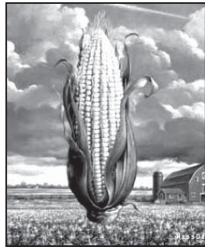




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Business & Service Directory  
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# THE ORANGE COAST VOICE

No. 7 Serving Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa and surrounding communities April 2007

## Boycott Ralphs?

*HB/CM residents riled by corporate blight*

**By JOE SHAW**  
OC Voice

*"Dear Ralphs: I have personally convinced 32 families to NOT shop at your new Ralphs on Adams/Brookhurst. I keep hearing over and over again Ralphs does not care about the people of Huntington Beach. You BETTER care. I'm a Mexican-American woman. I've lived here for 18 years. Never underestimate women. We do most of the shopping. You NEED our \$\$!! I will continue to make sure more families NEVER shop in Ralphs again. Stater Bros. is our new hero! You suck big time!!"*

— One of 60 public comments received at a March town hall meeting, all opposed to plans to replace a Ralphs store with a 99 Cent store.

**A**round 200 residents let Huntington Beach city staff and city council members know exactly how they feel about the loss of the Ralphs grocery store from a shopping center at the corner of Brookhurst



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN EARL

**BLIGHT:** An abandoned Ralphs store decays at Hamilton and Brookhurst streets.

and Hamilton streets.

They didn't like it. And they didn't like the thought of having a rumored 99 cent store there either.

The forum, held Wednesday night, March 7, at Edison High School, was organized by Councilmember Don Hansen, who

along with Assistant City Administrator Paul Emery, Planning Department Director Scott Hess, Councilmember Joe Carchio and City Administrator Penny Culbreth-Graft answered questions from southeast area residents.

They mainly listened to the complaints of residents and busi-

ness owners concerning transients, illegal dumping and the evolution of a blighted center with no anchor tenant, but Ralphs took the most heat.

"Ralphs doesn't give a rat's you-know-what about any of you here," said resident Machel Murray, who along with many other speakers called for a boycott of Ralphs. "This is a beautiful neighborhood. I love where I live. I love my neighbors. I don't love what [Ralphs] is doing to our area."

Although Ralphs opened a new store at Brookhurst and Adams, just up the street from their old center, they still hold a 15-year lease, with two 5-year options, at the old center. According to Emery, Ralphs controls who the next tenant will be.

"You really need to go after Ralphs, and go after them hard," Carchio began to tell the crowd before he was interrupted by shouts from the audience, including one woman calling out, "We don't want to hear what we should do, we want to hear what the city's going to do."

See **RALPHS BOYCOTT?**, Page 11

## IKEA Backs Out of Childcare

*CM city council bows, lovingly, to corporate giant*

**By SARA ELLIS**  
OC Voice

**I**f you've ever been separated from friends or family in an IKEA you'll know that the experience is similar to being lost in a blizzard with Jack Nicholson loping behind you. Don't expect any help, however; when I lost my partner in the kitchen area a few years ago, a request to have her paged was rebuffed faster than a Wal-Mart truck en route to New Orleans.

"We can't do that," said a burned out, and rather grumpy employee, "That's only for kids."

Fortunately, I was with my sister, who being the kind of person that talks her way into first class plane tickets and royal hotel suites, descended upon Customer Service with a sob story about

a 13-year-old exchange student roaming the store without a peep of English to her name. "You should have seen his expression when Y showed up," she said, ducking into the safety of the AS-Is section. "I thought he'd have us kicked out."

Such a tale might speak well of Ikea's dedication to children, but sadly, the commitment only reaches as far as the paying customer. While shoppers are more than welcome to drop their tots off at the store's Smalland daycare center, that same privilege is not granted to Ikea "co-workers"—a company-created euphemism that magically transforms retail employees into

stockholders. "We try not to do that," says Costa Mesa store manager, Don Collins. "You've got to challenge yourself not to. But if someone says 'I have a difficult day, I can't get childcare, can I bring my child to work with me?'

**[W]hat's a schedule-challenged Ikea parent to do, especially now that City Council has allowed the company to renege on its previous agreement to provide onsite daycare for its staff?**

We have said 'yes' to that." But other than bringing your kid to the store's annual child/parent workday—or rolling him or her down the conveyor belt while you're ringing up purchases—what's a schedule-challenged Ikea parent to do, especially now that City Council has allowed the company to renege on its previous agreement to provide onsite daycare for its staff?

On March 6th, Costa Mesa's City Council gave in to the retail giant's request, and voted three to two to halt the daycare requirement. Ikea real estate manager, Pat Merwin, along with Collins, was on hand to back up their plea. "Only six co-workers who live within Costa Mesa have children, and all of them are utilizing their families to provide childcare," said Mervin. "We think that we've demonstrated that the concerns that prompted the requirement have not materialized. Retail jobs have non-traditional hours that aren't always compatible with normal nine to five daycare."

Collins further cited a yearly employee survey in which workers rejected daycare—not in evidence at the meeting—and "family-friendly" awards from Working Mother's magazine. "First off,"

See **IKEA**, Page 5

THE ORANGE COAST  
**VOICE**

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The Orange Coast Voice is an independently owned monthly newspaper serving Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa and surrounding communities and currently delivering 15,000 copies to single family residences, local businesses, churches, schools, libraries, community centers, mobile home parks, and other locations.

The goal of the Orange Coast Voice is to give its readers information that can be used to improve the quality of life in their communities and beyond. The Orange Coast Voice is your local newspaper.

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**ENERGY WATCH**

# Driving On Sunshine

*Ethanol: Starve while you drive*

By SARAH S. MOSKO, Ph.D.  
Earth Resource Foundation

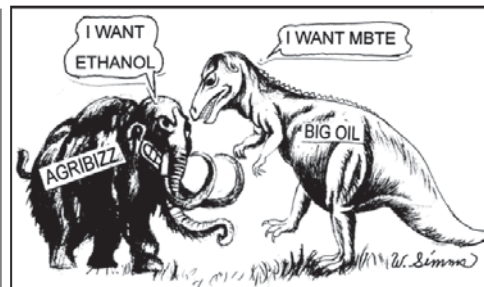
From President Bush on down, it seems everyone is talking up "biofuels," especially corn-ethanol, as the panacea to the country's many energy woes. Automakers are promoting flex-fuel cars that run on either gasoline or E85, an 85 percent ethanol mixture. Agribusiness giants are trumpeting their corn-ethanol as they boost production to meet rising domestic demand. Even some environmentalists are tipping their hats to so-called "green fuels." However, just because a fuel can be made from plants doesn't make it inherently "green" or ever plentiful enough to replace gasoline.

Consider the findings of a 2006 study from the Univ. of Minnesota. If all U.S. corn and soybean crops were used for biofuels instead of food, the amount produced would suffice to replace only 12 percent of gasoline demand and 6 percent of diesel demand countrywide. Another analysis concluded that conversion of all U.S. cropland to corn production, strictly for ethanol, would not suffice to fuel the current fleet of American autos. Shouldn't such projections compel us to take a long, sober look at biofuels made from food crops?

**Net Energy Balance is Key**  
Net energy balance (NEB) denotes energy return relative to energy invested. It's a ratio, where anything above 1.0 indicates a positive energy return and a value below 1.0 means you put more energy in than you got out. Various university experts have calculated a NEB for corn-ethanol falling in the range of 1.25, a weak energy gain, to 0.70, a net energy loss. But no matter who does the math, the net energy yield is meager, at best. The chief reason is that corn-ethanol production is heavily dependent on oil and natural gas to fuel everything from the manufacture and operation of farm machinery, the synthesis of copious amounts of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides, and the distillation of fermented corn into ethanol, to the transportation of ethanol from points of manufacture to neighborhood gas stations. Unless substantially more energy can be derived from ethanol than is sunk into its production, it is hard to rationalize all the fanfare surrounding it.

Indisputably, there are some pluses to corn-ethanol. It is renewable and can be produced domestically. Plus, compared to gasoline, emissions of greenhouse gases are reduced somewhere between 10 percent and 30 percent. But even allowing for such tangible benefits, there are more downsides that should not be overlooked.

**More Ethanol Drawbacks**  
Cost at the pump: Compared to gasoline, ethanol supplies 30 percent less energy, which means poorer fuel economy and more frequent trips to gas up. According to a 2006 analysis in Consumer Reports, driving costs



COURTESY OF EARTH RESOURCE FOUNDATION

go up.

Hidden taxpayer-supported subsidies: Uncle Sam shells out \$4 billion/year to subsidize domestic ethanol production, much of it going to agribusiness cartels. According to the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, oil refiners get a 51-cent tax credit for every gallon of ethanol blended into gasoline, also paid for by taxpayers.

Smog: The California Air Resources Board has confirmed that mixing in ethanol can increase smog-forming compounds, such as nitrogen oxides, and that cancer-causing chemicals like acetaldehyde are emitted too when ethanol is combusted.

Availability: Far fewer than 1 in 100 gas stations nationwide

**Uncle Sam shells out \$4 billion/yr to subsidize domestic ethanol production, much of it going to agribusiness cartels. According to the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, oil refiners get a 51-cent tax credit for every gallon of ethanol blended into gasoline, also paid for by taxpayers.**

provide E85. As of late 2006, California had only three. (Note: E85 must be distinguished from the small amounts of ethanol currently blended into all gas sold in California to replace MBTE, the toxic octane booster that was found to be contaminating drinking water).

Environmental Impacts: Applying industrial farming methods to grow massive amounts of corn certainly would accelerate soil contamination & erosion as well as groundwater pollution & depletion.

