

TEMPLE CITY

Voice

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AUGUST 7, 2009

School Board Okays Changes to TCHS Staff

By Chris Du

The state budget cuts that happened a few months ago are old news; so are the pink slips. But the Temple City Unified School District is still struggling to adapt to this budget deficit.

On Wednesday, July 29, the local School Board held a special meeting that approved changes to the staff at Temple City High School (TCHS).

Kate Franceschini, assistant principal at TCHS, will be re-positioned as the Director of Instructional Services in



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: On Tuesday, August 4, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the city of Temple City held its annual National Night Out.

order to compensate for a portion of the budget cuts.



Franceschini, a former Rampage advisor and long-time District employee, was appointed to her current position in 2007. She joined the TCHS administration on October 29, 2007.

In addition to District swap with the TCHS administration, the School Board is also trying to lessen the job burden of the Dean of Activities.

School Board Members want to place a teacher, one teaching less than six classes, in place of the Associated Student Body (ASB) advisor. This change would add approximately \$26,000 to the salary of whoever assumes the position.

A new ASB advisor will be found before school begins and the School Board hopes it will be someone who loves the job.

News Brief: Gov. Schwarzenegger signed twenty-seven bill budget-balancing package and made another \$489 million in spending cuts. The state's general fund spending will be about \$85 billion, which is 7.2 percent lower than last year's.

Sacramento Bee

Opinion: Race-Schism

By Christine Keung

A couple weeks ago, a white police sergeant arrested renowned black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. at his own home. An outraged Gates blamed his arrest on the fact that he was "a black man in America."

Gates, a Harvard African American Studies professor had trouble getting into his house and had to force his door open. A neighbor called the police and a few minutes later, Sergeant James Crowley arrived on the scene and arrested Gates, ignoring the identification that the professor offered him.

The charges of disorderly conduct have since been dropped, but the charges of racism have not.

With Gates refusing to let it drop, the incident has snowballed onto the front pages of national news and became an avalanche after Obama said "the Cambridge police acted stupidly."

When the first African American president of the United States

"Racism" on Page 2

Piazza Developer Presses Forward while Council Appoints Vizcarra, Yu to Settlement

By Matthew Wong

Although Randy Wang, developer and owner of the "Piazza at Temple City" is currently suing the city of Temple City, a new proposal has been submitted to City Hall.

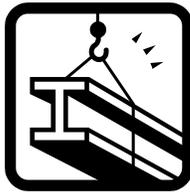
Wang submitted his latest plan on April 30, 2009, said Community Development Manager Joseph Lambert in an interview with the *Pasadena Star News*.

"The general layout and the design [are] still very similar," Lambert told *Star News* reporter Alfred Lee.

But City Manager and City Attorney Charles R. Martin had a different reaction. "The plans are

complicated," Martin wrote in his weekly manager's report on May 7.

"The biggest difference between the old and the new plan is the elimination of the residential units," stated Martin.



The developer's new plans also include a drive-thru McDonalds, though two existing McDonalds exist within Temple City's boundaries.

Other changes in the Piazza development include a six-story parking structure.

In addition to the surface level parking and five upper floors, Wang proposes to have two levels of underground parking. A total of eight levels of parking will provide

approximately 620 parking spaces.

"The parking structure is now proposed to be at 54 feet, and the Venetian towers (architectural features) will rise to 70 feet" Martin commented.

"I recommend that the Planning Commission proceed with its hearing for a CUP [Conditional Use Permit] (and for CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act] compli-

ance and an appropriate agreement)," Martin wrote, "so that the preliminary hearings may develop citizen reaction together with appropriate changes as recommended by the Planning Commission- before the matter is heard by the City Council for a final ruling."

The City Manager and City Attorney also pointed to several lingering questions as a result of the developer's new proposal.

"Will all of the buildings be built at one time," he asked, "or will they be built piecemeal?"

"What will be the penalties if the sequences and completion dates in the 'flow chart' are not kept?" he inquired.

"Will the Council have approval rights over the anchors, or of any other tenant?" Martin questioned.

On Tuesday, May 5, councilman Fernando Vizcarra had suggested a standing committee be formed for the Piazza settlement conference scheduled for July.

The City Council subsequently appointed Vizcarra and newly elected councilman, Vincent Yu, to serve on the standing committee. The vote was unanimous.

According to the developer's agreement signed by Wang and the city of Temple City, the Piazza at Temple City mixed-use project must be completed by August 23, 2009.

However, the contract could be void if the previous City Council is found to have violated Gov- **"Piazza" on Page 3**



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From Burglary to Racism

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openly admitted that “there is a long history in this country of African-Americans and Latinos being stopped by law enforcement”—pretty much saying there is still racism, only one thing can ensue: bedlam.

With Crowley now the poster boy for racism in America, people are doubting the credibility of the police force and completely jumping to conclusions.

