



Mountain Views-Observer

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST - Sierra Madre Arcadia Pasadena Altadena and Monrovia

Week Ending December 7, 2007 Volume 1, No. 16

Anatomy Of A Float

Don Mills and The 2008 Sierra Madre Rose Float Royal Court Tell What It Takes To Create A Winner



It takes a village to do a lot of things, but at the top of the list right now, is support from this village for the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association. Don Mills, above, shows the artist's rendering of this year's float to members of the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club. Below, the Royal Court tells just what it takes to create a prize winning float.

The theme of the 2008 Tournament of Roses Parade is "Passport to the World's Celebrations". Sierra Madre has been a participant in the Rose Parade since 1917 and there have been Sierra Madre residents in the parade since 1909. This year the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association has chosen the theme of Valentine's Day. The concept of Valentine's Day was submitted by Brent Pickering of Springfield, Utah. Charles Meier designed this year's float. This is the third year Charles has been with the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association. His first two designs both won awards for the city. Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries throughout the world. There is no other holiday that is more closely associated with roses than Valentine's Day. Our float brings the delicacy of a Victorian valentine to life in this elegant floral fantasy. Lovers in swan boats will glide on a lake of irises, orchids, and roses. Butterflies with wings of lace will flutter overhead as two fountains add a romantic atmosphere. There will also be a spectacular canopy of flowering trees and rose covered hearts. Two hundred ninety four (294) rose covered hearts will be included in the design of the float. The hearts will be in the butterfly wings, hiding in the trees and around the intricate frame of the float. This year's float is 25 feet high, 18 feet wide and 35 feet in length.

Cyclists, costumed in Victorian attire will accompany the float. They will ride antique penny-farthings and bicycles-built-for-two. The decorations of these bicycles will recreate the look of the bicycles that were in the Rose Parade at the turn of the century over 100 years ago.

Valentino Costumers is graciously designing our gowns and suits for the parade and is also providing the clothes for the cyclist riding with the float.

Flowers and Decorations

This year the Sierra Madre Rose Float will set an all time record for the varieties of roses ever used. The gardens will bloom with over 80 different varieties of roses. This will be the largest variety of roses ever used. The record for the most varieties used is currently held by the FTD Florists (2006) and Bayer Advanced in (2007) with 50 varieties. The float will be covered with 22,500 roses and 7,000 irises. The roses will be coming from Ecuador and the irises from the Netherlands. Unlike the roses from the United States these roses have no scent.

The Valentine rose will make its Rose Parade debut on the Sierra Madre float. The rose is fluorescent red and will decorate several hearts at the front of the float. Sierra Madre is also proud to introduce the world to the brand new "Absolute" rose. This variety is the only white rose that is truly pure white. It was developed for brides who want pure white roses to match their gowns.

(continued on page 3)

In The True Spirit Of The Season..... Sierra Madre Firefighters Help A Fallen Comrade



Bill Slack, shown here instructing paramedics at UCLA, has been diagnosed with stage 4 Non-hodgkins Lymphoma

Hodgkins Lymphoma, (cancer). Because of the devastating costs in fighting this disease, the members of SMVFD have made a commitment to raise funds for Bill. According to a brochure prepared to assist them with their solicitations, "Those who know Paramedic Bill Slack will tell you he is a stand up guy. That he is meticulous and gets along with everyone.

Bill's goal has always been to help people. Whether working as a Sierra Madre Paramedic or teaching at the UCLA Center for Prehospital Care, Bill has lived his motto. "Live Strong".

His personal philosophy is "Attitude is Everything." Even under the most difficult circumstances; and these are the most difficult of circumstances.

Bill has received and will continue to undergo expensive and invasive treatments to fight this aggressive cancer that he pushed into remission twice before. Now the cancer has returned. It is considered life threatening but the fight is not over.

Bill has helped so many, patients and students alike. Please help us help him now.

The firefighters from the Sierra Madre Fire Department are raising funds to help their brother firefighter. Any and all donations are welcome. The donations will be used to help cover the costs not covered by insurance and to help provide aid for Bill's living expenses.

Bill has a large insurance premium due at the end of the month. Our goal is to raise \$7,500 by the end of December. The Sierra Madre Fire Department is collecting direct donations to the Bill Slack fund that has been set up through UCLA.

Please make checks payable to the "Bill Slack/Fund" (this is not a SMVFA fund) Donations can be dropped off at either the Sierra Madre Fire Department, or Sierra Madre Police Department. **On the weekend of December 15 and 16, the Sierra Madre Fire Fighters will be having a "fill the boot" drive to benefit Bill Slack at the corner of Sierra Madre Blvd and Baldwin.**

They're bringing out those boots again. This time, for a fund raiser on December 15th to help a friend.

When I sat down with Fire Marshall Rich Snyder and the head of our paramedic program, Greg Christmas, I had no idea what the topic of conversation was going to be. Once the perfunctory niceties were over, Greg and Rich got right to the point. They began to tell the story of one of our Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters and what the department was trying to do in order to help.

Bill Slack, a member of our Paramedic Team, is sick. Very sick. He has recently been diagnosed with Stage 4 Non-

He's The Man: Pete Siberell is Sierra Madre's Citizen Of The Year



Pete Siberell, holding flowers, was truly surprised when a delegation from Sierra Madre presented him with the 2007 Citizen Of The Year Award. From left to right: Elizabeth Booth, Pat Hall, Siberell, George Maurer, Bill Coburn and Ron Brandley (rear). Not pictured but also present was last year's recipient, Buddy Switzer.

The honor, bestowed annually by the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, is awarded to the resident who displays extraordinary commitment to the community. An awards dinner in the recipient's honor will be held in January, 2008.

In addition to his professional commitments as Director of Special Projects for Santa Anita Race Track, Pete is the President of the Sierra Madre Little League and a former Community Services Commissioner.

Welcome Ugo's



The visitor's poured into Sierra Madre's newest eatery, Ugo's, when the doors were officially opened Thursday evening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Ugo's Deli Bakery Cafe is located at 74 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. is owned by Sherry and Cesare Grossi. Photo by D. Lee/MVO

Planning Commission Meeting Canceled

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Meeting of the Sierra Madre Planning Commission of Thursday, December 6, 2007 was adjourned due to lack of quorum and the previously noticed agenda item on Howie's Market will be continued to a date uncertain and will be re-noticed. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is December 20, 2007.

OMISSION: In last week's edition of The MountainViews-Observer, the name of author the article entitled, "Kids, PUSD Meeting Not Evacuated During Fire Gutting Pasadena Science Lab, was omitted. That story was written by Dean Lee.

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.
Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

Saturday	Rain	Hi 50s	Lows 40s
Sunday	Cloudy	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Monday	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Tuesday	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Wednesday	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



MountainViews-Observer

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Sports Editor

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Pasadena Farmer's Market
Every Saturday to 12:30 p.m.
B-B-Berries. Lili's herbs, honey, menudo & tamale stand. Bring the kiddies. PHS parking lot
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



Café 322
Sunday Nights
Let's Sing Opera & Broadway
Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends
322 Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

Beantown
45 N. Baldwin
Time for Ice Cream
(626) 355-1596

Lucky Baldwin's
21 Kersting Court
(626) 355-1140

Mary's Market
561 Woodland Drive
(626) 355-4534

NEW DAY! The Harvey Hyde Show
Every **Thursday** 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Hard-hitting, high impact sports talk radio
KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM
Live! from BURGER CONTINENTAL
535 South Lake Avenue Pasadena

Sierra Madre
All-America City
2007

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
INCORPORATED 1907

City of Sierra Madre December Events

- 1 - Fireman's Ball - La Salle High School - 8:00 pm
- 7 & 8 - Best Used Books Sale - Library
- 6 - Senior Community Commission - Council Chambers - 3:00 pm
- 6 - Planning Commission - Council Chambers - 7:00 pm
- 6 - Abstract Art Submissions Due for Art Show in City Hall
- 7 - City Offices Closed
- 8 - Walk with the Mayor - Kersting Court - 9:00 am
- 11 - City Council Meeting - Council Chambers - 6:30 pm
- 12 - Community Arts Commission - Council Chambers - 6:30 pm
- 17 - Community Services Commission - Council Chambers - 6:30 pm
- 20 - "Third Thursday" Book Club - Library - 11:00 am
- 20 - Senior Excursion - Candlelight Pavilion - 10:00 am
- 20 - Planning Commission - Council Chambers - 7:00 pm
- 21 - City Offices Closed
- 24 & 25 - City Offices Closed
- 29 - Healthy Family Fun Capture the Flag - Sierra Vista Park - 9:00 am
- 31 - City Offices Closed

For more information on these and other City programs, call 355-7135 or visit www.cityofsierramadre.com.

The deadline to order your All-America City Street Pole Banner has been extended to Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Banners may be sponsored by one entity or a group (families, neighborhoods, softball teams, businesses, etc.) can sponsor one together.

The proceeds from the banner sales will go towards new City signs and insignias as well as to organizations interested in adding the All-America City logo/status in their marketing/publicity efforts. To-date, no City funds have been used during the All-America City journey and through your banner donations we plan to keep it that way! Call 626-355-5278.

BARKS AND BOOKS



Calling 1st - 5th graders! On Saturday, December 15, from 11 a.m. to noon, come read to Bernie, a lovable, gentle Great Pyrenees dog.

You can check out an animal story from the Library, practice reading it at home, and then come and read aloud. Didn't practice reading a book ahead of time? That's ok, please stop by and say hi to Bernie. He is very gentle

and would love to hear a story right on the spot. This program is made possible by the wonderful volunteers of the Pasadena Humane Society.

Adopt "Rory" Today



Rory, an adorably sweet, eight-year-old Chihuahua mix, is ready for adoption. Although she looks a little shy in her picture, she is outgoing and very loving. She likes other dogs and would be perfect for an apartment or condo. Come visit with this wonderful little girl today!

The regular dog adoption fee is \$85 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, vaccinations, and a free follow-up health check at your vet. Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A222046 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.phsspc.org

The First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena invites you to.....

It's a Wonderful Life:

A Live Radio Play

The Holiday Classic by Joe Landry

December 13, 14 & 15 7:30 p.m.

December 16 6:00 p.m.

This Classic Production Has Been Adapted For Stage Presentation and the Live Radio Format Will Delight The Entire Family!

"It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" Will Be Followed Immediately by a Complimentary Dessert Reception.

All Are Welcome!

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Lee Chapel

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What Do You Say To A 65 Year Old....

By Rich Johnson



I don't want to overwhelm you with numbers but did you know people who are 65 years old right now would have been younger 50 years ago? I think maybe even 50 years younger. To make sure, I called the Mathematics Department at Cal Tech and asked them how old a 65 year old would have been in 1957. They said they would have to get back to me. I suppose they were going to submit the complex problem to one of their super computers, which explains why it took them three days to call me back. They called me back and their answer was staggering. Imagine a 65 year old being only 15? Seems hard to believe but the math is undeniable and indisputable. As hard as it may be to comprehend all 65 year olds were 15 about 50 years ago. No exceptions.

Wow, what was life like back in 1957? Let's take a peek shall we? The number one rock and roll song on Thanksgiving in 1957 was "Jailhouse Rock" by some guy named Elvis Presley. It was the theme song for a movie but the title escapes me. "Wake Up Little Susie" by some guys named the Everly Brothers was number 2.

