

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

My BIG concern is people with dogs not on leash!! Why are they not being ticketed? I slammed on my brakes to avoid hitting a pit bull without a leash (I wish I had hit it). I said to the

owner why isn't your dog on a leash? His response was "f@#\*k you! Chill!!" And he proceeded to walk his dog without the leash. This was a beige pit with white spots. My friend had an encounter with the same dog/owner and the guy said "f@#\*k off!!"

Susan

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 Cap N Cork Jr. Market/Hillhurst  
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 Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf/Hillhurst,  
 Hollywood Blvd., Sunset  
 Dr. Paul Fleiss/Hillhurst  
 Franklin Grocery/Franklin  
 Gelson's Market/Franklin & Bronson  
 Hollywood Athletic Club/Sunset  
 Hollywood Car Wash/Sunset  
 Hollywood Chamber of Commerce  
 Hollywood Internet Café/Highland

Hollywood Roosevelt (Lobby)  
 Hollywood YMCA/Schrader  
 House of Pies/Vermont  
 Mustard Seed/Hillhurst  
 Out of the Closet/Sunset  
 Psychobabble/Vermont  
 Roscoe's Chicken & Waffles/Gower  
 Sabor Y Cultura/Hollywood & Gramercy  
 Schwabs/Vine St.  
 Skylight Books/Vermont  
 Sunset Car Wash/Sunset Blvd.  
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 Will Kempton  
 Director, California Department of Transportation



  
 Terri Porter  
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# THE EPIC CRIME THAT DARES NOT SPEAK ITS NAME

By John Pilger

A Royal Air Force officer is about to be tried before a military court for refusing to return to Iraq because the war is illegal. Malcolm Kendall-Smith is the first British officer to face criminal charges for challenging the legality of the invasion and occupation. He is not a conscientious objector; he has completed two tours in Iraq. When he came home the last time, he studied the reasons given for attacking Iraq and concluded he was breaking the law. His position is supported by international lawyers all over the world, not least by Kofi Annan, the UN secretary general, who said in September last year: "The US-led invasion of Iraq was an illegal act that contravened the UN Charter."

The question of legality deeply concerns the British military brass, who sought Tony Blair's assurance on the eve of the invasion, got it and, as they now know, were lied to. They are right to worry; Britain is a signatory to the treaty that set up the International Criminal Court, which draws its codes from the Geneva Conventions and the 1945 Nuremberg Charter. The latter is clear: "To initiate a war of aggression... is not only an international crime, it is the supreme international crime, differing only from other war crimes

in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole."

At the Nuremberg trial of the Nazi leadership, counts one and two, "Conspiracy to wage aggressive war" and "Waging aggressive war," refer to "the common plan or conspiracy." These are defined in the indictment as "the planning, preparation, initiation and waging of wars of aggression, which were also wars in violation of international treaties, agreements and assurances." A wealth of evidence is now available that George Bush, Blair and their advisers did just that. The leaked minutes from the infamous Downing Street meeting in July 2002 alone reveal that Blair and his war cabinet knew that it was illegal. The attack that followed, mounted against a defenseless country offering no threat to the US or Britain, has a precedent in Hitler's invasion of Sudetenland; the lies told to justify both are eerily similar.

The similarity is also striking in the illegal bombing campaign that preceded both. Unknown to most people in Britain and America, British and US planes conducted a ferocious bombing campaign against Iraq in the ten months prior to the invasion, hoping this would provoke Saddam Hussein into supplying an excuse for an invasion. It failed and killed an unknown number of

civilians.

At Nuremberg, counts three and four referred to "War crimes" and "Crimes against humanity." Here again, there is overwhelming evidence that Blair and Bush committed "violations of the laws or customs of war" including "murder... of civilian populations of or in occupied territory, murder or ill-treatment of prisoners of war."

Two recent examples: the US onslaught near Ramadi this month in which 39 men, women and children, all civilians, were killed, and a report by the United Nations special rapporteur in Iraq who described the Anglo-American practice of denying food and water to Iraqi civilians in order to force them to leave their towns and villages as a "flagrant violation" of the Geneva Conventions.

In September, Human Rights Watch released an epic study that documents the systematic nature of torture by the Americans, and how casual it is, even enjoyable. This is a sergeant from the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division: "On their day off people would show up all the time. Everyone in camp knew if you wanted to work out your frustration you show up at the PUC [prisoners'] tent. In a way it was sport... One day a sergeant shows up and tells a PUC to grab a pole. He told him to bend over and

broke the guy's leg with a mini Louisville Slugger that was a metal [baseball] bat. He was the f#@king cook!"

The report describes how the people of Fallujah, the scene of numerous American atrocities, regard the 82nd Airborne as "the Murdering Maniacs". Reading it, you realize that the occupying force in Iraq is, as the head of Reuters said recently, out of control. It is destroying lives in industrial quantities when compared with the violence of the resistance.

Who will be punished for this? According to Sir Michael Jay, the permanent under-secretary of state who gave evidence before the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee on 24 June 2003, "Iraq was on the agenda of each cabinet meeting in the nine months or so until the conflict broke out in April." How is it possible that in 20 or more cabinet meetings, ministers did not learn about Blair's conspiracy with Bush? Or, if they did, how is it possible they were so comprehensively deceived?

Charles Clarke's position is important because, as the current British Home Secretary (interior minister), he has proposed a series of totalitarian measures that emasculate habeas corpus, which is the barrier between a democracy and a police state. Clarke's proposals pointedly ignore state terrorism and state crime

and, by clear implication, say they require no accountability. Great crimes, such as invasion and its horrors, can proceed with impunity. This is lawlessness on a vast scale. Are the people of Britain going to allow this, and those responsible to escape justice? Flight Lieutenant Kendall-Smith speaks for the rule of law and humanity and deserves our support.

—John Pilger is the Australian born, Emmy Award-winning journalist whose 2004 film, "Stealing A Nation," exposed ruthless tactics used by the British military to expel natives from an island in the Indian Ocean so that the US Military could use it as a Mideast war-launch base. Mr. Pilger has also won the USA's coveted George Foster Peabody Award, a number of awards and recognition from the United Nations, international universities and journalism organizations worldwide. He serves as the Frank H.T. Rhodes professor at Cornell University.

The above article is reprinted courtesy of New Statesman, a British publication that describes itself as a magazine of "brisk common sense." Check out other timely articles at [www.newstatesman.com](http://www.newstatesman.com) to gain a wider perspective and to learn what others are saying about the state of world politics today.

