

O Culver City OBSERVER

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Council Approves New Committee Members



Comedian Betsy Salkind imitates a squirrel eating Matzo
see story page 11

By Lynne Bronstein
Observer Reporter

October is Disability Awareness Month, as declared by the City Council at its meeting Monday night. Appropriately, the Council and Redevelopment Agency, during an agenda item on appointments to boards, appointed two new members to the Disability Advisory Committee.

On June 23 the Council agreed to expand the membership of the Disability Advisory Committee from seven to nine members. Six applications were filed for the two additional seats.

Three of these applicants spoke in public comment during the agenda item. Two of the speakers, Chu Tang (Sean) Yee and Marci Sookne, received the endorsement of Disability Advisory Committee chair Dr. Jay Shery who noted that the two applicants came regularly to events relating to the disabled and had shown more than sufficient interest. Shery also commended the Council for adding the two seats.

Mayor Micheal O' Leary nominated Yee and Marci to the seats and the Council/Agency followed suit, voting 5-0 in their favor.

Also appointed were Michael Hamill, to the Advisory Committee on Redevelopment, and Kyle Jones, to the Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board.

The two appointees to the Disability Committee and the appointee to the Redevelopment Committee will serve four-year terms expiring on June 30, 2015. The appointee to the Landlord Tenant Board will serve a three-year term

expiring on June 30, 2014.

Prior to the appointments, the Council gave out five commendations, four of which involved disabilities.

In addition to the proclamation of Disability Awareness Month, the Council honored the Culver City Branch of the State of California Department of Rehabilitation and gave commendations to David Bunker, founder of My Life Foundation, and to Michelle Christie-Adams, founder of No Limits, a theatre group for deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

Christie-Adams accepted her commendation flanked by two of her former students, John and Ivy. She spoke of how the theatre program helped these two students and the students also praised the program for helping them to gain self-confidence.

A commendation was also presented to Mercedes Paz for her work with the Cultural Affairs Foundation. Paz said she was "humbled" by the commendation and told of how her Bolivian-born father had worked at MGM Studios in Culver City, building movie sets. Paz had asked her father's spirit to guide her to a place to live and work where she would be happy and that, she said, was how she came to Culver City where she worked steadily to make sure that the arts were an important part of life here.

More prosaically, the Council adopted a resolution of intention to approve a contract amendment between the Public Employee's Retirement System (PERS) and the city of Culver City. The amendment will implement a two percent at 60 and three-year final compensation for new hires in the local miscellaneous plan (Culver City Management Group and Culver City Employees' Association).

Although public employee retirement compensation has been the subject of some public debate, the Council made it clear that this amendment concerns new hires only and will not affect current employees of the City including the City Council and Agency members.

With this caveat, the Council approved the amendment after brief discussion.

CCPD Nabs A Nevada Top 10

According to the Nevada State Contractors Board one of Nevada's top ten fugitives has been arrested by Culver City police officers.

Top ten? Not one of the most wanted criminals in Nevada, rather one of Nevada's top ten unlicensed contractors.

Contractor Neil Brodsky was arrested on Saturday, September 24. Brodsky is being held on a no bail warrant pending extradition. He allegedly posted advertisements on Craigslist for plumbing services, claiming to be a licensed contractor, using "Family Man" and "Licensed Plumber" in addition to other headings in his advertisements. Brodsky is alleged to have changed his advertisement frequently, using different aliases, and claiming to be affiliated with a named licensed company.

Brodsky was added to NSCB's Most Wanted list February 9, 2010 for allegedly engaging in business or submitting bids without a license, unlawful advertising, and obtaining money by false pretenses among others. Brodsky currently has three active warrants for his arrest (one felony, one gross misdemeanor, and one misdemeanor) with additional warrants pending. According to the contractors board Brodsky has several complaints from Southern Nevada consumers that are currently being investigated.

"Consumers should be commended for bringing forward

their complaints against Mr. Brodsky," said Margi Grein, NSCB executive officer. "Our investigators worked closely with partners in other states to locate Mr. Brodsky and we couldn't be more satisfied that one more unlicensed contractor is off the streets."

Consumers are urged to contact NSCB if they come into contact with any unlicensed contractor. In California consumers should contact the CSLB or visit their website at <http://www.cslb.ca.gov/>

Additional information for consumers in Nevada is available on NSCB's website at www.nscb.nv.gov and for consumers in California at <http://www.cslb.ca.gov/>



Neil Brodsky

Candidate Forum On Tuesday

On Tuesday, October 18 The League Of Women Voters Culver City Unit will sponsor a candidate forum for the upcoming School Board election.

The event will be held at City Hall beginning at 7 pm. Ample parking is available in the City Hall structure.

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CCPD Reports Local Crime
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School Elections
Candidates Hold Fundraisers
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Douglas Theatre Play
I've Never Been So Happy
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Law Enforcement Responds To WLA College Incident

The Sheriff's Office at West Los Angeles College (WLAC) received a call that an intruder carrying a firearm was in the WLAC South Parking Structure just after 12:00pm on Thursday, October 6.

