



BEVERLY HILLS—If I may say so myself, I think that we're pretty darn cute! What do you think? While the two girls are arguing about who will tell you about the three of us, I'll take over, or we'll be here until the next issue of Canyon News comes out and someone else will be featured in this corner!

You may think that we're triplets, but we're not. I'm a little boy named Marcus. I'm the one with his mouth open because I'm telling you this story. I was born on January 4, so that makes me a little over 7 months old.

The two girls are Katie and Khloe, and they're sisters that are just about a year old. I'm really not sure which is which in the picture, but I believe Katie is at the end, as she is the shy one.

So, that makes Khloe the one in the middle, and I have to admit that she is very smart! Being the youngest, I'm very playful and friendly! And, oh, yes, we're Pomeranians, in case you didn't know!

We had never really been out and about before, so our first walk when we came to the Friends of Animals Foundation was a little traumatic. The sights and sounds of the big cars and trucks, seeing all the strange people, and meeting other dogs, was pretty overwhelming! However, we're adjust-

ing quite well, and are ready to have you come to see us, and, well, maybe we'll be part of loving families pretty soon!

No, we don't have to be adopted together. I will say, though, that we'd all be best in homes with no small children. Another dog would probably be okay if it was a small one like we are.

I want to be honest with you: we were never housebroken. We were trained to use wee-wee pads. For people who live in apartments, or can't go for regular walks, that's a big plus, isn't it? However, Khloe isn't the only smart one; we're all smart in learning new things, so I'm sure that house-breaking won't be a problem if you're patient with us.

We're great lap dogs, and there's a lot of love in our little bodies. So won't you come in to see us and cuddle with us? We'd love that!

What's that? You think that we're very cute but you want a bigger dog, or a kitty cat? Well, I want homes for all of my friends that are here, so check out our Web site online at foafla.petfinder.com, or give a call to make an appointment, and I bet you'll find a match!

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# TEEN FALLS TO HIS DEATH

## MALIBU MAN DIES IN NATIONAL PARK IN APPARENT ROCK CLIMBING ACCIDENT

By Susie Kopecky

MALIBU—A 19-year-old Malibu resident died on August 10 while in Sequoia National Park.

According to a news release from the California National Park Service, Kevin Trevor Rodriguez, 19, was declared dead at 4 p.m. on August 10 after falling more than 50 feet and "sustaining head injuries," which ultimately proved to be fatal.

According to park officials, CPR was performed on Rodriguez "for approximately 45 minutes" until park paramedics arrived and "attempted an additional 15 minutes of CPR," but Rodriguez was pronounced dead.

Rodriguez was with at least one companion when it is believed by officials that he accidentally slipped while on a vertical descent, when attempting to use smoother, more slippery rocks to grip while climbing.

According to the statement from the NPS, "Instead of climbing down in the same location as they had ascended, they [Rodriguez and his companion(s)] attempted to descend via what appeared to be an easier route. While less steep, the rocks they chose to descend were made slippery by water passing over them during normal high water, and

Rodriguez took a tumbling fall, landing in a small pool below."

Rodriguez was hiking above a trail around the vicinity of Tokopah Falls.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park are under the auspices of the National Park Service (NPS) of California, and are located in the Three Rivers region.

The NPS warns that hazards are ever present in the park, that "rocks roll, trees topple" and "changing weather can pose dangers. People may create hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions."

Park authorities also caution that injuries and death "occur often when a down-climb is more difficult or impossible than it appeared from the ground. Visitors are warned to use extreme caution when scrambling or climbing in the park."

The NPS notes that information can be provided on safety, "but in the end you are responsible for your safety. Keep alert. Know about the hazards where you are going and what you are doing. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice."



King's Canyon. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

## AUTHORITIES SEARCHING FOR SEXUAL PREDATOR

By LaDale Anderson



SANTA MONICA—Police are looking for a suspect who groped a woman as she was walking

on the 2100 block of Lincoln Boulevard on Wednesday, July 29. The incident occurred at

approximately 7:45 a.m. The victim had walked past the suspect and felt someone grab her right buttock.

A Public Information Bulletin obtained by Canyon News indicated that when the victim turned around, she saw the suspect smiling as he said to her, "Sexy." The suspect then walked away from the scene.

Canyon News spoke to Sgt. Jay Trisler from the Santa Monica Police Department on August 11 about the incident. When asked whether this was an isolated incident or if the suspect has struck again, Sgt. Trisler responded, "At this time there are no reports of any other incidents. This is considered an isolated incident at the moment."

