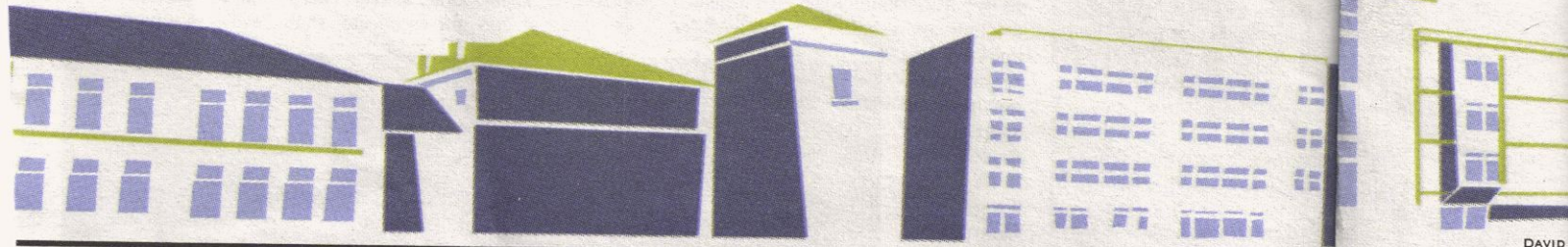


HIGHLIGHTS



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Runners tour BH by fleeing from paparazzi

By Sharona Safaradi
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In Beverly Hills, tourists and residents alike are fascinated by celebrities and the world of pop culture. Off 'N Running Tours, a program that features several different tours around Beverly Hills, has introduced its newest workout: Running from the Paparazzi.

Off 'N Running Tours was founded 12 years ago by Cheryl Anker, when she started offering running tours throughout Los Angeles. However, the program is not only for running tours; Off 'N Running also offers training for half marathons as well as arranging convention runs.

Off 'N Running offers many different running tours. The Pacific Pleasures tour starts from Santa Monica Pier and travels through Palisades Park while offering views of the Pacific Ocean. The Stars of the Silver Screen tour leads runners through Beverly Hills while passing homes of famous entertainers such as Marilyn Monroe and Jimmy Stewart.

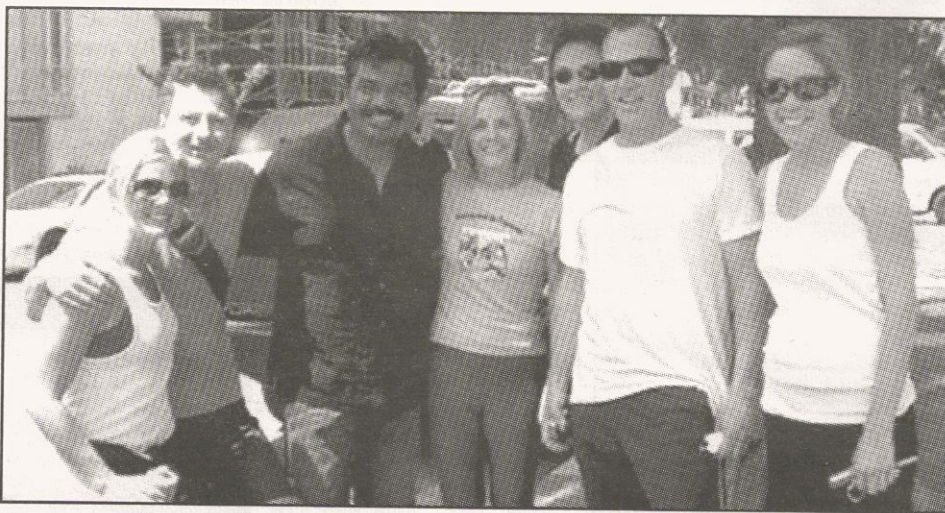
With the Running from the Paparazzi tour, Anker introduced an entertaining way to not only get a workout but also a chance to see some of Beverly Hills's most famous residents.

Every day at 1 pm, a group of run-

ners joins Anker on a hunt for A-list celebrities through Hollywood and along hotspots in Beverly Hills such as famed Rodeo Drive and Robertson Blvd.

"I knew that when traveling, most people usually end up running on a treadmill instead of outside in various cities," Anker said. "I decided to introduce the concept of running tours through Los An-

geles and Beverly Hills to showing off some of our beautiful cities and sites."



OH MY GOODNESS—Runners on the Running from the Paparazzi Tour pose for a picture with comedian George Lopez.
Photo courtesy of www.offnrunningtours.com

Not a fast runner? Anker builds runs based on the customers' pace and makes frequent stops along the way. The most famous stop, The Ivy on Robertson Blvd., is where runners are most likely to see dozens of paparazzi just waiting for a celebrity to show up.

"Since we see many more paparazzi than celebrities, it has been a real learning experience about that culture," Anker said. "Our out-of-state tourists as well as locals have really enjoyed talking to [the paparazzi], and sometimes hanging out for 20 minutes or more to maybe catch a glimpse of some celebrity either dining or shopping on the street."

Though it is not easy to find a ce-

lebrity in limited time, Anker and her runners have spotted various celebrities such as George Lopez, Dennis Farina, Sidney Poitier and Henry Winkler in the short time since the start of the paparazzi tours in January. Anker usually leads the tours which can range anywhere from four to six people and up to twenty for large groups.

For only \$60, one can join her on the four mile run which includes a custom-designed "Running from the Paparazzi" T-shirt, fresh fruit, bottled water and an oversized cupcake from LA specialty bakery, Crumbs. The tours generally last 90 minutes. For more information or to reserve a spot today, visit www.offnrunningtours.com.



Last January, Anker decided to add to the concept of looking for celebrities during her runs through Beverly Hills.

"The paparazzi tour is pretty tongue-in-cheek," she said. "It was important to add a little more fun into the tours."