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# THE ORANGE COAST VOICE

No. 4 Serving Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa and surrounding communities Jan. 2007

## Stun Guns On

*How will HB & CM police use their Tasers?*

By **SARA ELLIS**  
Staff Writer

"Set for stun!" No one who grew up in the aftermath of Star Wars could forget a line that made so many promises. The first being that our heroine, Princess Leia, would survive to be rescued, and the second, that our future would yield an abundance of shiny, streamlined weaponry that would make the safe incapacitation of our opponents a matter of merely switching one's laser beam from red to blue. While the real Princess lived on to do drug rehab and write about it, the actual development of America's stun gun has been far less successful, resulting in roughly 200 deaths over the last five years.

In truth, were Carrie Fisher to be zapped by an actual device, she would not fall, gracefully and princess-like, to the floor, but would, in light of her admitted history of drug abuse—often blamed for Taser-related deaths—go immediately into cardiac arrest. While Taser may rhyme with its cooler sci-fi counterpart, it's an acronym



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TASER INTERNATIONAL

TASER: There have been 200 deaths from Taser guns in the U.S. during the past five years.

that whispers far more brazenly of our violent cowboy past: The Thomas A. Smith Electronic Rifle; a weapon that will soon be in the hands of every Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach police officer.

For Costa Mesa, the timing

couldn't have been worse. On Nov. 21, exactly one week after the UCLA incident in which a student, Mostafa Tabatabaiejad, was stunned multiple times by Campus police, City Council approved a \$100,000 grant to be used for the purchase 100 Tasers.

"I think actually I learned about (the incident) after we had already voted," says Council member Katrina Foley. "But it didn't effect my decision. Basically, whether it's police, firefighters, or doctors. There's always somebody who's going to abuse the system or abuse a tool. And with respect to our force, we have very well trained officers."

Where once there were only six Tasers in use by department higher ups, one device will now be provided to every officer, including the city's some 65 patrol personnel, 20 traffic cops, and the remaining plainclothes officers and detectives. "The delivery of the 100 should arrive next week," says Field Operations Captain, Ron Smith. "We've scheduled training and we'll be operational by the end of the year."

The Huntington Beach police force has also been doing some Christmas shopping. "We're in the process of issuing (a Taser) to every uniformed officer," says HB Training Unit Sergeant, Mike Mello. "We've just bought a hundred of them."

See **TASERS**, Page 4

## Santa Ana Phobia Could Nix Transit Money

*Does CM city council fear race 'blending' with its northern neighbor?*

By **JOHN EARL**  
Editor

In a move that could jeopardize Costa Mesa's share of potentially millions of dollars in rapid transit funds, the city council abruptly backed off from a proposed joint rapid transit study agreement with the city of Santa Ana.

Mayor Allan Mansoor, Mayor Pro-Tem Eric Bever, city council newcomer Wendy Leece and council veteran Linda Dixon made the decision at the Dec. 5 city council meeting. This action also endangers the city's chance to play a role in future regional transit planning.

The primary—and racially nuanced—factor in the council's change of heart appears to be a fear of "blending" with Santa Ana, a conceptual concern absent prior to the recent city council election

but markedly present afterward.

The Orange County Transportation Authority, in the first of four steps in its "Go Local" program, is offering grants of \$100,000 each to 34 Orange County cities to research viable proposals to ward creating or improving rapid transit links to the county's Metrolink stations.

The OCTA will award full financing, from a pool of over \$1 billion in Measure M funds, approved by voters in Nov. 7, to those cities with the most viable projects that stress working with other cities.

Costa Mesa Transportation Manager Peter Naghavi, along with City Manager Allan Roeder

and Public Service Director William Morris detailed the proposal to the city council at a Sept. 12 study session. Santa Ana and Costa Mesa would have combined their grant money to fund a joint study. By mutual agreement, Santa Ana

**The primary—and racially nuanced—factor in the council's change of heart appears to be a fear of 'blending' with Santa Ana**

would be the "lead agency," meaning that it would manage the study sessions and hire the paid consultants.

The primary transportation link between Costa Mesa and Santa Ana would go from South Coast Metro, which includes the South Coast Plaza, to the Santa Ana Metrolink station; but links to Santa Ana's civic center would also have been examined, as well as

potential connections to Triangle Square, the Orange County Airport, local colleges and the Costa Mesa Civic Center, per the City Council's request.

Roeder told the council that cooperation between communities is an "absolute" for participating in the Go Local program.

Working with Santa Ana is essential, he said at the study session, adding that "We have talked to Santa Ana because they are the most logical hub for us to connect to in terms of Metrolink as opposed to going further south into Irvine or north into Anaheim."

The main transit route would be along the Costa Mesa Freeway, through the so-called transit corridor, where OCTA buses already travel, utilizing shuttles or vans.

Roeder assured the council that after reaching agreement with Santa Ana, elected officials of both

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**WATER WATCH**

# Defining Wetlands

## *The Bolsa Chica Bean Field War*

By **LISA WELLS**  
Staff Writer

If forests are the planet's lungs, then wetlands are Earth's kidneys. Coastal wetlands absorb urban runoff and filter pollutants, preventing these factors from contaminating beaches. As global warming reduces snow pack and brings wetter rain storms, wetlands also can help absorb and store water and prevent flooding. Wetlands maintain biodiversity, incubate halibut, provide resting spots for migratory birds and are an essential, as well as beautiful, part of the web of life.

California has lost at least 90 percent of its wetlands. Much of Long Beach and North Orange County were once wetlands. In Huntington Beach the Bolsa Chica wetland is one of the largest remaining, and one of the most adversely impacted. Oil wells, a freeway and residential development have damaged it, but it at least still exists. And this is only after a 30-year battle, which saved Bolsa Chica from developers' plans to transform the wetland into a marina and 5,700 homes.

But while conservationists cheer for this win, what they call the Upper Bolsa Chica Wetland, the 50-acre "beanfield" property off of Graham Street near Slater, is still at risk. It could become a lot of 170 houses, which will inevitably lead to more urban run-off and damage the habitat. Conservationists claim that the site is off limits to developers because it is a wetlands area and is therefore protected by the California Coastal Act.

But, according to Lear Pearce, a spokesperson for Shea Homes, the developer that aims to build the homes, the land is not a true wetlands area. Pearce says that year after year they have studied the site and found that it is not a wetland.

Most developers do not consider their property off-limits to development. In fact, according to Mark Massara, an environmental lawyer who directs Sierra Club's Southern California Coastal Program, "Developers always come in with their paid analysts and find that their property is not protected."

Legally, wetland protection in California stems from the California Coastal Act. The California Coastal Commission (CCC) was established after the public expressed concerns that development had degraded California's coastal environment and limited beach access. The Act was overwhelmingly passed by Californians in 1972. The CCC's mandate is to "protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations."

The Coastal Act requires the maintenance and, if feasible, restoration of wetlands to a biologically productive condition that will create healthy populations of marine



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK BIXBY

**UPPER BOLSA CHICA:** Business is brisk on the wetlands overlook on a cloudy day.

organisms and protect human health. The law broadly defines wetland to mean "lands within the coastal zone which may be covered periodically or permanently with shallow water and include saltwater marshes, freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish water marshes, swamps, mudflats, and fens."

Defining the term "wetlands" is the core of the battle between developers and preservationists as the legal meaning of that word will determine the amount of

**California has lost at least 90 percent of its wetlands. Much of Long Beach and North Orange County were once wetlands. In Huntington Beach the Bolsa Chica wetland is one of the largest remaining, and one of the most adversely impacted**

coastal land that remains as open space for possible wetlands restoration, and how much land will be made available for potentially lucrative housing developments along the California coast.

The CCC enforces the Coastal Act using a "one parameter definition" which requires evidence of water vegetation (hydrophytes) or hydric soil, earth where vegetation can grow. On the other hand, the Army Corps of Engineers requires a three parameter definition which includes vegetation, soils and water.

Wetlands conservationists favor the less restrictive definition and some argue that the benefit of the doubt should go toward preserving a vital natural resource. Developer interests, however, covet a stricter burden of proof, arguing that the single parameter approach doesn't necessarily indicate that a wetlands area exists.

Representatives of both sides

of the wetlands debate who spoke before the CCC's November meeting, held in Huntington Beach, seemed to agree that scientific definitions for determining what constitutes a wetland need to be updated. The CCC acknowledges that even the most scientific approach to delineating wetlands is subject to error due to possible human contamination. "Therefore," a recent staff report concluded, "wetlands delineators must also exercise professional judgment" to determine what is or is not a wetlands.

The debate between developers and conservationists has been raging ever since the Coastal Act was passed, Massara says. "When developers call for strengthening definitions of the Coastal Act, it is just another way to try to decrease protection."

Marc Stirdivant, Executive Director of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust (BCLT), says that the Upper Bolsa Chica wetland meets these criteria and is protected under the Coastal Act.

In December, when the BCLT presented findings to the CCC that the existing Upper Bolsa Chica wetlands should be larger than the wetlands area already identified by the CCC, Shea's representative, Lear Pearce, called the report an "utterly ridiculous, meaningless embarrassment of a report" and claimed that Shea has outstanding science that proves the property is not a wetland.

But opponents to development of the Bolsa Chica Upper Wetlands say that Shea's conclusion that wetlands don't exist is based more on its manipulation of evidence than real science.

Complicating the issue, the Huntington Beach City Council voted in favor of the Shea Homes project in 2002. Since then, the BCLT and Shea Homes have been waiting for a hearing with the CCC to decide the matter. The next hearing scheduled for either January 10, 11, or 12 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Long Beach (go to <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/index.html> or call (714) 846-1001 to confirm).

See **WETLANDS**, Page 9

# LETTERS

The *Orange Coast Voice* encourages letters to the editor and will attempt to print all those received. However, due to space constraints, letters are subject to editing. All letters must include the author's name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters can be electronically sent to letters@ocvoice.com, or mailed directly to: *Orange Coast Voice*, 419 Main Street, #209, Huntington Beach, California, 92648.