The suspect is described as a male, African-

American, approximately 30 years old, wearing a grey sweatshirt, grey hat and holding a beige backpack with a red-stripe.

Police are asking anyone with any information that may help identify the person responsible for this crime to contact Detective Gladden at 310-458-8931 or to contact the Criminal Investigations/Detectives bureau at 310-458-8451.

Those with information can also contact the Watch Commander 24 hours a day at 310-458-8427. Persons wishing to remain anonymous can call WeTip at 1-800-78-CRIME (800-782-7463). All who share information can remain anonymous. Tipsters will be eligible for a reward if any information provided leads to an arrest or conviction.

## COUNCILMAN DECIDES NOT TO REMOVE 90210 ZIP CODE

By Rosana Clarkson

BEVERLY HILLS—Beverly Hills Councilman John Mirisch recently announced his decision not to follow through with his plan to have the prominent 90210 zip code removed.

Mirisch had proposed to have an area

known as the Beverly Hills Post Office Area to be given a new code, contending that removing the code would lessen occasional confusion for police, fire and ambulance staff.

Mirisch was opposed by his four fellow

council members, and by residents who were attached to the code, which was made distinctive by the famous 1990s television series "Beverly Hills 90210." The decision landed on a 4 to 1 vote.

The original "Beverly Hills 90210"

drama starred teen icons like Jason Priestley, Shannen Doherty, Tori Spelling and Luke Perry, aired from 1990-2000. A new spin-off series was created in 2008.

# SANTA MONICA TO INCREASE PARKING RATES

By Nita Gandhi



Photo by Nita Gandhi

SANTA MONICA—The city of Santa Monica will increase parking rates by the 3rd Street Promenade to compete with private rates.

Miriam Mack, Economic Development

Manager for the City of Santa Monica, stated to Canyon News that the city had commissioned a consultant to evaluate the number of the city's parking programs and has come back with recommendations

for parking on the streets and in structures. The increase could affect the decisions people make on where to park, could generate increased revenues and could increase access to the area.

Mack stated that the consultant recommended the following: two hours free for structures will now be two hours at \$1 with an hour free; the hourly rate should increase to \$2 for each additional hour; daily rates should be raised from \$7 to \$9; evening rates should be raised from \$3 to \$5 and monthly rates should be raised from \$80 to \$121 per month.

Jim, who lives in Santa Monica, told Canyon News, "It does not surprise me, but the city has to make money somehow."

"I park in the alley in the back where we have our own specific parking, this is only for management. Our sales associates usually park across the way in the Macy's parking lot for three hours, after the three

hours they notify us and we let them go and move their car to another spot so they won't get a parking ticket," said J.R. Peterson, the manager of the Aldo shoe store at the 3rd Street Promenade. "It kind of sucks just a little bit because it's not fair for our sales associates because sometimes they might have to pay a ticket and may have to pay \$3 at another place. In a way it's not fair but that's just the way it is with the economy being so bad right now. I guess they are trying to do anything they can just to get another dollar."

"Our goal is to start to bring our rates to be like the private rates and to make alternative ways of people getting to downtown Santa Monica instead of using a car," Mack stated.

Mack further stated that the report will be presented to the Santa Monica City Council on September 8.

# SWAT TEAM ARRESTS SUSPECTED ARSONIST

By Nita Gandhi

LOS FELIZ—Los Angeles SWAT team officers arrested a man on Thursday, August 6, who barricaded himself in his home after Los Angeles Fire Department and Long Beach Fire Department investigators tried to serve a warrant to search his home.

Captain Stephen Ruda, Spokesperson for the LAFD, stated to Canyon News that Gregory Barrett is allegedly involved in starting the Los Angeles and Long Beach fires.

Captain Ruda stated that the LBFD and

the LAFD had been gathering evidence in a joint investigation when they went to Barrett's home to give him a warrant to search his house. The two agencies met with conflict when Barrett slammed the door and barricaded himself inside.

Ruda stated that he admires the LAPD SWAT team for resolving the situation in a peaceful and non-confrontational manner without any injuries.

There may be a press conference on the incident later this week.

# PUBLISHER MICHAEL VINER DIES

By Susie Kopecky

BEVERLY HILLS—On Saturday, August 8, the man behind Phoenix Books & Audio passed away after a battle with cancer.

