of this self-censorship of the screen media was Clark Gable's: "I don't give a damn!" to Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With The Wind*.

Since then obscenity after obscenity, vulgarity and the language of violence have taken over our mass media, and can be carried around by children in the wireless, hand-held little cybernetic miracles every child "must" have.

In this fractious society a new name has been added to our litany of infamy: Jared Lee Loughner, and has outraged decent people up to and including the president of the United States, who came in person to the memorial service for the victims, and prayer for the survivors, including U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford.

In a stirring memorial address, Obama pleaded for a change from the adversarial attitude that tears the fabric of brotherhood apart, saying: "The forces that divide us are not as strong as the forces that unite us." However, the constant drumbeat of violence, the indifference to the sights and sounds of mayhem and murder that saturate the airwaves and fill the screens and poison the minds of the impressionable, starting with our children, drowns out "the forces that unite us," and ignores the Biblical question: "Have we not all one Father? Why do we deal treacherously, a man against his neighbor?"

And so, after preaching the brotherhood of man for 70 years now, I still look hopefully to a future when the human race will start to train up its children in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it.

LETTER

Here we go again! Another interim superintendent getting \$1,100 a day. It's great work if you can get it, and Dick Douglas seems to be more than content collecting it. The trouble is, he is another Jerry Gross, sans the bow tie.

When will our School Board realize we need a great superintendent who is proactive and innovative. Is Mr. Douglas aware of all the new technologies being implemented in schools across the country? Does he care? Does he enlighten, encourage, and embolden? I can see he is doing an adequate job, but is adequate enough. At \$1,100 a day we should be able to move beyond lackluster, and find brilliance. With Measure E beginning to move ahead, again I ask that the School Board put finding a permanent superintendent on the front burner.

Red Richmond

POLICE BLOTTER

BURGLARY
 Occurred between 8 a.m. on 12/12 and 8 p.m. on 1/6 in 200 block of N. Almont Dr. Unknown suspect entered victim's residence, unlocked floor safe in master bedroom closet and stole property. Loss \$123,000
 Occurred between 2 p.m. on 12/31 and 8 a.m. on 1/5 in 400 block of N. Oakhurst Dr. Unknown suspect cut metal chain to unlock two bicycles secured to pole in subterranean condo garage. Loss \$3,000
 Occurred about 4:15 p.m. on 1/6 in 1000 block of N. Crescent Dr. Suspect: Male

Black, 16, 5'10", 120, black hair—entered property by climbing over wrought iron fence but fled after being confronted by witness as he attempted entering residence.

Occurred between noon and 6 p.m. on 1/7 in 200 block of S. Spalding Dr. Unknown suspect entered residence and stole victim's property. Loss \$600

Occurred between 8:30 p.m. on 12/29 and 2 p.m. on 1/1 in 300 block of S. Clark Dr. Unknown suspect entered location during victim's party and stole property from bedrooms. Loss \$1,850

Occurred at 4:40 p.m. on 1/6 in 1000 block of Elden Way. Suspect: Male Black, 15, black hair—used brick to break window, entered residence and stole property. Loss \$1,200

GRAND THEFT

Occurred about 10:10 a.m. on 12/29 in 9600 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Female White, 30, 5'06", 120, black hair and brown eyes—entered handbag area of store, concealed handbag inside shopping bag. Loss \$2,450

Occurred between 4:45 p.m. on 12/31 and 10 a.m. on 1/3 in 200 block of S. Robertson Blvd. Unknown suspect entered location, approached secured safe, stole property. Loss \$134,000

Occurred about 4:45 p.m. on 1/2 in 9600 block of Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Female White, 30, 5'06", 120, black hair and brown eyes—selected store merchandise, concealed item in her purse and exited without paying. Loss \$340

Occurred between 10 p.m. on 1/4 and 6:20 a.m. on 1/5 in 400 block of S. La Peer Dr. Unknown suspect entered residence via rear door and stole property. Loss \$4,500

ASSAULT

Occurred about 1 p.m. on 1/4 in 200 block of Moreno Dr. Unknown suspect rode skateboard past victim and spit on the side of the latter's head.

Occurred around 1:08 p.m. on 1/7 near Charleville Blvd. and S. Reeves Dr. Suspect: Male Hispanic, 25, 5'09", 150, black hair—punched victim in right eye through passenger window after verbal altercation.

Occurred at 2 p.m. on 1/7 in 200 block of Moreno Dr. Suspect: Male White, 16, 6'00", 170, brown hair and blue eyes—started a fight with victim while riding a bicycle in front of BHHS campus.

Occurred about 9:17 a.m. on 1/7 near N. Beverly Dr. and Wilshire Blvd. Suspect: Male Hispanic, 20, black hair and brown eyes—approached victim from behind and grabbed her buttocks while she was walking.

IDENTITY THEFT/FORGERY

Occurred between 9 a.m. on 11/11 and 4:40 p.m. on 1/4 in 300 block of N. Crescent Dr. Unknown suspect opened account using victim's name and information.

Occurred between 12/23 and 1/4 in 9200 block of Burton Way. Suspect: Male Hispanic, 57, 5'06", 180, brown hair and eyes—called victim's financial institution, attempted to pay charge from latter's account.

Occurred between midnight on 1/6 and 8 a.m. on 1/7 in 9700 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect obtained victim's credit card number and information to withdraw currency from latter's bank account.

Occurred between midnight on 1/4 and 12:32 p.m. on 1/5 in 9700 block of Wilshire Blvd. Unknown suspect used victim's identification to purchase merchandise.