Rising Food Prices: Ethanol production gobbled up one-fifth of the entire U.S. domestic corn crop last year. Based on the rate at which new ethanol distilleries are going up, agricultural economists at the Washington, D.C.-based Earth Policy Institute project that one-half of the domestic corn harvest will go into making ethanol by the year 2008. Already, the price of corn is being driven up at home and abroad. As

vegetable farmers in California switch to corn to cash in on the profits, higher prices are projected for fresh or processed vegetable products. Meat prices could jump too as corn-fed livestock become costlier to raise. Our poorest Mexican neighbors to the south are already suffering a tortilla crisis because the local price of tortillas follows international corn prices. World prices for other grains, including rice and wheat, are expected to rise too as corn supplies are shifted away from food and livestock feed.

A Question of Morality: Historically, the US has been an exporter of grains on which countless peoples around the globe depend for basic survival. Many Americans of conscience question the morality of diverting cropland to fuel U.S. transportation when so much of the world is underfed already. According to the World Health Organization, the number of humans that are malnourished, 3.7 billion, is at a record high.

**Weaning off Fossil Fuels**

As we begin the painful process of weaning ourselves off fossil fuels, the idea of "driving on sunshine" sounds so nice. After all, sunlight will be the ultimate source of energy to propel our cars. Remember, even fossil fuels originated from sunlight captured by plants eons ago. But in choosing among energy alternatives, an honest comparison of their NEBs is imperative. Otherwise we will invest enormous resources and hope into solutions that only sound comforting but energy-wise get us nowhere and even create more problems.

Cellulosic ethanol, made from non-food plant sources, like wood chips or prairie grass, is being explored as an improvement over corn-ethanol because it requires lower inputs of energy, water, pesticides and fertilizers and should yield a substantially higher NEB of 4.0 or better. Even soy-diesel, with a measured NEB of 1.93, comes out on top of corn-ethanol, although it shares the problem of pitting human hunger against transportation.

**Do we really have to gas up?**

It's hard to envision a world where liquid fuels of some type aren't necessary. Maybe we don't have to. But in our rush to replace fossil fuels, let's not fail to seek parallel solutions of a totally different ilk. Consider solar energy, or more specifically photovoltaics

See **SUNLIGHT**, Page 6

# 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](mailto:letters@ocvoice.com), or mailed directly to: *Orange Coast Voice*, 419 Main Street, #209, Huntington Beach, California, 92648.

## Likes the articles

I really enjoyed and was shocked reading "Political Paranoia?" [March 2007] in the paper that was delivered on my driveway! Oddly enough, the local cable TV recording of this meeting was being shown at about the same time I was reading the article... this video of the meeting was being played Sunday, on our channel 24 and showed council lady, Linda Dixon, quietly trying to convince the mayor, "not big problem" and then [the mayor appears to be getting upset] ... suddenly, the darn TV picture is off, like someone pulled a plug!!! I waited for lil' time, TV blank!!! I switched channels. Everything is ok except channel 24. Finally, channel returned with advertising of recreation department doings!

To Ms. Sara Ellis reporting "CM council shuts out seniors"... Your reporting is good, but because I am a "senior," I'm not sure that a city sponsored senior committee is required. I am a member of the CM senior center and very proud to have met Linda Dixon at the center when she was a board member! Your article reports that Ms. Leece will become a member of the CM Board of Directors. I hope this becomes true, as there are good members of the board! However, the directions of the center can be "cumbersome," as indicated by past frequent staff changes pushed by different opinions of what should the center programs purpose be for. There are individuals that only want the building purpose to represent hospice type aid to seniors, an idea I radically oppose! The center provides services, but should be a place to enjoy!! I am 83, but I think the center really needs help in getting the 55'ers to join!!! My lady and I did enjoy the "parties" and friends when the organization was "younger." Plus, they need younger members to decide "newer" programs/games to attract new younger members!

To you both, I feel strongly that this "new" newspaper, which will be excellent competition for our "local newspaper," the *Pilot*, providing you don't get too pushy and get creamed by da serious politician types, and will help people like me that like to enjoy, without becoming too political, do things to help our communities!!! Please excuse the typing errors.

Name withheld by request  
Costa Mesa, CA

## Too much government

Saw my first OC Voice, the March issue. Congratulations to the publishers for having the courage to start up a new hard-copy venture in the age of the internet. It takes pure guts to do this, so I sort of

hope you are successful.

I say "sort of" because after seeing the March issue, I don't see any editorial concept that I can support or that is different from the *Times*, *Pilot*, or *Register*.

Every story, except one, is PRO-GOVERNMENT. Even your stories that criticize government, do so because government isn't doing ENOUGH.

Yet all of our problems today, in America, can be laid at the feet of government.

Your one story which was not pro-gov't, was Al White's story on how to get out of the military. But everything else, supported the concept that government should DO MORE for all of us.

You are doing the same thing, politically, as the main news pages of the *Times*, *Pilot* and *Register*. Does OC really need another pro-government voice?

My view is that we need more CONSTITUTIONALIST voices. This nation has a rule book. It's called the Constitution, which outlines the limits of government. And if more people knew what it said, maybe they wouldn't be asking for more government.

What we really need is more freedom for individuals and more personal responsibility. Remember that government funding is based on the crime of THEFT. Taxes are collected by FORCE, which means that government is entirely funded with stolen money. How can an organization perform a moral function when it is funded by a CRIME? It can't. The crime corrupts the organization.

Teenagers don't need a government "youth committee." They need to get a REAL JOB in the private sector where they learn to produce genuine wealth. We should probably repeal all the child labor laws. Let kids get jobs earlier, where they can learn the fun of earning their own money. I got my first paper route at age 11.

We don't need a government Senior Center, either. Orange County is full of private organizations where people can go to find "meaning" in their lives. Churches, charities, antique car clubs, scores of "volunteer" groups that do everything from gardening to advising new businesses. There's no shortage of activities. Seniors need to get out of the house and find their own interests.

The Mansoor group at Costa Mesa, in my perception, are making some efforts at REDUCING the involvement of government instead of INCREASING it. They should be encouraged.

We, the people, are NOT a passive, helpless, whining gaggle of slugs who need the state or city to bring us happiness with government programs. I would like to see a major decrease in TAXES\*, smaller government all around, and less interference in all of our lives.

\*After 22 years in Costa Mesa, I have been robbed of at least \$40,000 to support the government school system, yet I only used that system for one year. I want a refund. It is criminal to rob me of that money in the first place, and double criminal to use it to fund an institution I disapprove of and cannot use, in any case. This is just one of the small crimes committed by the institution we call "government."

Don Hull  
Costa Mesa, CA

## FAN MAIL

Your "newspaper" is just another misguided liberal rag. Please get out of HB and move up north to LA or San Francisco where the garbage that you publish might be appreciated. You are suffering from a mental disorder which prevents you from basing your opinions on facts. Instead, you interpose your emotions and misguided agenda into anything that you write. Therefore, people like you should not be journalists. You are merely the expendable pawns of evil people who are always lurking in any society, and who use ignorant fools like you to tear down the existing society so that they can control everything. Once they have secured their power grip, people like you will be their enemy and would be controlled by terror or imprisoned or killed. Please read your history and books such as "Escape from Red China" and that might help you extract your head from your ass.

- Anonymous

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## Orange County Healthcare for All

Panel & Public Hearing

# Healthcare Crisis: Costs & Quality

Thursday, April 19th  
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**Costa Mesa Community Center**  
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The Schwarzenegger Proposal?  
SB 840 the Sheila Keuhl California Single Payer Bill?  
HR 676 the Federal Single Payer Bill?

**Cost Facts:** Because of spiraling healthcare costs US companies are closing up or downsizing and the number one cause of individual bankruptcy is medical/health-related even including people who are health insured.

**Quality Facts:** Because of uninsurance there will be more than 18,000 excess American deaths this year, otherwise preventable with a universal insurance.

Panel to feature Single-Payer Health Policy Advocates, Labor and Retirement Association Representatives, and Healthcare Workers and Professionals.

**For more information contact (714) 235-6083 or email [hduke2008@gmail.com](mailto:hduke2008@gmail.com)**

Petitions and Voter registration cards will be available. You will be asked to host a meeting at your home, work, or church.

**Sponsored by OC Healthcare for All.**

Endorsing Organizations include: OC Greens, Progressive Democrats of America, and Orange Coast Lincoln Republicans.

# Poseidon Not Needed Here

*A yard with less water, less maintenance and more beauty*

By LISA WELLS  
OC Voice

Marilyn and Jim Cavener purchased a fixer property in 2003 in the same southeast Huntington Beach neighborhood as their friends, the Scotts [see below article], relocating from only a couple blocks away. Envisioning this property's potential, the Caveners strove during their renovations for sustainable alternatives, without aesthetic loss.

In their garden, the Caveners learned about the beauty of native Californian plants and never turned back. They studied the Xeriscape method; the name borrows the Greek prefix "xeri-" meaning "dry," and found it to be a beautiful and easy alternative to water guzzling, fertilizer filled "green" lawns.

Marilyn Cavener, the visionary planner behind their front and back natural wonder (one hesitates to call it just a yard) employs her husband's physical labor in creating a living masterpiece.

Jim Cavener agrees that the planting stage was lots of work, but he loves to boast that since the garden was established it is practically maintenance free. "We spend maybe two or three days a year out front, one day in the fall and a day in the spring," he said.

There is no need to water this natural landscape, over-watering can actually harm the garden. "These plants are designed to survive," Jim says. "They are incredibly easy to take care of and I only mow my grasses once a year."



PHOTOGRAPH BY LISA WELLS

**XERISCAPE METHOD:** Rainwater percolates into the earth instead of sending polluted run-off to the ocean.

The Caveners believe anybody can create these gardens. They recommend going to High Country Gardens nursery's web-site,

based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to get a catalogue filled with pre-planned Xeriscape gardens. "That's what we did, and it

worked great," said Jim. There's no need to hire a professional landscape architect. Locally, they recommend the Tree of Life nursery on Ortega Highway. "Tree of Life is the authority on California native plants," Jim explained.