Michael Viner, 65, was the award-winning president of Phoenix Books and was known for his role in helping to publish many tantalizing biographies of the famous and infamous, both in print and on audio cassettes.

In a press release from Phoenix Books, Viner was celebrated for an "accomplished career [which] spanned over thirty years across the diverse areas of publishing, music and film." The owner of Phoenix Books, Dwight D. Opperman, stated that "we are deeply saddened by this loss."

Viner was living in Beverly Hills at the time of his passing.

In a March 4, 2009 post on the Huffington Post, Viner defended his decision to offer a book deal to former Governor Blagojevich, explaining Phoenix's move as one to open the eyes of the "true victim[s]... the American Public."

"A lot has been said this week about Rod Blagojevich and about his book deal with Phoenix Books. It seems that the issue is the presumption of innocence is no longer with us. As a publisher who believes that there is more than one fascinating story here I am puzzled as to why we have been made part of the story," Viner wrote. Viner claimed that "exceptional pressure" was put on publishers not to support Blagojevich's book, and that Phoenix hoped to "at least show the full scope of the rainbow web behind these events."

Phoenix Books & Audio is currently featuring titles on celebrities such as Agatha Christie, Debbie Nelson (the mother of rapper Eminem), financier Bernard Madoff, vanished mother Stacy Peterson, President Obama, Sigfriend and Roy and Natalie "Natalia" McLennan. The subjects of upcoming Phoenix books include former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich, Dick Van Patten, Elton John and television personality Dr. Phil.

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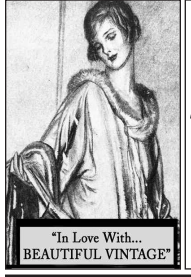
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**"I DECIDED TO LEAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP FOR A BAD ONE..."**

By Deanna M.

**Dear Deanna!**

After a few years of dating, I decided to leave a relationship and go back to an old one. This was a mistake. The woman I went to lied to me, has a crazy ex-husband and was pregnant when we got together. I left this relationship immediately and tried to go back to the first woman. She has forgiven me but said she will only take me back after I have a DNA test. In the meantime, she said if she finds someone else, then it's over. Am I wrong for still wanting her?

**Hopeless Online Reader**

**Dear Hopeless:**

You're a selfish man living in your own fantasy world. You broke up with this woman for a reason and got more of the drama that caused you to leave in the first

place. You're lucky the first woman didn't skin you like a cat. The universe has a way of righting itself so you shouldn't be surprised if she decided to take the risk and move on without you. Regardless of the outcome of the DNA test, you should prepare yourself to be alone or look for another love.

**Dear Deanna!**

I broke up with my boyfriend over something silly and now I regret my actions. I thought he was cheating on me with my best friend but they were actually buying me a gift. I said some horrible things to both of them and they're not speaking to me. I want to get back with him, but I think he is looking at my friend because she seems more mature than me.

What should I do if they start to date because of what happened? I know it's my

fault, but it's going to tear me apart. **Made a Mistake Atlanta, Ga.**

**Dear Mistake:**

You obviously have trust issues if you can't feel secure with your mate or your friends. Your foolish tongue has caused you to lose your relationship and your friend. The only thing you can do is apologize to both parties and ask your boyfriend for another chance. If he says no and goes with your buddy, then you learned a valuable lesson and if they'll do this in your face, you didn't need them anyway.

**Dear Deanna!**

I think I'm in a relationship that is one-sided. In the beginning, my boyfriend and I shared a lot, communication was good and we talked about our goals. Now we don't do anything recreational unless I make a sug-

gestion and pay for everything. I keep trying to love him, support him and find out what's going on. He won't respond but he won't be rude or leave the house. I'm very confused and these mixed signals make it worse. How do I get through to him?

**Going Crazy Toledo, Ohio**

**Dear Going Crazy:**

Your boyfriend has simply fallen out of love with you. He thinks he's being nice and respectful but he's really being dishonest with you. He has some pent up feelings and thoughts that will only come out if you ask direct questions. You should ask him to share his feelings about the relationship, find out where you stand and if he wants to be with you. Don't make assumptions, but rely on his direct response and actions and be willing to take the good with the bad.