## What's the connection?

I don't get it. What's the connection between "hooded vigilantes" of 70 years ago and the Minutemen of today? ["Shoot to Kill", Dec. 2006] None of the Minutemen I've ever seen was wearing a hood or attempting to shoot anyone. What the Minutemen want is for our government to enforce our immigration laws. The fact of the matter is that before the tsunamis of immigration, both legal and otherwise, of the last few decades, many jobs in meat packing, janitorial services, agriculture (think Cesar Chavez' UFW) and construction were in fact unionized and middle class. Not anymore.

And I thought the "OC Weekly" was poorly written!

Randle C. Sink  
Huntington Beach, CA

## Good newspaper

Thanks for the good newspaper. I appreciate your informative items including the recent ones on pollution, Poseidon, Mobile Homes, immigrants, Huntington Beach and Costa Mesa politicians, recycling, restaurants, and the Interviews. Some of the recent letters to the Editor substitute pretty well for a "Humor" section. I will send in my subscription check when I get around to doing my bills. Keep up the good work.

B. Green  
Huntington Beach

## I look forward to OC Voice

It's good to finally have a local HB newspaper that actually contains news! The other two newspapers currently available to HB residents are barely worthy of occupying the bottom of a bird cage. One paper will inform you of everything surfing-related, while the other is nothing more than the official publication of the HB City Council. Both papers have never met a real estate developer they didn't like and can be counted on to provide us "news" with a corporate slant. We have some very serious grassroots problems in HB such as contaminated beaches, ASCON, open spaces, Poseidon, and a long list of "quality-of-life" issues. I look forward to the *OC Voice* addressing these issues in an open and investigative manner. We currently have one former Mayor in prison, makes you wonder how many other local politicians belong there.

Hank Castignetti  
Huntington Beach, CA

## Approaches to desalination

There is a marked difference in the way jurisdictions approach desalination. One approach was used by the Long Beach Water Department. They performed extensive research on ways to reduce the energy consumption that desalination requires and they seriously investigated the impacts the plant would have on the environment. Their Web site contains an abundance of operational data and their employees are very forthright about the problems they have encountered.

Poseidon, in contrast, although it is about to start a 50,000,000 [50 million gallons per day - Editor] plant in Huntington Beach has either not done any of these type of analysis, or chooses not to share the information with the people of Huntington Beach. A cloud hangs over them because of their first venture into desalination in Tampa Bay. In Tampa Bay, the plant operated just long enough to

demonstrate its huge flaws, and although repairs and modifications were suppose to have been completed in October 2006, it still is not producing because its pumps rusted and had to be sent back to the factory to be refurbished. The repairs to that Poseidon plant will cost the people using Tampa Bay Water's product an additional 29 million dollars. Tampa Bay Water has announced that they will operate the plant on a limited basis because of the cost.

John Scott  
Huntington Beach, CA

## Poseidon lawsuit update

*Editor's note: On November 27 a Superior Court judge ruled against a lawsuit by the Surfrider Foundation challenging the Environmental Impact Report filed by Poseidon Inc. for a proposed 50 million gallon per day desalination plant in Huntington Beach ("Residents Fight Poseidon", Dec. 2006). In a Poseidon Inc. press release (November 29), HB city councilmember Cathy Green stated, "The judge's denial of this lawsuit reiterates the fact that city staff and the elected leaders of Huntington Beach spent considerable time and effort in reviewing this project. I'm glad this case has been denied and I'm proud to be one of several thousands of Huntington Beach residents to be outspoken and vigorously supportive of this project." The following letter contains the Surfrider Foundation's response to the decision.*

Surfrider Foundation and Sierra Club recently lost a lawsuit that would have compelled a thorough review of the environmental impacts of the proposed massive desalination plant on Huntington's beachfront. We were disappointed the City Council narrowly approved the project in the absence of a thorough environmental analysis. So, obviously we're surprised by the court's ruling.

California is currently drafting rules to protect marine life from destructive cooling water intakes, but this project relies on that antiquated technology. We believe the EIR failed to fully explain this unholy alliance.

Even more importantly, the Municipal Water District of Orange County concluded this project was unnecessary. Instead, their plan meets future water demands with alternatives that actually improve ocean water quality and reduce energy demands.

This was a fairly complicated case and we think the judge simply got it wrong. We still haven't decided whether or not to appeal. We think this will hopefully all come to light during the Coastal Commission review process, and once people fully understand the economic and environmental costs of this project, the proposal will have to be rejected or re-designed. The bottom line is: this process is far from over.

Joe Geever  
Southern California Regional Manager  
Surfrider Foundation  
Playa del Rey, CA

## Fresh breeze of hope

Already your newspaper is making an impact. I read with a heavy heart that Poseidon cleared one court; can only hope someone wakes up to what is going on and stop this whole scheme. I am happy you are writing articles that make little impact in papers like the *Register* which covers the whole county. Keep up the good work and maybe we little folk will have a chance, such as citizens against Poseidon, mobile home residents, etc. As proved in the past there are many financial interests at work that do not include us. I was very disappointed in the City Council results in Huntington Beach. In fact I was astounded. There is a whole new turf for more nonsense to happen, I believe. Your paper is a fresh breeze of hope.

Kay Mylod  
Huntington Beach, CA

## Open letter to Poseidon

This is a copy of a letter sent to Brenda Anaya at M4Strategies, Inc., the PR firm for Poseidon.

Ms. Anaya:

See LETTERS, Page 6

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# Corrections Box

- In the article entitled, "Whose Property Rights," that was published in the December 2006 issue of the *Orange Coast Voice*, we erroneously reported, due to an editing error, that a campaign flyer described in the article referred to a 2004 ordinance passed by the Huntington Beach City Council that protects mobile home owners. In fact, the flyer obliquely refers to city council efforts to protect historical neighborhoods near the downtown area. The online version of the article has been modified accordingly.
- Also in the December 2006 issue, in the article entitled, "Residents Fight Poseidon," we incorrectly stated that the proposed Poseidon Inc. desalination plant in Huntington Beach would create 50 million gallons of potable drinking water each year. In fact, the plant would create 50 million gallons each day.
- In several issues of the *Orange Coast Voice*, we inadvertently misspelled HB City Councilmember Keith Bohr's name. We apologize for the error.
- If you catch factual or typographical errors inside of the *Orange Coast Voice*, please contact us at correction@ocvoice.com

# Transit: Santa Ana Phobia

*Is xenophobia rearing its head in Costa Mesa again?*

From Page 1

cities can meet to ensure that their mutual goals are included in the joint study.

Councilmember Linda Dixon gave her qualified support. "It's a good start," she said, "but we need to be a bit more creative as an Orange County community."

Mayor Allan Mansoor asked Naghavi why the city of Irvine was not teaming up with any other city for the Go Local program.

Irvine has its own Metrolink station, Naghavi explained, and will use its Go Local funds to study rapid transit between the station and the Great Park area it currently has under development.

"At some point," Morris added, "we will be involved with Huntington Beach and Newport Beach and it will all be put together as one big cohesive package."

Cooperation between the two cities was also mentioned at least eight times in the study session staff report.

At the study session, Mayor Pro-Tem Eric Bever praised staff's proposal. "I know we've heard a lot of different ideas on what we need to achieve, but it's pretty clear that this is just getting people to and from the train...I think it's a good direction," he said.

Naghavi made it clear that it was the staff's intention to come back to council later for its approval of a cooperative agreement between Costa Mesa and Santa Ana.

Each councilmember left the session seeming to be at least relatively happy about that.

But Costa Mesa resident Martin Millard was not happy. On his Internet blog, the *Costa Mesa Press*, next to an illustration of a graffiti-infested neighborhood that was meant to represent Santa Ana, Millard asked rhetorically, "Graffiti Express Coming to Costa Mesa?"

Millard is well known for his white supremacist screeds regularly published on the web by *National Vanguard*, a leading white supremacist group that broke off from the neo-Nazi group National Alliance during a power struggle, and other white supremacist web sites. He has long been a vocal supporter of Mansoor and Bever.

In the year leading up to last November's election, local activists, which had included this reporter, pressured Mansoor and Bever



PHOTOS TAKEN FROM COSTA MESA CITY COUNCIL VIDEO ARCHIVES

**GADFLY:** Costa Mesa resident/"gene purist" Martin Millard (L) opposes "blending" with Santa Ana and frequently criticizes Costa Mesa "slums" and Councilmember Katrina Foley (R).

to denounce Millard and explain why they had voted to place him on a city committee that advises the city council on economic issues related to minority groups in redevelopment areas.

Millard resigned from the committee and largely stayed out of the public eye until after election day. Since the mayor's victory, however, he has become even more

aggressive than before at City Council meetings and in his blog, where Latino bashing is a regular theme.

Two days prior to the City Council meeting, Millard's column warned that the agreement with Santa Ana was an attempt by that city to revive OCTA's Centerline light rail project, defeated by Orange County voters in 2003, and to take control of Costa Mesa's future.

"This plan is just another step to blend Costa Mesa into Santa Ana and it should be turned down cold," he ranted, "Santa Ana is not Costa Mesa's sister city—Newport Beach is and should remain that way."

Millard promised to go to the next City

Council meeting and ask to have this item pulled from the agenda's consent calendar, a place reserved for routine, non-controversial matters, which, up until Millard, the Go Local proposal had been.

On December 5 the mayor obligingly pulled this item. From that point on it is almost as if the city council study session presented Sept. 8 had never occurred.

Could the \$100,000 grant money be spent to buy a fleet of shuttle buses and run them over to the Metrolink and back to test how many people would ride them, the mayor asked.

No, Morris answered, going over material already covered at the study session, the money has to be used for research and planning—implementation comes later.

Were other cities besides Santa Ana, including Irvine, Fountain Valley and Newport Beach contacted by the city, the mayor asked, and what are their plans.

Those cities were contacted, Morris said, but Santa Ana was the most logical

choice—as already reported in the study session and staff report.