Striving for sustainability during the remodeling of their home they created walkways and patio areas with landfill-bound, broken chunks of concrete. The concrete pieces are laid out like pavers and then decomposed granite is used to fill the areas in between the stones. When it rains water easily percolates into the earth, irrigating their garden without producing run-off, which is a source of ever-present beach pollutants.

They also reused scrap lumber in their remodel, using it to create and construct a lovely front porch-like pergola within a garden setting.

Another environmental friendly renovation, that The Caveners said just sort of happened, is a thermal chimney. They began with plans to add a second story; but their plans changed. The stairwell was already established, so they turned it into a structure that works literally as a thermal chimney. In the summer they open the windows at the top of this stairwell-chimney, and the house stays cool. It also creates a stunning entryway which makes it easy to forget its functionality.

*The Caveners will share their charming garden with the public during the "Real Gardens by Real Gardeners" garden tour on May 5; visit [www.heartsgardentours.com](http://www.heartsgardentours.com) or call (714) 904-0303 for more details.*

# AES Not Needed Here

*Turn off the gas and electricity and let the sunshine in*

By LISA WELLS  
OC Voice

John and Linda Scott purchased their Southeast Huntington Beach home in the 1960s; since then they've been upgrading the house. Their improvements don't aim to increase the home's value, necessarily, but each addition does work to increase their home's energy efficiency. This ends up benefiting the environment, and the Scotts' conscience.

The electricity meter at the Scotts' home actually runs backward, meaning they sell extra energy to the electric company through the electrical grid—the system by which electricity is transferred. There's no need to turn on the light in their windowless bathroom during the day. And their gas water heater never fires up.

To date, the only energy the Scotts purchase is a bit of gas which heats their

home in the winter; other than that expense the household runs itself by harnessing the sun's clean, free and renewable power.

The renovations all started with simple skylights. Since their home felt too dark, they installed skylights first in the living room and then in the kitchen. They soon realized that the skylights did more than just brighten the place up: they became a light switch alternative.

The Scotts then took that concept to the garage: one skylight over the laundry area and another over the workbench. Finally, they installed a solar tube which lit the usually dark interior bathroom.

"People go in our bathroom now and can't figure out how to turn off the light," John Scott muses. The solar tube, which is very economical, looks like any other light fixture, but instead of a light bulb behind the cover there's a long mirror-lined flexible tube which snakes its way up to the roof

and funnels the sun's reflected light into the bathroom.

The Scotts' fascination with using sunlight led them to invest in a solar powered water heater. Two 4- by 8-ft. solar panels, on the garage roof, heat water that stocks their water heater by piping it, two gallons at a time, through tiny pipes within the solar panels. The system maintains the water's temperature at approximately 150 degrees. The gas water heater of the house is never needed.

In 1995 the Scotts formally "unplugged" the house. Solar became the obvious alternative for them as they committed \$30,000 in purchasing a Photo Voltaic Solar Power rooftop system—it ended up costing them \$20,000 after rebates. The return on their investment is about 10 percent; but the investment in a greener future makes it worthwhile to the Scotts.

"Our electrical use would be responsible

for about 600 pounds of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions being dumped in the air each week, if we did not meet our needs with solar," John said, adding, "I heard of a person whose electric bill is \$900 a month. Can you imagine how much CO2 he puts in the air we breathe each day?"

During peak periods, and brown-outs, the Scotts' home is actually producing a surplus of energy for the over-taxed grid, and Southern California Edison absorbs the Scotts' excess power, without compensation.

Contrary to public perception, solar energy production is progressively becoming less accessible due to rising costs. According to Doug Korthoff, Seal Beach resident and solar energy activist, "The falling rebate, higher costs for solar panels, vastly more paperwork...and the Public Utilities Commission are making it more difficult to go solar as John Scott has done."

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# Will 2K Sign Save Our Seniors?

*It starts out with a sign and gets worse,' says mayor*

By JOHN EARL  
Editor

Huntington Beach residents might have already started feeling safer from the presence of juvenile pranksters or adult insurgents, who start out destroying park signs and turn to burning down buildings, especially senior centers, later on.

Or they might be wondering why the city council has wasted over \$6,000, so far, of their money to take care of a problem that it created against better advice.

The question goes back to March 5 when the city council posted a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of anyone who damages publicly owned signs located at the southwest corner of Talbert and Goldenwest streets in Central Park.

The council majority's primary intent is to protect one sign in particular that it had placed at that location last January in order to point out the location of and establish legitimacy for the "proposed" site of a \$23 million, 45,000 sq. ft. senior center on five acres of park land designated previously as open space.

The sign reads: "PROPOSED SITE OF THE NEW SENIOR CENTER" in large yellow letters on top of "AS APPROVED BY THE VOTERS" (in much smaller letters), and depicts an arrow directing passing motorists' eyes off road toward the site.

Mayor Gill Coerper, who proposed the original sign last January, first requested of the council a \$1,000 reward to be paid from the city's "un-appropriated fund balance."

Councilmember Keith Bohr and a group of Huntington Beach residents have added \$1,000 and \$1,100 of personal funds, respectively, to the reward pot.

Costing \$2,282 to make and install (about \$1,500 above the original estimate), the original reddish brown sign stood 8 ft. wide and 6 ft. tall. Set in a concrete base, the sturdy sign was meant to repel both human and natural attacks upon its person, but was dragged from its post twice by



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN EARL

**A TOP PRIORITY:** Hey kid! If your mom steals this sign, will you turn her in for \$2,000?

unknown assailants before being discovered floating, ignominiously, in a nearby lake, according to the mayor. Unable to bring it back to life, the city built a new sign for another \$2,282.

Councilmember Don Hansen, who along with Councilmembers Debbie Cook and Jill Hardy had opposed the sign and warned it would be a target of costly vandalism, said that both the sign and the reward were unneeded.

"If the sign gets torn down again, I would be happy just pursuing the culprits under the vandalism and graffiti code that we already got established," Hansen said, referring to a \$500 reward also approved by the council in March. He added that he hoped that anybody witnessing vandalism to the senior center park sign would call the police "because it's the right thing to do."

The \$500 reward applies to graffiti only,

but it wasn't enough for Councilmember Keith Bohr, who supported Coerper's resolution and warned that he is looking for the perpetrators, personally. "I'm driving by there [the sign location] every night extra," he said.

Councilmember Cathy Green proposed raising the reward to \$2,000 with a \$2,000 restitution fine tacked on. "If those signs are over \$2,000, let's make it hurt," she said. "I mean, I would give them (persons reporting the crime) \$5,000. I would give them whatever. I'm tired of everything being destroyed," she complained.

Hansen joked that "There's a 10-year-old kid out there with his fingers crossed that he's going to get a Play Station 3 and a flat screen by calling in his mom, now that we're raising it to \$2,000."

"We could go to ten [thousand dollars]," Coerper answered.

Councilmember Joe Carchio, the former "common sense" candidate, who ironically said previously that the senior center sign was part of a "healing process" between opponents and proponents of the senior center, agreed that the extra reward money was useless, but said he would vote for whatever the mayor wanted anyway.

City Attorney Jennifer McGrath said that the city could not be reimbursed for the reward money upon conviction of a suspect and that the amount of restitution is decided by the sentencing of the court, not by the city.

In the case of a minor, she said, restitution may come in the form of public service rather than money paid to the city. And minors could be sent to a diversion program, rather than legally convicted, which would preclude the city from handing out the reward. To top it off, very few perpetrators of vandalism are ever caught, McGrath said.

There were no suspects at press time, but Bohr assumed that the vandals are adults politically opposed to a senior center in Central Park. "I find it really irritating that somebody could be against something in principle and this is how they react," he said.

In the end, the council majority of Coerper, Bohr, Green and Carchio voted for a \$2,000 reward but said no to restitution.

If the resolution were to fail, Coerper said prior to the vote, there is a group of HB residents who have already raised \$1,100 reward money on their own.

Their reasoning, the mayor said, is that "if you destroy a city sign, what will prevent them (sic) from burning down the buildings when it's (sic) being built there [at the senior center site]... Their main concern is that it starts out with a sign and gets progressively worse."

Other HB residents, who don't want a senior center built in the middle of the city's most beautiful remaining open spaces, might agree.

## IKEA: Employees Don't Want Our Childcare

*Better than Wal-Mart, but is IKEA good enough?*

From Page 1

Collins repeated over the phone, "(onsite daycare) is not wanted. We do a survey every year. The O.C. was the center of it on a national basis. They don't want it at work. They want assistance with wellness care, children's health benefits."

Certainly, IKEA's treatment of employees shines an unflattering light on corporate ogres such as Wal-Mart or Target: "co-workers" who put in at least 19 hours per week, Collins assured me, receive full benefits, tuition assistance, and paid maternity/paternity leave. Collins was also quick to add, that many IKEA employees are students, in need of other benefits. Yet, the replacement of promised onsite daycare for

workers with "childcare search assistance," that could be obtained just as easily on craigslist.com, is ominous bad form for a store that has managed, unlike the Body Shop, Starbucks, and other "well-meaning" entities, to ward off criticism.

Former cashier Natalie Newton, one of the students Collins refers to, is not so lenient, likening IKEA to "corporations like Starbucks or Disney, which have geopolitical scales of power that go beyond just treating their employees right. I don't think my bosses were savvy to this broader critique of the corporation."

Neither, unfortunately, is City Council, making it no surprise, as Collins boasted, that the company plans to shape nationwide policy on the Costa Mesa store. Excluding

a phoned-in grilling from Councilmember Katrina Foley, who was out due to illness, one couldn't ask for an easier sell than the Council's three member majority. "It sounds like we're asking you to fulfill a need that doesn't exist," said Pro-Tem Mayor, Eric Bever, while Councilmember, Wendy Leece, in a bout of predictable toadying, praised the company for backing out of its obligations. "I wanted to thank you for doing your due diligence every year," Leece said, referring to the absent company survey, "to determine that what you established was accurate, and it [need for childcare] doesn't exist." If Leece isn't reelected, there's a store greeter position waiting out there somewhere.