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**LASIK FOR THE FEET? FootAlign® draws praise for quick results**

Lasik eye surgery for the feet? Not exactly, but the results are just as immediate and rewarding! Most of us have read or heard personal accounts of the dramatic results achieved from Lasik eye surgery. Poor eyesight is quickly restored to that of one's youth and glasses are simply tossed away. The same sense of freedom and control is now available for sufferers of many common foot related problems. With the introduction of the FDA approved FootAlign procedure: arch supports, night splints, immobilizing boots, specialized shoes, cortisone shots and etc... are no longer necessary. It's truly a revolution in foot care and has been extremely liberating for many of Dr. Roth's patients.

Dr. Roth has been performing this new procedure exclusively at Hoag Hospital with tremendous success. The results have been nothing short of amazing. Patients have relayed that within days of the procedure their foot, hip, knee and back pain that was related to their flat feet/pronation was gone. In some cases, these associated problems had plagued them for a decade or more. Patients who previously had to wear orthotics for their foot problems no longer need the orthotics and now can wear any shoe or sandal without having to worry if the orthotic will fit the shoe.

If you have flat feet, pronation, or collapsing ankles you may be a candidate for this procedure. This foot deformity is inherited. Dr. Roth has personally seen many generations of family members that suffer from the same foot deformity. Parents with foot issues should have their

children examined for these inherited problems. Patients range from 5 to 90 years of age and most patients are candidates for the surgery. The post operative course consists of a tennis shoe and ankle brace or removable cast for about three weeks as the scar tissue forms to hold the implant in place.

The surgical procedure takes about 15 minutes and can be performed under either local or twilight sleep anesthesia. A titanium stent is strategically placed into the ankle area that prevents the foot from abnormally pronating. After implantation, all normal foot and ankle motion will be retained while abnormal motion will be significantly reduced or completely eliminated. Initially, this procedure was performed one foot at a time, but now due to advanced surgical techniques, simultaneous repair of both feet is available.

Photos and X-Rays show the before and after of patient's foot. The results are instantaneous and the procedure has a success rate in the high 90% range. A few of the terrific aspects of this surgery are that no bones are cut, no cement or glue is used, and the procedure is 100% reversible. I would urge anyone with persistent foot problems, knee replacements, hip replacements, or who has had back surgery to be evaluated for this life changing procedure. This new technique for hyperpronation reduces the chance that corrective joint implants throughout the body will need to be re-worked in the future.

Please call Dr. Roth's office for an evaluation. This procedure has the potential to change your life.

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# SUMMER FUN IN THE SUN

By Mary-ann Cerruti

BEVERLY HILLS—Blazing hot sun, inky blue skies, crystal clear seas and long, balmy evenings. Summer brings with it a whole rainbow of opportunity, and along with that, the health and fitness that the winter months just can't muster.

Sun gives us increased serotonin levels, leaving us feeling more energetic, optimistic and happy. Our skin glows with the sun kissed rays and the long days give us more time to spend doing the things we love.

Both adults and children alike are more active in the summer months, playing ball on the grass, making waves in the pool, snorkel-

ing in the sea and taking fun bike rides up the mountain trails. It's all good, burning as much calories as a normal cv session and far more enjoyable than being confined to the clinical walls of the gym. Outdoors, we connect more with nature, so such activities as yoga and pilates can be far more rewarding in the fresh air of summer.

We drink plenty more fluids during the hot summer months to prevent dehydration, leaving us feeling more alert with plumped out, healthy skin. Isotonic drinks are helpful to have if you are doing sports outdoors as they replace the minerals we lose when we

sweat.

We naturally eat healthier in the summer, too. Our bodies crave less high-calorie foods due to the heat, with more fresh salads and fruits replacing heavy fries and fatty desserts. Barbecues are an all-time summer favorite and are no excuse for eating poorly. There are plenty of healthy alternatives to burgers and sausages, including lean chicken breast or fresh fish, such as salmon or tuna steak: both taste delicious barbecued with seasoning, and yet have half the calories. Serve with a big leafy salad and sun-ripened tomatoes for a real health kick. Desserts can be healthy, too,

in the form of frozen yogurt taking the place of ice cream. It is virtually fat free and tastes just as good but has half the calories and fat content.

The summer months bring relaxation with them too; let your body soak up the sun's heat, its healing rays will help ease any aches or pains that the cold winter months can aggravate. Leave the stress of day-to-day life behind. Take time out for you and, even if you don't go anywhere during the summer, simply chilling out in the garden at home enjoying summer's riches can be the most rewarding vacation of all.