The average yearly income for adults in 1957 was \$4,500. You could pick up a good sized house for about \$20,000. But the average weekly income for a teenager was \$8.50. That wasn't so bad thought 'cause a gallon of gas was only 29 cents. It cost 60 cents to get into the movie and another 15 cents if you wanted popcorn. A hamburger was 15 cents or 7 for a dollar. A six-pack of Coke cost you 52 cents. A Corvette would set you back \$3450.00 in 1957. Didn't have \$3450? A Volkswagen was available for only \$1495.00. What's more you could now be the proud possessor of the Ford Edsel for only \$3500 plus options. A pocket transistor radio would set you back about \$35.00 and just had the AM stations. We did get our first nuclear power plant in 1957. The number one TV show in 1957 was "I Love Lucy", followed by "The Ed Sullivan Show", "General Electric Theater", "\$64,000 Question", "December Bride", and "Alfred Hitchcock." (my \$64,000 question is: what was December Bride?)

Two people responded with my trivia quote question. Who said, "I hate small towns because once you've seen the cannon in the park there's nothing else to do." Local Jeff and Granada Hills Melanie both correctly answered Lenny Bruce. My gift to them is the dessert of their choice at (what was the name of that restaurant?) Oh yeah, the Nano Café One in the Albertsons shopping center. Ask for Oscar. Tell them Rich sent you. Finally does anyone have anything they like about Sierra Madre? Let me know. Rich@versatape.com.

FROM THE DESK OF.....

PHYLLIS CHAPMAN

EVENTFUL CALENDAR FOR CIVIC CLUB

Sierra Madre Civic Club, heady with pride as a recent recipient of the city's coveted Wistaria Award, marks holiday time with activities of caring and support. A largess of needed items including bathrobes, slippers, socks, scarves, hand warmers, grooming items and more were delivered to Door Of Hope, a resident shelter for couples and single mothers with children for a long term transitional program, Women's Room, offering a nurturing and safe environment for homeless women, and Elizabeth House, a place for single pregnant women and gives classes in parenting and job searching. Members continue their generous monetary donations at the main holidays to Foothill Unity Center which has taken care of families in crisis with a multitude of needs throughout the San Gabriel Valley for over 25 years.

Creativity as a fundraiser has brought forth many beautiful knitted and other hand made items by members for a boutique. The boutique participated in the local City of Hope Jazz/Wine Walk with proceeds donated to the events committee. Then the shop was set up at the Chambers Dicken's Village and those proceeds added to the club's philanthropy fund.

With the enjoyment of the community in mind the clubs beautification committee has decorated Sierra Madre City Hall's rotunda in its' best festive holiday style. The committee has continued its' project of planting, caring and decorating the rotunda as an ongoing project for more than a decade.

Always high on this busy club's agenda is enjoying each other. Their annual Christmas Party for members and guests will be held Saturday, December 15, 2007 beginning at 6:30 p.m. when Ray and Nancy Fox will host the group for holiday fare. At 8:30 the group travels a few blocks to Darlene Traxler's, another lovely home, for coffee and dessert topped off with the singing of Christmas Carols accompanied by pianist Carol Washburn.

A ROSE FLOAT NIGHT FOR GARDEN CLUB

Royalty will bloom at Sierra Madre's Garden Club's dinner meeting on Monday, December 10th at 6:30 p.m. held in Memorial Park's Hart Senior Center, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre. Welcomed as special guests will be Princesses Hanna Lisa Storley and Alexandria Flores with escorts Tim Crilly and Andrew Perine. They will grace Sierra Madre's 2008 Rose Float as it heads down the boulevard on New Years Day.

They will be introduced by Donna Sutcliff, who is coordinator for the Princesses and their escorts. A rendering of "Valentine's Day", the 2008 float will be displayed. Flowering information and other updating information will be given on this elegant floral fantasy sure to be another prize winner.

The Garden Club will present a check to the group as it support for the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association.

The public is welcome to attend. A delicious holiday catered dinner will be served at \$8.00 each. Reservations are needed. Call 626-355-0606.

ROSE FLOAT (cont. from pg. 1)



The swans are delicately feathered in several different textures of coconut. It will take 400 lbs of coconut to cover the swans. This is enough coconut to bake 1,200 coconut cream pies. Each swan will wear garlands of Sorbonne lilies, Luxor and Shocking Versillia roses, green cymbidium (sim bid ee um) orchids and green apples. The floral reins are woven from a half a dozen varieties of miniature spray roses and smilax. White dendrobium (den dro be um) orchid florets will create the lacy effect of on the butterfly wings. The lake will glisten with hundreds of iris, white phalaenopsis (fay lee o nop sis) orchids and Avalanche Cool Water roses. There will be thousands of Charlotte roses that create the intricate frame that encircles the float. Other materials used to decorate the float are straw flowers, marigolds, black and white sesame seeds, and melaleuca (mel a lu ka) bark which will be used on the tree trunks.

The Tournament of Roses has rules for the materials that are used in decoration.

1. Everything must be organic material.
2. You must use roses.
3. Nothing can be dyed. It must be its natural color.
4. Nothing can be used to represent itself. You can not use a tree to be a tree. It needs to be build from other material.

Operations

The float moves at a speed of 2 to 2 1/2 miles per hour. It will take less than 20 seconds to make the turn from Orange Grove Blvd onto Colorado Blvd. It is at this time it is on television. Should a float breaks down the driver has about 5 seconds to get it started before it is towed. If the breakdown is before the turn there is a \$1,000 fine. If the breakdown happens during the turn on camera, the fine is \$1,500, and after the turn it is \$750. When it rained two years ago, many floats had to be towed because of the rain but the Tournament of Roses did

not collect the fines.

The four people who will ride under the float are responsible for the operations and safety of the float.

First. Dave Gaydosh is the driver. He sits on the front left hand side of the float. Dave is responsible for the safe operation of the float.

Second. Dave Culture is the co driver and observer. He is on the right hand side in front. Dave has a second break in case something happens to the driver and he needs assistance.

Third is Mike Dolce. Mike is the sound engineer and is responsible for the music.

And finally, Dick Sappington is the crew chief. He is responsible for the electrical and the hydraulics of the float. He is in charge of all the animation. This year the butterfly flies will gently flutter their wings. If they move their wings to fast it would be a very bumpy ride for everyone. Dick will be the one that is responsible to lower the large tree in the back of the float as it approaches the 210 Freeway overpass on Sierra Madre Blvd. Dick and his wife Kay supervise the construction and the decoration of the float.

Since all surfaces must be covered the driver's windshield is mesh wire which is covered with onion seeds. This allows the drivers to have a 180 degree view of the street. If you think the seats in coach on an airplane are crowded, try being a driver or engineer on a float. They get in at about 5:30 pm on New Years Eve and except for a few necessary breaks they finally get out about noon on New Years Day.

Process

The cost to build this year's float will be about \$32,000. Most of the floats in the parade cost in excess of \$250,000. Ours one of the six self-built floats. The Sierra Madre float is financed strictly by donations and fundraisers.

Building the float is a year long process. In January the float from the pervious parade is dismantled. The flowers are removed and all of the structures are taken off. All that remains is the chaise. After the design is chosen by the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association and approved by the Tournament of Roses Association, the designers and engineers put together a construction plan to build and flower the new float. Every Sunday throughout the year, there is a dedicated group of volunteers building the float. They come from Redlands, Highland Park, Arcadia, Santa Monica, Hawthorne, and of course Sierra Madre. Once the float's structures have been assembled, it is covered with styrofoam and a cocooning material. The float is then painted. It is painted for two reasons. First, to show what color flowers will be used. If you are putting a red flower where it is painted yellow, you know something is not quite right. Second, if flowers come off, the empty spaces are not noticeable. If you are putting a red flower where it is painted yellow, you know something is not quite right. Finally the float is ready to be decorated. This year deco week will begin the day after Christmas. Every year a group of 200 to 300 retired volunteers from all over the United States arrive in their RVs and stay at the Santa Anita Race Track. As part of their trip they work on the floral preparations for several hours.

During deco week the dried materials are applied first. The dry material includes such things as seeds, coconut, dried flowers, rice, and ground magnolia leaves. The fresh flowers are applied during the last three days. Before the roses and irises can be put on the float, each one must be placed in water filled vile. That means 30,000 viles must be filled with water by volunteers.

The float will be judged twice. The first judging is December 30th. At that point it needs to be about 70% completed. The next day it is judged again. For the final judging the music and the animation will be working and all of the riders in their costumes will be on the float.

After the Rose Parade, the float will be taken to the post parade for viewing. Then it will be drive to Kersting Court. Finally, it is driven back to the float barn and the process starts again.

For more information on how you can help call Bonnie Colcher at 626-355-7999 or email her at: sierramadrevolunteers@yahoo.com

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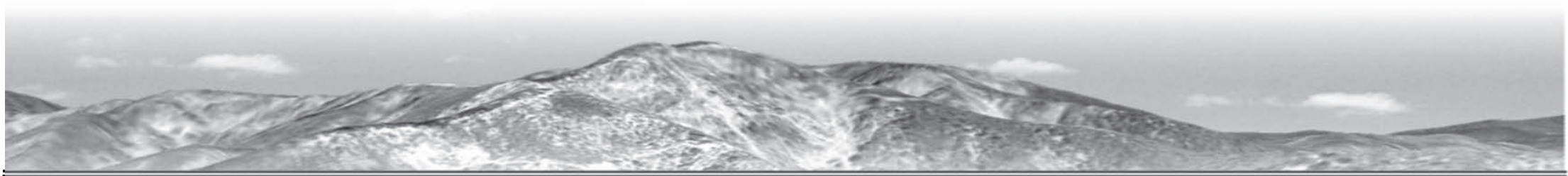
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MountainViews-Observer PASADENA

Green Summit: The Who's Who Of Sustainable Schools

By Dean Lee

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard had a strong, green message during the Green California Schools Summit on Wednesday, Bogaard told the audience that the future of sustainable cities lies not in the construction of new buildings but in retrofitting old ones.

Although his message was clear the Mayor made no reference to the obvious construction of the Pasadena Conference Center, the location for the summit. The main exhibit hall with 200 vendors was held in a large tent and the nearly 2,000 attendees had to walk by piles of plywood and temporary scaffolding just to enter the event.

Bogaard indicated he was glad the conference had selected Pasadena for its venue. It is the first of its kind, entitled "Greening Schools in the Golden State." "It [the conference] spotlights the fact that Pasadena wants to offer local leadership on global problems, certainly the problems of environmental and sustainability," the Mayor said.

Bogaard gave a brief overview of the city's commitment to the U.N. Urban Environmental Accords and the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. He also mentioned the City's Green Action Plan, of which, the first action states to use at least 10 percent renewable energy throughout the city within seven years.

"The interest in this commitment both locally and around the region has been very strong," he said. "We established a new commission, members of our community who are committed to sustainability and who have agreed to help the city council and the entire community account for the commitment we have made to improving, making more efficient, our use of resources to reducing our carbon footprint."

According to Bogaard, across the United States there are 65 billion square feet of non-residential buildings and that by 2030 another 28 billion square feet would be added. Of this it is estimated that 54 billion square feet would undergo substantial modification.

"The accumulated building stock is really the elephant in the room, we risk being



Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard

trampled with it, we cannot build our way to sustainability - we must conserve our way to it."

Absent from the summit almost entirely, were representatives of the Pasadena Unified School District - something some local area residents and other attendees said surprised them.

Bogaard said Pasadena, this year alone, had invested \$300 million in schools but did not say if any of that went to greening them.

Thursday morning, before the start of the second day of the conference, staff at the PUSD district office said they were unaware of the conference and after a number of attempts to find someone with any information, it was finally noted that only Michele McClowry, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, went.

"She was there as a regular attendee," staff from her office later confirmed.

PUSD Director of Facilities, Patrick Kennedy said that a site assessment by BCA Architects a few months ago indicated that the district should look into Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) certification as a way of saving money through the use of natural lighting, recycling and other green measures.