The Sheriff's Office personnel responded immediately by closing off in- and out-bound traffic to the structure. Students and faculty were kept out of the area while the structure was searched. A campus alert was sent to all offices.

By 1:20p.m., law enforcement personnel had thoroughly searched the parking structure. No evidence of an intruder or firearm was found. No one was injured, nor were any arrests made.



Annual Disaster Drill Day Coming Up

Held on the third Thursday of October each year, and this year falling on October 20, the Great California ShakeOut is the largest preparedness event in U.S. history.

It encourages and reminds everyone that as Californians who live in a place where earthquakes are an inevitable part of the state's future we must do all we can to prepare and learn to act quickly to ensure that a disaster such as an earthquake, does not become a catastrophe.

On October 20 there will be two opportunities to practice preparedness. You can participate in the California Great ShakeOut with over 6.9 million other Californians by stopping what you are doing at 10:20am and practicing Drop, Cover and Hold On and/or, participate in the City of Culver City's "ShakeOut" (Annual Disaster Drill) at 7 pm by doing the same. However, you are asked to utilize the City's "OK" sign program to let first responders know that you are "OK".

First responders will be canvassing neighborhoods at 7 pm counting "OK" signs as they practice their emergency preparedness plans.

For those of you who have never participated in the City-Wide Disaster Drill with the "OK" sign program place an "OK" sign in your window or on your door in a location most visible from the public right-of-way to signal that you and your family are "OK". In the event of a real disaster, if your family was not "OK", you would post nothing and contact 9-1-1 to let them know of injuries, etc.

If you would like more information on how to participate in the Great California ShakeOut, to participate in Culver City's "ShakeOut" with the "OK" sign program, to download family disaster plans and disaster supply checklists, please visit www.culvercity.org/emergencyprep. Additional information can also be found at www.ShakeOut.org.

Police blotter

September 28 through October 11

Residential Robbery:

On September 28, 2011 at 11:15 pm, officers responded to the 11400 block of Diller Avenue regarding a robbery investigation. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; he was getting ready for bed when he noticed a suspect standing in the hallway of his home. The suspect was described as a male black, 5'9 to 6'0, 30-40 years old and facial hair. The suspect then demanded his money, the victim who was in fear for his safety gave the suspect his money and the suspect fled the location.

Street Robbery:

On September 29, 2011 at 11:30 pm, officers responded to the 6000 block of Sepulveda Boulevard regarding a robbery investigation. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; he and a friend were walking to his vehicle when they noticed a vehicle driving by them and the passenger jumped out the vehicle and approached him and demanded his property. The suspect then got back into the vehicle and fled the location.

Commercial Burglary:

On September 30, 2011 at 11:00 am, officers responded to the 6000 block of Sepulveda Boulevard regarding a burglary investigation. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; he secured the business on September 29th at 9:30 pm and when he returned the next morning at 9:30 am discovered the storage room door had pry marks on the door. He then discovered property was missing.

Residential Burglary:

On October 3, 2011 at 9:23 am, officers responded to the 4100 block of La Fayette Place regarding a burglary investigation. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; he locked and secured his residence on September 29, 2011 at 12:30 pm. He returned at 4:00 pm and discovered his front door unlocked and when entered his residence discovered his property missing.

Car Burglary:

On October 4, 2011 at 12:45 pm, a victim called the police department to report his vehicle had been burglarized. The victim said he parked and locked his 1997 Honda near the intersection of Arizona Ave. and Elenda Ave at 12:00 pm. He returned at 12:30 pm and discovered his property in his vehicle was missing.

Car Burglary:

On October 4 at 12:45 pm a victim called the police department to report his 1997 Honda was burglarized. The victim said he parked and locked his vehicle near the intersection of Arizona Avenue and Elenda Avenue at 12 pm and when he returned at 12:30 he discovered his property missing from the interior.

Stolen Vehicle:

On October 5 at 3:25 pm officers responded to the 6000 block of Sepulveda Boulevard regarding a GTA investigation. The officers arrived and met with the victim who told them the following; she parked and locked her 1989 Chevy truck at 3:10 pm and when she returned at 3:20 discovered her vehicle was missing.

Strong Arm Robbery:

On October 6 at 3:57 pm officers responded to the 13400 block of Washington Boulevard regarding a robbery investigation. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; she was returning to her office after talking the trash out and she noticed suspect 1, described as a male white, 25-30 years, thin build, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt standing next to counter. The victim asked if he needed help and the suspect pushed her back and grabbed some merchandise from the counter and fled the location.

Vandalism:

On October 9 at 3:15 pm officers patrolling in the area of Commonwealth and Washington Boulevard saw a 2006 Mini Cooper with a broken out driver's side window. The officers stopped to investigate and also located the owner of the vehicle. He told them he had parked and locked his vehicle at 3 pm and his window was not broken out. The victim said nothing was missing.