That IKEA is far less behaved in coun-

tries such as India, where the makers of its products receive less-than-subsistence wages and are discouraged from forming unions, might have served as a warning before Council buckled to an appeal as breakable as the store's kitchenware. These days, superstores treat workers so terribly that when one of them gets a few things right, there's a tendency, as with violent, anti-social children for lenience and over praise. "I would say that Ikea is really good at promoting itself as a benevolent, environmentally conscious, consumer oriented corporation, masking its basically capitalistic goals," said Newton.

The bottom line is still money, whether they recycle their own batteries in their store basement or not."

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# Sunlight: More Than Enough For Our Needs

*Americans are ready for new sources of energy*

From Page 2

(PV), where sunlight is converted directly into electricity. The basic technology is the same as has been used for decades to power satellites and calculators. Current mainstream solar panels use semiconductor wafers made of crystalline silicon. Electricity is generated when sunlight knocks electrons on one side of the wafer to the other.

The amount of sunlight reaching the earth's surface in the U.S. averages 1,800 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> per year, more than enough to meet the entire world's energy needs many times over. The U.S. Dept. of Energy calculated that a PV system covering a 100-mile swath of sunny Nevada could supply the whole of the nation's electrical needs. One beauty of PV is that no one could monopolize the source since sunlight is everywhere. Energy production could be spread out on literally millions of rooftops across the nation, each functioning as a mini-solar electric plant contributing to the grid.

The idea of "energy in" vs. "energy out"

is handled a bit differently for PV since the energy input is a one-time affair (energy required to produce and install the panels), whereas the energy output spans the 30+ years lifetime of the panels. So generally the concept of Energy Payback (how long it takes to repay the initial energy input) is used to figure the energy efficiency of PV. The U.S. Department of Energy calculates an Energy Payback of 3 or 4 years for PV systems in use as of 2004, declining to 1-2 years by 2009 with expected advances in technology. Applying these figures to calculate a NEB ratio, PV earns a NEB of 7.5 for a 4-year payback and 30.0 for a 1-year payback (a net energy gain of 750-3,000 percent!). Once installed, the energy generated is clean, homegrown and pollution free.

### Squeezing the Most out of Sunlight

Since sunlight will be powering transportation, one way or another, shouldn't the focus be on how to capture and utilize it most efficiently and with the least pollution? If you've seen the 2006 documentary

"Who Killed the Electric Car," you know that the technology for all-electric vehicles has been with us for years, even though major automakers removed their cars from the market by 2003 despite fierce protests from the cars' drivers. This should seem odd, if you're looking for energy efficiency, since, pitted against the gasoline engine, electric cars win hands down. Overall, the American fleet of gasoline vehicles averages just 20 mpg. The all-electric models previously sold by Toyota and GM went 100-200 miles on the energy equivalent of one gallon on gas!

We know from the recent market success of the Prius and other gas-electric hybrids that Americans are ready to embrace a move away from the all-gasoline auto. Indeed, a few innovative Prius owners have even figured out how to convert theirs to a plug-in version (that boosts mileage to 100+ mpg) and are waiting for Toyota and other big auto industry players to run with the idea.

So, to squeeze the most from sunshine,

Imagine that the electricity for a plug-in electric car is generated from a PV system on the car driver's home roof. Not only would driving costs plummet, but so would home electricity bills. The retort of naysayers of all income brackets is that the costs of both home PV systems and plug-in electric cars would be prohibitive. Certainly this argument rings hollow for those with enough discretionary income to, say, upgrade to pricey luxury autos without so much as a flinch. For those truly living on limited incomes, driving on electricity is far cheaper than driving on gasoline. Using current gas (\$2.50/gal) and electricity (\$0.08/kWh) prices, it costs the average gasoline car 12½ cents to go a mile, whereas proven all-electric cars can go this far for about 2 cents — the money saved on gas could go toward paying off the solar system. Furthermore, the cost issue would be moot if our government made a serious move to subsidize solar power (instead of oil and ethanol), as has been done with success in Germany and Japan. Hopefully California's new Million Solar Rooftops initiative, aimed at driving down the costs of PV systems through a \$3 billion, 10-year subsidy, will get the ball rolling here at home. The Sunny Solution

I wish some expert would calculate realistic NEBs for both all-electric and hybrid plug-in vehicles powered by home solar panels (with a cellulose biofuel for the hybrid's additional liquid fuel needs). Surely one could expect hefty NEBs of double and maybe even triple digits. Given that the technology behind both scenarios is ready to go, one has to question why so much political and corporate hand clapping is directed to pursuing corn-ethanol when the energy gains seem so paltry and the threats to the environment and food supply so ominous. I suspect the old adage "follow the money" would lead to the answer. Who is positioned to profit, either monetarily or politically? Certainly it's neither the public nor the planet.

My guess is that powerful corporate forces, supported by their political allies, just want us to keep gassing up with whatever best ups their profit margins. The last thing they'd want us to do is reap the gift of sunlight ourselves, on our own rooftops to power our own cars and homes, and then pocket the money we save in the long run. If we did, we might discover that we don't need them as much as we'd thought.

*Sarah S. Mosko, Ph.D. is a member of the Earth Resource Foundation located in Costa Mesa. For more information, please visit [www.earthresource.org](http://www.earthresource.org) or call (949) 645-5163.*

## ORGANIC GARDENER

# Rapacious Rabbits

*An apocalyptic confrontation in the garden*

By R. J. SCHWITZENBERG  
Columnist

**E**tymologically, rodent refers to "one who gnaws." Rabbits are no exception.

Elaborate fencing, netting, trenches, moats, barbed wire and satellite surveillance (optional) protect tender plants from wild rabbits and other rodent incursions.

Peter Cottontail and his rogue band of rodents have a reputation for being unreasonable. Perhaps an occasional nibble here or a discrete munch, munch there would not be such a problem. But no, these naughty gnawers annihilate new growth with a fury of gnashing teeth. If you give 'em an inch, they take the whole carrot!

Instead of sampling a portion of a plant that could grow into a bigger plant and ultimately provide them with more food, the incorrigible impatience ingrained within rabbit culture teaches them to chew down to the root, usually killing the plant.

This unsustainable method of harvesting provides a short term benefit at the cost of



long term regeneration. Rapacious rabbits often strike the mortal blow and the most malicious moment of the season.

Rabbits are quick to simply move on to the next cabbage patch without replanting or making any restitution for their gnash-and-burn land tenure. What's more, reparations to local farmers are virtually unheard of.

Will the irreconcilable gnash of civili-

zations inevitably lead to an apocalyptic confrontation? Will the garden be the battlefield for the final contest? The ultimate collision between good and evil? Armegarden? The mushroom cloud of cultivated fungus? Condoleezza's rice field?

Thus established the need for a militarized border in order to defend our crops from rabbit penetration, we now can delve into our peculiar institution, our rodentia dementia, our love/hate neurosis, with this special species armed with bipolar molars.

The infamous breeding bravado and non-stop gnawing is readily apparent to the average observer. Why not harness this mighty force for our benefit?

Protected from predators in bunny bungalows, rabbits will grind pesky weeds into pellets of fertilizer. After pruning trees and shrubs, give some of the cuttings to your rabid rabbits. They chew the bark with relish, leaving polished pencils handy for use as kindling. Let them dry and start up a rabbitwood fire of eucalyptus logs, pine cones and stale donuts gathered from your work place.

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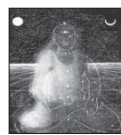
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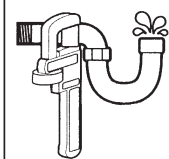
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# Confronting Peak Oil

*No more sugar coating*

By **DEBBIE COOK**  
HB Mayor Pro-tem

I am pleased to announce that this year Southern California Association of Governments has added a new energy section to the State of the Region Report. The energy section includes a guest essay by economist Ron Cooke and SCAG is further emphasizing the importance of the energy issue through development of a new Energy chapter in our upcoming Regional Comprehensive Plan.

California hit its peak in terms of oil production in 1985, and we've been importing increasing amounts of oil ever since.

Between 1985 and 2005, our state's oil production declined by 42 percent. To fill the growing gap between declining supply and increasing demand, we increased our state's oil imports from 50 million barrels in 1994 to more than 250 million barrels in 2005. We now depend on foreign suppliers for more than 42 percent of our oil, and that percentage continues to grow.

California is the second largest consumer of energy in the nation, and we are also one of its largest producers and refiners. We rank 4th in both crude oil reserves and crude oil production. California is the largest consumer of gasoline, and 2nd in distillate and jet fuel consumption. California has the third largest refining capacity in the nation.

We have developed our economy, and our lifestyle, on the basic assumption of unrestricted energy resources. There is growing consensus that we as a region and a state can no longer continue to consume increasing quantities of a commodity that may, or may not, be available at an affordable price.

From the perspective of local government, it is clear that we can no longer make policy decisions based on the obsolete assumption that there will always be abundant quantities of affordable fossil fuels.

As our report contributor Ron Cooke points out in his essay, the issue of energy can be boiled down to two words—oil depletion.

There is considerable difference of opinion on when global production of oil will peak and begin to decline, resulting in chronic shortages and significant volatility in energy costs. Some suggest it has already occurred and others believe it is 10 to 20 years away.

However, what can no longer be in dispute is the fact that that day will likely occur within the time frame of SCAG's long term planning documents and we need to start taking real steps to plan for a different energy future.

The challenge for California's policy makers and industry leaders is to manage an energy sector that is currently dependent on non-renewable resources such as oil and natural gas. Failure to initiate a comprehensive energy strategy in the present will only lead to spiraling energy prices, potential supply shortages, and an inadequate and aging energy delivery infrastructure.

We cannot isolate ourselves from world oil and natural gas markets. We cannot depend on technology to solve all of our problems. We can't continue our unsustainable lifestyle.