# DR. ROTH: "I AM THE REAL DEAL"

By Susie Kopecky

BEVERLY HILLS—What on Earth is a Newport Beach doctor doing advertising in a Beverly Hills paper? Dr. Ivar E. Roth, DPM, MPH says he has great news: he has found a way to alleviate chronic aches and pains.

Dr. Roth told Canyon News that he has fine-tuned a new procedure, called the Foot Align, which aims to address all forms of general pain. Back pain, foot pain, hip pain, knee pain: Dr. Roth maintains that his new procedure, which he says only takes 15 to 30 minutes (per foot) to complete, can have changed the lives of his patients.

Dr. Roth is based a ways from Beverly Hills though his patients have come from as far away as Italy to undergo his treatment. Dr. Roth began performing the Foot Align three years ago, and has performed it on more than 150 patients since then. He classifies the procedure as a minor outpatient surgery, and says that patients can be up and working or going to school the very next day, with only a soft cast and a band aid. In California,

Dr. Roth is the only doctor certified to perform this procedure. Dr. Roth stated that he has "refined the procedure," and has exclusive access to perform the operation at Hope

Hospital, where he is the only foot and ankle specialist with "full privileges" at the hospital.

But why is Dr. Roth advertising in papers across the Southland?

"The only reason I put [ads in] is because it works: I know it works," Dr. Roth explained. "For lack of a better explanation, [this procedure represents] a paradigm shift in how foot surgeries are done." From turned-in ankles to lower back pain to foot pain and knee pain, Dr. Roth is confident that his procedure can address it all. "Anyone wearing an arch support is a candidate. In 15 minutes, I can change their foot for the rest of their lives."

Having performed the foot align on patients of all ages (from a 4-year-old to a 90-year-old), Dr. Roth is confident that his procedure could not only help alleviate long term suffering, but can open entirely new doors. One satisfied patient wrote in a testimonial that Dr. Roth "transformed me from being withdrawn, to being the life of the party."

How could a podiatrist's treatment do that? The patient wrote that after undergoing the procedure, he was no longer inhibited from physical activities which previously would have been too painful or embarrassing to par-



take in.

This young patient previously suffered from chronic foot pain, which was getting in the way of his work and negatively impacting his life. After hearing of Dr. Roth's new procedure on "MedWatch," the young man underwent the surgery and in his words, it changed his life. "I went from hopelessness to being cured. Dr. Roth and his innovations are incredible and are superior to any other form of treatment... For the first time, I woke up without pain... What's more is that following the procedure, I gained a new view on life," the patient wrote.

Dr. Roth likens the foot align to Lasik sur-

gery, "in the sense that it's really quick, really easy and the results are dramatic... You walk in, you walk out, and now you don't have foot pain, knee pain, back pain." Dr Roth estimates that about 25 percent of the population suffers from this chronic pain.

Dr. Roth will see anyone who thinks they may be qualified for the surgery. "Come in for an office visit, we'll see you, tell you if you're a candidate or not. It's not some long, drawn-out process. If you wanted it done, come on Monday... in theory, we could do it on Wednesday." There is no age limit. Dr. Roth notes that "you just have to be old enough to follow directions!"

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# CARROLL IS REASON FOR PRESEASON RANKING

By Todd A. Mayes

LOS ANGELES—When the Pac-10's pre-season poll was released recently it was hardly a surprise that the University of Southern California Trojans were atop it for the seventh straight season. However, considering that Head Coach Pete Carroll's Trojans lost starting quarterback Mark Sanchez and a slew of coveted linebackers to tongue-wagging NFL teams in April, it actually should come as a surprise.

It's not as if the new starters replacing the old ones are household names; although most of them are highly-rated blue chip prospects, and you never know what you are going to get when players are thrust into a starting role for the first time. So why are the Trojans picked to finish first again? Two things: (1) mediocre conference competition and (2) Carroll's program.

Yes, the first is hardly a slap at the Trojans or the rest of the conference, but it's true. Not that the conference isn't improving – everyone looks mediocre next to the princess of the ball – it's just that there was a lot of room for improve-

ment. In time, with the additions of Stanford's Jim Harbaugh, UW's Steve Sarkisian and possibly UCLA's Rick Neuheisel, long-slumbering programs like these should rejuvenate and join the ranks of Oregon and Oregon State as USC's chief competitors. Until then the Pac-10 is what it is: average at best.