## Ray Remembers Krotona Hill

The Krotona bunch moved to Ojai in 1926 because Hollywood was getting too crowded. They had a meeting hall on the east side of Beachwood directly across from Glen Alder (see photo, lower right). That was active into the 1950s, as I recall. The building is still there and used for Hispanic religious meetings, piano lessons, as an office for a local psychoanalyst, and for community meetings. It is owned by Stephan Hellar, a Theosophist and local lecturer.

Keith Ramsey resided in a small apartment directly behind it. His wife, Melissa, was prominent in Hollywoodland real estate. Could she still be around?

—Raphael F. Long (Ray) was a long time resident of Beachwood until retiring to Coarsegold, CA., near Yosemite National Park. He is a collector of vintage photography as well as a photographer.

Right: The Theosophists that settled on Krotona Hill built this as their meeting hall on Beachwood. It is now used for religious services and community meetings, etc.

Photo: From the collection of Raphael F. Long



Photo: Fran Reichenbach

Above: This is Krotona Hill back in 1913. Notice the Krotona building. Obviously this photo was taken from the roof of a building on the east side of Beachwood looking west showing the building at Vista Del Mar and Primrose. There was an entire colony of Theosophical adherents in that area. The building is still there but is now inaccessible to photography due to the subsequent growth of both natural foliage and man-made structures.

# A Letter from Sgt. Dennis Gartung

My dear Friends,  
 I have patrolled our neighborhood for almost eight years, first with Protection One, and now with Post Alarm and Patrol. I have warm memories of how we all rallied together and signed up hundreds of residents in the Hollywood Hills when Protection One dissolved their patrol division, and Post came in. It is difficult for me to think of leaving, but I feel you all deserve an explanation. It is with a combination of sadness and joy that I share that my wife, Ruth, and I are moving.

The sadness comes from the fact that I have learned over the years I care for all of you. You are all important to me, and I loved working together

with Hollywoodland, Beachwood Canyon and the Hollywood Dell HOA's to protect the Hollywood Hills. You have all made some of the most beautiful colors of memories I could ever have, and you will always have a special place in my heart. I will miss you terribly!

The joy comes from the fact that God is opening up a new chapter in our lives. Ruth and I have accepted the call of the First Christian Church of Hanford, in central California, to serve as their Senior Pastor. Many things are revealing to us that this was meant by the Lord to be. As most of you know, I had been working full-time as a patrol beat sergeant for Post, and only part time as the pastor of a

small church in Norwalk. Sitting in a patrol car 40 hours per week, plus more hours at the church is affecting my health. I haven't had one day off per week for the last 3 1/2 years, with no time to take care of my wife or myself. Pastoring in Hanford, I will be a full-time pastor, living in the parsonage next to the church.

Hanford is only a 35 or 40-minute drive from Woodlake, the little town I grew up in. My mother, my aunt, and my best friend (the Best Man at our wedding) are all within a 30 minute drive.



Left: Sgt. Dennis and Ruthie Gartung. Above: Changing of the Guard—Dennis Gartung with Officer Alex Larin.

My last day on patrol in the Hollywood Hills will be Saturday, October 1st. After that, the Officer in Charge of Post Alarm and Patrol in our area will be Alex Larin. Next to me, he has patrolled the Hollywood Hills longer than anyone. I know him well, and you can believe me when I say that he is worthy of your trust. Post Alarm and Patrol will secure the Hollywood Hills better than any other

private security company in southern California. I have every hope that you will stand by Post and Alex Larin as you stood by me.

The best way to reach me from now on is to email me at [dmsg57@yahoo.com](mailto:dmsg57@yahoo.com). My life is fuller, my heart is better, and my smile is broader because you were all in my life. Please let's stay in touch!

Sgt. Dennis Gartung  
 Post Alarm and Patrol

## BCNA Report

This has been an extremely exciting year. With the energy of new board members and the inspiration that they bring with them, our canyon has become a better place.

Beachwood Canyon has created an excellent working relationship with police, fire and other agencies in the city. L.A.P.D. Captain Ron Sanchez, the new Captain of the Hollywood Division, came to two of our meetings sharing information and hearing the concerns of canyon residents. Captain Sanchez has an open-door policy and responds to all calls and e-mails from Hollywood residents. His warm sense of humor and keen listening skills won the group over!

In the midst of all this good will, suddenly, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. It was a



Above: Members of BCNA worked hard and long. Right: Marcella Bade and Tippy helped collect funds for the victims of Katrina.

Monday and by Wednesday it was clear that the devastation was going to get worse before it got better. The BCNA board launched into action along with a few volunteers from the neighborhood. After only a few hours the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday, this canyon had donated over \$5,500 to help

with Katrina relief. Almost everyone who shopped at Beachwood Market or ate at the Village Coffee Shop donated money. Many others had donated at their place of employment.

During the fund raising for Katrina relief, many of you came to us with problems and issues that our group is always willing to address. One

common complaint was the fallout from all the hillside developments throughout Hollywoodland. We heard from a neighbor in our November meeting that there are new, stricter requirements for retaining walls which are making development more difficult. Existing projects are not restricted since they got their permits before the new ordinance was passed. We hope that these new requirements will slow down the rush to fill every open parcel with huge new Instant-Blights AKA McMansions.

While this group is intensely interested in quality-of-life issues right here in our canyon, there are a few board members

who participate in the broader group called Franklin-Hollywood Hills Community Council (see FHHCC report page 20). They are working to see that issues that occur just outside the BCNA boundaries are addressed. The philosophy of this local and regional work is a holistic one. Beachwood isn't an island and your neighborhood organization is working for the health of the entire community while paying attention to matters on the local scale.

Your participation in the Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association is welcome as always. We need people to run off invitation cards, maintain our membership and outreach lists, take on our mailing tasks, and man a phone bank of volunteers. If you have any of these skills and wish to share them, please contact Larry Markes at 323-465-6519.



## THE BEACHWOOD CANYON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MAILING ADDRESS: 2751 WESTSHIRE DR, HOLLYWOOD, CA 90068, 323-462-1514

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Issues of interest to me are:

<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin-Hollywood Hills Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Beautification
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Tree	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$20. per household per year and \$10 for an apartment rental. AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$  \$

## Before You Drink Your Next Bottle: What You Should Know About Bottled Water

Almost 40% of American households report relying on bottled water for drinking and cooking. The amount consumed per individual is estimated to be 25.7 gallons per year. Public confidence in bottled water is very high, and many believe it to be sterile.

**It is not.** The Food and Drug Administration regulates its purity as "a food product." The Environmental Protection Agency has no control over this.

According to water authority Dr. Kelly Reynolds, the types of bottled water sold are:

- Spring Water—from a natural underground source.
- Purified Water—distilled, deionized

or similarly treated.