Well, to assume makes an “a--” out of “u”, “me”, and in this case, our country.

If anybody bothered to look up Crowley’s police profile, they would know that he performed CPR on former Boston Celtics player



Reggie Lewis at Brandeis University in July 1993.

Yes, trying to save a black man’s life—very racist. Also, on the eve of the Gates incident, Crowley received “full and unqualified” support from his entire force, which includes both black and white officers.

Gates blamed his arrest on racism, but maybe he should put himself in Crowley’s shoes. A woman reported a burglary and the sergeant just did his job.

Instead of focusing on the fact that a BLACK man was breaking into a house, Gates should shift his

focus to the fact that a man was BREAKING into a house. The police will treat any person caught doing that, whether he or she is white, black, or purple, the same way.

What’s ironic is that while Gates is out accusing the police of having a bias towards African Americans, he, himself, is demanding a double standard.

Yes, he was arrested wrongfully, but thousands of people are every year, and you don’t see them demanding an apology on national television. He spun what started out as a burglary report into an issue of race.

Maybe the only victim of racism in this scenario is Crowley.

D.A. Investigating Piazza Bribery Case

Continued from Page 2

ernment Code 1090. Government Code 1090 is a state conflict-of-interest law that prohibits officials from engaging in contracts in which they have a financial interest.

In September 2008, Randy Wang accused Temple City councilwoman Judy Wong, councilman Dave Capra, former councilwoman Cathé Wilson and former city council and state assembly candidate Scott Carwile, of having solicited bribes.

Wang claims he gave Capra, Carwile and Wong \$13,000 in cash during the March 2007 city council elections. He further alleges Wilson demanded one of the 52 proposed one-bedroom condominiums.

All four have publicly denied the allegations.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office-Public Integrity Division has been investigating the case since last year.

The \$75 million project, formerly known as the “Temple City Galleria” and “Piazza Las Tunas,” once promised 52 one-bedroom condominiums and a large retail center. The development had included a proposal for a banquet.

Since its initial approval in May 2006, there has been two ground breakings and three different construction management firms in charge of the pro-

ject. Wang has proposed changes twice before, in 2007 and again in 2008.

Temple City may purchase the 3.7 acre site for \$5 million, if the developer fails to complete the Piazza project by the August deadline, assuming the contract remains valid.

According to city staff, approximately \$171,000 in legal fees, as of April 30, has been spent in the litigation with the Piazza developer.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: AGE AND WISDOM

Last Friday, I got my wisdom teeth removed. Luckily, I only had three instead of the typical four. None of my wisdom teeth have grown out yet, so the doctor surgically removed them by cutting open my gums. It wasn't a long procedure; it lasted about 20 minutes. Of course, I was knocked out and put to sleep so I woke up about 45 minutes later.

For the past week, I've been in pain, constantly holding an ice pack next to my enlarged, chipmunk-like cheeks. My friends noticed and commented, saying I looked like I was storing food for the winter in my cheeks.

What's the point of having wisdom teeth? All they do is cause pain, especially when it grows out, not that I've experienced it, but I've heard from my older cousins. Why do we even call them wisdom teeth?

I guess it kind of makes sense because like the clichéd saying goes, "wisdom comes with age." And when we reach our no-longer-a-teenager-but-more-of-a-young-adult age, our wisdom teeth begin to grow out.

So I guess our wisdom teeth symbolize the beginning of our more mature adult life. With wisdom, comes age. Some clichés become so overused that the truth is often forgotten. But this one is true; as you age, you gain more wisdom. But it's not the fact that as you get older, you become smarter, it is about the experiences in life that you go through.

By the time you're in your 60s and 70s, you've gone through elementary school. You go through middle school and the awkward phases. High school is full of dumb, useless drama, but it turns out to be the best four years of your life and you form some of your closest friendships and relationships there. College turns out to be better than anything you could have expected, and for once in your life, you feel as if you're a real adult because you're finally living on your own. Then come the working years, while riding on the rollercoaster of love. And eventually, you hit the "getting married, settling down" phase.

Growing old isn't bad. You certainly learn many of life's valuable lessons with every year. Even though I've lost my wisdom teeth, I'd like to continue growing with age and experiencing life, so that I'll gain wisdom.

Jessilyn



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Letters to the Editor...

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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|--------|----|---|
| August | 7 | Movies in the Park
<i>Live Oak Park @ 8 P.M. (Free)</i> |
| | 12 | Concerts in the Park
Ft. The Funky Hippeez
<i>Temple City Park @ 7 PM</i> |
| | 11 | Planning Commission MTG
<i>Council Chambers @ 7:30 P.M.</i> |
| | 13 | Dining under the Stars
<i>T.C. Park 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.</i> |
| | 18 | City Council Meeting
<i>Council Chambers @ 7:30 P.M.</i> |