Bever's new found concern was with Santa Ana and its participation in the project. He wasn't sure how Santa Ana became involved in the project—a bizarre claim considering that it contradicts what he and others said previously at the study session. Going it alone would better serve the citizens of Costa Mesa, he now opined.

"I see shades of Centerline rearing its ugly head all over again," Bever continued, echoing Millard's conspiracy theory—even though staff is proposing a bus shuttle, not a train, "That's not a direction I can support."

Morris pointed out, however, that the Go Local money can't be used for anything like Centerline. That is, there will be no eminent domain, no dedicated right-of-ways, only existing right-of-ways will be used.

Dixon tried, unsuccessfully, to appease Bever's concerns. "Maybe we should just bow out now, if that's the way the council feels," she interjected, "Why waste staff's time?"

"That's not what I'm suggesting at all," Bever shot back, before recalling, incorrectly again, that "...what we discussed at our study session involves Costa Mesa and does not involve Santa Ana other than the fact that our vehicle will drive through Santa Ana, but it won't be stopping there until it gets to the Metrolink station."

The *Orange Coast Voice* attempted to get a clarification from Bever on whether his use of the term "our vehicle" meant that Santa Ana residents should not be allowed on board the vehicle, which would be paid for by county taxpayers' money, but he did not respond.

Costa Mesa resident and city council regular Mike Berry, whose wife, Judy, served as the mayor's campaign treasurer, and who said he had also been at the study session, agreed with Bever during public comments that Santa Ana had never been mentioned before—despite contradictory evidence contained in the city's video of the event, posted on the Internet.

More important, Berry said, "how does an issue of this value go from a study session to the consent calendar without any request for public input?"

Millard then repeated a version of his earlier, blogged, Santa Ana conspiracy

See **TRANSIT MONEY**, Page 9

# Tasers: Is HBPD Training Adequate?

From Page 1

Both cities have opted for a model called the X-26, a device that packs a 50-volt charge, and can fire two probes at a distance of up to 21 feet. The similarities, however, stop there, for the disparity in both the training materials and practices employed by the two departments is a frightening indicator of a lack of regulation and information regarding not only safe usage, but also the questionable safety of the device itself.

The X-26 is a product of the Arizona-based Taser International, a company with a notorious reputation for downplaying the safety hazards of its products. According to a May, 2005 report by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Taser International has repeatedly engaged in a slew of questionable promotional tactics in order to make their weapons more palatable to police departments nationwide. These tactics have included paying off company medical experts with stock options, and printing, if not downright lies, then at least gross exaggerations of safety in their guidelines

and training manuals. Claims in earlier versions of the X-26 manual have included such gems as, "There is no medical evidence that Taser T-waves ... contribute to heart or respiratory failure," and, at a time when Taser-related deaths in North America were pushing 50, "There are no reports of Taser weapons causing death." Tell that to Santa Ana resident, James Nunez, Orange County's latest Taser statistic, who died after being shot with the device in August of this year.

Even more baffling, however, is the number of California law enforcement agencies that have chosen not to augment their training beyond Taser International's guidelines. Out of the 56 agencies surveyed by the ACLU, only four departments had created or used any of their own training material. A comparison of the training policies of Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach provides a continued example of this alarming discrepancy.

Where Costa Mesa is concerned, Katrina Foley may indeed have little to worry about. According to Ron Smith, Taser International's training materials

comprise only a small part of their training program. Officer training is augmented by the department's own use of force policy, which includes a full day working with hired actors to enact dialogues, role-plays, and other scenario-based training. "That's the minimum," says Smith. "We try to keep it continual and we want to make sure that the training is fresh." One example Smith offers is a role-play in which a despondent mother uses her baby as a shield. "In many cases it's not the pulling of the trigger," Smith says, "but the thought processes of the officer in a (given) situation. The use of Taser itself only takes about five minutes to explain, but it's the decision making that is important."

The Huntington Beach Police Department, however, might provide a stronger example of ACLU concerns. While Sergeant Mello does confirm that the department uses the latest, less duplicitous version of Taser International's training manual—he couldn't recall which—they do not enhance their preparations beyond "company guidelines." Officers are qualified with a four hour company designed training session,

after which, only an annual recertification is required. One reason Mello presents for this is that scenario-based training is useless without the stress provided by an equivalent device. "We only do scenario-based training with equivalent technology. There are technologies that we can shoot people with," he says, "things that we can spray people with; we can use a soft baton. There is not this equivalent with the taser." To date, Taser International does not provide a scenario-based Taser. "If we were to use such a thing, it would have to be inexpensive."

While the absence of stun guns has been indicated in last summer's shooting death of Huntington Beach teenager, Ashley MacDonald, bad decisions and a lack of training seem to stand out as the larger culprit. Nunez's death by Taser in the same month also brought home the reality that, as Mello himself states, "There is no magic wand" that will make police work casualty free. In the meantime, it will be interesting to watch and see which department remains incident, and hopefully, tragedy free in the coming year. All bets, for now, are on Costa Mesa.

# Five Years After 9/11

*Citizenship delayed: Even fighting for Uncle Sam didn't help*

By **NADIA MAIWANDI**  
Guest Writer

**M**ustafa Aziz is safe, now. But it took a lawsuit against the U.S. government to make him so.

The Irvine resident's long-drawn-out frustration with the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services came to a head Aug. 1 when he and nine other Muslims filed a class-action suit demanding the government answer their applications for citizenship. The suit was sparked by the prolonged state of limbo that kept the 10 U.S. residents from naturalization, and the duration each had waited had well exceeded government policy. Federal immigration law dictates a 120-day deadline in which the government must accept or deny naturalization to those who have completed the application process — but these residents had been waiting years.

The suit asked for resolution to the open-ended cases and also petitioned to close the loopholes that allowed the flimsy application — or complete neglect — of the law. Known as *Aziz v. Gonzales*, it was represented through the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council of American-Islamic Relations.

Aziz, an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Air Force, was mystified why his naturalization was stalled for three years. The 25-year-old said he doesn't know if his Afghan and Muslim heritage were a factor, but hoped the lawsuit will save others from similar troubles.

"What we are trying to do is just change the law, so it applies to everyone across the board. We are not trying to make this a Muslim issue or a Middle Eastern issue," he said in an interview. "It's the law — the law says that you have 120 days to respond, why aren't you giving these people a decision?"

Aziz's goal of becoming a commercial pilot, an unfulfilled dream his father had since childhood, was what led him to an Air Force recruiting office in 2000. "I told the recruiter, 'This is my goal. I wanted to join the military.' Becoming a citizen first would have allowed him to select from more jobs, he said, but he put it off to jumpstart his enlistment.

In Sept. 2003 during his third year with the Air Force, the senior airman submitted his application for naturalization in accordance with a law that allows active-duty service members an expedited citizenship process. Aziz said most others who applied were getting approved within a month, but he completed his last year of service with no word back, and would wait out the next two years as a civilian with bureaucratic dead-ends in place of answers.

Although an Afghan national, Aziz has no memories of his birthplace. He was only six months old when his family fled Afghanistan in 1981, two years after the Soviet invasion devastated the country. At 18 months old, his family immigrated to Los Angeles, after a year in Pakistan. They moved to Irvine 10 years later.

But Aziz would learn that his American upbringing and good standing in the military would not be enough to guarantee him citizenship 20-plus years down the road, particularly when 9/11 was thrown into the equation.

**From both sides**

Stories such as Aziz's beg for a much overdue dialogue on Muslim profiling in the post-9/11 world. While headlines such as "Why Do They Hate Us?"; "How Can We Be Safe?"; and "Securing Our Nation" flash across the nation's top news publications and TV programs, little room is left for those in Middle Eastern and Central and South Asian communities to discuss their



PHOTOGRAPH BY NADIA MAIWANDI

**MUSTAFA AZIZ: Suing the U.S. Attorney General for denial of due process in citizenship application.**

safety and fears in a visible way. Muslims have become the ominous "them", the ones the nation — and the world — should fear.

As a result, Muslims in this country sometimes feel twice victimized — they are often people who fled their nations due to war and persecution of one form or another — and now find themselves at risk of discrimination in the States, their place of refuge.

Hussam Ayloush, the executive director of the Southern California Chapter of the Council of American-Islamic Relations, said there's no concrete evidence to show whether these 10 Muslims, and hundreds like them, were left in the lurch due to their religion and race, or if the negligence was due to mere incompetence.

But, he said, in lieu of data, there does seem to be an apparent pattern.

"It seemed to us there was a trend in terms of Muslims being delayed their constitution rights, their legal rights toward immigration and naturalization," he said in a phone interview from his Anaheim office.

The Islamic civil rights organization was instrumental in the class-action suit and served as the link between Aziz and the ACLU.

Ayloush said his organization tried to work with the Department of Homeland Security within their guidelines and "ensure the safety and security of the country while not having people wait for years and years with no justified reason," but was given the runaround from DHS to the FBI.

"Our perspective on this one is we are not here to hinder the process of background checks on people. We think it's not only legitimate, but it's actually necessary. But that should not take years and years."

Ayloush, a native of Lebanon, said the debate in Washington on immigration reform has become punitive and has missed the human component.

"We do agree that the issue of immigration has become a serious issue in America where it has to be addressed," he said.

"However, no matter what side a person takes on the issue and what views they hold, we have to ensure that we do not dehumanize immigrants, and criminalize the ones who provide humanitarian help to families. It's important to remember that even an undocumented immigrant is

a human being."

**'Smokin' out the terrorists'**

Asma Ahmad of Irvine feels "anti-Muslim sentiment is at an all-time high."

"The incorrect association of Islam with 9/11 has given free license to many radio and talk show hosts, and even the president, to compare Islam with fascism and to monger hatred and spread fear and suspicion of the average everyday Muslim who is just trying to live a normal life," said Ahmad.

She said taking innocent life has nothing to do with the Quran — which strictly forbids such actions — and that any such acts by so-called Islamists are political by nature, not religious.