Earlier this year, SCAG held an impor-



tant Southern California Energy Conference. We identified steps we can take to develop sustainable energy policies and practices.

First, community, industry and local government leaders must become thoroughly familiar with the energy issues that confront us. No more sugar coating. Our leaders must educate themselves on the issue of oil depletion and all of the far-reaching implications it will have for us in terms of personal mobility, how we heat our homes, how energy impacts our entire cost structure.

Second, we need a strategic plan to identify, develop and initiate appropriate responses to the energy challenges that lie ahead. The fact that SCAG is now including an Energy Chapter in its upcoming Regional Comprehensive Plan is an important step, but that's just the beginning.

Third, local governments must review their land use, zoning and building codes with one specific question in mind: does each code optimize the conservation of our energy resources?

Fourth, we must refocus our transportation capital expenditures from personal vehicles to public transportation systems, and support carpooling programs. It's time to get serious about interconnected light rail, railroad, local shuttle, express and mini-bus services.

Let local entrepreneurs experiment with ride sharing options to complement the fixed route public transportation system.

Finally, we must evaluate our region's response. SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and local government general plans can play an important role in initiating projects and programs. We can do this by removing obstacles to energy conservation and inspire efficiency initiatives. We can create incentives for shared and public transportation, manage transportation pools, establish self-sufficient neighborhoods and foster an environment of cooperation, experimentation, and understanding.

There is much work to be done, and the key is that we need to start that effort TODAY if we are to be fully prepared as both leaders and citizens for the energy future that awaits us.

*Debbie Cook is mayor pro-tem of Huntington Beach, President of the Orange County Division of the League of California Cities, a member of the Southern California Association of Governments Regional Council and Chair of their Energy Working Group. She can be reached at [energymaven@gmail.com](mailto:energymaven@gmail.com).*

# The Off-Center Line

By **JOE SHAW**  
Columnist

Much has been made about Huntington Beach's proposal to study a light rail line that officials say could bring tourists from Disneyland to Huntington Beach. As if.

The study the city is undertaking will look at the possibility of using Union Pacific right-of-way that exists from roughly Katella Ave. in Stanton to Huntington Beach and ends at Ellis. I understand why they've chosen this route: it's because the rails are already there. Laying rail these days, especially in an urban area, is an expensive proposition.

But what is not mentioned in any of the media stories about this study are the very real obstacles such a project would have: first, there's a quarter mile of rail missing from the end of the line to Downtown Disney; and second, the rail line ends three miles from the Beach at Ellis.

City Council member Cathy Green, who serves on the OCTA board, does say that trolleys or monorails might have to be used to get people from the end of the line to their final destination, but this happy talk about bringing light rail to Huntington Beach is just that: talk.

There is no way Huntington Beach will ever extend a rail line through residential neighborhoods to get this train to the beach. And if you can't get the tourists all the way to the Beach, why will they ride it?

And do you really think tourists will ride light rail to take a shuttle bus for a three-mile ride to the beach that would probably take just as much time to complete by car trip from Anaheim? Probably not.

It's a great idea to bring tourists from Downtown Disney to the beach and I'm all for studying it. But any transportation study has to start with some basic questions: Where are the people and where do they want to go? How do we get them to their destination more conveniently? These are questions politicians often ignore and that result in costly error in building mass transit lines.

We can learn a lot from Los Angeles' mistakes. Witness Los Angeles' Green Line which goes from Norwalk to about a quarter of a mile from LAX. Say what? That train should have taken you right into a terminal at LAX. Consequently, ridership on the Green Line has never been what they projected.

And the Red Line was originally proposed to go down Wilshire Blvd. all the way to Santa Monica, but Congressman Henry Waxman opposed that route and instead of having a route to the beach in LA County, like they have in Hollywood, they have a line that ends at Western Avenue.



(Waxman now has come around and the original Westside route has gained favor again, fifteen years too late.)

So what should we use the roughly \$250,000 grant from OCTA to study?

I have two suggestions, both of which I believe are more likely scenarios for rapid transit in Huntington Beach.

The first, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), is the mostly likely because it's the least expensive and the one that we can get up-and-running quickest down Beach Blvd. BRT systems exist throughout the world and one along Ventura Blvd. in the San Fernando Valley cut transit times by 23 percent.

There are two kinds of BRT systems in operation today: buses operate on their own lanes away from the general traffic flow, and busses that operate mainly on city streets.

The second idea we should study is the idea of light rail going down Beach Blvd. Beach is the best transit route for several reasons; the most obvious is that it goes all the way to the beach. Secondly, it's wide enough to support a rail line or a monorail down the center of the street.

The city has already begun to study ways to make improvements to the Beach Blvd./Edinger Ave. corridor, with the idea that we will have many more mixed use residential/commercial developments along these city streets as well as relaxing height standards along these routes. This makes both Beach and Edinger ideal transit corridors.

Both of my proposed scenarios are far more likely to be used by transit riders than the unwieldy light rail/shuttle combination that the city will study. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to select the right route.

Once again we have jumped into a project without considering all our options and looking at all the possibilities.

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

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## SCHOOLS

# Sex Education

*Newport-Mesa teaches fear and tolerates homophobia, says parent*

By SARA ELLIS  
OC Voice

America's conservative-minded ideologues are attempting to whittle family values and human sexuality in this country down to reruns of TV's grotesquely fecund Camden family, but the California government has actually tried to protect sexual education from sub-culture, uninformed, "moral" dictators. As a countermeasure to the policies of the pro "abstinence" Bush White House, it passed SB71, the California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Act of 2004, which insures that sex education in California public schools remains dogma free.

Just past its third birthday, however, the law seems to have gotten stuck, or at least warped, on the reactionary event horizon of Costa Mesa. In particular, at Charles Tewinkle Middle School, where a vigilant and feisty 11-year-old has raised the alarm about what appears to be a blatant disregard of not only SB71, but the sensitivities of a diverse student body.

When nurses told 6th grader, Philippe Noël, during an H.I.V. prevention course, that condoms are known to fail "one out of five times," and that, anyway, students needed to "get married first," the boy was first amused and then angry.

"I started laughing," says Noël, whose youthful voice belies the savvy and socially aware young man beneath. "Latex is proven to be two to three times tougher than human skin. How is it going to fail?"

Incensed, the boy marched over to the nearest Rite Aid to purchase "the cheapest condoms (he) could find." He then, in what Sheila Knight of Planned Parenthood says is a common quality test done by manufacturers, began filling one with water until it bulged out into a balloon, "invading," as his father Dan Noël recounts, most of the sink.

The experiment was a bang up success: the condom did not burst, nor did Philippe's attempts to triturate it with his other hand prove successful. "(Newport Mesa's) whole sex-ed curriculum is about scaring people," says Dan Noël, who is a member of the Unitarian Universalist church, a denomination that runs its own cradle-to-grave sex-ed program.

Yet, Marcia Marthaler, Health Services Coordinator at NMUSD, asserts that Philippe misunderstood the statistics. The nurses, she states, "Did not say that condoms break 20 percent of the time," but rather that there is a 15 to 20 percent failure rate for typical condom use.

The word "typical" is important here, explains Patrick Malone of SIECUS (Sexuality, Information, and Education Caucus of the United States), a Washington group dedicated to fighting sexual ignorance, censorship, and discrimination: there's a huge difference between "typical" and "consistent" correct use of condoms.

While multiple studies show that, when used consistently and correctly, condoms are 98 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, "typical" use does not factor in

the very essential aspect of "user failure": snafus resulting from incorrect or even inconstant use.

Marthaler admits as much during a phone interview: "breakage" can occur if the condoms are left in the car for a long time, or if the expiration date is ignored. Marthaler cites the hour and fifty minute class time limit as the reason these contingencies are not explained, but when is it ever good sense to throw down the scariest statistic you can legally squeak under the radar?

Speaking of legal, Marthaler claims that the information is board approved and "medically accurate." The first might be true, but under SB71 any information presented in California's sex ed programs must come from legitimate sources such as the C.D.C. (Center for Disease Control)—an organization that responded to the number with a bit of perplexity.

"Those who use condoms consistently are 80 percent less likely than non-users to become infected with HIV," says CDC spokesperson Jennifer Ruth. "However, this does not mean that condoms fail 20 percent of the time.... In a period of over one to two years typically only one percent of consistent condom users who had HIV-infected sex partners acquired HIV infection," Ruth said. She

was also careful to stress that none of the studies cited above had evaluated "correct use."

It does not help NMUSD's defense case that a further, and perhaps even more damning attempt to skirt the law, is right there on the official outline for their 6th grade growth and development class.

To acknowledge that not all couples have the right to marry under current U.S. law, Cali-

fornia has changed the requirement for schools to teach "respect for monogamous heterosexual marriage," to "respect for committed relationships and marriage." Yet, the former Ozzie and Harriet model is clearly in evidence on the district's agenda, though it is dated almost a year after the law went into effect.

Marthaler further states that children Philippe's age are too young to learn about subjects such as homosexuality, therefore the only information kids are given on the subject is a packet to be sent home and discussed at the parents' discretion. At that age, she says, "Students are developing in varying ways, and at varying rates," thus proving, apparently without irony, the need for conformity at all costs.

But, the school's stifling of difference may also be contributing to the anti-gay bullying that the Noël's claim is ongoing at the school. Philippe, who has told his classmates that he is bisexual, asserts that teachers have told him to "ignore" the homophobic insults that are hurled at him on an almost daily basis.

While the Noël's have complained to the school district, they have been answered with silence, and anti-gay insults remain the weapon of choice in Tewinkle's hallways. "(NMUSD's) unwritten policy is not 'don't ask, don't tell,'" says Dan Noël, but rather, "Stay in the closet where you belong."

**While the Noël's have complained to the school district, they have been answered with silence, and anti-gay insults remain the weapon of choice in Tewinkle's hallways.**

ADVERTISE IN THE ORANGE COAST VOICE

# RESTAURANT GUIDE

## RESTAURANT REVIEW



## Killer Cuban Food

By **MICHAEL LU**  
OC Voice

**S**erving the best in traditional Cuban cuisine, Habana Cabana's addicting environment and menu will keep you coming back.