- Mineral Water—must contain 250 parts per million of dissolved minerals.
- Sparking Water—contains bubbles of carbon dioxide
- Artesian Water—comes from a confined underground aquifer
- Well Water—is from underground aquifers (not confined)

How many of us pay attention to these sources? You should

know that "natural sources" of groundwater are not treated and are subject to contamination from storm runoff, materials from animal populations and do contain disease-causing microorganisms, enteric viruses, ulcer-causing

bacteria and protozoan such as Cryptosporidium.

Studies of 751 drinking water disease outbreaks found that 62% were from groundwater systems. This included outbreaks from bottled water which is a pretty good record. The EPA and FDA do not agree on standards for tap vs bottled waters. The Water Research Foundation has its data as well.

Since 1973 there have been four documented U.S. outbreaks from bottled water. This is low compared to tap water.

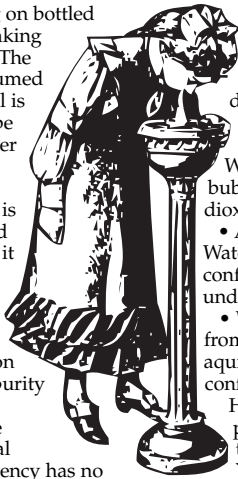
In 1999 the Natural Resources Defense Council issued a report that was quite critical of bottled water. After a four-year survey, they concluded that bottled water was not as pure as the public had been led to believe and that monitoring standards were not as stringent as they should be. That same year, the Drinking Water Research Foundation defended bottled water against the NRDC allegations.

Apart from a widespread 2002 Salmonella outbreak from bottled water, reports of problems have been minor compared to tap water which has more total samples analyzed for contamination each year. By contrast, bottled water is analyzed more frequently.

One problem for travelers is that water quality and treatment of bottled water in other countries is not the same as in the U.S. Companies often lease their names to foreign bottlers. The same is true of beer and other bottled products.

The solution? I have none, but I do restrict my drinking to bottled water due to the water delivery system in this city and the absence of a real purification system in my home. A faucet filter is not adequate. Statistics are on the side of bottled water, but "purity" is not found in either.

—William Emboden  
Ph.D., F.L.S.



## Buried Treasure

In the September 24, 2005 L.A. Times "California" section, in a tiny space was a three-paragraph announcement titled, Members of New DWP Board Propose Changes. Here's the treasure: "...Board member H. David Nahai said the agency should revisit a shelved proposal to filter purified sewage effluent through groundwater supplies for eventual use as drinking water..." [See the related articles on this page.]

WHAT? Evidently he hasn't read the huge files containing public testimony and that of scientists and biologists all over the state against the use of treated waste water for public consumption.

Finding Mr. Nahai has been very difficult since he is a volunteer appointed commissioner and does not have an office. One thing is certain: The Beachwood Voice is watching and will let you know when it's time to step into action – again. Get on the E-Activism list for up-to-the-minute reports. Send your e-mail address to CanyonVox@aol.com.

—Fran Reichenbach

## Toilet to Tap?

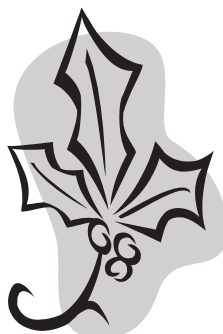
A Commentary by Steven B. Oppenheimer, Ph. D.

Why was this proposal originally shelved? Because it's dangerous to the public health!

The National Research Council in its report on this issue indicated that this kind of approach to increasing drinking water supplies is dangerous and should only be considered as an option of "last resort." The reason why it is dangerous is simply that we do not even have the means to test for the thousands of potential toxins and carcinogens that may make it through the ground purification system. To implement such an approach would be like playing Russian roulette with the public's health. At some unknown time, a dangerous toxin will in all likelihood make it through the purification system because we have no means to test for it.

That's why this "toilet to tap" approach would endanger the public health and welfare and that's why it should remain shelved—in the toilet!

—Dr. Oppenheimer is Director of CSUN's Center for Cancer and Developmental Biology and author or co-author of over 100 publications and presentations, including 4 editions of the textbook, *Cancer a Biological and Clinical Introduction*, the latest edition 2004 by Pearson Education, Boston, publisher. Steven.oppenheimer@csun.edu 818-677-3336



## PAUL HACKETT: FAITHFUL TO FREEDOM

*He Said It; He Meant It and He Stands By It: An Incredible Shot in the Arm of Democracy Brought to You by Ohio Senatorial Candidate Paul Hackett*

"Bush is a chicken hawk sonofabitch."

Whoa. When was the last time a candidate for national political office had the guts to say these words in private, let alone to the national media?

Perhaps it helps to be a 17-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who recently came home after seven months of active duty in Iraq's deadliest cities, Ramadi and Fallouja. Because that's what Ohio Senatorial candidate and U.S. Marine Corps Major Paul Hackett is and he stands by his words as told to USA Today in August when he had just returned from these hellholes. At the

time—and also for the record—he commented, "I hate the sonofabitch in the White House, but I'll put my life on the line for him." Spoken like a Marine.

You may have heard of Hackett as the upstart Congressional candidate who nearly beat out rival "Mean Jean" Schmidt, a Republican, for Ohio's District 2 Congressional seat held by Republican Rob Portman. (Portman vacated his spot to take an appointment as U.S. Trade representative.) Hackett lost by 3,500 votes in a district where 75 percent of registered voters are

Please see HACKETT, page 25

## TOILET TO TAP – AGAIN?

C.F. Michaud is both the CEO and Technical Director of Systematix Company in Buena Park. It is interesting to note that he is a Certified Water Specialist (Level VI) along with other qualifications to write and speak on water quality issues. In the International Water Conditioning and Purification Magazine for September 2005, he wrote an article entitled "Overcoming the Yuck Factor" in which he predicts that, "recycled drinking water at the municipal level is just around the corner." He views those of us who find this proposal unacceptable as psychologically prejudiced and not understanding scientific studies and data.

"Experience has shown through extensive pilot plant and operational plant trials that waste water from sewage treatment can be a safe and valuable source of new water for unlimited use." He suggests we return to the regressive practice of putting "all sources of water back into reservoirs, eliminating the need for separate distribution systems . . . To that end there would be an inexhaustible supply of drinking water for all societies." He also states, "Wastewater is a misnomer."

In closing, he concludes, "We have demonstrated with confidence that we can connect the toilet drinking water to the tap." Wow! Without presenting any precise data on how this might be done, Michaud advocates what many of us who are scientists rightfully feared.

I am now undergoing chemotherapy and radiation therapy. In the hospital

restroom, above the toilet, is a warning sign that those who are undergoing radiation therapy and chemotherapy should "flush twice." I asked my doctor for an explanation. She told me that "radioactive particles are retained in the porcelain, making it dangerous for other patients."