Ahmad, 28, was born and raised in Saudi Arabia to Pakistani parents, and immigrated with her family to the U.S. when she was in the ninth grade. She is currently the managing editor for *Southern California InFocus*, a monthly Islamic newspaper.

When asked if this administration is anti-Muslim, she said, "When the president of this country links Islam with fascism, when Muslims are denied their civil rights on a daily basis, when Muslim scholars being refused entry into the United States has become a common occurrence, then what are American Muslims to think?"

Shortly after 9/11, men from 24 Islamic nations living or staying in the U.S. were asked to "register" with the government in what was called the National Security Entry-Exit Registration program. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, about 20 percent of these men were deported, detained or arrested for their cooperation in the registration.

Last fall, President Bush signed the Military Commission Act of 2006, which many critics say legalizes the torture of detainees and denies the Geneva Conventions.

Detainees have been imprisoned for up to five years with no charges, no legal rights, no contact to the outside world, and documented cases of systemic abuse have been cast off as nothing more than an unruly guard or two.

The considerable consent that these programs operate under have got some wondering if this type of mistreatment would be permitted if it were happening to any other race or religion today.

Ahmad says no.

"No other group or followers of a religion are being treated by the U.S. as Muslims are being treated. Indeed, this would be an outrage for any other group," she said in an e-mail interview. "But it's allowed under the guise of smokin' out terrorists, even when the majority of those they are holding have not been charged with a crime, five years later."

**Split personality**

Dr. Shereen Sabet, a researcher at Cal State Long Beach and an activist in Muslim and American communities, sees a troubling dichotomy in this country.

"The United States of America has a split personality. On the one hand, it is a very generous country. It does give a lot of aid, and it does have principles of freedom and democracy. ... And then there's this other side of America where it's just another empire. And all empires behave the same way — they're out for themselves, they're out for the elite."

Dr. Sabet lives in Huntington Beach with her husband, a sergeant for the Laguna Police Department.

She says the recent bill that permits torture of detainees is chillingly similar to the elements the U.S. government claims to be fighting. "This is exactly the behavior of Saddam Hussein and his henchmen. So I guess the United States government is no different than what the Saddam Hussein regime was. So what's the point?"

Dr. Sabet feels that spreading human rights and democracy are not the U.S. government's objectives overseas. "That's

See **AFTER 9/11**, Page 8

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Check it out! Hanging out in the Library with Scottie Dawg

# Was Jesus An Illegal Immigrant?

By SCOTT SINK  
Columnist

**S**hawn Casey's "Jesus was an Illegal Immigrant" sparked a debate over theology and immigration policy in the blogosphere.

According to scripture, Jesus had to flee to Egypt as a child to avoid execution by King Herod's men. Casey cites Deuteronomy 10:18-19, situating Jesus among the displaced, the landless and the powerless, "And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt."

The Religious Right, predictably, has contested Casey's claims with their own Biblical interpretations. Mark D. Tooley, in his Jesus Christ: Illegal Immigrant?

points out that both Egypt and Palestine were part of the Roman Empire, and that Jesus did not have to sneak past any border patrol.

Jesus' flight to Egypt echoes the earlier Hebrew experience, which would have resonated with early Jewish converts to Christianity.

Tooley concedes that the Jews were aliens in Egypt, "but these modern polemicists rarely mention that the ancient Jews were invited into Egypt by the Pharaoh and Joseph." Kind of like the Bracero Program, or Bush's proposed Guest Worker Program?

Tooley continues, "[m]uch of the Scriptures are about the Jews trying to get back home from their various exiles, not about trying to immigrate elsewhere, legally or otherwise" [emphasis mine].

And where is "back home"? Many on the Religious Right believe in the Zionist dream of "Greater Israel," extending from Egypt to Iraq. This claim starts in the East at the Garden of Eden and Abraham's home town, located in modern day Iraq, continues with the Jews' sojourn west to Egypt, and winds up in Palestine in between these two poles.

Since "Mexicans" are the only nationality Tooley cites (5 times in a 2 1/2 page article), let us remember that the Republic of Mexico covered California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, Colorado, Utah and Oregon. In ancient times, indigenous peoples with established trading networks

occupied the whole of the North American continent. The Mexico, from whom Mexico is named after, originally migrated from the North, probably in Utah, before sojourning to the southern city of Tenochtitlan. Does God favor Mexicans "trying to get back home"?

Additionally, Tooley states that "Joseph and Mary were fairly law abiding." Why not turn the infant Jesus over to King Herod, the legal authority under whose jurisdiction they lived? Tooley doesn't address this, but he cites "their compliance with the Roman census in the Nativity story [as] one example" of their obedience to the law.

According to Kenneth C. Davis' Don't Know Much about the Bible, there is no historical record of such a Roman census. What's more, an order to travel to the other side of Palestine just to be recorded in a census is not consistent with other Roman census methods.

Although Luke and Matthew both say Jesus was born in Bethlehem, both Mark and John say he was from Nazareth, where his family lived and where he grew up.

Much like the sudden sojourn to Egypt placing Jesus in Bethlehem was significant for Jewish potential converts looking for a continuity with older beliefs. The Old Testament prophet Micah predicted that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem, the home town of David.

Similarly, "the author of Matthew wanted to show parallels between Jesus and Moses" in a "recapitulation of the Exodus." Both protagonists were safely brought out of Egypt.

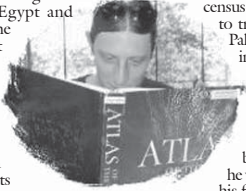
But will political and economic refugees be safely brought out of Mexico and Central America? Will the U.S. allow the peoples of Latin America to create freedom and justice, deflating the need to sojourn abroad?

Sources:

Casey, Shawn. "Jesus was an Illegal Immigrant." Sept. 4, 2006. Faithfuldemocrats.com

Davis, Kenneth C. Don't Know Much about the Bible. New York: HarperCollins, 2004.

Tooley, Mark D. "Jesus Christ: Illegal Immigrant?" Sept. 15, 2006. frontpagemag.com



# The Meaning Of Affordable Housing

By ANNE HOGAN-SHERESHEVSKY  
Columnist

**L**ast month I discussed the vital need for decent, affordable senior and disabled housing, but the word "affordable" can mean very different things to different people.

People on a low or fixed income must at times seek subsidized housing to survive economically. This is a fact of life and why subsidized housing is an important safety net in our society.

Then why are so many Mobile Home Parks being sold, out from under the feet of the residents, and converted to condos or to an unnecessary Medical Center like the one on Orange and 17th Street in Costa Mesa?

This might be a tangent from the topic of affordable housing, but transportation to places for service is also vital to those who don't drive (Discussion of Orange County Transit Authority buses and fares is a topic for another day).

For the first time in many years, reversing the former trend, more people moved out of California this year than moving here. Do Washington State, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona and other nearby states have a better quality of life, fairer taxes, better transportation and more affordable housing? These could be reasons people are leaving. In a larger view, it has also been reported that the best country to live in now is none other than the good ole "Emerald Isle" itself: Ireland! The survey, done by a group called the Economist Intelligence Unit, compared 111 countries on "happiness" of citizens. Among the first 20 other countries are, Norway, Sweden and Denmark! Is there more respect for seniors in those countries than in the United States?

But back to our neck of the woods. Fortunately, in Costa Mesa, the three subsidized residences for seniors and the disabled mandated by the Americans with Disability Act, 1990, (ADA), — Bethel Towers, Casa Bella and St. John's Manor, are all near bus routes and conveniently near to needed services. There are some other subsidized apartments in the city, but too few for seniors who have lived their whole life in Costa Mesa, and should not be forced to va-

cate even for "eminent domain."

Oh, and here's a reminder: Anyone within a certain income level may apply for a Habitat for Humanity Home; many have already built within our city. See if this option fits your needs.



If you do not have the ways and means to help provide low cost housing for seniors, there are still other ways to be of assistance and improve the quality of life of our older citizens. Our local Senior Centers are really "a home away from home" for many of our elderly population. There are both active and passive activities at the center. Physical fitness classes daily are high on the menu. Even persons with canes or walkers enjoy participating in these social activities. December had three events that attracted many seniors to the center: First was the Christmas Party on the 15th, where carolers entertained everyone for the evening. That was accompanied by a delicious chicken dinner, hot spiced cider and pecan pie. On Dec. 19th was the Membership meeting, where seniors dress in their Christmas-time best, and sing carols. Lastly was the Dec. 22nd Christmas Brunch, provided by a generous benefactor yearly, and where gifts are distributed, thanks to kind donors. It was also time to have your picture taken on Santa's lap. (Remember we weigh more than kids!)

The Center was also beautifully decorated with festive garlands, lights, and even Christmas trees donated by Mr. Surat Singh of Angel's Car Wash. Carols were also piped in to our delight.

To help support this Senior Center is one of the best New Year's Resolutions you can take in 2007. Next time you can help build a senior residence. You may address your donations to: Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627.

.....Joyeux Noel, Felix Navidad, Bonne Annee.....Merci Beaucoup!

E-mail: hogan41@sbcglobal.net

# Letters

From Page 3

Please refresh my memory again as to just what ARE the benefits of the proposed desalination plant being built in Huntington Beach.

So far, I understand HB will receive a miniscule amount of water from the project... but ... you will make water "available" (at market price) in the event of a catastrophe. I would suspect that since the plant is being built near the Newport/Inglewood fault line, it too would be susceptible to whatever power outage the rest of us receive.

What I do know for sure is this: S. E. Huntington Beach is all but being assaulted with construction related projects and the biggest one of all, cleaning of the Ascon Dump, is yet to come. I am sure you are aware of the O.C. Sanitation District's debacle with it's sewer pipe. Still ongoing. I live next to Kettler School, surrounded by methane vents around the school and Edison Park. Edison Park is slated for restructuring of it's fields to accommodate more sports. There is a new housing development going in on Newland. The surrounding homes had to contact the HB Planning Dept. just to get a watering truck to keep the dust down, not to mention the traffic being generated on a street already

overburdened and in need of total repair. This is the same street the proposed Poseidon plant will use.

