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City Creates New Hate Crime Force

■ Federal and Local Officials Collaborate

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Federal and local law enforcement officials will soon be joining together to combat hate crimes through the formation of a new task force that is designed to improve the sharing of information between agencies and provide better resources for solving crimes.

The task force will include representatives from the FBI, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, and eventually other municipal police departments. The FBI

will head the task force, which will be up and running as soon as the logistical details are worked out and personnel can be assigned.

According to FBI spokesperson Vickie Hampton-Franklin, the bureau has routinely helped authorities in solving hate crimes when assistance is requested, but the new task force will employ a dedicated staff that will work on the incidents on a regular basis.

"We are in the process of developing the task force, and will be working with the local

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photo by Ashley Lampe

The City of Los Angeles Rose Parade float made its way down Colorado Boulevard last weekend, showcasing the flora and fauna that can be found in the city.

An L.A. Tradition Floats Onward

■ City Celebrates its Environment

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The longest running continuous entrant in the Tournament of Roses Parade made its way down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena once again on New Year's Day as the city of Los Angeles' float debuted to cheers from the thousands of

revelers and was awarded the Mayor's Trophy for originality.

But the city's entrant this year, which followed the theme "Celebrating Our Environment," almost became a "no show" for 2005 because of a lack of funding. For the first time, the city's convention

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25 Years of World Aid

■ OpUSA Turns its Focus Towards Tsunami Victims

BY LAUREN HILGERS

Operation USA, a non-profit international aid corporation located on Melrose Avenue, has been addressing crises throughout the world since 1979 with private donations alone. The organization refuses to solicit or accept any grants or donations from the federal government, it greatly relies on celebrities to help garner funds for its aid projects and it survives by an uncanny ability to be at the right place, with the right people, at the right time.

At the moment, volunteers and staff at OpUSA are hoping that this ability will help them reach areas in Asia stricken by the tsunami just over a week ago, especially to Sri Lanka, where the organization had already established

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Photo by Lauren Hilgers

For safety's sake the burnt insides of Glatt Mart on Pico Boulevard have been covered up after a fire on Monday, December 27.

Fire Demolishes Kosher Market

■ Over 80 Firefighters Fought the Blaze

BY LAUREN HILGERS

Passersby looking through cracks in the boards that now cover the outside of Glatt Mart on Pico Boulevard are faced with a scene of blackened fruit and melted-down shopping carts. The market, which catered to those observing a kosher diet, caught

fire last Monday, December 27.

"A call came in at 11:39(pm)," explained Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Daren Palacios, whose station, station number 61, responded to the blaze. "A passerby had noticed heavy smoke coming out of the roof

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Havenhurst House Helps Keep West Hollywood Diverse

■ Low Income Apartments Cater To a Range of Disabilities

BY LAUREN HILGERS

Despite persistent rains that have made it impossible to finish landscaping the building on time, some of the first residents of the Havenhurst House, a new housing facility catering to low-income and disabled residents, began rolling in to their new apartments this week.

The building shares a block with some old Spanish-style apartment buildings with some of the higher rents in town, according to West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation Executive Director Paul Zimmerman. Havenhurst tenants, however, will be paying a monthly fee of \$500.

"The only way West Hollywood is going to stay diverse is to provide low- and moderate-income housing," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman maintains that the founders of West Hollywood had this diversity in mind and they knew that the rising price of housing would



photo by Lauren Hilgers

The new building boasts 24 fully-equipped units and an enthusiastic housing staff.

impede certain groups from staying.

"When they founded the city it was a lot like what's going on right now," Zimmerman said. "There was huge a boom in real estate and cost of living and they knew that some residents would not be able to afford to stay."

In 1984, the city came up

with two main ways to help protect the interests of their low-income residents. The first was to implement strict rent-control measures, not allowing landlords to raise the rent of tenants more than a certain percentage each year, even if an apartment changed hands. They also created an inclu-

See Havenhurst page 22

INSIDE

■ Weekend Weather ■ On Screen

Record rainfall continues this week. Another storm is expected to come in this weekend.

