

## Business Briefs

### DELUCA TRATTORIA PROVIDING FOOD FOR BENEFIT DINNER IN EL SEGUNDO

On Friday, September 25, Haven Academy of the Arts has planned its first Benefit Dinner. The dinner will be held in the OCF auditorium at 343 Coral Circle at 6:30 p.m. The evening will include the dinner, a silent auction and performances by some of the actors from Haven Academy.

In planning this event, Haven Academy wanted it to be a special evening and Haven's Board of Directors decided that having Deluca Trattoria provide the meal would be an excellent choice. When this was discussed at a Haven board meeting, an El Segundo board member stated that she knew she could get more people to attend the event if Deluca would be providing the food. Deluca agreed to provide the meal for Haven Academy's Benefit Dinner. Haven is pleased to be one of the first special events where Deluca will provide the food after being awarded the Best of the Best Award as voted in the El Segundo Herald 2009 Reader's poll.

Rebekah Helleman is Haven Academy's Artistic and Managing Director. More information on Haven Academy of the Arts may be found at [www.havenartsacademy.org](http://www.havenartsacademy.org).

### AIRPORT COMMISSION APPROVES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, COMPLIANCE REPORTS FOR BRADLEY WEST PROJECT AT LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners today approved environmental impact and compliance reports for the reconfiguration of the Tom Bradley International Terminal (TBIT) at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The Bradley West Project, as it is known, is one of the improvements included in the LAX Master Plan. The project calls for new concourses to replace existing ones; the

addition of nine gates to the west side of the terminal to supplement existing gates on the east side of the terminal; addition of secured concourses between Terminals 3 and 4 and TBIT so passengers with connecting flights do not have to exit the terminals and go through security screening again; renovation and modernization of portions of the existing TBIT; and relocation of existing Taxiways S and Q and a vehicle service road that connect the north and south runway complexes. The Board certified the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Bradley West Project and adopted the LAWA executive director's LAX Plan Compliance Report, the Statement of Overriding Considerations, CEQA Findings, and the project's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. The Board's approval of the Bradley West Project will now be transmitted to the Los Angeles City Council with a recommendation that the City Council concur with the Board's actions. The Bradley West Project includes several gates specifically designed to accommodate new-generation aircraft such as the Airbus A380, Boeing 747-8 and Boeing 787, with features like multiple passenger loading bridges for each aircraft and larger passenger lounges/holdrooms. The central core of TBIT, which currently provides for passenger processing would also be modified to provide additional floor areas and improvements to serve existing and future passengers at TBIT. The Bradley West Project is one element of the overall LAX Master Plan approved by the City Council in December 2004. It is expected to provide a substantial number of construction employment opportunities and direct and secondary regional economic benefits. According to a 2007 study completed by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), LAX serves a vital role relative to trade and tourism.

## Earthtalk

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

*Dear EarthTalk: I'd like to know the relative electricity cost of utility scale solar and wind plants versus rooftop residential solar. In other words, how can I know whether to subsidize my utility's alternative energy plant or renovate my own home?*

-- Randy Wilson, Flagstaff, AZ

Making such a determination is complex, but you could start with "In My Backyard," a new online tool by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). You first need to know your electricity usage and what size solar photovoltaic (PV) system or wind turbine you could install. Then, using Google Earth maps and data on the amounts of sunshine and wind at your location, the tool will estimate the electricity you could get from a certain size wind turbine or PV array installed on your property.

The costs to install renewable energy systems vary greatly by location, warn researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, which is supported by the Department of Energy (DOE). And kilowatt hour (kWh) costs vary by utility, as do state and local financial incentives. One piece of good news: The federal Investment Tax Credit was expanded and extended this year. It allows for 30 percent of the cost of your system to be deducted from your federal tax bill, and is good through 2016.

Comparing the cost of going it alone to that of simply buying green power through your utility is not a simple equation, either. You can support your utility's renewable power infrastructure by paying a premium on your electric bill, or you can buy renewable energy certificates—also known as green tags—even if your utility does not offer green power (green tags inject renewable energies into the grid even if they don't come back to you via

your own utility). To decide which equation is better for you, compare the costs of those programs over the same time period with the cost of building and maintaining your own system (minus any installation credits and/or revenues from selling your excess electricity back to the utility). That would give you the relative costs and return-on-investment.

But that's still not the whole picture: Another question is whether your home system can continue to produce energy more cost-effectively than your utility, as it brings more and more green energy sources into its mix. Lawrence Berkeley says no, essentially. A February 2009 report summarizing the costs of PV from 1998 to 2007 concluded that larger systems averaged a 25 percent lower cost than the smallest ones.

The same is true for wind power, says the American Wind Energy Association. The group's February 2005 report calculates that a large wind farm can deliver electricity at a nearly 40 percent lower cost than a small one. It also can take advantage of economies of scale in lower operational and maintenance costs.

The bottom line is this: Decades ago, when widespread use of alternative energy was still only a dream, building one's own private source of home power was the only way to get off the carbon-intense grid and ensure that your own energy needs left little footprint. But today, with considerably more renewable energy sources coming online or about to do so in quantum leap measures—and at much greater efficiencies than can be achieved privately—the best bet may well be to forego the go-it alone path and support your utility's efforts to generate green power not just for your own household but for everyone.

Send your environmental questions to: EarthTalk, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

## Frankly Plank

By Duane Plank

Heard this Lynyrd Synyrd song many times in the last week. The chorus beseeches: "Don't ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies." Maybe an omen? What does it mean? Are they talkin' to me? Words to ponder, as I get to the ruminations that the people who pay the bills wanna read. You are supporting all of our fine advertisers, right?