Did you know about the sewer lining project that will begin in spring of 2007, South of Atlanta and West of Newland? Or that the O.C. County Humane Society on Newland is moving along with plans for a new facility?

We have always lived with the blight and noise of the AES plant. We knew that when we bought here 33 years ago, but the continued assault on our neighborhoods in Southeast Huntington Beach has been a call to action. NIMBY'S? Have you taken a close look, in person, as to what is going on down here?

There are certain construction related activities that must go on in any community to maintain the infrastructure and we are aware of that. The Poseidon Project is an OPTION. It is NOT a necessity.

Your call to the community to put the so-called NIMBY'S in their place, is inflammatory and ill conceived. Four thousand residents from our area sent BONIFIED post cards directly to city council in opposition to this project. We didn't pay union organizers to recruit bodies for turn outs at City Council meetings, nor wine and dine business members, school district officials, church elders, the Chamber of Commerce, etc. (need I go on). Our appeal is only to folks who live here and put up with the mess.

If you would like a "go see" tour of our

area, contact me. You need to know what you're talking about first hand.

Merle Moshiri  
President  
Residents for Responsible Desalination  
Huntington Beach, CA

## Stop all wars

Sharply differing views of events are found in the tangle of claims and counter claims among the several factions in the Middle East. The effort to untangle them is daunting. History must be scrutinized with the same skepticism which the scientist applies to all data but it does not serve to bring the combatants in the Middle East closer peace because all sides are tone deaf to dissonant evidence.

No one except the most inflexible fundamentalist is concerned any longer with whether a Hatfield or a McCoy committed the first offense. It's doesn't matter to ordinary citizens with families and loved ones being sent off to slaughter the enemy and to be slaughtered.

The leaders of all parties to war demonize the enemy so that old men can send vital young people off to kill. What else is new?

The methods of modern war are immoral. The circle of destruction created by an explosive does not gerrymander, whether delivered by pilot, unmanned rocket, or suicide bomber. No effective means of protecting women, children,

aged, infirm and other innocent bystanders has been invented nor will it be because the strategic blasting and incineration of masses of civilians has become standard for terrorizing the enemy into submission, notwithstanding 70 years of evidence that it has the opposite effect.

The political leaders of guerilla forces claim that their enemies have killed far more people with their superior armament. Of course they have. That's what it's for. The sponsors of conventional military forces claim that their enemies place little value on human life since they are willing to commit suicide to kill others. But when conventional soldiers intentionally lay down their lives to further the causes of their compatriots, they are hailed as heroes and family survivors are given posthumous medals and folded flags.

Veterans know that in spite of the outlandish fruit salads displayed on the chests of high-ranking career officers, heroes are rare in war and rarely noticed. Frightened adolescents in uniform and hapless civilians are much more evident.

Ordinary people yearn for compromise in which secular leaders without greedy motives permit their people to associate with civility and friendship toward their neighbors; accommodating one another's cultures and permitting their children to play together so that the hatred may be quenched in the next generation.

Julio Vivas  
Brea, CA

# Skateboard 'Pad Nanny'

*Is Big Brother really watching?*

By KRISTI SANDERS  
Guest Columnist

A while ago I walked into Costa Mesa Skate Park for a little skate session. Only five people were skating! Usually the place is so crowded that human obstacles are just an everyday feature of the park. Five skaters in full body armor; helmet, elbow and kneepads rolled around the concrete terrain. I had my own backpack filled to the zippers with skate pads. Only five skated, but there were at least thirty skaters in the park, some casually leaning against the blue fencing, others leisurely sitting on the ledges.

Something seemed wrong: Skaters NOT skating! Hmmmm that could mean only one thing: the police were present, enforcing the mandatory helmet and pad requirement. I could almost hear the citations being ripped from the ticket-book. A look around confirmed my suspicions.

The officers distributed citations to the unlucky few who admitted they were skating without pads. Those savvy to the routine abandoned their skateboards; distancing themselves from the incriminating evidence like their boards were pectan sheets.

Costa Mesa Skate Park is notorious for being what we skaters call a "pad-nanny" park; which means the park militantly enforces the helmet, knee and elbow pad requirement. Unlike other skate parks, park rangers frequent Costa Mesa's park up to three to four times a day.

A first time offender will be cited \$177.50 for not wearing the mandatory pads. It is suggested by skaters that come to Costa Mesa, that there are even five cameras overlooking the park. Cameras in the skate park! I've skated other parks in different cities that were much more lenient about the rules.

I decided to research the details of the pad requirements, starting locally by contacting Costa Mesa's Parks and Recreation Manager, Jana Ransom.

*Orange Coast Voice:* "Are there cameras in your skate park?"

Ransom: [Chuckling] "No they are fake. They're meant to look like cameras and are activated by motion sensors."

*Orange Coast Voice:* "Fake Cameras... there must be a lot of crime around the skate park then."

Ransom: "No. Just one incidence of vandalism."

*Orange Coast Voice:* What do you think about mandatory pads?

Ransom: "I believe since the park is free that asking skaters to wear a helmet, elbow and kneepad is pretty cheap. I think the helmet is important. In my opinion as long as they wear their helmet, they [the skaters] are O.K. But I'm not the one making the decisions; the pads are a state law."

I thanked Jana Ransom for her time, and furthered my investigation on this thing she called "the law."

The mandatory pad law for skateboarding has remained unchanged since 1997. Senate Bill 994, the original bill designed to protect public entities from liability by placing skateboarding on the HRA (Hazardous Recreational Activity) list, was a milestone of sorts. Groups like the IASC (International Association of Skateboard Companies) supported the bill because it increased the building of more skate parks, by lowering city liability. The catch was skaters would be required, by the law, to wear helmet, elbow and kneepads according to a small section of the HRA (Health and Safety code 11580).

Ten years later the same mandatory pad legislation (now bill 1179) has remained unchanged, secured until 2012. Skateboarding has been oddly singled out as an activity requiring "special" attention regarding pad requirements, yet skating is no more dangerous than bicycle jumping, off road motorcycling or parachuting. Body contact sports, included on the HRA's "straight status" list, are not limited by the special requirements. Sports like football, baseball, and basketball, are accountable for more emergency room visits than skateboarding.

According to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford injury statistics and incidence rates with children ages 5 to 14, treated in emergency room visits are as follows; 285,000 annual bicycle related injuries, 205,400 annual basketball related injuries, 185,700 football related injuries, 108,300 baseball related injuries, and only 50,000 children visited for skateboard injuries.

The skateboard community has their own beliefs about mandatory pads based on experience. It is not proven that knee and elbow pads will prevent breaks or soft tissue damage to the body. Knee and elbow will not prevent a shoulder dislocation, compression fracture of the wrist, or a sprained ankle. Further more many skaters feel that bulky, restrictive pads compromise their ability to get out of dangerous situations. Most skateboarders will agree that skating is artistic expression, based on a certain freedom to display that art without restrictions. Would you expect dancers to wear a helmet and pads during a performance?

A certain amount of ignorance regarding skateboarding is expected, from individuals who don't skate. Don't ask me about the specifics of fly-fishing. But when legislation is designed by the misinformed, the law is bound to reflect their partiality. It's the duty of the skate community to be active in the educational process. Next time you argue with the park rangers about your \$180 pad citation, remember to also use that voice to lobby, petition, and contact your local representative about your concerns.



PHOTO BY KRISTI SANDERS

The Orange Coast Voice welcomes submissions to Community Voices by residents of Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach. All submissions should be well researched with a maximum of 800 words and accompanied by your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Send to [submission@ocvoice.com](mailto:submission@ocvoice.com).

# The Lizard Brains Of Orange County

By JOE SHAW  
Columnist

There's one thing that bothers me about Orange County politicians.

When the word "business" is mentioned, it's almost as if all intelligence goes out the window and from some primordial place deep in their DNA, a lizard brain voice calls out, "Business...good! Business...friend. Business...good!" For many of them, business can do no wrong and like Pavlov's dog, the salivary glands work overtime at the sound of those eight letters.

In Huntington Beach, you can see the effects of uncritical thinking about business in the development of downtown. There has never been a "big picture" plan followed for downtown.

Downtown Huntington Beach has been ceded over the years to developers to do what they want. Witness the civic hubris of the two buildings anchoring the corners of Main Street and PCH, which now seem oversized and outdated.

All attempts to close Main Street will be futile, despite the wishes of many of the residents of Huntington Beach. Why? The developments that leave Main Street as one of the only thoroughfares in Huntington Beach that take you inland from the Beach. If you close traffic on Main Street, where does the traffic go? To Second Street, Third Street or Fifth Street? No. Condos were built that closed off all these streets to through traffic. Neither Caltrans nor the Coastal Commission would

likely allow the street to be closed, because it would limit inland access to the beach. There's no place else for the traffic to go.

I can cite several instances where business worship has overtaken common sense and the will of the people. For instance the lack of any substantial effort to take a critical look

at the proposal to build a desalination plant in southeast Huntington Beach.

But the experiences of my neighbors and I recently illustrated who holds the power in our fair city.

Several us appeared before the city council to appeal a Planning Commission decision to allow a club to open on the south side of the Pierside Pavilion. Not a big deal, the last bar there failed miserably. But the Planning Commission approved outdoor dining, a mechanical bull, live music and a dance floor, directly adjacent to the Pierside Colony condos.

Never mind that such uses had never been allowed in that location before, or that no other club in downtown has been allowed all those things.

The space between the Pierside Pavilion and Pierside Colony is like a concrete canyon and sound reverberates, already causing a lot of noise for the residents on that side of the building. Downtown streets at night are a walking drunk tank already, and police drop everything else in the city at night when the bars close, to keep the peace downtown.

My neighbors pleaded with the city council to consider the negative effects on their quality of life that a club in that location would bring.

I asked the city council to look at the big picture. "If the city truly wants to make downtown a place where families



can feel safe at night, and a place where downtown residents can enjoy the same quality of life we have in the rest of the city, we are going to have to make some tough decisions and ask tough questions.