Armed Robbery:

On October 9 at 9:30 pm officers responded to the intersection of Lucerne Avenue and Ince Boulevard regarding a robbery investigation. The officers met with the victim who told them the following; She was walking to her car when she noticed suspect 1, described as a male black, in his 20's, thin build, short hair, and wearing a dark colored long sleeve shirt pacing near her vehicle. She opened the car door and the suspect walked up to her and produced a hand gun and demanded her property. Fearing for her safety she gave the suspect her property. The suspect then fled to a vehicle and left the scene.

Third Wednesday Features Entertainment

'OKTOBERFEST', with free entertainment & Special Offers from Culver City restaurants and merchants, will be featured at Downtown Culver City 'Third Wednesdays' on October 19 from 5 pm to 9.

The LA Kings Ice Crew will be on hand-with the custom Kings Ice Rider-giving away Kings freebies and holding a free raffle for Kings signed merchandise. Raving Polka will perform outside on the patio at Ford's Filling Station.



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SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Chamber Endorses Chardiet, Zeidman

The Culver City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, for the first time ever, is announcing its endorsement for candidates in the November 8 Culver City Unified School Board election.

"The U.S. workforce readiness crisis is putting our global economic competitiveness at risk. We need school board members that can champion our students into 21st century success, said Chamber Chair Angela Gibson.

"Scott Zeidman and Laura Chardiet were endorsed by the board because they showed themselves as people who could provide effective leadership during the next four years", Gibson stated.

The Culver City Chamber of Commerce, with over 700 business members, represents over 35,000 employees in the greater Culver City area. The Chamber seeks to provide a balance of business and community through the active participation of our board of directors, consisting mostly of small business owners.

Although this is the Chamber Board's first endorsement in a school board election, the Culver City Chamber of Commerce has, over the years, been actively involved in education in Culver City, including the Teacher of the Year Program, a high school community scholarship program and past support for Measures T and EE.

The candidate interviews may be seen on the Culver City Chamber's website --www.culvercitychamber.com.

Zirgulis Plans Coffee Chats

Robert "Mr. Z" Zirgulis will be holding "coffee chats" with prospective voters outside the Starbucks coffee shop in front of City Hall for the next four Sundays, Oct 16, 23,30, and Nov.6 from 10 am until noon.

"I want voters to get a chance to meet me and discuss the important issues facing our school district.", says Zirgulis.

"I will be able to show voters documentation showing how the school board is wasting millions of dollars "lawyering up" on attorney fees to take adversarial positions against the teachers and classified employee unions along with 72 cases involving special education disputes since 2005".

Goldberg Plans Theatre Party

There is still time to reserve your tickets for the Nancy Goldberg for School Board 2011 fundraiser at The Actor's Gang production of "Red Noses" at the Ivy Substation.

The date is Saturday, October 22 at 8 p.m.

The show is a dark comedy set in 1348 France when the Black Death was decimating Europe and there was little hope among the populace. One priest attempts to make people laugh and restore hope.

Dinner before the show is planned at Libra Brazilian Restaurant, 3833 Main Street. Prices are \$35 for general seating at the theater and \$50 for reserved seating (special center section). Priority seating and dinner is available for a cost of \$100.

Reservations can be made before October 15 by contacting Barbara Honig at barbarahonig@juno.com , calling Margaret at 310-836-6295, or sending checks payable to Nancy Goldberg for School Board 2011, P.O. Box 2981, Culver City CA 90231-2981.

Chardiet Announces Endorsements

The Culver City Chamber of Commerce has endorsed Laura Chardiet, making her the only candidate for CCUSD School Board endorsed by both business and labor.

Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Steve Rose notes that, "Laura's wide array of experiences in education and in management have proven her to be an excellent candidate for school board."

Upon hearing that the Chamber of Commerce had endorsed her candidacy Chardiet said, "I am honored to have the support of Culver City's business leaders.

Chardiet previously received endorsements from the Committee on Political Education (COPE), American Federation of Labor, the Culver City Federation of Teachers and the California Federation of Teachers.

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Birthdays

The fall birthday list includes Al Schreibman, Shirley Miyamoto, Lise Kleckner, Cindy Lundquist, Tikva Josfan, John Ziegler, Shirley Webb, Ruth Listermann, Sara Grimm-Weeks, Ron Milberger, Finn Swenson, Marvin Wesley, Frances Codd, Ramin Gheybi, Kennedy Simon, Judith Hodson, Nancy Watson, Timothy Lee, Emelie Gerard, Dan Regan, Claudia Armstrong, Annick Tournissac, Amie Williams, Catherine matsuda, Antonia Lianos, Francesca Fanti, Raquel Renteria, Monica Hernandez, Prabhu Anbanathan, Margarita Ruiz, Felice Austin, Kristen Hill, Rebekah May, and Taylor Solazzo.

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Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

These are such challenging times for our schools and our students, which makes it more important than ever to elect school board members that have the resourcefulness, budgetary knowledge, and people skills to keep our schools strong.

That is why I have decided to support Laura Chardiet. I watched her lead at La Ballona. She helped transform that school's PTA- raising money, creating great programs for our children, and motivating many to join in the cause.