You've probably seen this place if you've ever driven near Beach and Ellis, especially in the evening. There's a big fountain outside the restaurant with a huge flame-torch at the top. The restaurant has a large seating area with a dance floor/stage in the back for salsa nights (held on Fridays and Saturdays) and even dance lessons (on Thursdays and Sundays). The seating area is spacious and the use of mirrors makes the restaurant seem even larger and more open. The walls are decorated with island scene paintings and a couple small palm trees add to the décor.

If you're not too familiar with Cuban food, it's okay to ask the server for suggestions. Guys, this isn't like asking for directions, it's food—you don't lose man points here. Definitely try the more traditional dishes.

The Cabana Platter (\$18) is a great way to start off. With empanadas, Spanish chorizo, tamales, yuca rellena, papa rellena, croquetas and mariquitas, this appetizer sampler is a ridiculous amount of food. Pace yourself, or the main course is going to have to settle for being a midnight snack.

As for entrées, the Guajira Cubana (\$19) comes highly recommended. The Guajira Cubana comes with a little bit of everything: some ropa vieja (shredded beef simmered in a red sauce and topped with peas), roasted chicken, a

cutlet of breaded and fried top sirloin, oven-roasted pork and an ox tail simmered in a red Creole sauce. All that comes accompanied by fried sweet plantains and your choice of rice and black beans served mixed or separate.

If you're looking for something different, the Camarones Empanizado (\$14, breaded and fried shrimp) is another good choice. It's also served with plantains and rice and beans.

You shouldn't leave Habana Cabana without trying a mojito. Their rendition of this Cuban cocktail is the smoothest I've ever had, and with \$2 off this drink on Wednesdays, it's just another reason to celebrate. The mojito is a great complement to any entrée here, and a great way to wind down after work. Expect the usual drinks otherwise (fruit juices, sodas, iced teas, beers, etc).

For dessert, give the homemade flan a try. It's served with shredded coconut, and the flan is definitely rich and creamy. You can also choose from pie, cheesecake and ice cream to authentic rice and bread puddings.

Habana Cabana is an ideal location for your next outing, no matter how big your party or March Madness winnings. Habana Cabana also caters; just give them a call.

### *Habana Cabana*

18552 Beach Blvd.  
Huntington Beach, CA

(714) 968-1133

regular cheese steak with peppers and mushrooms. Awesome. (ML)  
2244 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa  
(949) 722-8725

### **Kura Sushi**

Sushi as fresh as can be. Prices vary by plate color, with five different colors, priced from \$1.25-\$3.25. There are entrees such as chicken teriyaki also offered. The candy tuna roll, salmon skin hand roll and crunchy rolls are good.

Definitely sit close to where the belt is loaded. (ML)  
212 E. 17th St., Costa Mesa  
(949) 631-3200

### **Mentatsu**

This little hole in the wall Japanese ramen house is one of the best kept secrets of the noodle world. With only a handful of tables and bar stools, service is quick. Shoyu Ramen (Soy Sauce flavor) or the Chashumen (Ramen with Pork) are

### **De Simone Bakery and Delicatessen**

Great sandwiches. Definitely try the Cuban, Meatball, Pastrami and Italian. The bread and other ingredients are all fresh. The macaroni salad is incredible and the service is great. Most sandwiches come in 4-, 8- and 16-inch sizes. The 8-inch versions are \$5. Bit bang for your buck. (ML)  
6850 Edinger Ave., Huntington Beach  
(714) 847-0922

### **Fuji's Burger**

An unorthodox burger joint that offers the unique as well as good ole cheeseburgers. But Fuji's keeps em coming back with their amazing juicy teriyaki burger topped with a luscious teriyaki sauce. Also offers the more traditional Japanese plate and bowl dishes, including the mainstays of chicken and beef teriyaki. (ML)  
15885 Gothard St., Huntington Beach  
(714) 891-6066

### **Coach's Mediterranean Grill**

This Mediterranean restaurant is a jewel in downtown HB. Probably one of the top five Mediterranean restaurants in Orange County, this restaurant is a must-try for Mediterranean first-timers. You'll find big portions, great taste and friendly service. Try a Gyro Bowl, the Dinner for Two, or a Kebab plate. The ambience is laid-back and cozy. (ML)  
200 Main St., #105, Huntington Beach  
(714) 969-2233

### **Sugar Shack**

This HB hotspot has been around for more than 30 years. Specializing in breakfast and home cooked classics like meatloaf and turkey dinners. The hash browns are excellent; and the Wednesday Turkey Dinner special is worth the trip. The friendly service and great food is complimented by reasonable prices. (ML)  
213 Main St., Huntington Beach  
(714) 536-0355

### **Anjin**

Anjin's Japanese BBQ may be pricey, but well worth the investment. A grill-it-yourself place that offers prime cuts of beef. Order the marbled rib eye, short rib or tenderloin. The service is very attentive Teriyaki and sesame ginger sauces are available. Expect to pay around \$20 per person. (ML)  
3033 Bristol St., Costa Mesa  
(714) 979-6700

### **Taco Mesa**

This is an area taco Mecca. The carne asada is tender and juicy and the pork oozes with flavor. Quality Mexican food in a relaxed setting. An outdoor heated patio is available, with a view of 19th Street. Starts at around \$2 per taco. (ML)  
647 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa  
(949) 642-0629

### **Frank's Philadelphia Sandwiches**

Frank's hoagies here are piled high with steak, cheese, mushrooms, peppers, onions, pizza sauce, you name it. An 8-inch goes for \$6, a 10-inch goes for \$7.50 and the foot-long is \$9. Try the Works, a

great. At around \$6 a bowl. Is also open late, usually around 1 a.m. (ML)  
688 Baker Street #7, Costa Mesa  
(714) 979-2755

### **Beachberries**

The real thing: Frozen yogurt that tastes like yogurt. The best toppings are available: fresh berries, mango, pineapple, coconut. Take home containers for \$4.95. Beachberries is a local take-off on the wildly successful Pinkberries Frozen Yogurt in West Hollywood. Beachberries is located on PCH in the Pierside Pavilion. (JS)  
300 Pacific Coast Highway #107-B, Huntington Beach  
(714) 960-7988

### **Smokin' Mo's**

Smokin' Mo's is Good old Southern BBQ. Recipes are from some of the South's legendary BBQ places. Remember the ribs and sandwiches. Make sure to get lots of extra sauce: Original, Hot, Philthy Phil's and Sweet Carolina's. They also have great coleslaw, smoky BBQ beans and killer garlic fries. (JS)  
301 Main St. #107, Huntington Beach  
(714) 374-3033

### **La Fiesta Grill**

All food at this Vietnamese/Chinese rich, hearty, and delicious home style Mexican food for almost 20 years. Favorites include the Chimichangas Delux, Chile Relleno and vegetarian burritos; the whole menu is great and reasonably priced. Eat in or take out. (JE)  
418 17th St., Huntington Beach  
(714) 969-7689

### **Bodhi Tree Vegetarian Cafe**

All food at this Vietnamese/Chinese style vegetarian café is made without any animal products. Enjoy a huge assortment of creative seafood, meat and poultry dishes, sandwiches, soups and delicious appetizers made from soy bean, bean curd and assorted vegetables, and don't forget the best fresh fruit smoothies ever. (JE)  
501 Main St., Huntington Beach  
(714) 969-9500

### **El Chinaco**

Great Mexican and El Salvadoran food and libations, and the famous Minuteman tacos, served at moderate prices. (JE)  
2063 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa  
(949) 722-8632

Editor's note: The OC Voice restaurant guide is just beginning. We will be adding new dining establishments each month. If you want to recommend a restaurant for inclusion in this guide, please email us at [review@ocvoice.com](mailto:review@ocvoice.com) and include the name and address of the restaurant and we will have our restaurant critic check it out asap.

## Help Wanted!

The Orange Coast Voice is looking for an experienced sales person to sell advertising space for generous commissions. Send resumes to:

**ORANGE COAST VOICE**

419 Main St., #209, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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# Internet Radio Under Attack

*Corporate induced royalties will crush small webcasters*

By **DAVID L. M. PRESTON**  
Entertainment Editor

**T**he radio is changing. When television hit the scene of the average living room, cultural critics proclaimed the death-knell of radio. How wrong they were. And now the same concern is creating nights of sleepless angst in the reactionary-minded media establishments with the advent of "Web-based" broadcasting of all sorts: movies, television, and radio.

Internet radio is no longer in its infancy, but it is isn't quite into its adolescence either; and the result is rules, regulations and legislation that not only don't realistically approach the new territory of Web Broadcast, but seemingly overlays the "olde world" maps of the broadcasting land onto a new landscape made out of whole cloth. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), [www.riaa.com](http://www.riaa.com), is an organization that represents the recording industry as a lobbyist for copyright issues. The telling word here is "industry". It's the business-side that appears to benefit most from their booster-ism and monetary clout.

Whether the RIAA had a direct hand in the new U.S. Copyright Office rules on Internet Radio broadcasting royalties (announced on March 1) is unclear, but a Big Commerce-based philosophic does seem inherent. According to pro independent Internet radio advocacy web-sites, like Save Our Internet Radio (<http://www.saveourinternetradio.com>) and Save The Streams (<http://www.savethestreams.org/>) the new royalty rules could crush small Internet broadcast stations financially: which



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DAN TSANG

**UNDER CORPORATE ATTACK:** Small radio stations like KUCI 88.9 FM in Irvine that also broadcast online ([kuci.org](http://kuci.org)) will be prevented by new rules from playing songs on the Internet.

does suggest either a passive or willful procedure by which large media companies can cripple/crush the little-guy broadcaster using the amazing new technology to get their point-of-view out.