Hospitals, mortuaries, slaughterhouses, etc are all included in the toilet-to-tap concept which Mr. "Chubb" Michaud advocates. After reviewing numerous practices regarding water processing and distribution, he states that they "sidestep the YUCK factor" by "indirect" reuse, which is the process of sending untreated water to other than municipal drinking sources, i.e., not to a pipe connection with this city's municipal water supplies.

Is it surprising that numerous water experts have not recommended Mr. Michaud's ideas? Nor have they accepted his assertion that resistance to drinking toilet water is merely a psychological preconception, that is to say "The YUCK factor" about which he writes. Sure, it is repugnant, but moreover it is unsafe.

He does not address the dangers of radioactivity, viruses, bacteria, and possible exposure to thousands of unknown disease causing organisms. If you wish to contact him on any of this, he can be reached at his corporate headquarters:

**Systemix Inc.**  
6902 Aragon Circle  
Buena Park, CA 90620  
(714) 522-5453  
cmichaud@systematixusa.com  
—William Emboden  
Ph.D., F.L.S.

HACKETT *Cont'd from page 24*  
 Republicans.

If you've been stuck in an MRI machine since November 18th, freshman Representative Schmidt is now notorious for calling 33-year House veteran and decorated Marine colonel John Murtha a "coward," igniting a free-for-all on the House floor, the likes of which haven't been seen since conservative Connecticut Congressman Roger Griswold attacked Vermont's representative Matthew Lyon on the House floor with a hickory cane over Lyon's protestation of the Alien and Sedition Acts in 1798. (Does anyone smell parallels with Bush's Patriot Act?)

On November 15th, Hackett was in the Oaks neighborhood for an intimate meet-and-greet hosted by neighbors Gerrie Smith and Dr. Neal Baer, and Camille and Peter Stranger. In attendance were those interested in hearing from one of the newest, freshest and most appealing voices to rise above pussyfooting, poll-watching politicos of both parties in a long time. Hackett is currently running for Senator in Ohio, hoping to replace incumbent Senator Mike DeWine, a Republican, whose seat is up for election in 2006.

What draws people to Hackett are the same principles he defends and which motivated him to run for office in the first place: America's freedoms. "People were lining up to come here long before we were a superpower," says Hackett, who notes that four freedoms are under direct attack by Bush's administration: freedom of speech, freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom of and from religion.

Hanging in Hackett's home—in his bedroom, actually—that he shares with his wife and three children is the Norman Rockwell poster "Freedom from Want," which shows the typical American family sitting down for a Thanksgiving feast. The images of the recent Katrina victims weigh heavily on Hackett's mind now, as he speaks about

how the Bush Administration's policies



have impacted the most vulnerable of Americans. "He has squandered almost every opportunity handed to him to be a leader," comments Hackett.

Hackett is a successful attorney in private practice in Cincinnati, Ohio. When the U.S. invaded Iraq, he volunteered to return to duty "to my Marine family" in 2004 despite an honorable discharge in 1999 after 16 years of service, including three on active duty. His recent tour in Iraq provided one of those "aha!" moments that cause people to make life-altering changes.

"It was 130 degrees outside and here we are in a giant USO tent that's kept at 65 degrees," said Hackett at the Smith/Baer house. "We were sitting around on an army base in Kuwait, waiting to leave, watching television and decompressing from what we'd just lived through." On the television, instead of news of the war, its impact on the soldiers and Iraqis, instead of stories of how Americans at home were dealing with the fact that their nation is at war, the TV news was exclusively focused on how various U.S. government officials were trying "save" the comatose Terri Schiavo. "It was a disconnect of epic proportions," notes Hackett, who believes the Schiavo debacle was just one more instance of the Republicans trying to get an ever-expanding government into people's homes and bedrooms.

Returning from Iraq, Hackett was met at the Cincinnati airport by his family and his childhood pal Mikey. When he heard of the opening in the House (Portman's seat) from Mikey, he said, "I talked it over with my wife, and then I looked at my kids—ages 2, 5 and 8. Then I looked at our country. I looked back at my kids—2,

5 and 8—and I looked again at my country. I thought to myself, 'we're the first American generation that is leaving our country in worse shape with fewer freedoms and more problems.' Then I knew I had to run."

Is Hackett going to tone down his very vocal assessment of the Bush administration as the 2006 Ohio senatorial race draws closer? No way. "Those are my words. I said it. I meant it. And I stand by it."

Spoken like a true Marine and a future Senator from Ohio, the state that has given us eight United States presidents... and counting.

To learn more about Paul Hackett, check out [www.hackettforohio.com](http://www.hackettforohio.com).  
 —Prudence Baird

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## Lake Hollywood Update

The following portions of the Hollywood Reservoir Complex are open for public access during daylight hours:

1. The perimeter roadway around the Upper Hollywood Reservoir including the upper dam. This can be accessed from either Lake Hollywood Drive in the Hollywood Knolls or Tahoe Drive in Lake Hollywood Estates.
2. The Mulholland Dam at

the south end of Lower Hollywood Reservoir, accessed from Weidlake Drive.

The east and west sides of the Lower Hollywood Reservoir will still remain closed due to landslides. Site evaluation is on-going to determine the scope and duration of the remediation work. It is estimated that possibly by the summer of 2006 the work will be

completed to finally allow for public access around the entire reservoir.

We again thank the community and residents for their patience and cooperation.

For information about daily access please call the following number: (323) 463-0830.

—Jim Yannotta, Assistant Director Water Quality and Operations, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

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## FOOT PATROL MAKES HOLIDAY SAFER

Our L.A.P.D. Hollywood Division Police officers are doing an amazing job in this canyon. While we still have too many burglaries from our homes and especially our cars, violent crime is on the decline and our streets, at least in these canyons, are relatively safe.

Unfortunately this is not so for the neighborhoods south of Franklin.

The good news is that there is a new game in Hollywood: Rookies on foot patrol. There are 300 officers

in training at the Police Academy this year. Police Chief Bratton has decided that these officers should get some eye-to-eye, face-to-face experience as police officers while still in training. You may have seen these officers walking on Hollywood Blvd., Santa Monica Blvd., and Western Avenue from Franklin to Hollywood.

In areas where they patrol, crime stats go down. This presence promises to make the holiday season in Hollywood the safest yet.

## Global ICE

Following the disaster in London, the Ambulance Service has launched a national "In Case of Emergency (ICE)" world-wide campaign.

The idea is that you store the word "ICE" in your mobile phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person you would want to be contacted "In Case of Emergency."