Laura Chardiet has served as a president of the Culver City Council of PTA's, on the Culver City Unified School District Community Budget Advisory Committee and on our school site council. I have seen her do everything from leading events to painting school walls. No challenge was too daunting, no job too small. And she knows what it takes to get the job done.

Laura Chardiet has great energy, commitment and leadership skills. She will be an exceptional addition to the school board.

Mark Galanty
Culver City

Culver City Voters:

I spent a very short but tumultuous two years teaching at Culver City High. The experience was Dickensian - both the best and worst of times.

As a new teacher to the district navigating unfamiliar territory, the one consummate inspiration that CCUSD was committed to high standards and excellence was from my former colleague, Nancy Goldberg.

She led the English department in creativity, tenacity and commitment to excellence. She inspired students to the highest levels of critical thinking, writing and a love of literature. When she spoke at faculty meetings, the staff was ardently attentive. What I observed in Nancy Goldberg as a leader, expert educator and advocate for both students and teachers, places her in a category with only one other in my 35 years of teaching (Dr. Robyn Tunstall of Orange Unified School District).

Nancy Goldberg and I shared many students in our courses, who would come into the theatre continuing animated and intelligent conversations from their AP English classes. When Nancy attended our productions (never missing a one in the two years), an electric excitement filled the cast and crew that the teacher they so loved and respected was in the audience. Her mindful and insightful questions at department meetings would challenge the rest of us to assess why we teach what we teach and how we teach it.

I have wondered a number of times what might have transpired, let me retract, what might not have transpired had Nancy Goldberg been on the school board when its current members, who have children in the district took the first and second votes in February 2011 as to my employment.

Interestingly, they never stepped into my classrooms, never attended one of the theatre productions, never asked a single question as to the validity of the accusations about my work. One would think that as board members, with or without children in the district, they might have had some interest in this much over -publicized debacle.

It is a false dilemma that because Nancy Goldberg does not currently have children in CCUSD schools, she does not have her finger on the pulse of the district. Evidence shows that having children in the district did not ensure that the board members make responsible decisions on behalf of the voters of this community. Nancy Goldberg is tireless, courageous and will not kowtow to rumor rather than fact. She will also represent the district with integrity. She is the pulse of a district in need of ethical resuscitation.

Shelia Silver
Culver City

Dear Friends,

I have known Scott Zeidman for several years as a parent, a little league dad and a member of our School Board. It was my honor to work with him on the campaign to pass Proposition EE.

He is a proven leader with a proven commitment to educational excellence in Culver City and a man who just knows how to get things done. I support his candidacy for reelection.

Larry Weiner
Culver City

Dear Editor,

I strongly support Laura Chardiet for School Board. Laura has a sharp mind. She is upbeat, positive, and diplomatic in all her dealings.

I got to know Laura when I joined the La Ballona Elementary School PTA board nine years ago. La Ballona is culturally diverse, with dozens of different languages being spoken in our students' homes. Laura Chardiet had a vision of everyone

Being included and working together for the common good. I saw it when she expanded La Ballona's International Dinner by introducing dances that represented the many cultures at our school. I saw it again as she worked to recruit as diverse a PTA board as possible.

As a leader she is smart and creative. She has a lot of ideas, but she doesn't just insist that everyone follow her. Instead she shares ideas and seeks input so that together we can agree what would be best for our students and school.

Her work with PTA and her professional experiences as an educator and an administrator have given her insights into programs, budgets, fund raising and much more. I am confident that she is the best candidate for School Board.

Saira Sayeed
Culver City

History of Culver Police Department at Historical Society Meeting

The Culver City Police Department's (CCPD) Public Information Officer, Lieutenant Ronald Iizuka is the featured speaker at the Culver City Historical Society's general meeting on Wednesday, October 19, at 7 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building's Multipurpose Room, 4117 Overland Avenue..

Lt. Iizuka will give a history of the department with a PowerPoint presentation and descriptions of the evolution of the CCPD from Culver City's founding days to the present. Over the years, highlights of the department included a Mounted Reserve Posse established in 1948, and the creation of the reality police show, "Nightwatch," which later became a television program. Lt. Iizuka will also reveal stories about some of the more interesting and important exploits of the CCPD's officers as they provide the highest level of police service to Culver City.

The meeting will also include a report from the Culver City Historical Society's 2011 Nominating Committee which will announce its new officers and board members.

The public is invited to enjoy this free program and students are encouraged to attend. The CCHS Archives & Resource Center (ARC) will be open following the meeting. Entrance to the meeting is through the back parking lot of the Veterans Memorial Building.

For more information, please call the Society at (310) 253-6941 or inquire by e-mail at info@CulverCityHistoricalSociety.org. Also, visit the CCHS website at: www.culvercityhistoricalsociety.org for updates.



The Culver City Police Department when it was located in the 1928 Culver City Hall at Culver Boulevard and Duquesne Avenue. The entry was on the Duquesne side. (Photo circa 1950)

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Douglas Play Is a Rollicking Experience

By Mitch Chortkoff
Observer Editor

I like country music, so it pleases me that "I've Never Been So Happy" at the Kirk Douglas Theatre is a two-hour musical with a Western theme.