Jonas and Dave both give their "Best and Worst" lists for 2004

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Photo courtesy of the artist and the MAK Center

Photographer Amir Zaki is known for taking buildings and structures from everyday life and transforming them in his photos.

Mayor Hahn Announces Reduction in Drunk Driving-Related Fatalities

■ Mayor Joins with Representatives of MADD to Make the Announcement

Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn was joined Thursday by Los Angeles Police Department Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell and representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to announce that in the last year the City of Los Angeles recorded only 15 drunk-driving related deaths - a 57 percent reduction from 2003.

Driving Under the Influence-related (DUI) accidents resulting in serious injuries have also decreased by 33 percent over the last five years. Statewide, alcohol-related fatalities increased 17 percent in 2004.

“What these statistics show is that LAPD has been proactive in making our streets safer for every driver,” Hahn said.

“LAPD has developed public awareness campaigns, assembled DUI task forces, and have set-up sobriety checkpoints across the city to ensure that more families don’t have to suffer the tragic loss of a loved one, or that more people aren’t left with debilitating injuries because someone chose to drink and drive.”

Statewide DUI-related fatalities increased from 1,233 in 2000 to 1,445 in 2003. By

mid-year 2004, the California Highway Patrol had already recorded 944 DUI-related deaths; this statistic is on track to exceed last year’s total.

The City of Los Angeles has averaged 36.8 alcohol-related fatalities a year for the last five years - this year there were 15 fatalities recorded through November 30, 2004.

“LAPD is a shining example of what law enforcement can achieve when they focus on a crime and utilize special training, enforcement and task forces,” said President of MADD, Los Angeles Board of Directors Lynnmaria Bazan.

MAK Center Opens Exhibit “Spring Through Winter”

■ Show will Coincide with West Hollywood Art Billboard Erected in December

“Spring Through Winter,” an exhibit featuring the Los Angeles based photographer Amir Zaki will be opening Friday at the Schindler House. Zaki is known for digitally altering southern California suburban landscapes and architecture into fantastical and impossible architectonic structures. Spring Through Winter presents his investigations into the entropy of architecture in a suite of photographs of swimming pools, fireplaces and cantilevered buildings. While committed to the mundane, the work is subtle and disorienting, transforming architecture into sculptural infelicitous relics.

Curated by Lauri Firstenberg - Spring Through Winter will be on view at the Schindler House from January 7 through February 19. A billboard on the Sunset Strip will be produced in tandem with Amir Zaki’s exhibition in collaboration with the City of West Hollywood’s Art on the Outside Initiative and with Viacom Outdoor.

Zaki addresses the problem of photographically representing the improbable, de-spatializing the viewer and tweaking temporality. Zaki’s suite of photographs includes exterior cantilevered architecture, aerial perspective swimming pools, and interior fireplaces. Originally modernist homes that have been refaced and restructured due to multiple earthquakes, renovations or redecoration, the artist photographs the extreme under-

belly of these once idyllic, now ominous and monstrous structures. The homes, pools and fireplaces are sculpturally dynamic, dramatic and dystopic. As such, the work investigates “poetic entropy,” which the artist views as a primary condition of Los Angeles architecture.

Spring Through Winter will be on view at the MAK Center for Art & Architecture from January 7 through February 19, 2005. Public hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00am to 6:00pm. Admission is \$5; free hours are Friday afternoons, 4:00pm to 6:00pm. A free opening reception will be held Friday, January 7 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. The MAK Center is located at the Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Rd. in West Hollywood. Parking is available at the public structure at the corner of Kings Road and Santa Monica Boulevard. For further information, the public may contact (323)651-1510 or visit www.makcenter.org.



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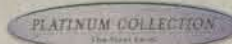
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