There is nothing Carroll and USC can do about its conference competition except keep kicking the hell out of it. How do the Trojans keep doing this? The same way they have been ever since Carroll set foot on campus—diligent and precise preparation while having fun along the way. In other words, require the players to act above their age when it's practice and preparation time but don't forget to let them act their age when it is appropriate. Like when they're stomping some overrated Big 10 team on January 1 in Pasadena. That's the key to the Carroll way.

Lots of teams land nearly as much talent as USC does, it's what they do with it when they get it that is the difference. Florida's Urban Meyer is probably the

only coach that can come close to mining his talent as effectively as Carroll. The main reason Carroll gets so much out of his players is the competitiveness he instills in them. They compete just as hard in practice, against each other, for each other's position, as they do in games. How does he get them to do this? They won't just get beat out by the guy ahead of them on the depth chart; they'll get bypassed by the guys behind them on the depth chart. It starts from the moment they set foot on campus. It's probably the main staple of his program.

Probably the biggest factor to help Carroll's cause is the Matt Cassel Effect. Cassel, who prepped at Chatsworth, never started a game for the Trojans, yet he is now a bona fide starter in the NFL fresh off signing a huge contract with the Kansas City Chiefs. This has to be a huge motivational tool for Carroll that keeps his reserves competing against and pushing the starters hard all season long. The result: more competitive practices make Saturday afternoons in Eugene or Corvallis easier to handle. Not only does it make the team better in the long run but also keeps players' attitudes in check.

Take backup quarterback Mitch Mustain, for example, he was one of the highest rated quarterbacks in the country coming out of high school four years ago. Greatness was expected from the moment he chose Arkansas. Now he is battling for playing time that has yet to materialize at USC. Whether he ever gets quality playing time for the Trojans or not, you can bet he has studied the Cassel model and won't disrupt the team knowing he could still get a shot at the pros whether he plays a down this year or not. The same goes for every other position—players know that being second or third string at USC doesn't necessarily mean there won't be a pro career in the future. The other benefit of this is that should a reserve suddenly get called on for extensive duty he is prepared to succeed because his practice habits have not diminished while being further down the depth chart than he would have liked.

That is the benefit of having a coach like Carroll as the leader of a football program. Not only does he bring in some of the top talent in the country, he gets them to practice and prepare like they are long shot walk-ons just happy to be able to dress for home games.

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# CELEBRITIES AND SUMMER!

By Rose Quintiliano

HOLLYWOOD—The summer vacation clock is ticking away. We are in the middle of August. The teens don't want their summer to end, and by the same token, the great recession is making parents worry about the cost of school supplies.

Delaware is one of the states that doesn't carry a sales tax, so shoppers get to save a bit. You have to shop around, and look for items you know you'll need, such as pencils, folders, crayons, markers, index cards and so on. Nevertheless, with budget-friendly stores such as Target and Walmart, you will finish the school supply list at around \$10. If you are a smart and savvy shopper, you should have everything packed and ready to go!

On the other hand, those who are jet-setting around the French Riviera like Jack

Nicholson are not worried about saving. The 72-year-old actor was recently spotted in Villefranche-sur-Mer just a few weeks ago. For those of us who have been there, we know why he would choose such a perched village: it's breathtaking. The beach is fabulous, and Nice is just a few miles away and easily accessible by public transportation, for those of us on a budget.

Poor Paula Abdul. I should have looked in my crystal ball and warned Paula that when the newest addition to "American Idol" came on board it would spell trouble. So when did this trouble begin? I believe it happened a decade ago, when Kara DioGuardi bumped into Paula Abdul and weaseled her way into the inner circle of Abdul. The rest is history.

We all forgave Paula when in season seven, she apparently looked into her crystal ball,

critiquing contestant Jason Castro for a performance that hadn't happened yet. While we were all confused, we still loved her. She was the kind, sweet cheerleader, the only one who always found something nice to say about each contestant—even if it was "You look beautiful tonight," which finalists began to recognize as the calm before the storm, the kiss of death.

Abdul was reportedly seeking \$20 million a year to return to "Idol." The announcement first came on Paula's Twitter page.

It was later confirmed by Fox, FremantleMedia and 19 Entertainment that Abdul was departing from the show. The announcement followed news that Kara DioGuardi will be returning to the show. Mr. Nasty, Simon Cowell, a fellow judge, was locked into next season. The show will not

be the same without Paula, as she was one of the reasons the show was so successful. We are very thankful that the show's format is back to three judges; however, was the right judge ditched? Paula really is a kind-hearted soul.

