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OLY NEWS

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SKATEBOARD PARK COMING TO VENICE

Venice Beach is opening a skate park on the boardwalk. Now we can all have a designated place to skate. The park will be 16,000 square feet of wonderland with 2 million dollars invested in it. I had the privilege to meet with Jesse Martinez, a

skater who has been shredding with Dog Town for years. On Saturday, January 31, 2009, there was a groundbreaking ceremony at Venice Beach.

(See page 3, *Skate Park*)

CUPID'S LESSON ON VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentines day isn't only a day of love, compassion and giving out candy and cards, but actually has history to it. The legend starts with a man named Saint Valentine. Saint Valentine is said to have lived in Rome during the third century. During this time, Rome was ruled by an emperor named Claudius. Many people did not like the ruler. Claudius was having trouble getting men to serve in his army. He felt many men would not volunteer to join because they did not want to leave their wives and families. He thought that if men were not married, they would join the army. So Claudius passed a new law, which did not allow any more marriages. Most people thought this law was cruel and

unreasonable. Valentine, who was a minister, did not support the new law. Even after Emperor Claudius passed the law, Saint Valentine kept performing marriages secretly. One night he was caught and thrown in jail and told he would be put to death. Many young people came to visit Valentine. One was the daughter of the prison guard. On the day of his death Valentine wrote a note to the daughter signed "Love from your Valentine". This was on February 14, 269 A. D. Some say this started the custom of exchanging love messages, candy and cards on Valentine's Day.
- Eddie =]]

A MARRIAGE OF SCIENCE AND RELIGION

DID YOU KNOW?...

Charles Darwin, the man famous for his theories on evolution, had a love of his life? That's right, he had a wife whom he met after his 5 year voyage around the world, studying animals and plants. When they married, Emma Wedgwood, soon to be Emma Darwin had heavy religious beliefs, hence, the joining of science and religion.

All of Darwin's work was challenging religion, by stating that all animals come from an earlier form of the species. This was highly disputed by all religious people, including his wife.

Charles and Emma were married for 43 years, evidence that perhaps Love is the strongest bond of all.

-Chago D.

"When love is not madness, it is not love."

~Pedro Calderon de la Barca.

MOVIES TO SHARE ON VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentines Day this year is going to be on Saturday, February 14th. Meaning it's only a few days away, so you better get on it and start getting a Valentine, if you don't already. Since its going to be landing on a Saturday this year, we have put a list of movies together that you and your loved one, can go watch together. Below is a list of movies that you and your loved one might be interested in watching on Saturday, Valentine's Day.

-Karina M.

The Hopeless Romantic
Titanic
Casablanca
The Notebook
Romeo and Juliet

Boys
House of Flying Daggers
Not Another Teen Movie
The American Pie Movies
The Dark Knight

That Kid Stuck In the 80's
Say Anything
Pretty in Pink
Can't Buy Me Love
Dirty Dancing

The Musical Lover
Westside Story
Grease 1 & 2
Hairspray



Happy Valentine's

Alex's Love Lines

- Can you give me directions to your heart? I've seemed to have lost myself in your eyes.
- Apart from being gorgeous, what do you do for a living?
- Is it hot in here, or is it just you?
- Do you believe in love at first sight... or should I walk by you again?
- Is there an airport nearby or is that just my heart taking off?
- Do you mind if I stare at you up close instead of from across the room?
- If I had a rose for every time I thought of you, I would be walking through my garden forever.
- If beauty were time, you'd be eternity.
- I don't dance. But I'd love to hold you while you do.
- There's so much to say but your eyes keep interrupting me.
- If I could rearrange the alphabet, I'd put U and I together.

SANTA MONICA & VENICE WORK TOGETHER

ORGANIZING A NEW SKATE PARK IN VENICE BEACH

(Skate Park, continued from page 1)

OLY: Did you look up to the guys from Dog Town?

JESSE MARTNEZ: Yes, very much so. I grew up around them. Wes Humpston's, younger brother and I would skate together all the time.

OLY: In what sense did your brothers influence you not to be in a gang?

JM: They bought me my first skateboard when I was around six. At about eleven, they asked me if I wanted to be jumped into the Venice gang, they gave me a choice. I saw what had come with being in a gang and said, "No." My brother told me, "Get out of here white boy and go skate."

OLY: I understand John Muir, which is currently Olympic High School, is one of the first places you started skating. Where exactly did you skate?

JM: I remember we would get to school early so we could skate on the stairs in the front entrance and the banks next to it.

OLY: Do you still compete today?

JM: Yes, I still compete today.

OLY: How did this skate park come around?

JM: In 1988, a company known as Bronze Age got together and started talking. Many worked very hard to make this happen. It took years.

OLY: Why did you do it?

JM: Around the mid 80s, and early 2000s, other skate parks started popping up. There was a decline in professional skateboarders in the area. The last pro from this area was

in 1993-1994. From an area that has produced 50-70 professional skateboarders, that is a big drop, so we needed to push this park.