In an emergency situation, ambulance and hospital staff will then be able to quickly

determine your next of kin and contact that person. It's so simple that everyone can do it. Please do.

Please email this to all the people you know. It won't take too many 'forwards' before everybody will know about this. It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest. For more contacts you could use ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc.

It's a great idea. Store it in your phone, and then pass on the message to your family and friends.



## Cops in the Canyon

*Right: Is it the coffee? The flapjacks? Or is it just the atmosphere? Our Beachwood Village has been the lunch break preference to our area patrol officers and we're happy to have them.*

*Below: When a call comes from our neighborhood, the Hollywood Police show up in force—attempted burglar on the run may have had a gun. No word on whether the suspect was apprehended but there were loads of officers hiking the hillside during this hot summer day.*



*Below: Jerry Siel, West Traffic, and his partner create a deterrent to parents' double-parking. Parents need to park and walk to the school to get their children. Thanks West Traffic!!!*



*Left: A common sight in our community. There doesn't have to be trouble as our L.A.P.D. Hollywood Patrol Officers are an ever-present asset to our community.*

## Elder Exploitation—A Way Out

Recently some of your neighbors attended a 10-week "Citizen's Police Academy" conducted by the Western Bureau of the Los Angeles Police Department to find out about the various workings of the LAPD. In one presentation by Detective Ed Whyte, we learned how the elderly fall prey to identity theft.

The Detective asked us what we thought senior citizens need most in their golden years. He convinced us that the answer is that they need to be listened to—they need someone to talk to. In this officer's many years of investigating telephone solicitation crimes against the elderly, he observed that these predators succeed by doing what we, as sons/daughters and family members, should be doing—they listen. Criminal solicitors respond sensitively to all the stories that the elderly have to tell: about their hip pain, the time they spent with one

doctor after another, the son who doesn't visit often, the daughter who moved far away with the grandchildren, and...you get it.

The typical perpetrator would call so often that the senior would feel he or she had a friend. When the criminal then sadly "disclosed" that his job was at risk due to all the time they were spending on the phone, the old person frequently opened the checkbook—anything to keep the calls coming—keep the rapport in operation.

Detective Whyte urged everyone to pay more attention to the elderly in their families and to listen to their stories—be a part of their lives. We are then assured that there will be good, healthy communication going. It doesn't cost us anything to remain close to those who have raised us and loved us when we were young, and it can cost them a great deal if they are

seduced into the clutches of one of these predators. No harm can come if we protect and nurture our family members.

Here are some internet resources to check out: [www.elderabuseinfo.com](http://www.elderabuseinfo.com) and [www.hollywood4seniors.com](http://www.hollywood4seniors.com). There are many more resources so, if you have others that you would like to share, send them to us at [BeachwoodVoice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BeachwoodVoice@sbcglobal.net).

This information is only a fraction of what is available to you in the 10-week Community Police Academy. Each weekly evening session offers presentations on three different aspects of LAPD operations. Crowd favorites were tours of the 911 and helicopter operations centers and the actual field-training facility (including encounter simulator!) in Elysian Park. If you would like to learn more about the next series, contact your Senior Lead Officer at 213-485-4310.

—Editor

## Hollywood Community Police Station Phone Numbers:

Patrol Front Desk 213-972-2971, 213-972-2972, 213-972-2973\*

Watch Commander's Office 213-972-4325\*

Patrol Captain Mike Moriarty 213-972-2984

Detective Front Desk 213-972-2967

Detective Commanding Officer 213-972-2969

Gang Impact Team 213-485-4318

Vice Main Line 213-972-2996

Captain Ronald Sanchez 213-972-2900

Community Relations Office 213-485-4310

Please remember, in an emergency, dial 9-1-1

For any non-emergency questions, dial 3-1-1

\* These numbers are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

# A Star Is Born at Hollywood & Bronson

## New Local Self-Storage Facility has Safety Features Galore

Time for all packrats and oenophiles to go through their wine collections and break out the bubbly. At long last, Hollywood proper has a safe, well-lit and conveniently located storage facility that takes the drama, pain and loathing out of storing your extra stuff.

And wouldn't you know it? A man named Moses can lead you there.

"I want to give back to Hollywood!" Hollywood & Bronson Self Storage's general manager Moses proclaims passionately during BV's first encounter with him.

What? It's not enough that for the first time those of us who live here finally have the option of parking our extra stuff in a spotless, no-hassle, local storage facility with security, air-conditioning and free valet parking?

Apparently not, for Moses and Hollywood & Bronson Self Storage have thrown in a free moving van as well. All you have to do is show proof of insurance and a valid driver's license to use the 50-square foot Ford truck to make your move-in trips to your new, well-lit, nicely maintained personal storeroom free-of-charge.

Moses' dedication to his business is apparent in the

pristine new facility with its full-time custodian, its spick and span garage, its original and personal touches like



Spaces are filling up rapidly in the Hollywood & Bronson Self Storage facility, according to Moses Ruiz, General Manager. He credits the business' popularity to the convenient location and amenities, such as enhanced security and air-conditioned units.

pull-down stools that are imbedded in the garage wall—just right for tired movers to grab a few moments of rest while chug-a-lugging courtesy bottles of Hollywood & Bronson Self Storage cold water.

The facility is also safe. Dozens of high definition cameras are strategically located throughout the building on all floors. Each unit is individually alarmed and elevators open only to floors where customers have their units. "We're very serious about safety and security," comments Moses who notes that the neighborhood is well-patrolled and increasingly

gentrified. "A great deal of our business is entertainment companies, so we have to offer a level of service and security that is commensurate with what they expect on their own lots."

In the lobby, a roster of famous Hollywood stars done in caricature, comfortable chairs, current magazines and plate glass windows overlooking the garage and vibrant Hollywood Blvd. make for a lobby that is both cheerful and

boxes and tubes, a wide variety of other shipping accoutrements like tape, labels and the like, it just doesn't feel sterile like most storage facilities do. And of course, there's Moses behind the black granite counter.

"This place is all the buzz!" Moses enthuses. You know what? He's right. After you've unloaded your stuff out of the free van and on to one of a dozen (count 'em!) rolling carts, taken your stuff up the spacious freight elevator to your sensor-lit, wide, air-conditioned hallways and placed it into one of 1,000-plus units available at the facility, you can celebrate your new-clutter-free life with a scrumptious meal at Palms Thai Restaurant, which shares the same building.

Those on the dining-out circuit know all about the restaurant because of its 12-year successful run in Thai Town, just east of its new space. Palms Thai is simply the city's most



The staff (and friend) at the Palms Thai Restaurant.

restful. Little ones who would be underfoot can enjoy drawing and puzzles at a small table and chairs in the kid zone. And despite the quantities of bubble wrap, all sizes and shapes of

popular and authentic Thai restaurant. It opens for lunch at 11:00 a.m. and stays open throughout the day and well into the night Monday through Sunday.