Season nine will not be the same without Paula. You will have Kara, with her know-it-all attitude and all those facial expressions. Remember the classic movie "All About Eve"? Doesn't this remind you of an unknown Eve taken under the wing of Margo? For whatever it's worth, Paula, you will be missed.

Rose's Scoop: Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter Ricardo Arjona released his first album at 21. The Guatemalan star is currently touring the U.S. His first stop was at Madison Square Garden on August 7.

# "THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE" IS ROMANTIC FUN

By Tommy Garrett

HOLLYWOOD—"The Time Traveler's Wife" is directed by Robert Schwentke. This was a director I have to admit that I did not know very much about, yet I am very happy that has changed.

By the time I finished watching this film, I became a fan of Schwentke's work. Actor Eric Bana is absolutely wonderful in the movie. He has always been a performer who shows his fans what great acting is all about, while proving that he can play almost any role. My favorite role for Bana, until this film, was as the prince in "Troy." The official synopsis reads in part, "A romantic drama about a Chicago librarian with a gene that causes him to involuntarily time travel, and the complications it creates for his marriage."

Bana's leading ladies in the film are Michelle Nolden, from the TV series "Numb3r," as Annette, and most importantly the object of his affection in the film, Rachel McAdams as Clare. Clare knows she's destined to be with Henry from the moment she meets him. While trying

to explain their future, Bana is confusing to her and in the beginning to the audience, as well.

From the time that Clare meets Bana's Henry, first as Old Henry, she is in love with the man. He tries to prepare her for the future and tells her that she will meet the Young Henry, which at first is a bit unsettling for Clare.

Although initially I felt Henry's untimely and uncontrolled traveling would be a deficit in the film, it actually adds to the suspense and causes major twists which Bana seems at ease with. In character, he plays it to the hilt that Henry is often out of control. The dichotomy of Henry realizing he has absolutely no control over his travels and Bana's extreme control over the character's emotions is not lost on this critic. His work in "The Time Traveler's Wife" is awe-inspiring.

Schwentke's mixture of romance and science fiction caught my attention from the very beginning of the film. This should be a must-see movie for couples. It's not one that young kids will necessarily like, but surely everyone who has felt the tension and turmoil of



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

romance in their life at some point or another will find the film fun to watch, and will make you think about how complicated life and love can be.

Eric Bana manages to make this film worth the cost of admission and Rachel McAdams will make men who get dragged to the theater by

their wife or girlfriend glad they saw the film. Nolden was a highlight in the film, while offering a sharp change in character opposite McAdams, who the film seems to be centered around. "The Time Traveler's Wife" was released on Friday, August 14.

I give the film Three of Five Stars.

# "NO NEW TAXES ON THE MIDDLE CLASS"

By John Armor

WASHINGTON D.C.—This is the 666th column in this weekly series. It had to be spent on an overarching subject, so it is.

President Barack Obama is the most accomplished liar I have ever encountered, and that includes several pathological liars I faced in court. The best of those I could not rattle even with a well-prepared and vigorous cross-examination. Only the weight of solid facts from other sources served to expose and defeat those people.

Pathological liars can give the impression that they are telling the truth because they are smooth, accomplished and effective. However, the most important reason is that they have learned to lie to themselves. When they tell a bald-faced lie, right to your face, they actually believe what they are saying.

I'll use exactly one example. On the campaign trail, Obama repeatedly said that "no one earning less than \$250,000 a year will pay any additional taxes." This was his definition of the middle class, in his universal mantra of no new taxes for the bulk of Americans.

Now, two members of his Cabinet on Sunday talk shows, plus tax cheat Charlie Rangel, who yet remains as Chairman of the House Committee that writes the tax laws, have all made the same remarks on television in front of God and everybody. That statement was that "tax increases on the middle class might be necessary to pay for the President's health care plan."

In between those comments by other Democrats, President Obama trotted out his mouthpiece, Robert Gibbs, to "assure" the press, and through them the people, that Obama was sticking to his "repeated pledge not to raise taxes on the middle class."

Let's review for a moment, The Cap and Trade Bill now wandering through Congress is the President's plan to reduce the use of carbon, by taxing it heavily. Those taxes will be on necessities like gasoline, electricity, cooking gas and diesel for trains and trucks that deliver almost all the products that almost all Americans rely on. In a brief moment of candor, candidate Obama said that this program would increase the cost of

electricity, and so on, and "nearly double the cost."