Does downtown already have enough clubs and bars? Are the proliferation of bars and clubs downtown adding to the problems downtown? Should we open up the downtown specific plan in order to look at our ratio of restaurants to clubs to retail?"

Now, keep in mind I am a downtown business owner, a member of the Downtown Huntington Beach Business Improvement District Board and the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce. I think business is good and I think the city puts too many obstacles in the way of small businesses that are trying to do business here.

But there is a bigger issue: sometimes, certain businesses are counter-productive to our efforts to create a more successful business climate overall. That's why I criticize past downtown development. City leaders need to plan now for the future of downtown Huntington Beach. Their old plan is outdated.

Downtown from Beach to Goldenwest and from PCH to Palm could be recreated as a downtown district, making the whole parcel more pedestrian friendly, more visitor friendly and more resident friendly. But to do that we'll need leaders with vision, political will and an ability to say no when the best interests of the city and of its businesses call for it.

As for me and my neighbors? Our arguments were brushed aside. Planning Commissioner Bob Dingwall basically said that the residents at Pierside Colony knew what they were getting when they bought their homes. Councilman Don Hansen dismissed any complaints, saying he thought a mechanical bull would be a good thing and he would like to try it when the club opens.

Not surprisingly, the appeal was denied 4-3, with Jill Hardy, Debbie Cook and Dave Sullivan voting on the losing side. With the addition of Joe Carchio and the departure of Dave Sullivan, will common sense be on the losing side more often than not in the next two years?

"Business...good."

Joe Shaw authors his own blog, "Greetings from Downtown Huntington Beach" at <http://hbdowntown.typepad.com/> and writes for the blog, Orange Juice, at <http://o-juice.blogspot.com/>

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**C. M. City Hall**  
First Floor Lounge  
77 Fair Dr.

**C. M. Neighborhood Community Center**  
1845 Park Ave.

**C. M. Senior Center**  
695 W. 19th St.

**El Chinaco**  
560 W. 19th St., #D

**Greek Town Grill**  
279 E. 17th St.

**Natale Gourmet Coffee**  
2800 Harbor Blvd

**Native Foods Cafe**  
2937 Bristol St., #E100,

**Orange Coast College, A.S. Bookstore**  
2701 Fairview Road

**O.C. Public Library, Costa Mesa Branch**  
1855 Park Ave.

**O.C. Public Library, Mesa Verde Branch**  
2969 Mesa Verde Drive

**Red-E-Rentals of Costa Mesa**  
2075 Harbor Blvd.

**Taco Mesa**  
647 W. 19th St.

**TK Burger**  
2966 Bristol St.

# After 9/11: Is USA Safe For Muslims?

From Page 5

just a distraction, an excuse to rally the people. Because the real reason behind it is power."

She said Nazi tactics used to gain European consent in oppressing Jews showed that a state only has to make its people believe that there is a threat, "and then you have power over them."

"It's a tool of fascism that any government uses to do the state's bidding — and the state's bidding is, 'There's something shiny and pretty over there and we want it.'"

The doctor, an Egyptian by birth, was eight when she came to the States. It wasn't until well into her adulthood that Dr. Sabet took up wearing the hijab, and she even made a business out of it. Splashgear, her side business, designs and manufactures bathing suits for women who wear hijab, a type of headscarf, for lack of a better translation, that Sabet says is part of Muslim tradition.

Wearing hijab and living life as an American give her a unique perspective, she says, and she values both.

"I can't think of anywhere else I want to live. I walk around (with the headscarf) — most days, people are very nice. Some days I get stared at and get cold shoulders... it can be uncomfortable; Muslims have been stabbed, I'm not denying any of that. It could all change tomorrow, but for right now, it's going really well."

### Seeking resolution

Hussam Ayloush of CAIR admits that life has changed for Muslims in last five years. "But I also believe that challenge is another name for opportunity," he said. "So yes, more Muslims are facing hardship, in the workplace and at school, but it's also providing us with opportunities to approach many people in America who have very legitimate questions about Islam, giving us the opportunity to correct the mispercep-



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN EARL

Dr. Shereen Sabet

tions and build new friendships."

But harnessing that opportunity when you're a voice of one can be daunting.

Aziz says he wishes he had the strength and the words to have made a larger impact on his peers when he was in the military and 9/11 hit. "In retrospect, I wish I could have done more. I wish I could have stood up and said, 'Hey look, this is not what Muslims believe, what Afghans believe.' But instead, I just kind of was silent. ... It was a little intimidating."

Aziz finally has found some resolution, though.

While three of the plaintiffs' suits are not yet resolved, Aziz and the six others were granted citizenship.

The former senior airman took his oath of citizenship Nov. 16.

Now, he says, his dream of becoming a commercial pilot is a lot closer. He is working at John Wayne Airport and looking into flight schools.

Though thrilled to have a higher security clearance for his work, Aziz says it never should have come to this.

"It's just unfortunate that people have to sue the government to get their citizenship. It still doesn't make sense to me why people with certain names are being singled out."

*Nadia Maiwand is a freelance journalist. Contact her at [afghanactivism@yahoo.com](mailto:afghanactivism@yahoo.com). She also contributed to the November issue of the Orange Coast Voice.*

## ORGANIC GARDENER

# Finding Firewood

*The Farm Phoenix rises from the ashes!*

By R. J. SCHWITZENBERG  
Columnist

**T**ired of suffocating inside a self-constraining cubicle? Rotting in rush hour's of traffic? Staring into the high beams of the information highway?

Get out of that insipid cellulous environment! Get some dirt under yer fingernails! Get free or die tryin'!

It's time to spruce up the spruce, jazz up the jacaranda, and shine the pine!

It's time to sharpen the axe, oil the loppers, and unholster the clippers!

It's time to re-prune the prune tree, snap off the citrus suckers, and break some dead branches!

This fibrous mix can be used as a crunchy mulch, a nitty gritty ground cover, but these finger splitting branches are what most concern us here. Stack them up in a geometric terrace, stacked up quick - lickety-split - in a mix of rickety sticks, colloquially known as "the woodpile." Let the endoplasm sing before burning.

Pine cones! These sap dumplings are surprisingly dense and aromatic. Store them once

you've harvested the edible seed in some kind of decoration/ container for later burning.

Take your work home! The typical workplace overflows with superfluous lignan, i.e., paper. These trees may be dead, de-rooted, and deceptively deformed, but deep inside they're still trees!

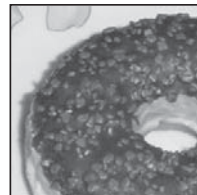
Reclaim the forest! Forage through the woods and swamps of your office space. Look for the bright pink boxes.

Peep the grease profile, stale donuts are high in combustible oils. Conventional wisdom dictates that a heavy box contains a multitude of briquettes. The high sugar content allows for relative stability useful for long storage in a cool dry place with minimal decomposition.

Do not underestimate this funtastic fuchsia fuel. A couple dozen copper dough dunkers can easily heat an average size home in an Orange Coast winter's eve.

Use the wax paper and crumpled napkins, smudged with grease and glaze, as kindling.

After the burn, save the acrid ashes. Allow a day for them to cool down. This fluffy, flaky dust can be mixed with a couple tablespoons of Epsom salt then placed directly into your roses duff or deposited as a socially acceptable supplement into your compost.



# Transit Money Jeopardized

From Page 4

theory, minus the racially tinged "blend" remark, and concluded that working with Newport Beach would be wonderful, but "us and Santa Ana don't add up."

Then the mayor indicated he might be willing to decline Go Local funding because he didn't want to "open up the door" for millions of dollars of additional [transit] spending when Costa Mesa residents, who are "fed up with driving over potholes," would prefer OCTA to spend the money on street repairs.

Would the mayor also agree to excluding Santa Ana outright, Bever asked.

"I'm not willing to exclude anyone," the mayor answered, adding that he didn't want to partner with any city unless there was a benefit to Costa Mesa.

Under deliberate questioning by Foley, Morris and the city attorney tried once again to explain to the council what they had spent considerable time and effort explaining previously:

- Newport Beach is not sure if it wants to apply for the Go Local grant or not, so it will not work with Costa Mesa.
- City staff already spoke to Fountain Valley about working together on Go Local, but that city's geography did not provide for a practical link to Metrolink for Costa Mesa residents.
- Working with Irvine is not an option because it has its own plan involving the Great Park that also includes federal funding and it wants to work alone.
- The city attorney is "comfortable with the agreement" between Santa Ana and Costa Mesa.
- If the city's proposal does not include connecting to the Metrolink station, OCTA will not fund it.
- For the purpose of acquiring OCTA



COSTA MESA CITY COUNCIL VIDEO ARCHIVES

## Mayor Allan Mansoor

grants, there would be no benefit for Costa Mesa to work alone.

But Bever was "simply astounded" at all the time the council had spent discussing a "park n' ride lot and a shuttle bus to the train station."

"If we can't do this as a single agency, something must be wrong in Denmark," he complained.

But his substitute motion to shelve the matter failed to get a second.

At Foley's request, the mayor agreed to attach a one-week deadline to his time wasting motion to require that staff report back to council on how Newport Beach and Fountain Valley would participate in Go Local—information that had already been largely reported to the council—prior to further action. But the mayor refused to include a call for a public hearing on the matter, also requested by Foley.

The mayor's motion passed 4-1, Foley voting no.

# Wetlands

From Page 2

Depending on the decision and HB's city council, a limited-version development project may go forward. This project may be later rejected, or it may go into a sort of limbo if HB rejects the CCC's findings.

For more information about the Bolsa Chica Wetlands visit [www.bolsachicalandtrust.org/](http://www.bolsachicalandtrust.org/) or [ftp.bixby.org/parkside/](http://ftp.bixby.org/parkside/) roach to pollution control.