Time your visit to

Hollywood & Bronson Self Storage right and you can waltz right into the restaurant after your storage activities, pop yourself down, and eat guilt-free. (BV will review Palms Thai Restaurant in a later edition. Consider this the pre-review review.)

And, if you break a nail (heaven forbid), there is a nail salon—I Nails—in the building as well. Overall, there is 60,000 square feet of retail space in the five-story building.

Back to Hollywood & Bronson Self Storage. "It's all about Hollywood," says Moses, standing on the largest star on Hollywood Blvd., which is strategically placed under the storage facility's signage—homage to a movie palace marquee that features a Keith Haring-like neon figure hand-carting up and down the building.

Moses gestures grandly and for a moment the visitor sees what he sees, a vision of perfection, which is not narrow in definition, but attainable, expansive and applicable—even to something as mundane as a storage facility.

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Hours: Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

—Prudence Baird

Photos: Prudence Baird

## Dial 399 for Roadside Assistance

In the *L.A. Times* June 24, 2005 issue, it was announced that a new non-emergency number is available for use from your cell phone.

If you are on the road and your car breaks down, dialing 399 from your cell phone will connect you to the Auto Club or the Metro Freeway Service Patrol. Use this when you are traveling along Los Angeles County freeways and have a breakdown, run out of gas, or get a flat tire.

Also, remember to use your earpiece when making calls from your car. Programming your cell phone to respond to your voice is a good idea too. But watch where you are going. The Highway Patrol and Los Angeles Police Officers say that holding the phone up to the ear while driving reduces your ability to concentrate and to react while driving.



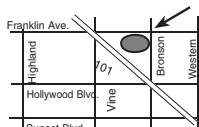
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# Griffith Park Up for Grabs?

Quick—what comes to mind when you hear the words Griffith Park?

Did you think “pony ride?” “Train ride?” “Carousel?” “Golf?” “Zoo?” For me, I think “family” and how happy it makes me to see so many families playing soccer and touch football or having picnics and birthday parties every single weekend. Any of us that grew up in L.A. have a special memory that we connect with this fantastic, mostly wild, fabulous park that is a gift for the people of Los Angeles.

But nothing stays the same. There is a plan afoot to change the park. A MASTER PLAN (curses!) has been proposed to the Recreation and Parks Department. The Plan includes a Hotel (Say it isn't so!), 4 parking structures (Oh NO!), a promenade

(Yikes!) a culinary school (hmmm, OK), a restaurant (uh huh) and a pier over the L.A. River (OK, maybe). However, there are true knights who are fighting this dreadful plan and they not only have a website (WWW.SAVEGRIFFITHPARK.ORG), they also attend and participate at meetings. That is what is so cool—any of us can go. Because, while some of us may not hate the idea of the culinary school, you might and you would be in good company—since many



would agree with you.

Many opinions are being aired at the monthly “Working Group” meetings created to re-write the MASTER PLAN. The Working Group was a direct result of the pressure brought by the “Save Griffith Park”

activists. The idea was to actually have the people that use and care about the park have a say in shaping it.

You are encouraged to review the plan online (www.LAParks.org) and attend the meetings. Voicing your opinions and

concerns are of the utmost importance in this preliminary phase of the development.

The most organized is the ‘Save Griffith Park’ group. Thanks to them, the hotel idea is history, but there are so many other items in the plan (some really bad ideas) that will be

discussed in the Working Group. These meetings will shape how the park will look over the next few decades until there is another MASTER PLAN (Curses). Come be part of it. Make history. I'm going. I hope you will too. (e-mail me at BeachwoodfLat@Aol.com for more info).

—Eda Godel Hallinan and Colette Schamet, both Beachwood Canyon residents, contributed to this article.

CAROL Cont'd from page 10

Hmm, it would be nice to be King . . .

Mr. President, when I snap my fingers, you will be back in the White House awaiting you last visitor.

Snap

Boy, that poverty stuff is a real downer. I've got to do something about that. Maybe put a big wall around those parts of town.

Talking to yourself again, Mr. President?

Who is it? Where are you? Don't you recognize my voice? You've said I've talked to you many times. Be still and know that I am God.

Why does everyone order me around?

You've done a lot of very bad things, George. I'm here to take you into the future so you can see the fruits of your endeavors.

Are You gonna' take me to some gay part of town?

I said be still or I will turn you into that which many say you actually are . . .

Oh, You mean “a horse's ass with a cowboy hat”?

Well, I was trying not to say it . . .

There was a crack of thunder. The White House shook under the President's feet. In an instant, they were flying above a huge sprawling metropolis that the President recognized.

That's L.A. isn't it? Hey how come it's not under water?

You don't think all of your dreams come true, do you?

Darn. Lot o' Democrats there. Bad people. But some things look different. Look at the freeways. No traffic. Just a couple of limos now and then. And those walled in areas, what are they?

Well, remember when you thought it would be good to put a big wall around certain parts of town?

Yeah.

Well, those walls were put up to keep the masses of poor out of the way of the rich. Because of your policies, the wealth of the many has gone into the pockets of the few leaving no middle class, just massive poverty.

Hmm, I gotta' think about that.

Yes, please see that you do. This Christmas of 2005 can be a turning point. You have the power to make things more equitable in the world and to create a better future for not only the rich but also the poor and even the helpless.

Well, God, thanks for showin' me all this. But I gotta' confess somethin' . . .

What?

I never really talked to you before; I just made that up.

You don't think I know that already?

Oh yeah, I guess so.

The President woke up late in the day when there was a knock on the door of the Lincoln bedroom.

George, George. Are you in there? Wake up.

Yes Laura, I'm here. I had this incredible dream. I spoke to God . . .

Again, George?

Yeah, and He showed me the future and said that I was doin' all the right things; to keep it up.

With apologies to Charles Dickens



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Christmas begins about the first of December with an office party and ends when you finally realize what you spent, around April fifteenth of the next year.—P. J. O'Rourke

# Video Games— Good or Bad?

In the last few years the debate has raged from the homes of concerned parents to politicians on Capitol Hill. As a video game designer, the subject concerns me directly. I believe, as with most issues, there are both positive and negative aspects to be considered.

Let's start with the negative side. At the forefront is the argument that violent video games increase aggression. A statistic that has been mentioned multiple times in the media is that 89% of video games contain violence. Remember PacMan, that adorable little guy that wanders through a maze gobbling up pellets and ghosts? Well, he counts into that 89%, too. Why? Because he eats—kills—the ghosts when they turn blue.