Kennedy never mentioned the summit per se but a number of the many breakout sessions focused on LEED and CHPS certification.

Elizabeth Sabo, a LEED specialist for WLC Architects said both LEED and CHPS are used as a benchmark for green design but that CHPS was the more popular because it also added a source of funding for those schools that might not otherwise afford it.

The BCA assessment was first introduced to the PUSD board by BSA President Paul Bunton in August. At that time, Bunton focused on selling surplus property as a way of offsetting other concerns such as school safety and an outdated technology infrastructure.

PUSD staff also stated that Superintendent Edwin Diaz had remarked Tuesday night at a joint Altadena Town Council/PUSD meeting that "greening the schools" was "too new of a concept" and that they would deal with it at a later time.



Hybrid School Bus Photo T. Baxter

According to sources, there was a group of students from John Muir High school with plans to attend the summit although at press time that claim could not be confirmed with Muir's new principal Sheryl Orange. Muir has been in danger of being taken over by the state for failing and low standardized test scores in math and science.

Keynote speakers also included Ed Begley Jr., Bill Nye the Science Guy and producer Laurie David who is widely known for working with former vice president Al Gore on his film "An Inconvenient Truth."

Lawsuit To Be Filed in UUT Saga

Claiming statements made in the rebuttal to the argument in favor of Pasadena's Measure D are false and misleading, local officials have now filed a lawsuit Friday asking that part of the election material be omitted in pursuit of the public interest.

According to a press release Thursday the rebuttal states that the Measure would "force" a tax on Internet access and further claims that Measure D would allow government officials to review telephone and internet bills thus invading the privacy of telephone and internet users.

City officials who are bringing the lawsuit say they only want the ballot to be accurate.

Sierra Madre City attorney Sandra Levin said the language was kept vague in an attempt to be able to tax whatever communications technology is allowed by law. She also stated that the measure was written before the existing federal moratorium on internet taxation was renewed, indicating that it was not the main intent of the measure.

City officials said the rebuttal as submitted implies Measure D would also tax unwanted e-mails, something they said is impossible.

Levin is a law partner with former Sierra Madre city attorney Michael Colantuono. They are representing Pasadena with the lawsuit. They also authored the original ballot language.

Mayor Shares Christmas Cheer With Local Kids

By Teresa Baxter

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard made sure that Christmas came early for many local children as Santa Claus, in one of his first appearances, handed out presents at the Brookside Golf Club Restaurant for "The Mayor's Twenty-Second Annual Christmas Party for Kids".

The selected students from local schools and organizations were greeted at the elite setting by McGruff the Crime Dog and also got to meet the Tournament of Roses Royal Queen, Dusty Gibbs, along with her Royal Court.

"A lot of fun things are going to happen for you as this party goes on," said Bogaard. "The high point of this party from my point of view is to share with you a celebration that occurs in the city of Pasadena each and every year."

Mayor Bogaard acknowledged all of the organizations that participated in putting the event together. Including, American Golf, the City of Pasadena and great participation amongst many departments like police and fire, with support from the Pasadena schools. It also took the entire community coming together to offer a good time at the beginning of the month of December that will lead into the holidays and the New Year, he said.

Each of the Tournament of Roses Royal Court took the stage to share with the children a bit of motivation about the importance of an education and school pride. Princess Courtney Rubin, 17, of San Marino High School encouraged everyone to become involved in their community.

"My favorite part of being on the Rose Court is definitely all of the community service you get to be involved in," she said. "We recently went to the Huntington Library and got to interact with third-graders to encourage them to love learning. It was so much fun and so rewarding."

Sierra Madre Princess Katie Merrill, who attends Pasadena High School stressed the importance of doing really good in school and keeping grades high. She also told all of the girls in the audience that each should aspire to be on the Rose Court.

"If any of you want to try-out you should keep up your good work at school," she said. "Being on the Rose Court is a lot of fun...you get to do many community



activities, go to Rose Bowl game and get to ride in the parade."

A special Christmas dinner was then served, followed by gift giving and the singing of holiday carols.

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells



The Washington Middle School Glee Club provides Christmas Carols for the College Womens Club at the Blinn House in Pasadena. Photo T. Baxter.

ONE COLORADO "PET NIGHT WITH SANTA"

UNITES CLAWS AND CLAUS FOR A WORTHWHILE CAUSE

OLD PASADENA -pets are invited to pose for photos with Santa Claus in the One Colorado Courtyard, Thursday, December 13, from 4:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Hundreds of dogs, cats and exotic pets (and their owners!) attend this quirky critter event every year, which has become a holiday photo tradition. Pets receive a free holiday treat from "Santa Paws" courtesy of Three Dog Bakery, a One Colorado boutique specializing in all-natural ingredient pet treats.

Photo proceeds benefit Charles Cherniss Tournament of Toys, which assists needy children throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

One Colorado is an outdoor shopping, dining and entertainment district spanning one city block in Old Pasadena, between Colorado Boulevard, Union, Delacey and Fair Oaks. This award-winning destination unites the urban environment of 17 historic buildings with 25 contemporary fashion and dining attractions. The One Colorado Courtyard, designed in the tradition of European town squares, is Old Pasadena's main public space for film festivals, live music, high-quality fine art markets, children's programs and site-specific art installations curated by the Armory Center for the Arts. www.onecolorado.com

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SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, November 25th, to Saturday December 1st the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 303 calls for service.

Sunday, November 25th:

3:06 AM - Arrest, 600 block Santa Anita Ave. A car was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed the driver had three outstanding warrants for her arrest. She was arrested, booked and released on a written promise to appear.

Tuesday, November 27th:

3:22 PM - DUI arrest, Elkins Ave and Highland Oaks. Officers stopped a car for a minor traffic violation. During the investigation the driver was found to be driving under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

4:59 PM - Attempt auto burglary, 700 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident called to report the rear driver's passenger side window smashed, but nothing was stolen. The window smash occurred between 12:00 pm Thursday, 11/22 and discovered Tuesday 11/27 at 4:45 pm. The repair of the window was estimated at \$300.00.

Wednesday, November 28th:

9:57 PM - Arrest, Baldwin Ave and Orange Grove Ave. A car was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed the driver had an outstanding arrest warrant. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

Thursday, November 29th:

4:26 AM - Vandalism, 611 East Sierra Madre Blvd. An officer saw graffiti written on the city pool pump house and trash dumpsters at the Youth Activity Center. Suspects had used silver spray paint to deface a trash dumpster and the walls of the pump house. Two other dumpsters were marked with blue and black illegible writing. No repair estimate was available.

Friday, November 30th:

1:09 PM - Arrest, 100 block East Orange Grove. A car was stopped for excessive speed. A records check revealed the driver, a Monrovia resident, was unlicensed. The driver was issued a citation for the traffic violation and released on a written promise to appear.

Saturday, December 1st:

10:19 AM - Arrest, 200 block South Baldwin Ave. A car was stopped for expired registration. A records check revealed the driver's license was suspended/revoked. The driver was issued a citation for the expired registration and released on a written promise to appear.

1:42 PM - Arrest, 1200 block North Santa Anita Ave. A car was stopped for a traffic violation, excessive speed. A records check revealed the driver had an outstanding arrest warrant. The driver was issued a citation for speed and released on a written promise to appear.

Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council

TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown

The City of Sierra Madre official website: www.cityofsierramadre.com now lists the Red Flag Closure information for hikers in our foothill area. During these weather events the Bailey Canyon Wilderness Area parking lot gate will be closed and the Mt. Wilson Trail leading to the Sierra Madre Historical Wilderness Area will be closed. The gate at Chantry Flat Road (Santa Anita Avenue) will be closed. The Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council will post signs that give the closure duration which is also listed on the city website. This information will also be available at the Sierra Madre Police Station's non-emergency number: 355-1414.

The public has been very supportive of this policy as they are aware of the enormous fire danger southern California faces in this second year of extreme drought. We have all watched the City of Malibu suffer fires in January, October and November. Some areas of the forest are still closed to recreation use since the 2003 fires. The fires of this past October will cause long closures in areas that were hard hit.

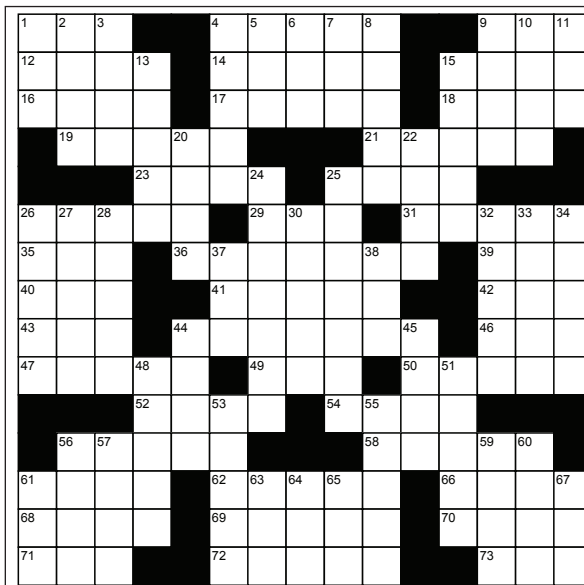
Make a year round effort to protect yourself, your family and your property. Your fire safe yard and home protects your neighbor's and your neighbor's efforts protect you. Information is available at www.firesafecouncil.org and www.firecenter.berkeley.edu.

The will be no regularly scheduled Fire Safe Council meeting in December. We will resume meetings in January.

For more information contact us at 355-0741 or 355-9350. E-mail: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com.

We have Thermo-gel fire protection system kits available. Call 355-0741

Crossword For You



ACROSS

- 1 Be incorrect
- 4 Expressing dislike word
- 9 Metal fastener
- 12 Glide
- 14 Afloat (2 wds.)
- 15 Musical repeat
- 16 Lip
- 17 Queen-like
- 18 Sanctified
- 19 Quake
- 21 Beam
- 23 Sap
- 25 Precipitation
- 26 Annoying, like a bug bite
- 29 Kimono sash
- 31 Having to do with the navy
- 35 Seed bread
- 36 Craftsman
- 39 Frozen water
- 40 April (abbr.)
- 41 Unpack
- 42 Expression of surprise
- 43 Ball holder
- 44 Melted ore
- 46 Neither's partner
- 47 School assignment
- 49 Jell
- 50 Rn
- 52 Pen fillers
- 54 Elide
- 56 70's music
- 58 Ably
- 61 Seed pod
- 62 Race car
- 66 Midwestern state
- 68 Eye
- 69 False name
- 70 Rooster
- 71 Affirmative
- 72 Under, poetically
- 73 McDonald's "Big ___"

DOWN

- 1 Compass point
- 2 Bars
- 3 Storm
- 4 Hurts
- 5 Shoshonean

- 6 Chinese seasoning
- 7 Legume
- 8 Shampoo brand
- 9 Contribute
- 10 Bored
- 11 No
- 13 German empire
- 15 Large Asian country
- 20 Soybean
- 22 Minnesota (abbr.)
- 24 Hot nature
- 25 Rice broth cheese meal
- 26 Ireful
- 27 What a secretary does
- 28 Demeter
- 30 Good Book
- 32 Treat
- 33 Sound of a sneeze
- 34 What students do
- 37 Booze
- 38 Wood chopper
- 44 In ___ (together)
- 45 Leaky faucet noise
- 48 Passageway
- 51 Top level
- 53 Religious text
- 55 Swamp
- 56 Former magistrate of Venice
- 57 Evils
- 59 Threaten
- 60 Young Women's Christian Association
- 61 Male
- 63 Lager
- 64 Central Intelligence Agency
- 65 Munch
- 67 American Kennel Club (abbr.)

Environmentally Speaking,

Did You Know?

