

Penguin

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better already.

And in the finale to this edition of *PP*, wasn't it nice to see the Prez grasping a teachable moment and inviting Prof. Louis Gates and Sgt. James Crowley to the White House to share a brewski and a couple shots of Jagermeister, and address their little dust-up?

Okay, maybe they passed on the Jager.

Maybe Biden hammered 'em down?

But I give the Prez credit for the fact that when he screws up, he seems to grab the initiative and get out in front of his perceived missteps.

And I woulda said that about President Bush too, if he ever screwed up. Or if I was writing a political column at that time.

Literacy

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the girl's lagging performance, Klein felt all but ready to throw in the towel. "Back then, I wasn't as educated about the learning process as I needed to be," she said. "I just thought, 'This is the way it is.'"

Surrender, of course, was not Klein's only option. After signing up as an SBLC volunteer 12 years ago, she realized how a teacher's approach, as in Lang's case, can make all the difference. Now Klein wants to find other volunteers who feel the same way. The SBLC is looking to recruit more instructors and she's hoping to grow the current staff of 100 by at least 50 percent.

New instructors usually attend one of the SBLC's monthly informational meetings and

then a brief orientation and training program. Individual volunteers also have to commit at least 2.5 hours of tutoring per week. Other than free time and a good command of English, volunteers should also feel "a sense of compassion" as well as a willingness to deal "with the problems students may bring to them," said Klein.

"It takes a very patient kind of person," to work with those who have endured so many learning disappointments in their lives, she said. "The people here are so amazingly giving."

How many others, she wonders, have the ability to join the SBLC and offer a brand of education that soars "above and beyond?"

All Stars

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With the win over Alhambra, the Manhattan Beach All-Stars faced Palmdale, the only undefeated team in the tournament, in a must-win game. A win would force an elimination game. Manhattan Beach sent Morgan Ascher to the mound, but after Palmdale tied the game at 2-2 in the second inning, Lombardo came in to shut down opposing hitters over the next five innings. Once again, the Manhattan Beach All-Stars used their arsenal of moving runners into scoring position and getting timely hits to score three more runs and go on to win 5-3. The win forced a winner-take-all championship game with Palmdale.

There's a reason why Palmdale's run to the finals has been so good and it mirrors how the Manhattan Beach All-Stars have reached the finals too. Both teams have played good defense, benefited by good pitching and had timely hitting to score runs. Both teams had breezed through their sectional tournaments and each had but one loss during all-star competition.

In an elimination game, almost anything can happen—especially when your team has been playing essentially every day. Perhaps fatigue sets in, but teams seemingly find a way to get it done when they play with increased adrenaline to get themselves through the contest.

With its pitching staff stretched to its limits, the defense was asked to step it up a notch against Palmdale. Afzali, Ryan Erickson and Brett Clark came up with some big plays while Lombardo made a highlight reel diving catch. But the Manhattan Beach All-Stars made some costly errors that eventually led to four unearned runs and a 7-2 loss. Palmdale's southpaw Jerry Keel kept Manhattan Beach off balance with a good fastball and curveball that limited the All-Stars to just two runs on seven hits.

Trailing 7-0 in the sixth inning, Manhattan Beach's final rally of the year occurred when Largent and Lombardo both doubled and Jackson Lipps had an infield single to make it 7-2.

Though falling to Palmdale wasn't what

the Manhattan Beach All-Stars were expecting, they did show signs of having fulfilled some expectations for next year's Mustangs team. With the nucleus of their team returning and the addition of a number of players from this all-star team, Mira Costa's baseball program is looking bright. "This was a great summer for these boys and for our first year for having this program (Manhattan Beach Senior Little League) to help feed the high school team," said Mustang assistant coach Carlos Rojas.

Mustangs News and Notes

Jake Jelmini, who will be a senior this coming school year, has been selected to play for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim scout team. Jelmini attended a tryout and beat out a number of other top prospects in the Southern California area. What it means for the '04 power hitter is a chance to play against some of the top 2010 prospects. Jelmini's team will travel and play at different Southern California sites. They also will play a number of games at Anaheim Stadium when the Angels are away, which will give him an opportunity to play in front of some Major League scouts.

Two former Mustangs' pitchers, David Johnson and Lee Roberts, are making a living playing professional baseball. Johnson, who was drafted out of UCLA in 2004, has made steady progress in his development. He's currently coming out of the bullpen for the Nashville Sounds, the Triple-A affiliate for the Milwaukee Brewers, and he has a record of 2-1 with four saves to his credit.

Johnson's latest effort came against Albuquerque, where he threw two innings and picked up the save. The win gave Nashville a one-game lead over Memphis in the Pacific Coast League's North Division with less than a month to go in the season.

Lee Roberts' career has just begun after he finished up at Loyola Marymount in June. Roberts signed with the Kansas City Royals and was assigned to its affiliate of the Arizona Rookie League. Roberts, who is 1-0 with one save in eight games, has an eye-popping 1.46 ERA.

