

Student's forum

What I Did this Summer



Hi, my name is Lisa Armas. This summer I went to summer school for a month and a half. It was the most boring part of my summer. Then after that my summer begins. I hung out with my best friends Alana, Alison, and Jessica. This summer Alana, Alison, Jessica and myself rode bikes to Venice and hung out there all day we all got henna tattoos. We've just been hanging out at the teen center. My friends and I helped out at this year's 4th of July booth in our cool outfits. The teen center had a sleep over and we went to the

pool and swam all night. But I was so tired the next day. I am also a cheerleader for the ESYFC, so we started practice and we had our cheer camp this past weekend - Shout out to the girls "Alana, Jessica, Allison, Annie, Grace, Ashley, Devin" (Sorry, can't fit you all in). So that's what I did this summer. Hanging with friends and cute guys. That's my summer. Bye.

Tell us what you did this summer! Email to students@heraldpublications.com.

Student to Student

Last Week's Question: *Are there Bullies in your school?*

ANSWERS:

Yes, there are bullies at my school. They are mean and call me names because I am a little overweight. I don't want to go to school because I don't want to hear them call me names. I don't want to tell on these kids because I'm embarrassed. --L.T., El Segundo

I think it's cool to be a bully. You can show the other kids who is boss and they won't mess with you. I'm bigger than most of the kids so they can't do or say anything to me. I actually enjoy it. --K.S., El Segundo

I beat up a kid once for making fun of me. I didn't get caught either. He never bothered me again.--Anonymous, Manhattan Beach

I've been hazed before. Even though I don't like it. I have to put up with it to be part of the "cool" group. I play sports and it is part of the game, I guess. I was covered with mustard and forced to drink vinegar but it only lasted for one day. --SF., El segundo

Email your comments to the question below to students@heraldpublications.com.

Question: Do you like President Obama?

Who am I?

Dear Students,
We are also starting a new section of the paper for students called *Who am I?* Send in ten factual statements of yourself. The purpose of this section is to give students an opportunity to get to know you better. Students will send in their ten factual statements to students@heraldpublications.com. Below is our first *Who am I* student. Send in your guesses to students@heraldpublications.com. We will publish these guesses and the correct answer in next week's issue.

We reserve the right not to publish any questions or comments that contain crude, vulgar, offensive, discriminating language or anything we deem inappropriate.

1. I am 15 years old
2. My height is 5' 9"
3. I have brown hair
4. I have brown eyes
5. I wear eyeglasses to school (ESHS)
6. I have an accent
7. I skateboard at El Segundo skate park everyday
8. I did not skate for a few days last week I was injured.
9. I have a younger brother
10. I like wearing hats and beanies

Last Week's Answer: Frankie Suffoletta

Meeting

from front page

Tsuneyoshi said. "We're so far ahead of everybody else it's not funny."

Manhattan Beach City Councilmember Mitch Ward, who is running for Lieu's Assembly seat when the latter terms out next year, said boating is important to the area's economy. "Boating is a really important aspect of the economic revitalization that we need to undertake here and so if we get more people boating, that's more money spent in the area," Ward said. "So it's about trying to support the economy, plus helping the environment."

Lieu is hopeful Governor Schwarzenegger will sign the bill and said the Governor vetoed the bill last year despite it being passed in both houses and on a bipartisan basis. "If you remember, he vetoed hundreds of bills last year because he got mad at the legislature," Lieu said. "I think his office now understands the importance of this bill because it does help the State save money."

Constituent Concerns

Most attendees seemed to approve of Lieu's bill, although there were other concerns, such as other legislation not supported by Lieu that could affect the industry. One deals with high slip fees. Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors Director Santos Kreimann said the County conducts an annual survey of market prices in a 60-mile radius and found slip fees in Marina del Rey to be market rate, in accordance with County policy. However, he agreed with the abandoned vessel legislation. "It's certainly something that's pro environment and voluntary, so I don't see a downside to that."

As a state assemblyman, Lieu feels would he could play the role of a facilitator between the County and his constituents." Sometimes if [people] can't get through to these agencies, we can help them and I think its one of the best things I can do," Lieu said. "A lot of these more local issues, the State has

very little role in it ...but we can certainly facilitate better communications between the affected parties and the County."

Yacht broker Bob Koepple said nearly a dozen yacht brokers have been driven out of business during the economic downturn. He asked Lieu to replace the State's yacht tax loophole with a three or four percent tax on luxury items, saying it would spur yacht sales. Currently the tax code lets boat owners avoid sales and use taxes if they keep their vessel out of state for a year, with most people keeping their boats just south of the Mexican border. "It's not working... people think the people who own boats are millionaires and they're not," Koepple said. "The average people buy fifty, seventy-five, hundred-thousand-dollar boats." Koepple explained that slip fees, interest rates and the sales tax make it hard for people to afford boats, let alone store them offshore. "What are you going to do, drive to Mexico every weekend?" Koepple said.

Sean Guthrie, owner and operator of the King Harbor Marina, came to air his concerns over several pieces of pending legislation regarding water discharge requirements for marinas and possible fishing restrictions near Palos Verdes. He said such legislation could harm an already fragile industry with new regulations and added costs. "Those things that are going on right now, we'll see a huge impact on recreational boating," Guthrie said. "This is absolutely the worst time in the world to be doing things like this when we have a serious recession and the State is losing revenues as it is."

Guthrie hoped the town hall meeting made Lieu and other attending officials aware of the issues and concerns boat and business owners like him are facing. "Hopefully that will raise his involvement in those processes and help out...California is in dire straits," Guthrie said.

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