Deck The Halls.....Part II

As we mentioned last week, there are ways to celebrate and enjoy the holidays in a more environmentally friendly way. The following suggestions are easy, and once you get started the possibilities are endless.

Look for Locally Made Gifts

Many gifts in today's marketplace come from halfway around the world, and the impact of transportation contributes significantly to greenhouse emissions and global warming. **Support our local merchants and shop and dine in Sierra Madre this holiday season.**

Alternatives to Wrapping Paper

- * Use environmentally friendly wrapping paper made using fibers such as hemp. Look for paper using recycled content.
- * Avoid buying glossy foil or metallic wrapping paper. This kind of material is difficult, if not impossible to recycle.
- * Reuse gift wrap wherever possible. Large wrapped presents usually have large unincreased sections to be reused for wrapping small gifts.
- * Use tape sparingly, or not at all. If you're going to use ribbon to finish off your wrapping, you may not need to use tape. By not using tape, more of the paper can be reclaimed, and it's easier to save for reuse.
- * Choose alternatives to gift wrap. There are many options which are cost-free, attractive solutions. Gift bags can be made using fabric scraps, or wrapping can be made using comic strips from the newspaper, old calendars, maps, posters and more. Use your imagination!

Half of the paper America consumes each year is used to wrap and decorate consumer products. (Source: *The Recycler's Handbook*) In the US, the annual trash from gift wrap and shopping bags totals over 4 million tons. In Canada, the annual waste from gift wrap and shopping bags equals about 545,000 tons. If everyone wrapped just three gifts in reused paper or fabric gift bags, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 hockey rinks! *Garnered in part from eartheasy.com*

~ **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**~

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Answers To Last Week's Puzzle

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One Of A Kind: Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them

By Chris Bertrand
Photos By Susanne Hayek

Home Depot's Sharon & Kim Not Your Typical Big Box Experience

It's true. I shop Home Depot's Plant Nursery in Monrovia. Often. Frequently. Several of my neighbors do, too. One told me she found them friendlier than some of the private nurseries, many times with better looking stock. Marie Springer, down the road, started as a novice gardener from "plain dirt" six years ago, turning to Sharon and Kim for advice, special orders and planning expertise, and still does. This well-oiled team of Sharon Scollard and Kim Lowder, with a combined 21 Home Depot years between them, works with a 24/7 staff of about twenty, to oversee a department with mind boggling volume. It's also obvious they treat the plants and the customers as their own. Heavy duty gardeners in these parts often turn up their noses at the big box concept. The Monrovia Home Depot Nursery is different in several ways.

First of all, both women stress that though the sign says "Nursery", in reality they are a RETAIL plant store. Nothing is actually grown here, the technical definition for a plant nursery. Careful nurture and care of these very perishable products are administered by these Certified Nursery Professionals, but the stock they carry doesn't stay around long. The volume going through these orange doors is truly amazing. For instance, for the 2006 Christmas season, some 20,000 poinsettias and several thousand fresh cut, Oregon Christmas trees were sold in this store alone. Their large accounts include numerous churches, funeral homes, large scale events and venues, landscapers, contractors as well as the individual gardener. For poinsettia aficionados, Home Depot will exclusively offer a new Ecke Ranch variety in a peppermint stripe, called "Ice Punch" from the famed Encinitas grower.

Kim is delighted to make special orders at excellent prices reflecting their huge volume, and they can tap suppliers to bring in exactly the quantity you need of run-of-the-mill privets to exotics on the day you need it. Usually in very short order. They work on a ten day or less order cycle. My numerous special orders have all come in within a week.



Scollard and one of her "regulars", a local landscaper.

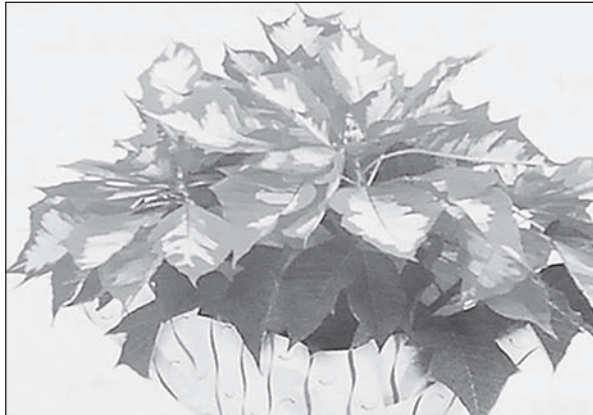
The variety and breadth of what is offered here speaks to the vendor relationship and management trust these two women have developed. They have such a devoted professional following in the landscaper community that even the California Philharmonic sponsors from "Sunset" magazine get their Arboretum concert plants here. They throughput such volume, that a high quality Japanese maple tree supplier from Sacramento now makes weekly deliveries during the spring selling season. I became the proud owner of one last spring, just as beautiful as the prized Japanese maples I left behind in Seattle and San Francisco when we moved away.

They both have special favorites in the store now. Lowder loves the fragrant sasanqua camellias, while Scollard couldn't wait to point out the large, dramatic bananas, and the unusual, variegated flaxes, a wonderful drought tolerant Australian plant. The upright boxed junipers at \$79.90 are another wonderful value as a landscape focal point, according to Scollard.

The two women come from very different backgrounds, but both exude a deep seated love and personal responsibility for their plants and their customers. Lowder came up through the Home Depot ranks, switching careers in 1993 from Sierra Madre Parks and Rec, to Home Depot. She'd never worked in retail before, and admits she had to learn to differentiate a petunia from a pansy. Today both are Certified Nursery Professionals. After a corporate career in "heels and nylons" in a big Wilshire ad agency, Scollard chose a second career here amid the plants, in what she terms a happy, restorative and almost spiritual job. It's easy to see that both love what they are doing.

Customers young and old enjoy visiting the store's resident cat, who sleeps nightly on top of the pallets, overlooking the entire nursery perched in its rodent control.

As I was leaving the store, a longtime landscape customer saw me with a camera, and asked to be included in the photos for the article. It's just that kind of place, Sharon says, where wonderful customers have turned into friends. Almost forgot... two tips from Kim and Sharon: When planting, amend, amend, amend your soil! And for your garden viewing pleasure, don't miss the Descanso Gardens in December, the best month for viewing their spectacular camellias!



Ice Punch Poinsettia from Ecke Ranch, exclusive to Home Depot this year.



Kim Lowder & Sharon Scollard with 21 years of combined experience at Monrovia's Home Depot Nursery.

Arts & More

Tis' The Season's Shopping Options

By La Quetta M. Shamblee

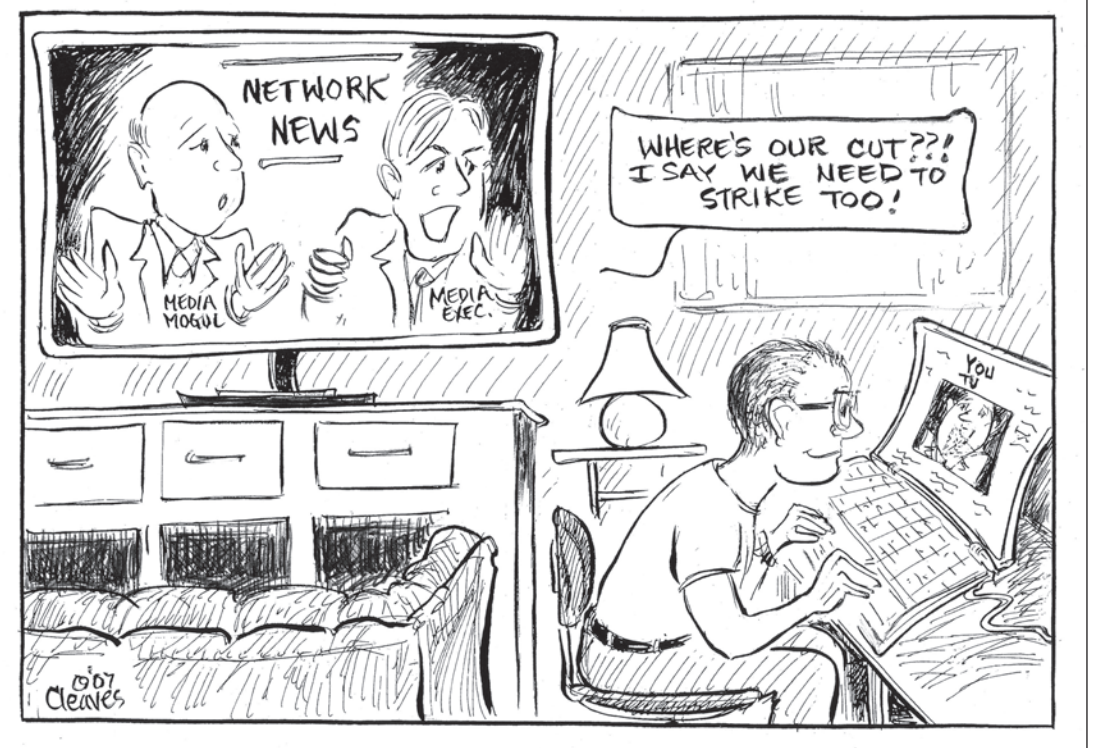
Repeated news reports with forecasts of the slowest holiday retail sales since 2002 don't seem to translate into the realities of the parking lots at any of the local shopping hot spots. Perhaps we consumers are planning to spend less this holiday than in recent years, but by golly, we're certainly out in droves to enjoy the annual holiday cheer. A study in contrast, this season brings out the very best and the very worst in us as human beings.

The generous exchange of traditional "Happy Holidays" greetings between strangers provides a glimpse into our need and ability to connect and share in the joy of what this time of year has come to represent. The level of annual charitable giving during this brief window period isn't matched during any other time of year. However, generosity and consideration can undergo transformation into aggression as the supply and demand for a space in a crowded lot in a split second.

One of the most memorable stories of seasonal cheer run amuck is the recounting of a 41-year old woman being trampled after the doors opened for the Annual After-Thanksgiving Day Sale at a Wal-Mart Super Center in Orange City, Florida in 2003. Numerous news outlets reported that she was lying atop the coveted \$29.95 DVD player that was the bane of her demise. When the paramedics arrived, cheerful shoppers were still scurrying around her limp body while her sister stood over her, trying to prevent further trampling by others enroute to fill their baskets with more great deals.

The spirit of the season now spans to encompass a broad range of religious and cultural celebrations. What was initially established to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ has expanded to encompass an entire repertoire of annual celebrations, but that celebration, whether embraced from a religious or secular perspective, is the one that drives and dictates the outcome of annual profit margins for retail sales throughout America. According to 2007 forecasts by the National Retail Federation, our collective shopping lists will contribute to \$474.5 billion.

Independently owned, neighborhood retail shops are stocked with a variety of special items to complete this year's holiday shopping spree. Considering that the overwhelming majority of local shop owners live locally, our purchases will also contribute to the local economy in a very direct way. Their livelihood and success is contingent upon our patronage year round, but this season can serve to generate a spike in tax revenue for local municipalities. We can take care of our own while taking care of the remaining items on our shopping lists. Our sense of community will alleviate the need to bring along boxing gloves to fight for a parking space, and we'll certainly not have to worry about awaking to feet overhead after we've been trampled while trying to take advantage of some bargains.