Protecting intellectual property is a serious issue, but it does complicate things to charge a radio station an amount per listener (it's a bit more technical than that, but it's the basic idea) of each song, rather

than per song-play. A rough, hypothetical, example: Say you broadcast a song that costs \$1 for the rights to broadcast; but if 100 people listen to it, then the royalties the station has to pay is \$100; and if 10,000 people listen to it over the Internet broadcast, then the small studio that's producing the radio show (two guys, a computer, and a microphone) suddenly gets a knock on the door from a big recording company

asking for \$10,000, when the initial cost was perceived as \$1.

A verbatim quote from the Save Our Internet Radio Web-site covers this same topic (note that the new rules are back-dated valid): "Under this royalty structure, an Internet radio station with an average listener-ship of 1,000 people would owe \$134,000 in royalties during 2007 - plus \$98,000 in back payments for 2006. In 2008 they would owe \$171,000, and \$220,000 in 2009. There is no way for a station with 1000 listeners to make that kind of money. That's over \$11 per listener per month in 2007. No Internet radio station currently operating comes even close to that kind of income. Also keep in mind that 1000 listeners is not a large number."

Radio is entertainment and Internet radio is a tool to hear people, places and music you might not otherwise. Why some level or regulation for copyright purposes may be necessary (though the technology develops faster than the laws, so from one perspective anarchy as a political structure for an online community is near inevitable) these new U.S. Copyright royalty payment rules, however worded, serve no more purpose than to keep certain voices from validly expressing themselves on a new medium Freedom of speech (expression) is the heart of the matter.

But this is an entertainment page, and radio is entertainment. To discuss and list all the available Internet Radio sites (large, small, NPR, foreign, public, etc.) is near impossible. Almost every traditional radio station now has online streaming of one sort or another (and the calculation of their listener population will be affected by the new rules) there are some smaller, more independent groups in Orange County that deserve an ear. If one can't hear them in your area, just log on the ole computer and give them a try. And support their right to broadcast with reasonable compensational rules.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

KUCI, 88.9 FM, "Eclectic Music, Engaging Talk", University of California, Irvine radio, is probably the premiere alternative radio voice in Orange County: <http://www.kuci.org/>. (Open disclosure: John Earl, Editor of the OC Voice, formerly hosted a radio program on KUCI.)

KSBR, "Jazz 88.5 FM" is Saddleback Community College's radio station. They can be listened to at <http://www.ksbr.net/>.

And another college-based station, KJAZZ, 88.1 FM, "Where Jazz Lives" is run by California State, Long Beach.

For more information on the Internet Radio copyright fees and suggested activist actions visit the following sites: [www.saveourinternetradio.com/faq](http://www.saveourinternetradio.com/faq) [www.shoutingloudly.com/2007/03/](http://www.shoutingloudly.com/2007/03/) [www.copyright.gov/carp/webcasting\\_rates\\_final.html](http://www.copyright.gov/carp/webcasting_rates_final.html) [www.boycott-riaa.com](http://www.boycott-riaa.com) [www.loc.gov/crb/proceedings/2005-1/rates-terms2005-1.pdf](http://www.loc.gov/crb/proceedings/2005-1/rates-terms2005-1.pdf)

And to explore the entertainment possibilities of Internet Radio visit some of the following sources: [www.radio-locator.com](http://www.radio-locator.com) [www.radiorow.com](http://www.radiorow.com) [www.live-radio.net/info.shtml](http://www.live-radio.net/info.shtml) [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Internet\\_stations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_stations)

P R O F I L E

## Whose On Stage?

*Comedian Beverly Haut*

By **ERIKKA INNES**  
Special to the OC Voice

**W**hen local comedian Beverly Haut, of Aliso Viejo, takes the stage, it's clear you have a Southern belle on your hands. Or almost, anyway. She has the charm, and the southern accent, but one thing this lady is not is demure. You won't catch Haut playing up any shrinking violet aspects in her outrageous stand-up routine which unabashedly covers details of her life, intimate and otherwise. "Pretty much 90 percent of the stuff I say on stage is true. And then, you know, I embellish it some," Haut explained.

As Haut riffs with a crowd, or share a humorous story about her life, she seems completely at ease. It's hard to believe she only just started performing. "My first time onstage was February 8th of last year," Haut revealed.

Her comedy is rich with details about relationships past and present, her views on popular culture, and how she's developed



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BEVERLY HAUT

over the years. Her material and delivery take the form of a humorous narrative, where the performance seems to be as

much about communicating and sharing with the audience just as it is about getting big laughs.

"I told a guy the other day I was gonna have to have knee replacement surgery. He said 'oh yeah? You must have been in sports...' Yeah sure, we can go with that," Beverly tells the audience with a knowing smile. If you want to check out one of Beverly's upcoming shows, she performs all around southern California.

Haut has even qualified, just last month, for the quarter finals of California's Funniest Female competition, held at Martini Blues in Huntington Beach (see the Events Calendar for this month's competition schedule).

For a complete schedule visit her at [www.myspace.com/bellesocal](http://www.myspace.com/bellesocal) or [www.beverlyhaut.com](http://www.beverlyhaut.com).

*Erikka Innes is a standup comedian and humor writer. Her web-site is [www.erikkainnes.com](http://www.erikkainnes.com).*

# APRIL CALENDAR

## ART EVENTS

"Just an Inch of Ocean": Paintings and Drawings of Sherie Franssen. A solo exhibition of paintings and drawings by Sherie Franssen, artist of Huntington Beach. The show includes 15 new large-scale paintings and drawings. Exhibition runs from March 3 to April 15 at the Huntington Beach Arts Center, 538 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648. Phone (714)-374-1650 for information and gallery times.

"Creative Visions." In partnership with Imagination Celebration of Orange County and Arts Orange County, the Huntington Beach Unified School District (HBUSD) Arts Festival features visual and performing art from the seven district high schools. Opening reception, 1 to 3 p.m. April 22. Exhibition runs from April 21 to 26 at the Huntington Beach Arts Center, 538 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648. Phone (714)-374-1650 for information and gallery times.

"Photography and Multimedia Exhibit." In partnership with Imagination Celebration of Orange County and Arts Orange County, this exhibition of student work features stunning visual images in a variety of media, including photography, animation, digital art, film, and computer graphics by students of all ages from K-12. Opening reception, 1 to 3 p.m. April 22. Exhibition runs from April 21 to 26 at the Huntington Beach Arts Center, 538 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648. Phone (714)-374-1650 for information and gallery times.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

Family Musical Morning: "The Final Frontier." The Orange County Performing Arts Center presents morning performances of space-themed music, with projected images of space and the planets during the concert. At 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. April 28, at the Segerstrom Concert Hall, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Works include "The Planets" by Holst and music from "Star Wars". Cost: \$16 to \$33. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia. The Orange County Performing Arts Center presents three wonderful children's stories—titled: *Swimmy*, *Frederick* and *Inch by Inch*—performed by the Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia at 7 p.m. April 13; 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. April 14; and 1 p.m. on April 15, at the OCPAC in the Samu-

eli Theater, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$14 to \$19 in person. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

"Elixir of Love." Light opera by Donizetti. Presented by Opera Pacific at 7:30 p.m. April 11, 14 and 19; and 2 p.m. April 22, in the Segerstrom Concert Hall, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$27 to \$261. Stegging is set in a 1950s Texas diner theme. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit www.ocpac.org.

Vermeer Quartet. Philharmonic Society of Orange County presents. To present works by Schubert, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn at 8 p.m., April 16; at Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine. Cost: \$30 to \$40. Contact: (949) 553-2422 or www.philharmonicsociety.org.

Los Sonidos de Mexico. Orange County's Pacific Symphony presents a variety of modern Mexican music and dance; 8 p.m., April 26, 27 and 28; in Segerstrom Concert Hall, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Includes music of Marquez, Catan, Ponce, Diemecke, Ana Lara and Revueltas. Conducted by Carl St. Clair. Cost: \$22 to \$150. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit www.ocpac.org.

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, with the USC Thornton Symphony. The virtuoso violinist solos, performing works by Musorgsky, Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich. At 8 p.m., April 13. Larry Livingston conducting. At the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Drive, Cerritos. Cost: \$17.50 to \$26. Call 1-(800)-300-4345 for information and tickets or visit www.cerritoscenter.com.

The Chestnut Brass Company. Grammy-winning brass ensemble. At 2 p.m., April 1; at the Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts, the Carpenter Center, 6200 Atherton St., Long Beach. For tickets and information call (562) 985-7000 or visit www.CarpenterArts.org.

Cincinnati Symphony. Philharmonic Society of Orange County presents one of the finest orchestras in the world; at 8 p.m., April 20, in the Segerstrom Concert Hall, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Directed by Paavo Jarvi with featured violin soloist Leonides Kavakos. Program includes Concerto in D Major, Op. 77 by Brahms; and Symphony No. 4, Op. 29, "The Inextinguishable," by Nielsen. Cost: \$25 to \$200. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit www.ocpac.org.

"Behold, the Sea." Presented



## GO TO "RENT"

This award-winning "rock-opera" musical became huge hit in the mid-'90s, crossing over many supposed fan-base borders, is arriving at the Orange County Performing Arts Center near the end of the month. "Rent" still has a cutting-edge topicality that should invigorate those keep their ears to the ground of today's social trends; and possibly shock those that have encapsulated themselves from the plight of the silent "underclass" members among us. And it's all done in an enjoyable way. The story includes minority characters; HIV and AIDS positive characters; characters alive with life and dying in pain; gay, lesbian, straight and transgender characters; characters that are poor, passionate; caring, conflicted, addicted characters; and they're all mixed up in a scene of drugs, money and sex. Complicated, yes. But this is musical of consequence. The story's basic arc is based on the opera "La Boheme" by Giacomo Puccini; and though interpreted with a hipper music, the timelessness and resonance of the inherent personal drama of—despite my above character "labeling" seeming to be a possible distract—what are simply people trying to live and love. Not "other", just people like us. The hit status of "Rent" is well-deserved. It's here, an official Broadway tour production, from April 25 to 29 with a total of seven performances. An excellent opportunity for OC residents of musical theatre ilk

— David L. M. Preston

"RENT." Orange County Performing Arts Center presents the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning musical. Held April 25 to 29. Times are: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday to Friday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday; and 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. At OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost, \$22 to \$55. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit www.ocpac.org.

by, and featuring, the Pacific Chorale, along with the Pacific Symphony; 8 p.m., April 21, the Segerstrom Concert Hall, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Featuring works with a nautical theme by Osvaldo Golijov and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Cost: \$25 to \$140. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit www.ocpac.org.