The near capacity crowd at the Sunday matinee agreed if we can judge from the frequent applause and occasional ovations.

But if you object to raw language that isn't necessary it may not be for you.

I thought the play would have been better without the four-letter words.

However, I've seen a lot of plays at the Kirk Douglas and this one rates very high for just plain fun. You'd have to be a grouch to not join in.

I found the music much better than the plot. A father forbids his teen-age daughter from leaving the house until she gets married. Annabelle Lee, played by Meg Sullivan, points out she won't be able to meet the right man, and he says he'll choose him.

She then finds romance with a boy who is tied to a mountain lion, his mother's idea that he'll learn how to deal



Meg Sullivan (Annabelle) and her father, Lowell Bartholomee (Brutus) in "I've Never Been So Happy" which continues at the Kirk Douglas Theatre until October 23.

with adversity with that handicap.

We never see the mountain lion except on the big screen at the back of the stage but we see Jeremy (E. Jason Liebrecht) frequently pulling on a rope as he's dragged along.

And the plot thickens.

Annabelle's father, Brutus, played by Lowell Bartholomee, adds a lot to the production.

This is a successful return to the Douglas by the Rude Mechs theatre company, which provided last season's Douglas Theatre hit, "The Method Gun."

Photo by Craig Schwartz

"I've Never Been So Happy" was a hit in its world premiere in Austin, Texas during April and was slightly altered for its run here.

The most obvious way was when Annabelle objects to being restricted to the house by saying "I want adventure. I want to see the world - New York, Paris, Culver City."

"I've Never Been So Happy" will continue at the Douglas Theatre until October 23. It is a DouglasPlus presentation.

Kentwood Announces Auditions

Kentwood Players announces auditions for David Lindsay-Abaire's Pulitzer Prize-winning (2007) play "Rabbit Hole" on Saturday, November 12 from 11 am to 4 pm and Sunday, November 13 from 6 pm to 9 at the Westchester Playhouse, 8301 Hindry Avenue in Westchester.

If necessary, callbacks will be held on Monday, November 14 at 7 pm. The production is directed by Sheridan Cole Crawford and produced by Linda Reinhardt by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

Performances will be from January 13 to February 18, 2012 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 2 at the Westchester Playhouse.

"Rabbit Hole" tells the simple but wrenching story of Becca and Howie, a married couple in crisis after the sudden death of their child turns their world upside down and leaves them drifting perilously apart. The play is set in New York State in the present.

For more information about Kentwood Players including current productions, upcoming auditions, and the Kentwood Kids Children's Theatre Classes visit the Kentwood Players website at www.kentwoodplayers.org.

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Halloween Fest featuring **Symphony In The Glen**
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EEK! at the GREEK

Sunday, October 30

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SPORTS

Culver Absorbs First Loss

Ocean League Games Begin Friday

By Dale Williams
Observer Reporter

The things that the Culver City High football team was able to get away with in their first four games were the things that cost them against Narbonne last Friday night.

The occasional offensive sputtering, the untimely penalties, the damaging turnovers, the defensive breakdowns that sometimes held the Centaurs back but didn't break them were too much to overcome against the Gauchos, the best team Culver City has played this season and a team that you can't be inconsistent against.

So maybe it wasn't a total surprise that Culver City, which had won its first four games despite not always clicking on all cylinders, couldn't overcome its miscues last week in suffering its first loss of the season, 49-23, to Narbonne in a non-league game at Culver City.

Too many quarterback sacks, penalties, turnovers and defensive breakdowns kept the Centaurs from any chance of winning the game, as Culver City fell behind 22-0 at halftime. And even though the Centaurs fought back to pull within 12 points on two occasions in the second half, their mistakes quickly took them right back out of the contest.

So as Culver City goes into Ocean League play this week against Morningside on homecoming the Centaurs are faced with having to shake off another disappointing loss to a City Section team. Last year, Narbonne defeated the Centaurs by 20 points and to Crenshaw by 43. In 2009 and 2008 the Centaurs also lost to Crenshaw.

But the encouraging thing for Culver City is that it has won big in Ocean League play in the past few years. The Centaurs are 20-1-4 in league games since 2006, and have won four league titles the past five seasons. And they go into this league season as one of the favorites to win the crown.

Going into this week's games, Culver City has a 4-1 non-league mark, as does Santa Monica, which is not a surprise given the Vikings' track record of success. What is surprising is that Hawthorne - which went 2-48 overall and 1-24 in league play the past five seasons - is also 4-1 in 2011. So the Centaurs may have more competition for the league title than they thought.

But to win a fifth title in six years, Culver City will have to play better than it did against Narbonne. The Centaurs had two passes intercepted and lost a fumble, and key penalties and sacks also were their undoing. They also allowed the Gauchos to gain 523 yards.