Rights

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clinics from 2-5 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in Hawthorne, at the Maxine Waters Health & Dignity Center in the Moneta Gardens Improvement, Inc. project, located at 11802 S. York Avenue in Hawthorne. Another walk-in clinic takes place 1-4 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month inside the Inglewood Police Community Center, located at 2901 W. Manchester Boulevard in Inglewood.

There are also two walk-in clinics held regularly in Carson. The first takes place from 9-11 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Carson Farmer's Market, South

Bay Pavilion, at 550 E. Carson Plaza Drive in Carson. Then, another clinic takes place between 9-11 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month inside Carson's City Hall, at 701 E. Carson Street.

Suzanne Leuven wishes she had taken the time before she lost her house to find a group like the Housing Rights Center. If nothing else, she said, "I feel they would have listened to me and directed me in a better direction than I went." Espinoza expects to point the way through much more foreclosure-related frustration for at least a couple more years. "This problem," she said, "isn't going to go away."

Parking

from front page

Police Chief Rod Uyeda told the Council his officers are called at least ten times a month, and that officers patrol the area about a hundred times monthly. "We do get a lot of complaints of just general crowds, especially during the summertime. This summer has just been horrific in terms of more crowds coming in," Uyeda said. "We do our best to try and maintain the peace and tranquility of the neighborhood, but when you have that many people coming in it's really difficult."

Kim Riley of 33rd Street wanted the city to plant the top of the hill as to make it less desirable for athletes to train on and enforce existing rules. "If you did that and restricted the hours you might not have to resort to parking meters...if we park down with the parking meters we would have to pay even though we live there," Riley said. "Ninety percent of the problem is the people they hire for Parks and Recreation, they do not enforce a thing down there. I have to walk up to the park leaders and ask them to remove their headphones...its getting beyond the point of being ridiculous."

Dolan explained the park ranger tries to spend his time at the park during peak hours, but only works 40 hours a week and spends time working at other parks. He made a distinction between the ranger and younger, lower paid park attendants. "I think we need to acknowledge it's a problem for some of these young [attendants]," Dolan said. "Let's be honest about who we are able to hire and put in those kinds of positions... when you're paying a 19-year-old teenager nine dollars an hour, versus paying a fully dressed ranger in a uniform with authority, you get different results."

Lou Le Roy of 27th Street, formerly of 33d Street, felt that if a parking permit program was going to be implemented, it should go from at least Rosecrans Avenue to 24th Street and maybe even further. "That's like pushing a water balloon on one end, everything's going to go to the other end," Le Roy said. "Someone mentioned that if an athlete's going to climb that hill he's going to go two or three blocks to get to it."

Traffic problems weren't just limited to non-residents, Le Roy said, since he has seen his neighbors ignore the rules. "They drive too fast," Le Roy said. "They yell at cars when they drive up our street, but they'll go through the stop sign at the bottom of the street when they're going to pick up their kids or go shopping for groceries."

He also had a suggestion for people in need of alternatives to Sand Dune Park to get exercise. "There's eighteen miles of sand from Torrance beach to Santa Monica, there's a good workout there for somebody," Le Roy

said. "And if they want to climb hills, the Santa Monica Mountains have great trails."

Debbie Phillips of 33d street liked the permit and meter plan, saying the plan should be implemented in a large enough area as not to impact residents just outside the permit zone. "I can guarantee the problem is from Rosecrans at the very least to 27th and up one to two blocks," Phillips said. "If we don't take it up that far we'll just push it up another block and make someone else as miserable as we are."

For Phillips, the plan might improve what has become a poor quality of life for park neighbors. "We have lived with the increasing crowds the trash the litter the speeding," Phillips said. "And yes, the socks, they are still there."

Councilmembers discussed restricting the park to residents, which City Attorney Robert Wadden said might be overturned by the courts because little legal precedent exists for turning away non-residents. The Council decided for the time not to explore charging non-resident fees because of cost, time and feasibility concerns.

Montgomery said controlling parking and traffic should be the first step to get a handle on the problems at the park. Powell asked Dolan that the city give an opportunity for residents living out of the permit area a chance to get them, and Cohen agreed. "We could give out as many guest passes as anyone wants because we know they're not going to give them to 'Duners.'"

Dolan said if the PPIC approves the plan, the process will still take months because of the surveys and community meetings involved. "It's not going to solve the problem this August, September or October, I mean let's be honest about that," Dolan said. "But it will be there next spring when it starts up again."


Phillips encouraged the Council and Parks and Recreation Department to study the matter and give them their support.

"If you embrace this and pass it, I'm personally am going to build a statue of Mr. Gill and I'm going to put it right in the middle of the east side of the turnaround at the bottom of thirty-third."

Smart Key

A smart key recharge station will be installed at the corner of Highland and Manhattan Beach Boulevard next to the Kettle. The station will allow people to add money to keys that can be used for city parking meters. Keys cost \$25, contain \$5 in change and may be bought at downtown businesses including:

Current Events, Subway, Tabula Rasa Essentials, Manhattan Beach Creamery, Shade Hotel, Elleni Couture and the Chamber of Commerce. •



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