Well, when you tax necessities that everyone needs to buy, those taxes will ultimately be paid by the consumers. Most consumers are, by definition, members of the middle class. Obama has made clear that he intends to sign the Cap and Trade Bill if it reaches his desk.

Add to that Obama's claim that his Health Care "Reform" will be tax neutral. If there was an ounce of truth in that, the Administration would not have repeatedly buried proposals to keep American taxpayers from being on the hook to pay for health care for 17 million citizens of other nations.

A line from a justly obscure Joey Bishop movie comes to mind: "Who are you going to believe, me or your lying eyes?" A line from Alexander Hamilton also comes to mind: people with "talents for low intrigue and the little arts of popularity" do not belong in the White House. Hamilton assumed that the Electoral College would prevent that result. He was wrong.

Throw in a quote from Thomas Jefferson: "It is a wise rule never borrow a dollar without laying a tax in the same instant or paying the interest annually and the principal in a reasonable term." Jefferson considered it "immoral" to "burden the next generation" with our debts.

Because of the huge and unprecedented deficits now being run up, the issue is not just the taxes on us adults. They are also on our children, and ultimately on our grandchildren.

There is no way to prevent President Obama from lying. He has a natural talent. He leaves all others in the dust. What we can do is keep the pressure on members of Congress, who either cannot or will not read the bills.

Obama cannot be silenced, but he can, at least, be cut off at the knees if enough of his Congressional enablers are knocked out of office in 2010. That means both Republicans and Democrats who have bought into Obama's lies about taxes.

That's not much hope, but that's all there is.

# WE COULD BE LIVING ON THE RIVIERA

By Joann Deutch

LAUREL CANYON—I just knew it! I had picked up a pine cone from the ground a while ago. Not just any pine cone, but one with pinoli nuts inside. I said to myself, "How is this possible? This is from an Italian pine tree. I've never seen them anywhere else."

My brain snapped to "Well, we must live in a Mediterranean climate." It seemed logical to me. I mentioned it to a friend, who ungraciously pointed out that there were plenty of palm trees, so we had to be living in a desert climate. She had pricked a hole in my happiness balloon. Nonetheless, I kept and cherished the pine cone and its nuts.

Tooling through the hills, I continued to keep a sharp eye out for more cones with pinolis. Nada. Well, the squirrels must love them as much as Italians do. They must pick the pine cones clean as a whistle before they manage to drop to the ground. I was unwilling to let go of my assumption. I had to be right. My mother just loved

the cypress trees here in the hills when she came to visit. The whole place reminded her of home. My mother had a wily intuition about these things. If it was Italian, she knew it from 100 paces, with 100 percent certainty.

The local eco-system is in fact classified as California Mediterranean, one of only five such biomes in the world! We always knew we were special. We have things in common with countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, central Chile, the Cape region of South Africa and southwestern Australia. Only 2.2 percent of the world enjoys our type of climate.

The balmy weather is also home to a host of unique animals, plants and flowers. The Digger Pine [Pinus sabiniana] is the tree that grows the dead ringer for the Italian pine nut. In Italy the pine nuts come from the Stone Pine [Pinus pinea], which has been cultivated for its nuts for over 6,000 years, and harvested from wild trees for far longer.

John Muir wrote about the Digger Pine tree: "This day has been as hot and dusty as the first, leading over gently sloping brown hills, with mostly the same vegetation, excepting the strange-looking Sabine pine [Pinus sabiniana] .... The nuts ... are gathered in large quantities by the Digger Indians for food. They are about as large and hard-shelled as hazelnuts,—food and fire fit for the gods from the same fruit."

Many sources suggest that the Digger Pine got its name from the Gold Miners in the northern reaches of the tree's habitat. In fact, Southern Paiute Indians were often called "Diggers" because they subsisted on root digging. It was among these Paiutes

that the "Ghost Dance" first appeared in 1870. The Native American prophet and dreamer Wovoka announced the imminent return of the dead (meaning ghosts), the ousting of the whites and the restoration of Indian lands, food supplies, and way of life; all of which would be hastened by dances and songs revealed in Wovoka's spiritual visions. The Ghost Dance spread rapidly. Its heyday coincided with the in the massacre at Wounded Knee, where the "ghost shirts" failed to protect the Sioux as promised by Wovoka.

Who thought a pine cone could take me on such a journey?

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