After trailing 22-0 at halftime, they fought back in the third quarter with a field goal by Ret Tillman and a 10-yard touchdown pass from Lukas O'Connor to Jimmy Haywood to make it 22-10.

Culver City forced a punt, and had a chance to cut into the deficit further,



Senior Miles Washington flies in and blocks a Narbonne point-after.

photo by George Laase

but O'Connor had a pass intercepted, and Narbonne drove for a score to make it 28-10.

Again the Centaurs fought back, as Julius Wilson scored on a 5-yard run with 9:44 left made it 28-16 (Culver City failed on a two-point conversion attempt). Then the Centaurs looked as if they would really threaten to get back into the game, as Tillman perfectly executed an onside kick that popped high into the air and was recovered by Culver City.

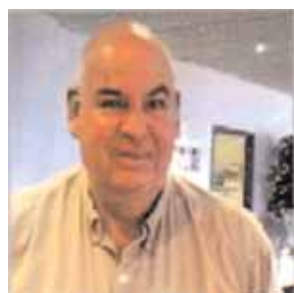
Culver Football - Continued On Page 7

Culver Football Schedule

- Sept. 9 - Culver 51 West Torrance, 28
- Sept. 16 - Culver 42, Peninsula, 7
- Sept. 23 - Culver 40, Redondo 23
- Sept. 30 - Culver 52, Leuzinger 0
- Oct. 7 - Narbonne 49, Culver 23
- Oct. 14 - home vs. Morningside, 7 pm
- Oct. 21 - at Inglewood, 7 pm
- Oct. 28 - at Hawthorne, 7 pm
- Nov. 4 - home vs. Santa Monica, 7 pm
- Nov. 11 - at Beverly Hills, 7 pm

Banks, Katz Deal With Football Career Problems

Seven years ago Darius Banks entered Culver City High and Ryan Katz arrived at Santa Monica High.



Mitch Chortkoff

Both were heralded young quarterbacks and their arrival signaled the beginning of a grand era in the Culver City-Santa Monica rivalry.

It was as good as advertised when both began their varsity competition. In their last of three meetings as seniors Culver won, 31-28, in one of the greatest high school football games I've ever seen.

It was logical to assume both would excel in college football and most likely go on to the NFL.

Today, neither is accomplishing this goal but for different reasons.

Banks had academic problems which damaged his chances of playing major college football. Oregon was one of the schools interested and we can only imagine what Banks' strong arm and running ability would have contributed to the Ducks' attack, already one of the most successful in the college ranks.

Banks enrolled at Eastern Washington, which accepted him with the stipulation he wouldn't play in the first year while he improved his academics. After one year Banks left.

He roamed from one community college to another the following summer

before enrolling at Fullerton College. He was outstanding there for two years. When Fullerton revealed its list of players transferring to four-year schools, Banks wasn't on the list.

Banks is now attempting to get his academics in order so he can play at a Division 2 school next season.

Katz was a better student and he signed a letter of intent with Oregon State and had two excellent seasons there, throwing for 2,700 yards and 19 touchdowns. But he was injured in last season's final game and missed all of spring practice leading up to this season.

He started the opening game against Sacramento State but was removed at halftime and replaced by freshman Sean Mannion. Oregon State has a 1-4 record and Coach Mike Riley is answering a lot of questions about replacing an experienced junior with a freshman.

Katz has kept a low profile, except to say "I know what I can do." Current Santa Monica High coach Travis Clark says he doesn't like the way Katz has been treated and suggests transferring would be a logical move. "He could go somewhere, pass for 5,000 yards and impress the NFL scouts," said Clark. Says Riley: "Ryan is a wonderful young man who has worked hard and we're still evaluating the situation."

I'll watch Oregon State's remaining games closely this season. And I'll keep searching to see if Banks finds a football home in 2012..

Centaurs Spikers Swept In Ocean League Match

Just one day after playing a non-league match against Windward, the Culver City High girls volleyball team looked sluggish in as 25-10, 25-18, 25-18 home loss to defending Ocean League champion Santa Monica on October 5.

The Lady Centaurs never held a lead as the visitors used early scoring runs to take command of each set. The teams will meet again Oct. 20 at Santa Monica.

"A lot of our matches and games are close right now," Culver City Coach Chris Fraijo said. "Errors seem to be haunting us right now--hitting errors and serving errors, mainly. If we can rectify those two areas of our game, I think we will be okay."

Tiara Wallace led the Lady Centaurs with eight kills, Torrey Mitsunaga had 12 assists and Mychelle Hale and Ashanti Stewart each had eight digs. Hale had 23 service receptions with only two errors and Stewart had 10 receptions with two errors. Wallace leads Culver City with 75 kills and Mitsunaga, a senior setter, has 21 service aces and 130 assists so far this season.



Mychelle Hale keeps the point alive with a dig.

Culver City (1-6-1 overall, 1-1 in league) continues league play this week, traveling to Inglewood on Tuesday and hosting Beverly Hills on Thursday. Culver City and Beverly Hills tied for second place last season after splitting their head-to-head matches.