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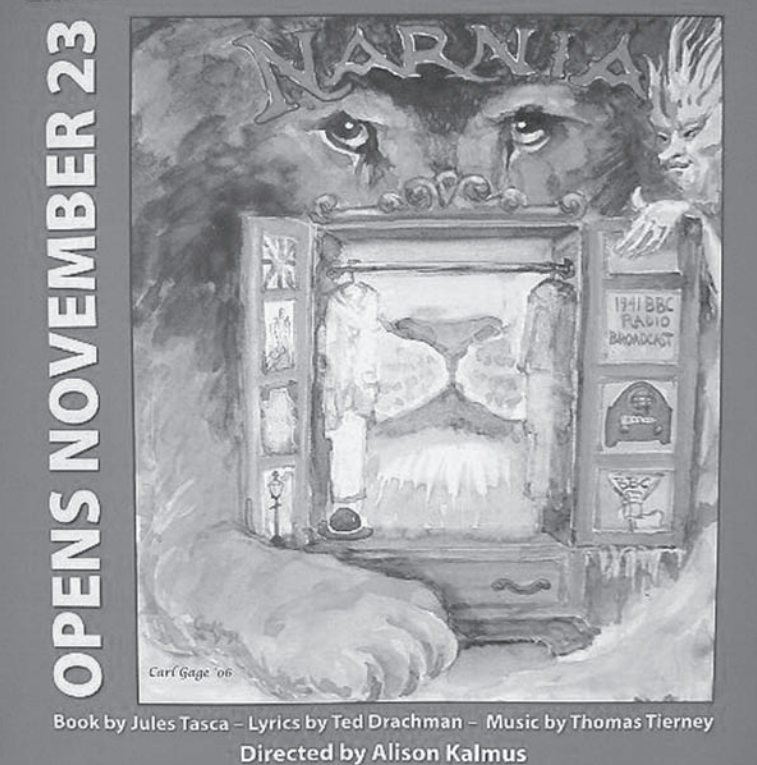
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WHAT: "Narnia". A musical.
WHO: Book by Jules Tasca.
Lyrics by Ted Drachman
Music by Thomas Tierney. Based on the novel "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis.
Directed by Alison Kalmus.
Musical director: Lance Merrill.
Musical director: Dianne Harmel.
Produced by Ward Calaway and Alison Kalmus.

Presented by Sierra Madre Playhouse and Southern California Lyric Theatre.

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Co.

WHERE: Sierra Madre Playhouse
87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.,
Sierra Madre 91024.
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WHEN: November 23- December 23, 2007.
Fridays and Saturdays at 8
Sundays at 2:30.
Saturday matinees at 2:30 on
December 8, 15 and 22.
Sundays at 7 p.m. on December 16 and December 23
Tuesday, December 18 at 8 p.m.
Wednesday, December 19 at 8 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 13 & 20 at 8 p.m.



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Ed Alverno, Arroyo Pacific Academy, La Salle, Maranatha, Pasadena High School, St. Francis, Sierra Mesa Middle School, The Barnhart School, The Gooden School, Field Elementary, Sierra Madre Elementary School, Bethany Christian, St. Rita's, Wilson Middle School, Odyssey Charter School, Norma Coombs Alternative School, Weizmann Day School and the PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pasadena Unified and Altadena Town Council Meet

Story and Photo By Teresa Baxter

A long-awaited melding of the minds regarding Altadena educational issues took place during a special meeting held at Eliot Middle School last Tuesday. Members of PUSD's Board of Education united with the Altadena Town Council to discuss predetermined topics, which were put into agenda form in front of an audience of well over 100 community members and parents.

"I would like to remind everybody that this is a meeting that the Altadena Town Council and PUSD did for the citizens of Altadena, this is not a meeting that should be confrontational," said George Lewis, Chair of the Altadena Town Council. "We should look at this meeting as a new start with PUSD, we have new leadership and we all as citizens need to work together to collaborate in ways to make the schools the best they can be."

The Altadena Sheriff's Department opened the discussion regarding their ability to donate their presence on local campuses to make area schools safer through their efforts. Captain Roosevelt Blow gave many examples of services provided that were



absorbed by his police force without an economic impact on PUSD funding. The ASD responds to any emergency calls on school sites and has also initiated a successful cadet program that holds fundraisers that benefit area schools, he said.

"When you look at some of the cities who have paid for services, such as Pasadena that pays extra money to have law enforcement on campus, Altadena doesn't have those funds available to us," said Capt. Blow. "But, if you look at the number of hours that we're putting into this you would think that we were being paid extra."

The theme of safety issues persisted throughout the evening pertaining to truancy enforcement and the importance of providing educational outlets that would keep the students off of the streets and involved in their campus. Superintendent Edwin Diaz brought to light the reconstituted "Safety Committee."

"We have reformulated our 'Safety Committee' and have expanded the scope so that it deals with all issues around safety, security and conflict resolution programs," said Diaz. "I would encourage [everyone] to be available to connect with our overall process to find a degree of consistency around emergency response and security."

Altadena Councilmember Walter Olszewski gave examples of programs that should be incorporated into Altadena's school curriculum that would cater to the interests of students, encouraging more involvement in the pursuit of an education in a viable trade—many of which are vocational in relation to wood, metal and auto shops. Olszewski also prodded tapping into the Hollywood industry. "We are a reflection of what the community wants and that's what it's been asking for," he said.

Superintendent Diaz stated that it comes down to the appropriation of rooms and whether the designation warrants a technical or vocational program.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School
200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463
Head of School: Ann M. Gillick
E-mail address: agillick@alverno-hs.org

Arroyo Pacific Academy
41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca.
(626) 294-0661
Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Bethany Christian School
93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527
Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcslions.org

The Gooden School
192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-2410
Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951
Principal: Patrick Bonacci
website: www.lasallehs.org

Norma Coombs Alternative School
2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759
Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins
E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us

Odyssey Charter School
725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001
(626) 229-0993
Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 798-8901
Principal: Dr. Derick Evans
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

Pasadena Unified School District
351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981
website: www.pusd@pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School
322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-9028
Principal: Joanne Harabedian
website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School
141 W. Highland Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428
Principal: Gayle Bluemel
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947
Principal: Gayle Bluemel
Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Weizmann Day School
1434 N. Altadena Dr.
Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 797-0204
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School
300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 449-7390
Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

Pasadena Unified School District
351 S. Hudson Ave.
Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981
Website: www.pusd@pusd.us

TRISH'S TRUTH

California Dreamin'

By Trisha Collins

For me, summer is the best time of year, always exciting and eventful because I always travel to the East Coast to visit family and friends. Every time I meet someone new there, they are always (without fail) shocked when I say where I'm from. "California?!", they gasp, "Really...wow, you are so lucky!" Lucky. I never really considered myself lucky for living in California, it's just home. Then I realized that our perceptions of California are two totally different things.

The bright blue skies, endless beaches, and beautiful palm trees are just a few things that come to mind with the mention of California from someone who doesn't live there. Everyone who is a resident here knows that the skies aren't always sparkly blue and the sun doesn't always shine. Not to say that we don't have good weather, we do. Not to mention pretty agreeable winters and falls. Those that don't live here assume that everyday is like summer and that the temperature never reaches below 75 degrees. We all know that isn't true, but when you think about California in the media, it's usually coming across as bright and sunny. Rarely will you see California on worldwide news when the sun isn't shining unless it's storming (which is also pretty rare).

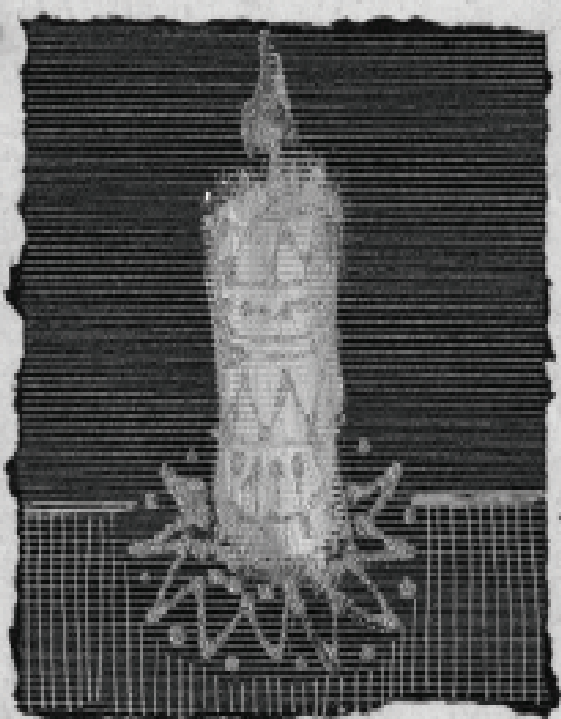
Another question I frequently get asked is if I ever see any celebrities. And when I answer "no", they

always seem to be less interested than they were before. Hollywood, Orange County, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills. All these extremely famous cities located in California tend to show up in movies, and books all over the world. Magazines across America portray photos of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton shopping on Melrose and Rodeo drive. People living in other parts of the country automatically assume that because the pictures are in California, I must see that everyday. What some people don't realize is that I am just an ordinary teenager living in an ordinary city. Celebrity sightings for me happen about as much as they probably do in Iowa.

True, Los Angeles is exciting, but I can't help but think that the media boosts it up just a little too much. In movies where scenes are shot at Venice Beach, they never show all the homeless people that live there. All that's really seen is the shops, people rollerblading; the positive side of the beach. People unfamiliar with the beach then get a false image of what it's like, thinking that California is all that they see on T.V.

This summer when I travel to the east coast, and someone asks me what California is like, the only honest I'll give is, "you'll have to go and see for yourself". Because I think only the individual can say how they view California, no person or movie can really portray how it really is. It's true, you can only learn from experience, and experiencing California life and culture is something much more than celebrities and Hollywood: it's unique.

Join the Alverno High School Community for the beloved



Candlelight Celebration

Wednesday, December 12, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Enjoy the beauty of Alverno's campus as the candlelight procession leads you through a live re-enactment of the story of Christmas - from the Annunciation to the birth of Jesus.

A festive Christmas reception will follow.

There is no charge, and all are welcome.

Be sure to dress in your coziest winter outfit!

Alverno is located at
200 N. Michillinda Ave. in Sierra Madre

When you are making out your holiday card list this year, please include a card to the following:
A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Billy Childs Benefit Concert

December 15 at 7 pm

Pasadena High School auditorium
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd

Tickets: \$15 students/ \$30 adults

Call 818-802-2111 for tickets or at the door
Proceeds go towards All Star Band
scholarships for trip to London

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Superintendent Edwin Diaz

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The Pasadena Unified School District All Star Band

Saturday, December 15 - 7 pm
Pasadena High School
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Mountain Views-Observer

O P I N I O N

MountainViews-Observer

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MountainViews-Observer

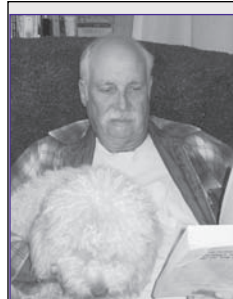
Mission Statement

The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities.

We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.



Member



Stuart Tolchin On....

LIFE

Spiritual Awakening: REBIRTH

It's usually tough for me to connect what I'm doing to a cause or thought. I have an active imagination that's always coming up with reasons for whatever it is that I'm doing. Over the years I've come to believe that these reasons are only some fantasy that a part of my brain creates in order to pretend that it (or what I call I) is actually in control of what I do and have some understanding of why I do it.

For example, golf. I want to play golf almost all the time. As soon as my work day ends I race to the nearest golf course and release myself from my dreaded work uniform of coat, tie, and laced up black shoes. I shed it like a worn out skin and snuggle into my preferred attire of tee shirt and shorts. This is a big deal, I think. Hooray, a freeing release from responsibility. I am no longer earning money. I'm not being a good boy - no one's depending on me for anything - I'm sure you get the picture.