Allow me to call attention to a game that promotes aggression and violence and can be found in every high school and college in America. This game is real, not make-believe and is enjoyed by fathers and sons all across the country. It's called football and it's been around a lot longer than video games.

To date, there are no conclusive studies either way as to whether violent video games encourage such behavior in the real world. Some have argued that they may act as a safety valve, allowing players to blow off steam in a fantasy setting instead of acting out in real-life situations. Others say the violence in these games does indeed promote violent acts in the real world. The closest comparison with a similar medium would be violent movies. But tell me: after you saw *Die Hard* with Bruce Willis, an extremely violent movie, did you want to shoot people?

Another argument is that people, especially kids, spend too much time playing video games. On this point I agree. Grades will likely drop when a student is playing games

eight hours a day while his text books collect dust. Such physical inactivity may also lead to obesity, a growing problem among young people today—though to be fair, you don't get any exercise from reading or doing homework either.

Now for the positive side of video games—yes, there is a positive side! The benefits at the top of most lists are improved hand-eye coordination and reflexes. It is hard to argue against this, but one could make the point that ping-pong and other sports can also improve hand-eye coordination and reflexes. Another positive is that video games, much like any hobby or sport, can be a great source of stress relief.

Playing video games can teach or enhance many cognitive skills as well: problem-solving abilities, pattern recognition, the ability to focus, logistics, mapping, memory, quick thinking and decision making, knowledge of computers and technology, multi-tasking and even the ability to follow directions. Some games, aside from the "educational" titles, can inform the player on many real life facts. I learned quite a bit about World War II from a historical strategy game I once played. The same could be said for my knowledge of mythological creatures from various other game titles.

If you are concerned about what your kids are playing, there are several things you can do about it. Know what they're playing. Read the back of the box. Look up reviews on-line before you buy it. Ask them what it's about and if it's ultra-violent. Tell them you want to watch them play it for an hour to see for yourself if their description of the game is accurate. But try to be fair. When rock-and-roll was born, it was demonized unfairly by a generation that didn't understand it. The



scandalous hip gyrations that shook the country when Elvis took the stage on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1956 are considered tame by today's standards. Video games might be considered the new rock-and-roll. Give them a chance before you write them off as evil and without worth. Like it or not, video games are here to stay. 65% of American households play them and the number is growing.

In short, parents should restrict the time that their children play video games, just as they should with television. Kids should be encouraged to participate in a variety of activities, some cerebral, some physical and some simply for fun. Just as I wouldn't want my child to go without exercise because he stayed inside reading all day or be outside playing baseball to the exclusion of all intellectual pursuits, I wouldn't want him to play video games all day either. Remember, as a parent you have the power to take away the video games you bought.

I offer the same advice for adult video game aficionados. Have some balance. Don't lock yourself in a dark room and play video games all day on a weekend. Well, okay, once in a while won't kill you. Seriously though, your life will suffer and so will your backside, so be responsible!

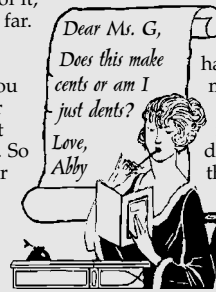
I realize I've only skimmed the surface of this debate. Short of writing a book on the topic, it would be impossible to cover every point of the issue in depth. I welcome your questions and comments on the subject. In the future, I will not only discuss aspects of the video game world, I will also review games.

I will leave you with a last thought... My mother always told me playing video games would never get me anywhere. Now I have a job making video games. I love my mother, but I'm glad she was wrong!

# Further To Go with Grammar

By Ms. Grammer

Is it further or farther? This one is easy. If it is physical distance and you have a lot of it, you have to go far. Farther. If it is conceptual distance and you might grow fur before you "get it", it is further. So we have further to go with grammar, further to go with our education, further to go in our understanding—and farther to get to grandmother's house.



would not say this is different than that. This is no different from that.

To say different than, you have to be meaning that one thing is more different than the other thing is different, and you would really be saying, "This (thing)

is odder than that (thing) is odd." So if you are differentiating one thing from another (a fur cry from a far cry, for example), remember it is different from. But if you are saying that a fur cry is odder than a far cry is odd, then you can have your than there.

I can assure you that this is correct because I am confident of it. Learning it will ensure your acceptance in good company because it will be certain to happen. Insurance is another matter and not at all certain: We can offer assurances, be ensured things work the way they work, but still not afford insurance.

This life I lead is a fur cry from what I thought it would be. Why am I still an idealist with all this terrible nonsense going on? Maybe I just have a little further and farther to go and it will all fall into place and make cents. Then when the destination is no longer far away in mind or by car it will all be right here and, though not **alright**, everything will be **all right**. But first, more fur.

How are you going to remember this? If you have further to go and it is conceptual, it is as if you have fur on your eyes or fur on your brain. You must plow through more papers and books to clear the fur away and get to the end. There is fur there, so you must go further, through the fur.

If you are driving, and you are not there, and where you are going is still far away, you simply have to go farther. Take it easy. Far rhymes with car. Tune in to a soothing radio station. Sit back and relax. You have to go farther, in physical distance.

It's a far cry from all that simple, you say? The far cry is conceptual and it should it be a fur cry? Ok, have it your way and have it be a fur cry.

Is a fur cry different than a far cry or different from a far cry? It depends. Typically, the speaker means to differentiate one from the other, and the phrase requires a from. This is different from that. You

*A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.*  
—Garrison Keillor

## Out Into the Sun

*She ran and ran as fast as she could  
On sunlit paths and through dark shadowy wood.*

*The pounding of her heart was the only sound  
As each foot gently touched the soft warm ground.*

*Youth had left her along side of the road  
Yet stretching forward, faster she strode.*

*Her movement in honor of those younger than she  
Each thrust of her form was fast and free.*

*Like a flag waving, the wind tossed her hair,  
For the ill one in the bed, the dear lady in the chair.*

*"For the ones who cannot, for you I do run,  
Through the shadows, the trees, and out into the sun."*

By Fran Reichenbach

*I used to run before the sun came up many years ago. The beginning of my route took me past a nursing home. The building was dark except for a single light showing the outline of an old woman in a wheelchair. I would dedicate each running session to her—I ran for her.*

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# Caught in Conversation

By Humberto Guida

Backstage before a concert one of the members of the gansta-rap group Bone Thugs N' Harmony (Lazy Bone I believe) berated me in utmost hip-hop fashion. "I'm free dawg. I ain't got no chains on me!" the small, skinny rapper exclaimed. It was an exchange that attracted some attention to say the least, most likely because I didn't much look the part of hip-hop entourage, wearing a Gallagher T-shirt and all, even as everyone in the vicinity threw down a *tuff crew* motif. Maybe also because I was playing provocateur, having just asked the streetwise MC if he was actually going to manage himself onstage and pull off a performance after he had ingested a liter of Grey Goose and smoked a hearty-sized Cheech and Chong merely minutes before. Hey, I was curious; his style was lyrically sophisticated, full of verse rather than catch phrase upon catch phrase and that was a whole lot of vodka for one little guy. But everything turned out okay. Lazy Bone wasn't really angry with me. He just wanted to free my mind from the illogical binds society places on us. "Why shouldn't I get f@&#ed up to do my art?" he asked me. Why shouldn't he indeed?