Culver Football - Continued From Page 6

But moments later, O'Connor and Jackson had a mixup on a pass play, and the ball was intercepted by Narbonne, which then followed the turnover by driving for a touchdown to go ahead 35-16.

O'Connor completed 30 of 38 passes for 313 yards and a touchdown, with the two interceptions. Wilson caught 11 passes for 111 yards, and Alex Jackson caught eight passes for 94 yards (he also had an 85-yard kickoff return for a touchdown) and Haywood caught six passes for 69 yards and a touchdown.

On defense, Ronald Jones had 12 tackles and a sack, Deon Young had eight tackles and caused a fumble, and Khalil Pettway had nine tackles.

Morningside is 3-2 after defeating Firebaugh of Lynwood last week.

Scout House Yard Sale

Culver City Scout House will hold a yard sale on Saturday, October 15 on its front lawn of 10866 Culver Blvd. from 9 am to 3 pm.

The sale is sponsored by the Friends of Culver City Scout House (FOCC-SH) a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation. For more information on the Friends visit their website at www.culvercityscouthouse.org

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FOOTLOOSE

MOVIE REVIEW



debbie lynn elias

As you all know by now, I am not a fan of remakes, especially when remaking an iconic, classic film. Be a film good, bad or indifferent, there is a reason it is a classic, a reason or reasons it is so beloved by the world, and those are reasons enough to leave it alone. But every once in awhile, a filmmaker comes along that sees all the elements that make that film so beloved to generations, and while anxious to put his own stamp on the property, has the good sense and decency to pay homage to the original, remain true to those elements that made the film so indelible in the first place, and just give it a new coat of paint so to speak. That's exactly what co-writer/director Craig Brewer has done with FOOTLOOSE. Retaining not only the integrity of the original, but the same characters, specific recognizable dialogue, patented dance moves and even the look of certain clothing, with FOOTLOOSE 2011, Brewer and company give us all the touchstones that we remember and that made the original FOOTLOOSE the blockbuster it is, but freshens up the overall film by adding some current music styles, some welcome back story and while this is hard to believe, more dancing than ever.

Ren McCormack is a fish out of water. A high school senior from Boston, he has just cared for and watched his mother pass away from leukemia. With no father in the picture, Ren was forced to come south to Bomont, Georgia to live with the only family he has, his aunt and uncle and their two little girls. Now Bomont is about as far from Boston as one can get. And I'm not talking geographically.



Living in his uncle's converted office, life is quiet in Bomont, perhaps too quiet. Rigid curfews are in place for teens. And as Ren quickly learns when he gets a ticket, the law prohibits the playing of loud music. No music?? But it gets worse. There's no dancing either; unless it's at the church socials where a guy has to dance with his mother and girls must be at least 6 inches away from one's body. You can't even buy beer on Sunday and everyone goes to the local Presbyterian Church to be preached to by Reverend Shaw. Ah, yes. Reverend Shaw. A man whose finger is on the pulse of the community and who has the community under his thumb. Whatever Reverend Shaw wants, he gets. Whatever he says, people abide by. And much to Ren's chagrin, or not, Reverend Shaw also has a daughter, Ariel.

But you know teenagers, where there's a will, there's a way, and with the crowd in Bomont, music and dancing is what they want more than anything. And thanks to the owner of the diner at the drive-in, they get to play their

music and dance to their hearts' content with none other than Ariel leading the way. Rebellious, always chasing bad boys (like local race driver Chuck), and always wanting to dance, Ariel is everything her father doesn't want her to be - something that seems to intrigue Ren...as much as he intrigues Ariel, particularly when he puts on his dancing shoes at the drive-in and cuts loose.

With his James Dean look and city attitude, Ren is the bane of existence for Reverend Shaw, the high school principal and every God-fearing parent in town. Why who knows what kind of ruckus this city boy may cause! But Ren keeps asking, "why?". Why the bans? Why the restrictions? And then he learns why. Three years earlier, Shaw's son Bobby, along with four other classmates, was killed in a head on collision with a 16-wheeler. They had been partying. They had been playing music. They had been dancing. And in that revelation, Ren also learns what makes Ariel tick.

Already befriended by the football team and his new best friend Willard, Ren gets a wacky idea. Let's fight the system. Let's fight Shaw. Let's change the laws. Let's dance. And the rest, shall we say, is history.

Stepping into the shoes of Kevin Bacon's Ren McCormack is no easy task but Kenny Wormald fills the bill nicely. A trained dancer practically from birth, Wormald was a back-up dancer for none other than Justin Timberlake who, in fact, recommended him to director Brewer. Himself from Massachusetts, the authenticity of Wormald's accent is much appreciated, and because of the accent,

Brewer rewrote the character so he would come from Boston and not the Midwest as originally written. Distancing himself from the iconic persona of Bacon, Wormald adopts more of a James Dean look and attitude with a harder edge. Where he falls short, however, is in the more dramatic aspect of the character, and never moreso than in the critical scene of Ren pleading his case to dance. Bacon was energetic, uplifting, enthusiastic. Wormald has a calmer softer delivery that lacks passion, something I find disquieting for one so passionate about a cause. But what he lacks with some of his acting he makes for with his dance which is amazing.