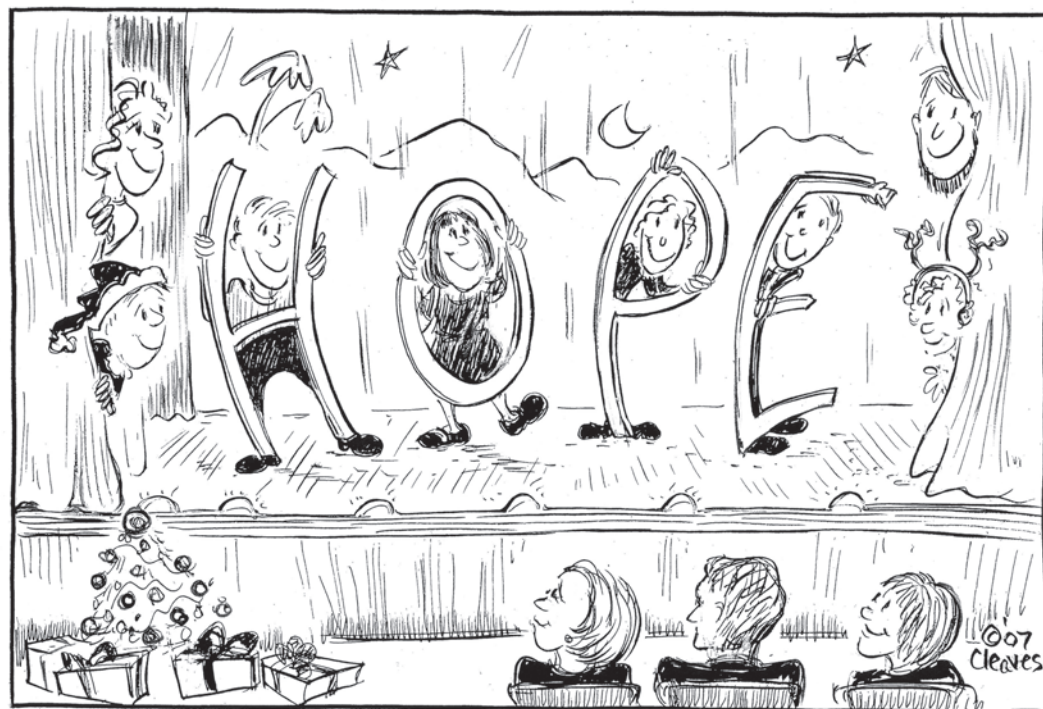
But why golf? I'm completely wretched at it. I've been playing for about 17 years and I haven't improved at all. When I hit on the driving range I'm so bad and work so hard that strangers invariably line up to give advice. One truth emerges - I am really no good (at golf at least)

Okay, so why do I do it? Let's guess - because I think I'll find the GREAT SECRET. Soon, I will effortlessly hit the ball great distances and I will merge with the ball and fly and soar. I will be in harmony with the COSMOS. My perfect swing will create a perfect world. ENOUGH ALREADY. After all this time even I must notice that it's just not happening. So what is it?

I think I've got it -- I think maybe it's a great quest - the perfect swing is out there - better yet it's in me. It is the eternal search for the HOLY GRAIL or in more familiar terms (at least to me) it is NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM. Keep an empty seat at the Passover table for Elijah - he may come this year.

Please understand that I have absolutely no Jewish (or any other religious) training. But I hear the old Brooklyn Dodger prayer "wait 'til next year" the unspoken truth being that next year never comes; we are not going to meet in Jerusalem; Elijah never shows up, I'll never hit a decent golf shot, and the Dodgers are in Los Angeles.

So what - the point is to be on the hunt, to be on the trail, to keep searching for clues, to maintain the belief and the commitment to the ideal - even if we aren't really very clear about what that ideal is - But we know it's there. *Or maybe not.*



City of Sierra Madre NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To: Mountain Views Observer
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: VARIANCE 07-04, 294 Old Ranch Road
Applicant: Byron Banks
1422 Palm Street
Altadena, CA 9001

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider a request to construct an addition of 84 square feet to an existing residence at 294 Old Ranch Road, which will cause the residence to further encroach into required front and rear setbacks. The proposed front yard of zero feet, is less than the twenty-five required by Section 17.20.050 of the Municipal Code. The proposed rear yard of seven feet is less than the fifteen required by S.M.M.C Section 17.20.057. The proposed side yards are existing nonconforming, and the remodel of the house will occur up to the easterly property line, and within three feet of the westerly property line.

DATE AND TIME OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
Planning Commission meeting
Thursday, **December 20, 2007**
(Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.)

PLACE OF HEARING

City of Sierra Madre
City Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.

PROJECT LOCATION: 294 Old Ranch Road; in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The project qualifies for a Class 3 Categorical Exemption, pursuant to Section 15303 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APPEAL: The decision of the Planning Commission is subject to a 14 day appeal period to the City Council. If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the Planning Commission in court, one may be limited to raising the issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

By Order of the Planning Commission,
Anne Browning McIntosh, AICP Interim Development Services Director



**Pearl Harbor Day—
December 7, 1941**

"...A date which shall live in infamy..."

By Hail Hamilton

Each year on Pearl Harbor Day, we commemorate those lost on December 7, 1941—the day President Franklin Roosevelt called, "a date which shall live in infamy". We also honor the courage of a generation of Americans who devoted themselves to one of the great missions in our country's history—the defeat of tyranny around the world.

The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by warplanes of the Japanese Imperial Navy was one of the great defining moments in history. A single carefully-planned and well-executed raid removed the United States Navy's battleship force as a possible threat to the Japanese Empire's southward expansion. On that Sunday morning in sunny Oahu, America, unprepared and now considerably weakened, was abruptly brought into the Second World War as a full combatant.

Eighteen months earlier, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had transferred the United States Fleet to Pearl Harbor as a presumed deterrent to Japanese aggression. The Japanese military, deeply engaged in the seemingly endless war it had started against China in mid-1937, badly needed oil and other raw materials. Commercial access to these was gradually curtailed as the conquests continued. In July 1941 the Western powers effectively halted trade with Japan. From then on, as the desperate Japanese schemed to seize the oil and mineral-rich East Indies and Southeast Asia, a Pacific war was virtually inevitable.

By late November 1941, with peace negotiations clearly approaching an end, informed U.S. officials (and they were well-informed, they believed, through an ability to read Japan's diplomatic codes) fully expected a Japanese attack into the Indies, Malaya and probably the Philippines. Completely unanticipated was the prospect that Japan would attack east, as well.

The U.S. Fleet's Pearl Harbor base was reachable by an aircraft carrier force, and the Japanese Navy secretly sent one across the Pacific with greater aerial striking power than had ever been seen on the World's oceans. Its planes hit just before 8AM on 7 December. Within a short time five of eight battleships at Pearl Harbor were sunk or sinking, with the rest damaged. Several other ships and most Hawaii-based combat planes were also knocked out and over 2400 Americans were dead. But the attack did not destroy our aircraft carriers that were at sea on maneuvers or our fuel dumps. Soon after, Japanese planes eliminated much of the American air force in the Philippines, and a Japanese Army was ashore in Malaya.

These great Japanese successes, achieved without prior diplomatic formalities, shocked and enraged the previously divided American people into a level of purposeful unity hardly seen before or since. For the next five months, until the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May, Japan's far-reaching offensives proceeded untroubled by fruitful opposition. American and Allied morale suffered accordingly. Under normal political circumstances, an accommodation might have been considered.

However, the memory of the "sneak attack" on Pearl Harbor fueled a determination to fight on. Once the Battle of Midway in early June 1942 had eliminated much of Japan's aircraft carrier striking power, that same memory stoked a relentless war to reverse her conquests and remove her, and her German and Italian allies, as future threats to World peace. As Japanese Admiral Yamamoto, who planned the Pearl Harbor attack, said immediately after the raid, "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."

Letter To The Editor

America Is Denying Education To Immigrants

The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (also called "The DREAM Act") failed in the Senate last month to aid illegal immigrant students hoping to build a pathway for citizenship. The bill would have granted conditional legal status to illegal immigrants younger than 30 who completed two years of higher education or served in the military. To be considered for legal status, they would have needed to have lived in the U.S. for five years and have entered before age 16.

Currently there are about 3 million students who will graduate from high school in the United States this year. Out of those there are 65,000 that won't be able to work, or pursue a career. Those 65,000 are illegal immigrant students that have taken the steps to educate themselves like any other students to succeed in life.

As a student, and undocumented alien at a local college, I have had the opportunity to assimilate and be a productive member of campus life and American society. I am only 19-years-old, yet I have had the spirit and drive to lead a club, I also motivate other students into volunteering for worthy causes and I am a part of an honor society, based on my GPA. (cont. on page 10)

LEGAL NOTICES

460703AU File No. 06-20072524376 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
THE SPS CORAL STORE, SPS CORAL STORE
2445 Harmony Pl
Montrose, CA 91021.

Full name of registrant (s) is (are) AXIS TECHNOLOGY, LLC, 2445 Harmony Pl Montrose, CA 91021.

The business is conducted as: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 09, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.
NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460703AU

460704AU File No. 20072544387 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following person (s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious name:
DISCOTECA REYNA
330 W. Rosecrans Blvd
Compton, CA 90222.

The name of registrant(s) is (are) Enrique Chavez S. 330 W. Rosecrans Blvd Compton, CA 90222. The business was conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 02/02/2006. Original File #200060117062. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.)

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 14, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/14/2007

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation

of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460704AU

460705SJ File No. 06-20072554021 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following person (s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious name:

EL QUTZAL BAKERY
2236 W. Pico Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90006.

The name of registrant(s) is (are) Amador Alejo Jr., 2236 W. Pico Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90006. The business was conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 01/16/2004. Original File #200040084731. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.)

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 15, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/15/2007

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460705SJ

460706SJ File No. 06-20072554022 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
MANA BAKERY
2236 W. Pico Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90006.

Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Carmen Elena Canjura and Edgar V. Garcia 2236 W. Pico Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90006. The business is conducted as: CO-PARTNERS. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 15, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of

the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460706SJ

460707SJ File No. 06-20072555361 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:

CT PROCESSING SERVICES
1170 N. San Bernardino Rd Unit 102
Covina, CA 91722. Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Carolyn Thomas 1170 N. San Bernardino Rd Unit 102 Covina, CA 91722. The business is conducted as: AN INDIVIDUAL.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 15, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460707SJ

460708SJ File No. 20072553246 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
WORLD GLOBAL, LTD
400 S. Beverly Dr
Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

Full name of registrant (s) is (are) Sirski Steve 1131 South St Long Beach, CA 90805. The business is conducted as: AN INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 15, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/20/07.

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious

Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460708SJ

460709MM File No. 20072555668 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:
PATHWAYS TO SERENITY, INC.
6796 Paramount Blvd Unit C
Long Beach, CA 90802.

Full name of registrant (s) is (are) PATHWAYS TO SERENITY, INC., 17852 Santiago Blvd #174 Villa Park, CA 92861. The business is conducted as: A CORPORATION. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 15, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) not commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above.

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460709MM

460710MU File No. 20072535280 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following person (s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious name:

DINO WORLD
14014 Salada Rd
La Mirada, CA 90638.

The name of registrant(s) is (are) Maria Bavastro 14014 Salada Rd La Mirada, CA 90638. The business was conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 12/30/2003. Original File #03-3907906. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.)

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 13, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/13/2007

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself

authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460710MU

460711MU File No. 20072535279 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following person (s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious name:
MSE APPRAISALS
14014 Salada Rd
La Mirada, CA 90638.

The name of registrant(s) is (are) Juan Cuevas 14014 Salada Rd La Mirada, CA 90638. The business was conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 06/21/2002. Original File #02-1415166. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.)