There are two diatribes that I have written, darn good ones, in my humble opinion, that never saw the light of day as an *FP* column. One of those pieces was nixed back in November, probably because it had nothing, and I mean *nothing*, to do with sports. The boss, as always, made the right call. The second column was a somewhat caustic ditty full of comments that some may have been considered mean-spirited. Especially if you were vaguely referenced in the rant.

But you know what, a column is supposed to stir it up a little, right? I mean, all of you sports fans already know that the Dodgers won, the Angels lost, and that the Raiders did what they do, right? Which happens to be beat the Chiefs. So what's wrong with a little jab here and there, a little mischief? Lob a little verbal grenade to and fro to see if anyone is really paying attention to old *Plank*. I do crave the attention.

Anyway, seems that I was a little torqued off at the time, so I penned a vitriolic rebuttal to a perceived slight. No, actually the slight wasn't perceived, it was dang real. I almost sent the column to the renowned *RJ*

*the Golfer*, to seek his opinion on my verbal assault against the world, but I decided that circulating the over-the-top piece would not have been advisable. So I deleted it. Thankfully. Some of my funniest stuff ends up on the cutting room floor, axed by me. My advisor back in the college days called it "self-censorship."

Watching the tube at the moment, and unfortunately seeing mercenary baseballer Mark Teixeira double off the wall against my Angels. Tex is the first baseman for the hated Yankees. Who just wrapped up a three-game series in Anaheim against my Halos. Okay, Tex is a great guy who took the big bucks to go back East where he wanted to live. Good for him.

I'll take Kendry Morales, Halo first baseman, who the Angels plugged in to Teixeira's spot, with darn good results. Morales makes a couple million nickels less than Teixeira, is having a phenomenal year, with 30 home runs and 98 RBIs. By saving those nickels, the Angels were able to sign outfielder Bobby Abreu, who has been nothing but solid, and scary closer Brian "Tito" Fuentes. Oh, joy! Tito could be the guy who buries the Halos in the playoffs. But that's down the road, so we'll stay in the present.

Except Tito just imploded again in the ninth inning of a one-run game against the Red Sox, blowing a save and picking up the loss in another Angel meltdown in

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## Believe It or Not Trojan Guy, the Bruins are 3-0

By Duane Plank

Can you believe it, the gutty little football Bruins are undefeated? More on that later, but first...

Do you think that pool is a sport? Not the wear the little speedos, jump-in-the-water thing that pot smoker Michael Phelps occasionally pursues when he is not out partying. You know, the contest that takes place in a swimming pool that we as a country seem to care about for eight days every four years? Then forget about because we find it pretty boring and monotonous?

Although I *do* pay attention to anything that swimmer Amanda Beard does, in and out of the pool. She be a mighty fine swimmer and model, gents.

No, I mean the pool that the cue stick-wielding Minnesota Fats helped make famous. Eight ball and the like. Hadn't played pool in a long, long time, but was fortunate enough to be asked by *Dodger Girl's* bro Eddie to play a few games the other evening. Believe that I took two of four games and could have easily captured all four. Of course, *he* could have taken all four also, cuz I think I was pretty lucky to win twice. And he is a much better player than me.

Now that I have come out of retirement, circa pool, maybe it is time to make a triumphant return to the bowling alley? Played in a league about 25 years ago. Our team was called the *Pinheads*. Think that I averaged about 140 back in the day, but I gotta admit that I spent more time socializing than bowling. Those who participate in the fine sport on the over-waxed lanes know what I mean.

The only time that I ever tried tobacco, something called *Skool*, was during a trip to the alley. Took a pinch between my cheek and gum, got really sick, and decided that I would leave the dipping to the guys who could handle it.

Although the prior paragraph may not be 100 percent accurate, because I *did* take a puff of a tobacco cigarette. Once. Think that I turned a bit green, and gave the cancer-stick to the girl who I was trying to impress. I am sure that she was impressed as I nearly choked to death. The stupid things some of

us do when we are oh-so-young, as we try to impress women.

Football time, my friends. Both of the local collegiate football schools had to go to battle last weekend without their number one QBs. The Trojans traveled to Washington for the apparent grudge match against Steve Sarkisian's Washington Huskies, with backup Aaron Corp running the show. How did that go, SC guys and gals? Just a game, folks. And the Air Force Blue Bruins went to battle against Kansas State with retread Kevin Craft taking the snaps. That seemed to go okay, and now the 3-0 Bruins have a week off before returning to the gridiron to visit Stanford next weekend. They will lose that one. Sorry, KA.

The NFL approaches week three, with some interesting matchups. Unless you are a Raider or Ram fan, in which case the season is already over. Check that—the Raiders won last week, and could be a juggernaut.

The Pride and Poise Boys play host to the 2-0 Denver Broncos, with the Rams welcoming the Green Bay Packers to the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis. Great time for the 30,000 or so who will actually attend the slaughter.

Those games will probably stink, but a couple of interesting matchups include Indy @ Arizona, and San Francisco @ Minnesota. My man-crush guy Kurt Warner had an incredible game last week, and since he is my fantasy QB, I will cheer for another record-setting game by the Arizona signal-caller on Sunday.

The 49ers have become my new favorite team, I really admire the cojones of Coach Mike Singletary. Call me a frontrunner, that's cool. Right now shopping online for a Niner jersey.

Speaking of the NoCals, you know I am a fan of the music, circa the 80s. And yes, I admit to being a big-time Journey fan. You got a problem with that? So I find the story a tad bit amusing that ex-Journey frontman and SF Giant fan Steve Perry is miffed that the hated Dodgers have adopted the Journey

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