Thoughtful, provocative and with an ironic, often accidental sense of timing, that's my approach. When it comes to the fascinating personalities that dot celebri-dom a good conversation conducted in the spirit of Seinfeld (in other words not necessarily about anything in particular) can be much more telling than the typical interview. Hopefully, as I try to break through Hollywood clichés, I won't become one myself, although I am a Cuban-American from Miami, attended Catholic school and came to Tinseltown in an attempt to escape oppressive, conservative values. Oh no, it's happening already. I have to remind myself I'm special just like everyone else in Los Angeles. Anyways, my first conversation for the readers of the Beachwood Voice is a little like the one I just told you about. I was with a performer backstage before a show rapping about the injustice that besieges everyone everywhere. The only difference was that Margaret Cho omitted the drugs and alcohol.

Our conversation occurs at one of the wrap-up

shows on Cho's Assassin Tour, clips of which you can buy at the store on the just-released *Margaret Cho: Assassin* DVD. This time, Cho has definitely ventured down the political-humor route farther than ever before, and it's safe to say she's up there with Bill Maher and George Carlin. The Assassin show is a saucy barrage on discrimination, injustice and especially our president, George W. Bush. So I meet her in a backroom where it's pretty quiet, not many people around. She comes in by herself, adorably made up and dressed with an Eastern flavor, and sporting an almost Lucy Liu physique. If you follow Cho you know she's kind of like Oprah; you never know what size she'll be wearing. Luckily Cho has a sense of humor because we spend a good five minutes talking about how unrecognizable she is when she's this thin. "I know I need to get fat again just so people remember who I am," she offers, pushing her head forward and dropping her jaw for a trademark "Ha." I jump right into the small talk.

*So who's pissing you off most these days? For me it's Sunday drivers and parents who put their kids on a leash.*

"Oh it's terrible when they put their kids on a leash. I mean you don't want to lose them but it's a bit demeaning..." Cho exclaims, pulling herself off the wall and going through a barrage of laughing Valley Girl facial expressions before thinking about the first part of my question. "Um, George Bush tends to make me a little hot under the collar. I think his policies are quite terrible especially with the war in Iraq. He couldn't answer the call after Katrina."

*I like your sense of preachiness. Where does it come from?*

"I come from a religious background. My grandfather was a minister, so I have a sort of sermonizing, ecclesiastical nature. It's funny because I wrote most of the show in London. And as we all know England is where white people begin the whitening process, they don't preach. So it's a different reaction when I come home."

*Speaking of white people, they're starting to open up towards Latino performers and I plan to capitalize. What's it like for Asian performers today?*

"Oh I look at Latino culture thinking oh you really have it going on, you

have a couple of networks, you have all these stars, you have J. Lo!" Cho answers, hands up high. "I always wanted to do this ever since I was a kid, but since I never saw Asian people on TV or in movies, my dreams were limited. I remember as a little girl thinking 'Maybe one day I could be an extra on MASH!'"

*Since you have this revolutionary, Che Guevara-type of image going, I could see you as the dictator of some Latin American country, which, when you think about it, would be neat since you're Korean.*

"Ha-ha-ha." Cho laughs like crazy. Then she seems to ponder it for a second with the look of someone who's stumbled upon some greater destiny. "I am really quite obsessed



Margaret Cho.

lot of people. Civil rights, marriage equality. Gay marriage is something I feel strongly about. I think the only people that should marry are lesbians and gays."

This is when her manager comes for her—show time, and I was her warm up. I hope we're friends now. "We're like

with Che Guevara, who was not a dictator, he was a revolutionary, but I love that—to liberate people, that's what I do. I talk a lot about issues important to a

total best friends...oh my gosh," she replies with one hand cupping her mouth like an excited adolescent girl while getting dragged towards the stage.

## Good Will Comes to Hollywood



Above: Comcast and Salvation Army volunteers gather for painting day.

Comcast Cares Day was a great success. A crew of close to 200 people came to Weingart and gave our center a total face-lift!

They painted our walls and even included beautiful new murals. They ripped up our old used and dirty flooring and rugs. All their hard work paid off bringing our members together and giving us back some pride in our building.

Comcast volunteers gave the center a lot of color and life and we appreciate it greatly.

Just in case you have kids, our computer lab and learning center are open for children over 7 years of age. They can get help with homework, play games and take computer classes. We also have an animal group that comes in once a week teaching the kids about different animals. The cost is low at only \$2.00 per week. For more information, e-mail me at [urbncwgrl\\_73@yahoo.com](mailto:urbncwgrl_73@yahoo.com) or call the Weingart Youth Center at 323-960-0643.

—Kerri Koch, Weingart Youth Center



Edgar Estrada of Weingart Youth Center was one of the organizers of this project.



Krista from the Way In and Jim from Comcast also helped organize the day's activities.



Weingart Youth Center volunteers.

More Pictures on Page 31.

# Our Vacation

## Xingolati— The Blending of Worlds



Anah and her Mom, Fran Reichenbach, escaped from the real world this past summer for a mother and daughter cruise experience. Carnival Cruise's first ever Xingolati Groove Cruise (Xingolati.com) of the Pacific took off from Long Beach to Ensenada, Mexico. This was not your average cruise. It was like a floating music festival without the humongous crowds.

The idea of Xingolati was to bring performers and observers together in a close environment encouraging participation. People were encouraged to express themselves in costume and dance. There were hula hoopers, fire spinners, dancers, aerial performers, and non-stop live music in every corner and on every stage of this liberating cruise.

So Anah & Fran joined 2,000 guests who were hula hooping, dancing and almost always in some form of costume. Four days

of joy and self-expression were just what the doctor ordered for Fran since she was recovering from shoulder surgery and taking a much-needed hiatus from the Beachwood Voice.

Anah is back doing her hoop performances and giving private and group lessons. Fran has finally gotten the glitter out of her hair and, as you can see, is launching the new improved Beachwood Voice!

### Good Will Comes to Hollywood (Cont'd)



Stairwell at Weingart Youth Center mural before and after.



Gymnasium mural in progress.

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