Equally amazing, not only with dancing, is Julianne Hough. Stepping off the dance floor at "Dancing With The Stars" and on to the big screen (with a stop at the recording studio in Nashville along the way), we got a taste of Julianne's acting in "Burlesque". But here, as Ariel, she gets a chance to spread her wings and soar. And soar she does. Hough gives Ariel an emotional fire that just blazes



throughout the film, but also brings a tacit vulnerability that warms the heart. The emotional complexity of Ariel is a welcome addition to this FOOTLOOSE and Hough nails it, particularly in some intense scenes with Dennis Quaid. Then she just tears up the screen with the dance. As I watched her all I could think was, Lori Who? In the ideal FOOTLOOSE world, I see Julianne Hough and Kevin Bacon paired.

Stealing the show, and my heart once again, is Miles Teller. He wowed me in "Rabbit Hole" but here as Ren's best friend, Willard, he hits it out of the park. He is a natural. As Willard he is beyond likeable, affable. Teller gives Willard this great innocent confidence with a nuanced comedic edge. His smile just melts you while his chemistry with Wormald is easy-going and believable, something essential to the film. And the Willard learning to dance sequence - priceless!!!!

Dennis Quaid steps in as Reverend Shaw, but I have to admit, I am not that impressed with the performance. He doesn't come across as a fire and brimstone preacher that would have such total control over a community. It just fell flat. On the other hand, Andie MacDowell is a breath of fresh air as Vi Shaw. Notable is that we finally get to see her natural beauty, a few crows feet and all, unlike in the air-brushed cosmetic commercials that flood the media.

Co-written by Dean Pitchford and Craig Brewer, and directed by Brewer, FOOTLOOSE may be by-the-numbers, but the numbers get ratcheted up for 2011. Although familiar, thanks to the inclusion of some hip-hop music and true-to-life teen characterizations that don't dumb them down, the story will resonate with teens as well as adults who remember the original film. Notable is the plot point of Ren's fight to dance and the lengths he goes to, checking legal resources, uses a library, etc. Brewer and Pitchford make these FOOTLOOSE kids more educated and world savvy and has some utilizing their brains to get ahead or get what they want. They elevate the intelligence factor to be more than about boys, clothes, music and dancing. Touchstone moments are all inclusive, book-ended by the opening and closing dance numbers that are almost identical images to the original, using both the original Kenny Loggins' FOOTLOOSE song and Blake Shelton's 2011 version (which I like). The now infamous chicken race with tractors has been reinvented as school bus death races on a race track. But don't fear! We've still got tractors in the film. And of course, we got the boys fighting at the prom, although the fight scene seemed lacking in stunt choreography.

Costuming is impeccable thanks to Laura

Jean Shannon. From Ariel's red boots to Willard's black tux and blue shirt to Ren's red prom jacket and Ariel's off the shoulder prom dress, Shannon retains the basic look of the originals, but modernizes them for 2011. No longer must Willard wear a ruffled shirt and Ren isn't glistening in metallic threads! (And if you like the FOOTLOOSE look, there is now a clothing line that you can buy on Home Shopping Network. Seriously!)

Technically, there is nothing exceptional about the film. Not embracing the "new technologies" that come along in the past 27 years, Brewer keeps it basic, simple and straightforward, letting the music and dance shine as opposed to fancy camera work. Although camera angles are varied, especially with the dance numbers, many are identical to the original film. Similarly, Billy Fox' editing, while often appearing choppy, actually compliments the rapid-fire dance moves, particularly in the drive-in hip hop sequence. I applaud Director of Photography Amelia Vincent for some beautiful imagery and lighting. Remembering Ariel and Ren in a darkened train in the original, this go round, Vincent brings in some calculated soft lighting that enhances vibrant color and eclectic set design. And the climactic prom sequence... as magical as ever.

But the real stars of FOOTLOOSE are the dances and music. Blending famed songs from the original with some updated versions and adding a few new pieces of hip-hop and country western, the soundtrack is fresh and exciting. And while much of the seminal dance routines and moves are identifiable to the original film, Jamal Sims choreography also celebrates the strengths and weaknesses of each of the performers. The drive-in sequence allowed Wormald to cut loose with his background in street dancing while we see Hough's ballroom and Latin background come through in the prom sequence, plus a little nod to a waltz between Hough and Quaid. Then toss in some country line dancing and Sims has all the bases covered.

As I sit here now, I can't help but wonder what Carrie Ann Inaba, Len Goodman and Bruno Tonioli would give FOOTLOOSE for scores. On my paddle, I give it a 10! This is the feel good film of the year! It's time for everybody to cut loose - FOOTLOOSE!!!

Ren - Kenny Wormald
Ariel - Julianne Hough
Willard - Miles Teller
Reverend Shaw - Dennis Quaid
Vi Shaw - Andie MacDowell

Directed by Craig Brewer. Written by Brewer and Dean Pitchford.

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