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 13, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/13/2007

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460711MU

460712SJ File No. 20072553141 STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following person (s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious name:
M & B CAR TRANSPORT & TOWING
2900 W. Francis Ave #3
Los Angeles, CA 9005.

The name of registrant(s) is (are) Milton E. Saravia 2900 W. Francis Ave #3 Los Angeles, CA 90005. The business was conducted by: CO-PARTNERS. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 01/06/2006. Original File #06-0037487. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.)

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on Nov 15, 2007. The registrant (s) has (have) ended to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/15/2007

NOTICE-The Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be

filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 at seq. Business and Profession Code) First filing: 11/17; 11/24; 12/01 and 12/08, 2007 460712SJ

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

KATHLEEN D. PENNY CASE NO. GP013396

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of KATHLEEN D. PENNY.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GEORGE C. PENNY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GEORGE C. PENNY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 12/21/07 at 10:00AM in Dept. A located at 300 E. WALNUT ST., PASADENA, CA 91101

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner JAMES R. HELMS JR. HELMS & MYERS 150 N. SANTA ANITA AVE., #685 ARCADIA, CA 91006 12/1, 12/8, 12/15/07 CNS-1239326#

SENIOR HAPPENINGS... By Pat Birdsall

FYI: Door-to-Door Deception

They seem innocent enough, these young people who knock on our doors. They claim to be students trying to earn enough money so their school team can attend playoffs in another state, for instance. They sometimes say that they live just around the corner and that their mom knows you and suggested that you would be willing to help. They are usually "selling" magazines that you will never get, especially if you pay cash.

The October, 2007, AARP Bulletin warns us about a company called Quality Subscriptions, which is part of United Family Circulation. They have drawn more than 80 complaints nationwide to the Better Business Bureau for falsely selling magazines door to door.

I know this scam is alive and well in Sierra Madre. Our Police Chief, Marilyn Diaz, suggests calling to report individuals you suspect might be trying to dupe you and others. (626) 355-1414.

~Helpful Hint~

This is one I tried this week and I can tell you that it really works. I had a sweatshirt and a blouse that had grease stains on them that didn't come out in the wash. I was ready to put them in the rag bag when I remembered the Murphy Oil Soap. I rubbed some into the spots and laundered as usual, and voila! Good as new.

Recipe of the Month Cranberry Bread

2 Cups all-purpose flour
½ tsp salt
1 ½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp baking soda
1 cup sugar
1 egg, well beaten
2 tbs melted butter
2 tbs hot water
½ cup orange juice
¼ cup grated orange rind
1 cup fresh or dried cranberries
½ cup chopped nuts

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Grease a 9-by-5 inch loaf pan or 3 mini-loaf pans.
2. Combine flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Add sugar, egg, butter, hot water, orange juice and grated orange rind; stir until moistened. Fold in berries and nuts. Spoon into pan and bake 50 minutes (or 35 minutes for mini-loaves). Cool; wrap and refrigerate or freeze. Relish

~ For Your Funny Bone ~

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus were riding in the elevator of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a \$20.00 bill lying on the floor. Which one picked it up? Santa of course, because the other two don't exist!

~He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree~

Roy L. Smith



Activities:

Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park (Senior Center) 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

- Lunch Program:** Monday-Friday- Call (626) 355-0256 to reserve day before
Suggested donation \$2.00 for seniors, others- \$3.75
- Monday:** Free Strength Training Class with Lisa Brandley 1:00- 1:45 PM
- Tuesday:** Bingo: 1:30-3:30 PM .25c per card
Yoga: 5:00 PM- Instructor, Andrea Walsh- \$5.25 for seniors
- Wednesday:** Open
- Thursday:** Game Day- 1:30- 4:00 PM Poker, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle... you name it.
Yoga: 5:00-6:30 PM- For seniors and others who want to go slowly (can be done in a chair)
Instructor: Andrea Walsh
\$5.25 for those 50 & over- \$7.00 for those under 50
To register call (626) 355-7394
- Friday:** Ping-Pong- 2:00-4:00 PM- Not tournament, just for fun
Aerobics for Active Seniors- 3:00- 4:00 PM at the Community Center- 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.- \$34.00 for an 8 week course
Instructor: Bonnie Smithson Call 355-5278 to enroll.
- Saturday:** Senior Club for those 55 and older- Brown bag lunch at 11:30AM
Bingo: 12:30 PM .25c per card
- Meals-On-Wheels:** Meals are delivered to homebound seniors through the YWCA Intervale lunch program M-F with frozen meals for the weekend. \$2.00 suggested donation per day
Call Susan Garcia at (626) 960-3773

- Monthly Excursions:**
December 20: Candlelight Pavilion in Claremont- Christmas show and lunch \$59.00
January 17: Morongo Casino & Outlet shopping \$20.00
February 21: Griffith Observatory- Details to be announced

For reservations call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394 or stop by and see her at the Hart Memorial Park House- 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM- Monday-Thursday

Free Consultation with Pasadena attorney Geoffrey Chin- 2nd Thursday of the month- 10:00 AM- Noon-Appointments are a must. Call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394. Conflicting court schedules can occasionally cause cancellations.

Blood Pressure Clinic Returns! The Sierra Madre Paramedics will do blood pressure readings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10:30AM-11:30 AM

LETTER (continued from page 8)

In fact, there are other undocumented foreign students that tell of their accomplishments academically. Some of these students are from China, Armenia, Peru and Korea. In my opinion I think the Dream Act is a doorway to success for immigrant students trying to pursue their careers through all of these [obstacles]. The most important right that should be given to every human being is to be able to get an education, a career, and to feel like you are someone in society helping others.

With the current economy taking a downward turn I feel that motivated students can be part of a productive workforce that can fill the void as many in the previous generations approach retirement. This applies to every career; nurses, teachers, journalists. Educated immigrants that don't fit into the stereotypical labor workers portrayed in the news. Although, there are many labor workers that are immigrants, working for those who do not want to be outside in the hot sun picking produce. As everyone knows education is a way to success, but what about those who want have an education but cannot afford it? When did society start segregating who deserves an education? We should think about investing into our future teachers and scholars because they will be the ones that drive the country to success.

Recently a poll stated that 78 percent of U.S. citizens voted "No" on immigrant scholarships. I saw this as really offensive because I see American policy betraying education for those immigrant students that are trying to just better themselves while giving back to the community. I agree that it's wrong to give illegal immigrants scholarships that come from American taxes. But the government should make an exception for the hard working students that were brought to America illegally at a very young age. These kids were brought here by force not choice, and did not know what was right or wrong. It's not the student's fault that they are in America illegally. Blame those parents who brought them. Those students should not be held accountable. In conclusion, people should think about their votes in the near future because those students will make a difference if the Dream Act eventually does pass. We need to stop being ignorant and think about educational status, not citizen status to move America forward.

Sincerely,
Thalia - A Concerned Student

Looking Up



With Bob Eklund

WERE THE FIRST STARS DARK?

Photo by Aaron Dominguez

"Dark star crashes, pouring its light into ashes" — The Grateful Dead, 1967.

PERHAPS THE FIRST STARS in the newborn universe did not shine, but instead were invisible "dark stars" 400 to 200,000 times wider than the sun and powered by the annihilation of mysterious dark matter, a University of Utah study released Dec. 3 concludes.

The study—to be published next month in the journal *Physical Review Letters*—calculated how the birth of the first stars almost 13 billion years ago might have been influenced by the presence of dark matter—the unseen, yet-unidentified stuff that scientists believe makes up most of the matter in the universe.

The findings "drastically alter the current theoretical framework for the formation of the first stars," says study author and astrophysicist Paolo Gondolo, associate professor of physics at the University of Utah.

It is conceivable that gigantic dark stars may exist today, and although they do not emit visible light, they could be detected because they should spew out gamma rays, neutrinos and antimatter and be associated with clouds of cold, molecular hydrogen gas that normally wouldn't harbor such energetic particles, he adds.

"Without detailed simulations, we cannot pinpoint the further evolution of dark stars," Gondolo says. "They could last months. They could last 600 million years. Or they could last billions of years and still be around. We have to search for them."

He conducted the study with astrophysicist Katherine Freese of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and graduate student Douglas Spolyar of the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Gondolo says he wanted to call the new, theoretical kind of invisible star a "brown giant"—similar to the dim but smaller, Jupiter-sized stars known as "brown dwarfs." But he says his co-authors insisted on calling them "dark stars," after the song "Dark Star" first played in 1967 by the revered rock band The Grateful Dead. "It's catcher," Gondolo acknowledges.

Gondolo says some studies have considered the role of dark matter in the evolution of the early universe, but until now, not in the formation of the first stars.

Scientists know dark matter exists because galaxies rotate faster than can be explained by the visible matter within them. Also, observations by satellites, balloons and telescopes have led to the estimate that all the visible matter represents only 4 percent of the universe, which also is made of 23 percent dark matter and 73 percent "dark energy"—a yet-unknown force helping the universe expand, Gondolo says.



The Mountain Clymer

By Kim Kelley

When the Cold Winds Blow

There's been a welcome crispness in the air this last week...one that signals that winter is finally here...that the dryness and heat are behind us for a few months. The brisk air brings back many wonderful memories of the winters spent growing up back east and of those spent here in the mountains. There is nothing more warm and wonderful than being snowed in and snuggled in a blanket by a fire, sipping hot chocolate. It is such a safe and secure feeling knowing that there is a haven from the cold and wet weather.

Winters were wonderful as a child in New Jersey. They meant eagerly waiting for Glen Lake to freeze over so that we could skate on it and sled down the slopes around it onto the ice below. I remember how proud I was when I graduated from my double bladed strap-on skates to real figure skates...the freedom I felt when I finally got steady enough to glide and spin and dance around the ice. Then when we moved to the hills of northern New Jersey there was a long lovely lake that was nestled in a valley with steep wooded hills on either side...Ravine Lake. It was about a mile long and a couple hundred feet wide with a beautiful old clubhouse at one end and a dam at the other. It did not freeze every winter, but when it did, and we got to skate on it, it was like skating in a fairytale land...ice as smooth as glass...surrounded by steep hillsides and snow-covered towering pines. It was a scene one would more likely expect to find nestled somewhere in the alps than in the hills of North Jersey. There was an old stone boat house on the far side of the lake that we could skate to...inside was a huge hearth that always had a big fire blazing in it. In the coldest days of winter we could skate nearly the entire mile length of the lake. When we got near the dam end the ice would begin to make a crackling noise...that was when it was time to turn around and skate back to the other end.

At home there were snowmen, and snow forts and snowball fights and occasionally skating on our own little pond on the rare occasions that it froze hard enough to skate on. When we got wet enough and cold enough we would all scurry inside, blue-lipped and shivering, strip down to our underwear, and dress in some dry clothes while Mom made us some hot chocolate...(from real milk, not the instant kind)...and stuck our wet clothes in the dryer so that we could suit up again and go back outside for round two.

My boys had the same winter fun as I knew...sledding, snow forts, snowball fights. When we moved to California, I wanted that to continue for them, so whenever I saw dark snow-filled clouds over Mt. Baldy, I would throw everyone in the car with their snow gear and drive up to Baldy Village. We would park alongside the road, pile out of the car, throw some snow at each other or shove some down each other's shirts, take a quick flying saucer or toboggan ride down a nearby slope, build the most basic of snowmen and then get back in the car and retreat to the warmer temps of the valley below. It was nice to be able to just visit winter instead of enduring the entire thing every year. Usually by sometime in February the novelty of the snow had disappeared and winter had more than worn out its welcome.