OLY: When will it be done?

JM: From when the actual construction starts, in March, 7-8 months.

OLY: How do you view this skate-park?

JM: This is going to be one of the top five skate-parks in the country. It will be the most skated skate parks in the world. This was a community effort of the city of Los Angeles and Santa Monica we all worked really hard for this. Santa Monica and Venice can set an example when it comes to skateboarders. This is a prime example of how two cities can get along. By 2012, we will see professional skateboards coming out of this area again.

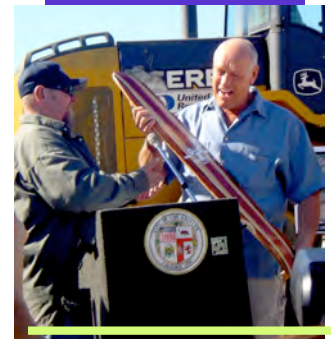
OLY: What professional skateboarders do you see coming out of this area?

JM: Mattie Lamond is one of them; the odds are that he will definitely be a pro. And Jaymie Quaintance, will probably be a pro in two to three years.

OLY: Do you see your see your son Christian skateboarding here?

JM: Yes I do. I have a twenty year old and a eleven month old. That is actually another reason we decided to do this skate park to help our friends with kids. Some of them are 4th generation Dog Town kids. It is in their blood to skate, it's a rarity to have generations of skateboarders.

Isis E., Reporting...



(Above) Skip, of Dogtown, gives Councilman Rosenthal a skate for his efforts on the new Venice Skate Park.



(Below) Jesse leading the ground breaking ceremony

Comedy Night At Olympic...



Susanna Spies

We interviewed Susanna Spies, a teacher and one of the members who started up the Eamon Cannon Comedy class. This class is dedicated to a student and stand up comic, Eamon Cannon who has passed away. Eamon was someone who meant a lot to her," says Susanna. She also says that the experience of teaching students comedy and providing a platform to share is such a great feeling. This class was brought into Olympic in February 2008 and is reaching schools within the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District. This would be the 3rd time Susanna has brought to us this outstanding class to Olympic High School. Our recent comedy show "Joking With The Pilgrims" was fascinating in its own way. Everyone in the show did an awesome job at making the crowd laugh. Here's the Stand up list: Pricilla C, Eddie M, Hunter I, Micah S, Richard U, Sean M, Clifford J, Donnie D, and a Special Guest: Katy Perry (A.K.A. Richard in a wig and make up)

The comedy show is a different experience every time. This would be the 2nd time I, Richard U, have done the comedy show. Every time it was a different experience for me. Susanna first helps build our comedy around real life. So everyday she would give us a little exercise that embarrasses us. Then we wrap it into comedy. Ms. Susanna Spies is a wonderful teacher and a comedian, herself. She helped so much when any of the students were having trouble with their acts. She really made us feel totally confident and we

appreciate her. She helped me to be confident enough, that I was down to dress up like Katy Perry and performs to her song "Hot N Cold"! It was a whole new world to me and it was quite breezy. All I have to say is I'm never wearing heels again!

We also interviewed Ms. Hensley on the experience of the Laughlinks curriculum and her experience in the show was for her.

Oly: What do you think about Laughlinks?

Ms.H: I think Susanna's program is incredible, her program brings an important element to Olympic that makes the school stand out.

Oly: How was it working with Susanna and The Laughlinks curriculum?

Ms.H: Wonderful! We are a good team; I think she is a very sweet person. We bounce ideas off each other.

Oly: Have you done any comedy shows yourself?

Ms.H: Yeah, I did stand-up comedy for about 2 years. I also performed sketch comedy and improv-comedy for about 15 years all over the country.

Oly: What did you think about the recent comedy show "Joking With The Pilgrims"?

Ms.H: Awesome! There were people that surprised me and everybody worked really hard!

Oly: Was this show different from the last one?

Ms.H: Every show is different; the goal is to have each comedian feel good about his or her work. So it's hard to compare shows.
-Richard U.

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We're on the Web!

See us at
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This Month's Editor



Janet T. <3

Up and Coming Events

February 18th – Officer Navarro of SMPD will be co-hosting our Parent Meeting. If you attend you may receive 15 points for students and 5 points for parents.

February 21st – Graffiti Art/ Hip Hop Culture Artists wanted: at Pico Youth and Family Center to paint a mural/wall. Please contact our Community Liaison – Cristina on Wednesdays, in the Counseling office.

February 26th Possible DUI presentation and obstacle course

March 17th & 18th - CHSEE Testing

Dance Class on Mondays – 5th Period

Comedy Class – Mon. & Tues. 4th Period

Guitar Class is looking for some new students!

Do you need to pass the CAHSEE? Barry is Tutoring CHSEE on Tues. & Thurs. – 2:05 to 3:05 in Room 5