## Bolsa Chica Wetlands Conference Scheduled

The Western Alliance for Nature, the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and the Amigos de Bolsa Chica will host a conference entitled "Bolsa Chica: The Work Isn't Finished" on March 24 and 25 at the Waterfront Hilton Hotel in Huntington Beach. Confirmed speakers include Lt. Governor John Garamendi, wetlands expert Dr. Joy Zedler, Executive Director of the Coastal Commission Peter Douglas, award-winning actor Beau Bridges, Sam Schuchat, Terri Stewart, Sara Wan, Debbie Cook, Shirley Dettloff, Doug Traub and Victor Leipzig.

For information and on-line registration visit [www.amigosdebolsachica.org](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org) and click on Conference. For further information visit [www.wanconservancy](http://www.wanconservancy) and click on "The Commitment to Bolsa Chica Continues."

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

# My Little Shu Shu Sugar Shack Cafe

*Sweet homestyle cooking on Main St.*

By **MICHAEL LU**  
Staff Writer

**H**ome to the best hash browns and breakfast food this side of the County line, the Sugar Shack has been serving up home-cooked heartiness for almost forty years. Don't let the holiday shopping rush put a damper on eating well. I've seen it before—the holiday season at its peak with gift-giving and cold weather and hot chocolate and all that other good stuff. You were running around doing gift shopping and other errands in preparation for the holidays.

With all that rushing, you were eating out a little more. With less time to make meals at home, who could blame you? You were out shopping, probably at the mall or a little plaza and hey, look, it's lunch or dinner time. So you grabbed the family and picked someplace quick to eat, probably fast food or something—faster than cooking at home. "It's okay," you said, because later when the family gets together you'll all eat healthier and have a home-cooked meal. Once these holidays are over you'll stop the fast food; you'd make it your New Year's resolution even. Time to make good on that promise, and Michele's Sugar Shack can help.

If you're looking for home-cooked and don't have the time, the Sugar Shack is the place to go. Their menu is loaded with classics: pancakes and sausage, bacon and eggs, tuna melts and even turkey dinners. Although they specialize in breakfast, the sandwiches and dinners are just as good. A turkey dinner on Wednesdays is \$6.50 and comes with mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn and cranberry sauce, not to mention a side of toast.

Other classics like roast beef and meatloaf are also on the daily special menu. Fresh sandwiches and big, juicy burgers round out the menu, making sure there's something for everyone. If you decide to stop



by for breakfast, like most of the regulars do, you're in luck: breakfast is served all day. Definitely come hungry: a breakfast burrito here is the size of that venti caramel macchiato with extra whipped cream you slug down every morning. And, it comes with hash browns on the side. Golden brown, crispy, crunchy outside and soft on the inside, those hash browns are something to write Mom about. You get all that for \$6.95. No wonder this place gets so busy. All that food making you thirsty? What don't they have here? Teas, coffee, sodas, shakes and even water for those not willing to make a stand. The peach iced tea and sodas come in a cup much bigger than standard fare at other places: You won't be needing many refills.

The Sugar Shack has been in business for so long they must be doing something right. Maybe it's the great food. Maybe it's the value. Maybe it's the service. Maybe it's the history. Walking into the Sugar Shack is like walking through a scrapbook. Pictures, stickers, posters and other memorabilia line the walls so that you can barely notice what the walls are made of. Whatever the reason you go to Michele's Sugar Shack, you won't be disappointed. Just make sure you get there in time. The Sugar Shack is open every day, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., except Wednesdays when they're open until 8 p.m.

**Sugar Shack Cafe**  
213-1/2 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
(714) 536-0355

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# What do you think of us?

As we begin the new year, we want to know what you think about the Orange Coast Voice. Do you have any suggestions, comments, or criticisms about the paper? What can we do to better cover issues that are of concern or interest to you? Let us know and we will publish your comments:

## ORANGE COAST VOICE

419 Main St., #209  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
[feedback@ocvoice.com](mailto:feedback@ocvoice.com)

# Hip-Hop Visionaries Converge At OCC

*Paranoid administrators give students a 'security' pat down*

By DAVID L. M. PRESTON  
Entertainment Editor

**H**ip-Hop's history has its roots in of Jamaican dub-music mixing and further evolved from New York block-parties in the 1970s as a backlash style—reaction against the commercialization of disco.

From its birth it was a sound of dancing rhythmic tricks and storytelling—a music from the underrepresented of the masses. While as a style it has since been commercialized, it has also grown in influence and acceptance. In many senses rap and hip-hop fill the rolls that folk-protest music did in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Busta Rhymes' "Extinction Level Event (The Final World Front)" anyone? Or Kanye West's commentary on the New Orleans disaster?

Along these lines a recent Orange Coast College student organized event, a fundraiser for a proposed cross-cultural space at the school to be called the Calpulli Cultural Center, was held in the student lounge. The concert was sponsored by Tonantzin Club at the college.

Held from 7 to 10 p.m., Dec. 16, the event displayed the talent of a group of hip-hop artists, each with distinct and joyfully barbed analysis of world events blended into lyrics at once hopeful, empowering, accusatory and angry. This is music that speaks to the younger age generation. And if it speaks, shouldn't we at least listen?

With enough pop-fluff floating around on the airwaves talking about this girl's booty or bringing "sexy" back from somewhere or other, it's invigorating to hear, over a period of three hours, music that speaks with intense profundity: The plight of Afghan women; the situation in Palestine; living in a country of misogyny and racism, both overt and subtle. Not all hip-hop is as substantive, but it was this club's choice of artists and they chose those artists that are.

The organizer of the concert-fundraiser, Coyotl Tezcatlipoca, a student at the college and local immigration- and minority-rights activist, opened the night with a wooden flute solo of his own before introducing the talent of the evening: Los Angeles spoken-



ALL PHOTOGRAPHS ON THIS PAGE BY DAVID L. M. PRESTON

**MUSICAL VISIONARY:** Hip-hop artist Stacy Epps, from Atlanta, Ga., singing during the Calpulli Cultural Center fundraiser held in the Orange Coast College student center on Dec. 16.

word artist, Mark Gonzales; Queens, New York-based singer/hip-hopper "Skim"; Stacey Epps of Atlanta, Ga.; "Invincible", from Detroit; and members of the groups The Philistines and The N.O.M.A.D.S., performing in that order.

Reminding me of my visits to the Nuyorican Poets Café poetry slams, back on ole East 3rd Street on the lower East Side of Manhattan, Mark Gonzales' spoken word rhythms and passion lit the match for the fire of the night. A Mexican born in Alaska,

he did four pieces, at time accompanied by guitar, letting off such sweet phrases as "Paparazzi Nazis" and "Justice like rain" with subjects ranging from insipient racism to the horror of voluntary war.

"Skim" followed with eight hip-hop pieces, including some more singer-song-writer folksy works accompanying herself with an acoustic guitar. Communication and eclecticism seemed to be "Skim"'s major themes, appropriate for a fundraiser for a cultural center.

Stacy Epps had a more traditional hip-hop sound and stage-presence, though I didn't feel it was as strong musically as others, she certainly wasn't shoddy. She also sang about her visit to South Africa and in one piece played a northern African drum called a dumbek. She also doubled-up with "Invincible" for an entangled, jolly back-and-forth duet.

"Invincible" kept her wordsmithing tight and on message, talking about breaking down walls, calling for civic justice, using music to "raise awareness" on world issues. A great call-and-response line of hers was "The music is the weapon; the weapon is the music." How true. A much better tool than swords and guns.

Members of The Philistines, including a very succinct rapper stage-named "Ragtop" passed the mic back and forth, with an oud (a Middle-Eastern lute) joining the fray at times, with his Filipino bandmate and Omar from the N.O.M.A.D.S. finished out the night. At its peak the concert may have had from 80 to 100 audience members (presumably mostly OCC students). Throughout the concert the records were impressively beat-spun for most of the singers by DJ SupremaOne. If DJing isn't considered an artform, then you haven't heard the right stuff.

"Invincible" and the members of The Philistines and the N.O.M.A.D.S. are all supporting a recent documentary focusing on Palestinian hip-hop artists called "Sling-shot Hip-Hop".

Tezcatlipoca said that, "My vision is that through the Calpulli Cultural Center is to bring cultural awareness. I think it's important to analyze cultures because people often have preconceptions towards specific people and cultures." ("Calpulli" is an Aztec-based language's term referring to a "group of families".) He also talked about reaching students "at risk" and having a place where cross-cultural communication and diversity is supported.

Apparently there was some drama around the fundraiser, certain OCC administration elements were concerned or used concern as an excuse (Are the musicians too political? Is the language too harsh? Will this type of music attract a "dangerous" crowd?) according to Tezcatlipoca and others at the show.

The entertainment page isn't really a place for politics, but all I can wonder is if the Republican Club had invited a collection of gospel and country singers to perform/preach their message of a specific religion or political viewpoint, would any attempt at postponing or canceling the concert have taken place? Would there have been ten security guards doing complete pat-downs of all audience members? During the evening there was a peak ratio of guard to audience member of maybe 1 to 10, but probably closer to an average of 1 to 6. How weird. Most of the night these black-garbed "authority" figures had nothing to do and it seemed a waste of resources for chicken-little worry. I've been to classical music concerts more rowdy and dangerous than these laid-back college kids that just wanted to listen to music, dance and support a club that they believe in.

If this strange, uninformed, behavior is the response of certain individuals in college administration circles then hip-hop may very well be a musical route into the discussion of significant issues of the day. Such as freedom of expression and societal preconceptions of artistic subgroups. Music can be both a joy and a catharsis, and shouldn't be limited by those that don't understand a certain format or topic. But also, it can be fun to dance to. Don't knock it until you try it.

## Public Art In HB

*You can't eat it, but it feeds you*

By DAVID L. M. PRESTON  
Entertainment Editor

**A**ll art is private and all art is public. It is a curious thing, what art means—it differs from person to person, from creator to creator. It can be both intensely personal but resonates on different levels when shared. Music unheard, or a painting not seen, are not artworks that are living up to their innate potential.

We are fortunate here in Huntington Beach that there are a large number of public art works, sculptures and murals, available for the general public to interact with, ponder and enjoy. And it's free for anyone, not caged away or displayed, for a fee, to be seen by hoity-toity folks. Sure, there's a place for that art too, but art for the masses, free and available, is something to encourage.