"Mexican Influences" The Orange County Pacific Symphony presents, as part of their Classical Connections program, guitarist virtuoso Pepe Romaro; 3 p.m., April

29; in Segerstrom Concert Hall, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Carl St. Clair conducting; with a West Coast premiere of "Angels of Fire and Ice" by Ana Lara. Cost, \$20 to \$67. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit www.ocpac.org.

## COMEDY

California's Funniest Female competition. Preliminary rounds of California's Funniest Female comedy competition. At 8:30 p.m., April 7, 14, 21 and 28; at Martini Blues, 5874 Edinger Ave., Hunting-

ton Beach. Cost: \$10 cover and a \$10 food/drink minimum. Call (714) 840-2129 for information or visit www.funniestfemale.com.

Shields & Yarnell: The Reunion Farewell Tour. Physical comedy and mime; 8 p.m., April 7; at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Drive, Cerritos; Cost: \$25 to \$48. Call 1-(800)-300-4345 for information and tickets or visit www.cerritoscenter.com.

## DANCE

Philandanco. The acclaimed Philadelphia Dance Company; at 8 p.m., April 27, at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Drive, Cerritos; Cost: \$20 to \$36. Call 1-(800)-300-4345 for information and tickets or visit www.cerritoscenter.com.

## EVENTS

Friends of Arts Education 14th Annual Gala: "Remember When...." Fundraiser gala and concert, all proceeds will be donated to arts education programs, which will include a dinner, auctions and a Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper tribute concert. At 8:30 p.m., April 21, at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Drive, Cerritos; Cost: \$175 for gala tickets; \$27 to \$37 for concert-only tickets. For gala tickets call (562) 916-1293; but call 1-(800)-300-4345 for concert-only tickets, or visit www.cerritoscenter.com.

## JAZZ/POP

Frank Potenza Trio. Jazz Guitar; 7:30 p.m., April 11; at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Drive, Cerritos; Cost: \$22.50. Call 1-(800)-300-4345 for information and tickets or visit www.cerritoscenter.com.

Sergio Mendes. Grammy-award winning pianist; 8 p.m., April 11; at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Drive, Cerritos; Cost: \$25 to \$55. Call 1-(800)-300-4345 for information and tickets or visit www.cerritoscenter.com.

The Motels and Berlin. 1980s bands reliving the New Wave; 8 p.m., April 4; at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Drive, Cerritos; Cost: \$20 to \$36. Call 1-(800)-300-4345 for information and tickets or visit www.cerritoscenter.com.

Eldar. Jazz keyboardist. Presented by the Orange County Performing Arts Center; 7:30

p.m. and 9:30 p.m., April 27 and 28, in the Jazz Club in Samueli Theater, OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$48 for 9:30 p.m. shows; and \$52 for 7:30 p.m. shows. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit www.ocpac.org.

Rebecca Parris. The Orange County Performing Arts Center presents the debut of jazz singer Rebecca Parris; 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. March 30 and 31. At the Jazz Club in the Samueli Theater at the OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost: \$52 for the 7:30 p.m. show; and \$48 for the 9:30 p.m. Contact: (714) 556-2787 or www.ocpac.org.

## MUSICALS

"RENT." Orange County Performing Arts Center presents the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning musical. Held April 25 to 29. Times are: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday to Friday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday; and 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. At OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost, \$22 to \$55. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit www.ocpac.org.

"Altar Boyz." Musical. Regional premiere. Held from April 21 to May 6 by Musical Theatre West, at the Carpenter Center, 6200 Atherton St., Long Beach. For tickets, costs and additional information call (562) 985-7000 or visit www.CarpenterArts.org. To contact Musical Theatre West call (562) 856-1999 or e-mail info@musical.org.

100 Years of Broadway. Philharmonic Society of Orange County presents Neil Berg's Broadway revue; featuring theatrical moments from the best musicals of the last century. At OCPAC, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Cost, \$25 to \$95. Call (714) 556-2787 or visit www.ocpac.org.

## POLITICAL

Weekly Peace Vigil: "No War in Iraq." At 7 p.m. every Sunday in February. Non-violent protest on the Huntington Beach Pier, intersection at Main Street and Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach. Bring a candle or sign with a peaceful message.

## SWAP MEET

Swap Meet. Orange County Fair & Expo Center; at 7 a.m. every Sunday in February; located at 2701 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa. Phone (949) 723-6660 or visit www.ocmarketplace.com for information; or (714) 740-2000 and www.ocfair.com.

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## Boycott Ralphs?

From Page 1

Emery told the crowd that the owners of the center, the Ayres family—which also own the Huntington Hotel—were interested in redeveloping the center, but that the lease ties their hands.

"The Ayres family is trying to buy the lease back from Ralphs," Emery said. "We think there are opportunities for a better use at that location, and we've made contact with major anchors for the center."

The anchors that Emery said the city had contacted included: Borders, Barnes & Noble and Turner Sports, but Emery told the group that none of them were interested

in that specific location. "We want to hear from you what other types of businesses would be acceptable to the community," Emery said.

The heavy turnout indicated how important this issue is to Southeast Huntington Beach, and even to Costa Mesa residents who live just across the bridge.

Councilman Hansen said he organized the meeting in order to communicate what the city was doing to get a good tenant in the center. "We care, we're here and we want a positive result," Hansen said.

Unfortunately, the gist of the city's message was that there wasn't much they could do.

# Getting Evicted

*Vietnamese restaurant's reward for success*

By JOHN EARL  
Editor

**H**ong Huong Chau, and her family opened What the Pho, an American friendly Vietnamese restaurant in downtown Huntington Beach at the south corner of Pacific Coast Hwy and Main St. two-years-ago. Having run a cell phone business prior to that, Chau knew that bringing success to a new business would be hard. But business went better than expected.

"We understand that most businesses struggle in the first few years," explained Chau, "But for us, the struggle was only the first three months. After that, we got the hang of it and the customers loved our food and service."

In fact, What The Pho, cozily tucked into 1,200 sq. ft. of space under the Surf City movie theater, its walls decorated with photos of Hawaii, is hitting its stride, despite \$50,000 in start up costs, rent payments of almost \$40,000 a year and overhead costs of about \$10,000 a month, according to Chau, who has a Masters degree in business administration.

But now she says that she and her husband will probably have to refinance their home soon in order to pay their bills. "It's going to be a struggle," she says, "We have other bills, for the car, utilities and student loans."

That's because a few months ago the real estate investment firm, TheoryR Properties LLC, aka Pieside Pavillion LLC, suddenly gave Chau and her family until April 18, when their lease expires—with no option to renew—to get out.

Chau says she pleaded for a six month extension for time to find another location, but the company refused, telling her that the current space would be converted to office use and extended out over the patio toward Coast Hwy. But Pierside Pavillion consultant Mike



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN EARL

**WHAT THE PHO:** Owner Hong Huong Chau and sister Anna. Their successful restaurant will be closed April 18th.

Adams told the *OC Voice* that the developer has plans to replace Chau's restaurant with another restaurant.

TheoryR Properties could not be

reached by press time.

Chau was born in Vietnam, just south of Ho Chi Minh City (then called Saigon), in Vung Tua. Like many

other Vietnamese, her family came to America as refugees of the Vietnam War. They currently live in Cypress.

Chau's father is the cook and her sister Anna works as a waitress. Her husband also helps out, despite his other job as a full time high school math teacher. They decided to do business in downtown Huntington Beach because they were encouraged by potential business from locals and tourists who frequent the area.

Two other Vietnamese restaurants failed to make it at the same location, but Chau's strategy seems to have worked. Many regular customers are non-Vietnamese who live in Huntington Beach and surrounding cities, like Irvine and Newport Beach, according to Chau. Some of them are learning about Vietnamese food for the first time. "They ask, like, what this plate is for, or about the correct way to eat the food," she says.

Chau says that when she took over the lease from What the Pho's predecessor the landlord stipulated that she would have to finish it, but she assumed—without asking—that it was renewable. Chau and her family were shocked, she said, when they learned that their lease would not be renewed. "When we took over the business... the manager didn't mention anything about not being able to renew our options... We were hoping to get a new one," she said.

Her father looked on sadly as Chau described their problem. "So we are just at the stage where we're going to make money, and just when it starts to get good—we have to go," she lamented. "We even made it into the 2006 'Lonely Planet Guide' (an internationally best selling tourist guide), and now we're not here."

As of press time, the family still had not found a new location for their restaurant.

## The Last Picture Show?

By JOHN EARL  
Editor

**S**urf City Nights, the city's experimental program to increase business in the downtown area, may be bringing in lots of customers, but August may be their last opportunity to enjoy a movie at Surf City Cinema, located on the south corner of PCH and Main, just above What The Pho restaurant, which will close its doors April 18.

Theater manager Page Shakeri says that negotiations are continuing be-

tween the theater's parent company and the property owner, Pierside Pavillion LLC, and that a final decision is expected this month. If the theater closes, she said, it will be turned into office space.

Surf City Theater opened last May and is part of a chain of eight alternative cinema houses in Southern California that play big box as well as alternative films. If the Huntington Beach theater closes, it's unlikely to open at another location in the city, Shakeri told the *OC Voice*.

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