Kudos to the Public Art Program, run by

the Cultural, Historic and Event Services Division, Community Services Department, of the City of Huntington Beach; and community groups like the Huntington Beach Art League in encouraging and enriching Surf City. There are over 20 open-public art sites located in the city, and more are planned, including three works slated for the beach.

"Because art is food. You can't eat it, but it feeds you..." declares Vermont based puppet-theatre group Bread and Puppet's, "Why Cheap Art" manifesto. Huntington Beach has butterfly and bird murals, statues and installations with such alluring names as "Surf Henge", "Rime of the Ancient Mariner", "Poets Table" and "Ultimate Challenge". Take an art tour around town and feed your artistic self for free. Visit [http://www.surfcity-hb.org/CityDepartments/comm\\_services/che/pubart/biketourpubart.cfm](http://www.surfcity-hb.org/CityDepartments/comm_services/che/pubart/biketourpubart.cfm) for a tour suggestion and a listing of some of the works to visit.



**PUBLIC ART:** A few of the 16 large "Bird" murals that are found on the Huntington Beach Civic Center. Together all the murals display more than 140 bird species.

# JANUARY CALENDAR

## ART EVENTS

Centered on the Center: "Call for Artists!". Local artists are invited to bring two works in any media to the Huntington Beach Arts Center to be included in the annual group exhibition. Drop off art Jan. 5 and 6 at the Arts Center, 538 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648. Phone (714)-374-1650 for a prospectus and other details. All media accepted but no crafts or seasonal items.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

Tenor Salvatore Licitra. Philharmonic Society of Orange County presents Italian tenor Salvatore Licitra accompanied by pianist Warren Jones; 8 p.m., Jan. 6; at Segerstrom Concert Hall, Orange County Performing Arts Center, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$35 to \$85, box seats \$125. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.philharmonicsociety.org.

Los Angeles Philharmonic. Philharmonic Society of Orange County presents the LA Philharmonic with renowned conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen; 3 p.m., Jan. 21; at Segerstrom Concert Hall, Orange County Performing Arts Center, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Program includes Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 36 and John Adams' "Naive and Sentimental Music". Cost: \$25 to \$95, box seats \$200. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.philharmonicsociety.org.

Tokyo String Quartet. Orange County Performing Arts Center presents this exceptional string quar-

ter at 2 p.m., Jan. 7 at Segerstrom Concert Hall, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Program includes pieces by Mozart, Higdon and Schumann. Cost: \$62. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

Emerson String Quartet. Orange County Performing Arts Center presents the six-time Grammy Award winning chamber ensemble; 8 p.m., Jan. 24 at Segerstrom Concert Hall, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Program includes works by Beethoven. Cost: \$62. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

## JAZZ/POP

Barbara Cook and Audra McDonald. The two Broadway stars join forces for a night of dynamic song-weaving. AT 8 p.m., Jan. 5 in the Segerstrom Concert Hall Orange County Performing Arts Center; at 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$62 to \$96. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

Regina Carter. Orange County Performing Arts Center presents this rockin' jazz violinist, with special guest Carla Cook. At 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., Jan. 12 and 13 at Samueli Theater, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$52 for the 9:30 p.m. shows; and \$56 for the 7:30 p.m. shows. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

Patti LuPone: "The Lady With the Torch". Orange County Performing Arts Center presents the Broadway legend. At 7:30 p.m., Jan. 18 through 21 at

## PREVIEW



### KLEZMER MADNESS!

The timbre range of the clarinet, from its deep low-down mellowness to its crisp frenetic high-pitched twirlings, shines nowhere as uniquely than with the Eastern European tradition of Klezmer. A singularly Jewish style, the Klezmer sound has influenced American music from early 20th Century jazz to the 2006 experimental music of John Zorn. David Krakauer, who I first heard accompanying the Kronos Quartet on their 1997 release "The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind", a work by Osvaldo Golijov, outshone in that outing even that legendary string quartet with his licorice-stick aural gyrations. Krakauer's "Klezmer Madness!" combines his avant-garde sensibilities and traditional musical roots with a blending that should prove to be accessible and titillating, touching upon rock, jazz, chamber music and the hopeful, wrenchingly plaintive Jewish music of the Old Country. But, in openness, I have to admit I'm not wholly unbiased. I am, or was, a clarinetist. Then again, I should know what I'm talking about. This should be a fine show; mark your calendars.

— David L. M. Preston

David Krakauer's Klezmer Madness! Avant-garde Klezmer clarinetist. At 8 p.m., Jan. 27; Segerstrom Concert Hall, Orange County Performing Arts Center, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cross-over "new Klezmer" style that combines jazz, rock and other influences. Cost: \$25 to \$45. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

Samueli Theater, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$62. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

## MUSICALS

"Pippin" musical. Jan. 2 to 7. At The Orange County Performing Arts Center, 600 Town Center Drive,

Costa Mesa. A musical tale of Charlemagne's oldest son; from Stephen Schwartz, creator of "Wicked" and "Godspell". Cost: \$15 to \$65. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

"Annie" musical. Jan. 30 through Feb. 11. At The Orange County Performing Arts Center, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Little Orphan Annie returns in this family friendly musical. Cost: \$20 to \$70. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

"Captain Louie" musical. A family musical based on the children's tale "The Trip" by Ezra Jack Keats. At 7 p.m. Jan. 26; 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Jan. 27; and 1 p.m. Jan. 28; held at the Samueli Theater, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz of "Wicked" fame. Cost: \$62. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

## ROCK MUSIC/DJ'S

Stefy, Minor Canon and Repeater. At 9 p.m. Jan. 4 at Detroit Bar, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. Cost: \$5 cover. Call (949) 642-0600 for details.

Laparis Nervos. At 9 p.m. Jan. 6 at Detroit Bar, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. Soul music. Also with guest DJs. Cost: \$5 cover. Call (949) 642-0600 for details.

Hip-hop with ADD. At Hurricanes Bar and Grill; 8 p.m., Jan. 2, 9, 16, and 23; at 200 Main St., Ste 201, Huntington Beach. Contact: (714) 374-0500.

Acoustic Mondays with Sterling and others. At Gallagher's Pub & Grill; 8:30 p.m., Jan. 1, 8, 15; at 113 Walnut Ave., Huntington Beach, (714) 536-2422.

DJ Goody, DJ Beej and Dave Scott. At Vegas Nightclub; 9 p.m., Jan. 5, 12, and 19. Top 40s and house music spins; at 1901 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, (949) 548-9500.

## THEATER

"Pig Farm". An absurdist comedy presented by the South Coast Repertory Theatre, a play by Tony award-winning "Urinetown" playwright Greg Kotis and directed by Martin Benson. Performed at 7:45 p.m. Jan. 7 through 28, with additional 2 p.m. performances on Saturdays and Sundays; on the Julianne Argyros Stage, 655 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$24 - \$60. For tickets and more information call (714) 708-5555 or visit www.scr.org.

The Orange Coast Voice welcomes submissions for its entertainment calendar and tips on potential story ideas. Please limit suggestions to events taking place in Huntington Beach or Costa Mesa and provide the basic "who, what, where, and how much" information, and a contact phone number. Due to space limitations, not all qualified submissions will be printed. All calendar notices are presented at the editors' and entertainment writers' prerogative and reflects no overt or implied endorsement of said event. Make all submissions to calendar@ocvoice.com or admin@ocvoice.com, to the attention of the Entertainment Editor.

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# MARK BIXBY

## *Living 'La Vida Bolsa Chica'*

By JOHN EARL  
Editor

**H**untington Beach resident Mark Bixby has been a computer nerd since 1972. For 23 years he worked on data base and Internet administration for the Coast Community College District. Since then he was worked as a software design engineer. He offers his extraordinary computer expertise “free to any educational, municipal, or non profit organization trying to establish an Internet presence.”

He claims that the Internet “is possibly the greatest tool ever devised by humans” and sees “making the world a better place” as its best possible use. Accordingly, he has created various web sites that you can find by going to [www.bixby.org](http://www.bixby.org), including the popular, volatile and informative political discussion site, Hbtalk, as well as Parkside, which is dedicated to promoting alternatives to Shea Homes’ planned develop-

ment for 171 homes adjacent to the upper level of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, another of his great passions and the subject of the photos on this page—all shot by Bixby.

The *Orange Coast Voice* recently asked Bixby how he got involved with protecting the Bolsa Chica Wetlands:

“A flyer showed up on my doorstep one day in December 2001 saying there was going to be a neighborhood meeting to discuss the Shea property. Being curious, Julie [his wife] and I attended. Jan Vandersloot and Flossie Horgan were there representing the Bolsa Chica Land Trust

and they outlined some possible outcomes for the property, with the one the neighbors liked best being a restored wetlands.



“Electronic communications were being done in a highly inefficient manner back then. I volunteered to set up a formal e-mailing list. Then I put together a small web site. Then the small web site became a very large web site after I purchased my first “point & shoot” digital camera and began site observations.

“I started chronicling the ponding during the rainy season. Then I started doing plant identification & mapping (I now know the names

of about 75 plants species). Then I started doing bird observations (I have cataloged over 100 species of birds on the site).

“I bumped up against the limits of ‘point & shoot’ photography and then upgraded to a digital SLR, which has proved to be quite an expensive little addiction, with my now owning about \$20,000 worth of professional camera equipment. People tell me I have developed a fair amount of photographic talent.

“That 2001 flyer proved to be a major tipping point in my life. Prior to that I was not personally involved in environmental or civic issues AT ALL. Now I am one of the many people living ‘La Vida Bolsa Chica’. And I may be able to develop a potential second career as a professional photographer.

“I think if somebody had told me back in 2001 what my life was going to be like in 2006, I would have said they were stark raving insane.”

## Mark Bixby's Wildlife Photography



Right: Cooper's Hawk.

Left: White-tailed Kite pair.

Upper left: Downy Woodpecker

Above: Northern Harrier.