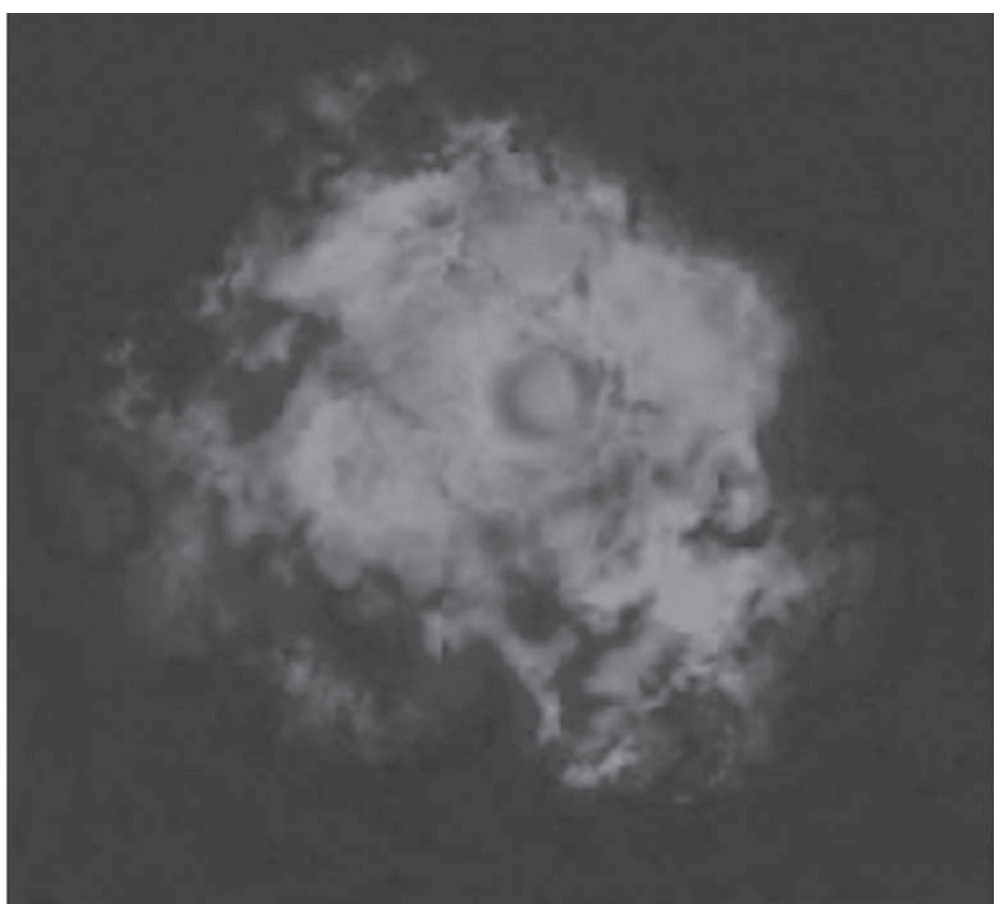
Life in the mountains here brought new winter experiences and memories. Our home there had no central heat. Our only warmth was provided by a huge 80 year old wood-burning stove. It did an excellent job, despite all the small cracks and holes in it...the bigger ones dammed up with wads of aluminum foil. There were times when we got the fire so well-stoked that we actually had to open windows to let some heat out. When storms were predicted, we would move enough dry wood to get us through the storm from the woodpile by the barn to the front porch of the

house...that way we did not have to get wet bringing in the wood...and the wood would be sure to stay dry.

By early spring, the main woodpile would be so wet that it was difficult to even get a fire going...it was usually easier to just grab an extra blanket for the last part of the cold weather. As much of a task as it was keeping the home fires burning, it somehow made life feel richer...gave it more depth...a richness that you do not get when you walk over and turn up the thermostat.

My most treasured memories of winter in the mountains were those spent on the trails in the canyon. At least once a week, I had to make the trek out to Sturtevant camp to bring in supplies or luggage. If a group was going in or if the manager, Chris Kasten and his wife Joan needed more than they could carry, I even had to work in the rain. There was no way to keep really dry or warm, so I just bundled up as much as I could and still remain mobile enough to function...lots of light layers...a hat under my riding helmet...gloves thin enough to still have the feel of the reins...extra thick socks, and boots for the mud...maybe a garbage bag worn as a poncho to keep dry. I would arrive at the camp after the two hour ride, frozen half to death. Chris would help me unload the animals and we would head to his heated cabin where I would defrost in front of their propane-fueled wall heater. Joan would whip up some hot tea or cocoa and a snack of some sort or I would eat a sandwich I had packed for lunch. We would sit and chat forever as the afternoon and daylight slipped away. When we finally realized how late it had become, we would load up the animals with the trash and empty propane tanks and I would leave in the dimming light of the late day for the ride back...one that always ended in the dark that time of year. There were times when I packed out in total darkness, heavy rain, or fog so dense that it was impossible to tell where I was. It took sometime, but eventually I learned that in such circumstances, it was best to just keep the animals moving very slowly and let them lead the way...they seemed to have no trouble navigating in any of those conditions. Any flashlight that I happened to carry only served give me some reassurance...the horses were probably better off without the distracting, dancing shadows that it cast on the trail.

As we hit the safety of the lower trail...a wider less winding part of the trail with no steep drop-offs...I could see the warm glow of candles lighting the cabins across the stream and smell the smoke from their chimneys. Usually as I rode by, someone would see me and call to me to come in to get warm and have something hot to drink. Since usually I was at best shivering, and at worst soaked and chilled to the bone, I would stop, tie the animals off on a tree and spend an hour or so chatting and warming my spirit and toes. The rest of the trip was an easy trail to the fire road and then the climb up the road out of the canyon. So many times as I left the canyon on that road, I looked out over the valley to the string of lights on the 210 freeway and thought about all of those people heading home from working their 9-5 jobs in offices in the city and now stuck in some god-forsaken traffic jam...bright lights, blaring horns, tempers flaring...and here I was coming home from my job, on the back of my horse under a million stars...the sound of hoofs on the pavement and the stream singing in the canyon, and the crisp evening breeze blowing in my face. Even on the days when my ride was rain-soaked and the moon glowed dimly through the cloud cover...I would still look out to all of those cars and think... "that is not what life is all about...this is life...this is living." And I would thank Creator over and over for blessing me with that life and for letting me recognize it for the gift it was.



This artist's conception shows what an invisible "dark star" might look like when viewed in infrared light that it emits as heat. The core is enveloped by cloud of hydrogen and helium gas. A new University of Utah study suggests the first stars in the universe did not shine, but may have been dark stars.

Dark stars would contain mostly normal matter—mostly in the form of hydrogen molecules and helium—but they would be vastly larger and "fluffier" than the sun and other stars, he adds. They would have glowed with infrared energy, which is heat.

"They are much bigger than the sun," Gondolo says, with diameters ranging from about 4 astronomical units (372 million miles, or four times the average distance between the sun and Earth) to 2,000 astronomical units—big enough to swallow 15,000 solar systems like our own.

The quarks and antiquarks produced within the dark star would, in turn, generate descendant particles including gamma rays, neutrinos and antimatter such as positrons and antiprotons, Gondolo says.

"With your bare eyes, you can't see a dark star. But the radiation would fry you."

If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at b.eklund@mobserver.com.

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Jeff's Pics

The Book Reports



For Love of Politics: Bill and Hillary Clinton: The White House Years by Sally Bedell Smith (2007)

Author Smith gives us an close look at the Clinton marriage and their unusual but actual co-presidency. Interviewing many Clinton insiders, top administrators, cabinet officers and close personal friends, as well as access to many White House and private papers, she explains the intricacies of their personal and professional lives. We see that Bill and Hillary's unique relationship and their passion for politics helped sustained the two through many crises. In the

White House, Bill and Hillary worked together more intimately than outside people ever knew. Their intertwined personal and professional lives, heavily influenced politics, domestic and international affairs and their personal problems became a national drama. She claims it is impossible to understand one Clinton without the other. Hilary advised Bill on many foreign and domestic issues as well as decisions on the staff. Hilary was really a hidden hand in power. Smith shows us the inner workings of the White House with a look at the three powerful forces there, Bill, Hillary and Al Gore, and shows how Hilary's rivalry with the Vice President was in the White House and how it also affected the 2000 campaign. As Hillary attempts to become Commander in Chief, we read about events the public never knew about the Clinton presidency and what it might be like to really have two presidents living in the White House. Very timely book!!

Exposed: The Toxic Chemistry of Everyday Products and What's at Stake for American Power by Mark Schapiro (2007)



Investigative reporter Mark Schapiro discusses how many toxic chemicals exist in many of the products we handle every day that can cause cancer, genetic damage and birth defects, within everything from our various gadgets to beauty products and our children's toys. Unlike the European Union, the U.S. has a toxic policy and doesn't require businesses to list them or remove them, so the public can evaluate the risks and stop getting sick. Schapiro thinks that this policy isn't just bad for our health but in an increasingly green economy, American businesses stand to get shut out of a huge market. He calls

for our government agencies to start letting the public know about these harmful products and start calling on businesses to eliminate them. Schapiro is an editorial director of the nonprofit Center for Investigative Reporting, and has written for The Atlantic Monthly, Mother Jones, Harper's, and The Nation.

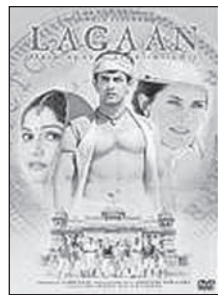
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Scene One - Take One DVD Review

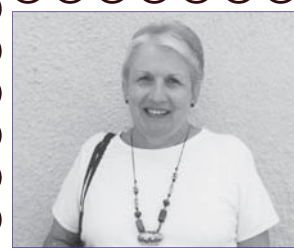
Lagaan (2001)

This is wonderful musical period piece set in India in the 1890's. Indian farmers are coerced by occupying British soldiers to accept a wager: if the villagers can defeat the British in a cricket match, a harsh tax (lagaan) will be stopped for three years; but if the villagers lose, they will pay a triple tax. Along with the cricket match there is a romantic triangle and some great musical numbers. There are wonderful colors, exotic locations, and good acting. Not to be missed!!



Monsoon Wedding (2001)

The monsoon rains loom behind this exceptional romantic drama set in New Delhi, as a colorful extended family reunites for a last-minute arranged marriage. As wedding preparations proceed we see many interwoven stories of a family and the people that surround them. The long held secrets that emerge threaten to tear the family apart as minor and major crises occur. It's a beautiful, warm and colorful film, also with great music. We see what a middle class family in Modern India looks like. A wonderful movie!!



BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like...

I've mentioned a conveyor belt before in relation to the feeling I had in the hustle-bustle, over-crowded ladies room at Union Station, Los Angeles. Whoosh! It turns out it wasn't a one-time thing. I now feel like I am on the granddaddy of all conveyor belts, the one called the "Holiday Season."

After Columbus Day, it's ...cue the Halloween decorations. Okay, okay, before that's completely over, let's move on to Thanksgiving people, times a wasting. Here's the Butterball hotline number...don't put the stuffing in the turkey or you will kill your entire family. Dinner is over; now cue the Black Friday sales blitz people. Move it people, move it--this merchandise has to sell to make ready for the Christmas gifts that have just arrived from China. Then it comes on the tube... Chi, chi, chi, Chia...God help me. The Clapper ads can't be far behind. Next, the Little Drummer Boy plays ad nauseum wherever you go. Rat-a-tat-tat...

Some of you are fortunate enough to already have those white icicle lights still hanging from the eaves. Trend setters, you! Plug them in. For the rest of the population, and I hope there are many, hang those environmentally friendly lights if you must. Varied colors are nice. Those all red or all blue tend to look like a bordello in oh, I don't know, wherever bordellos are. Hmmm. Nah, couldn't be here.

We're getting closer to the actual day itself, but first, we have to wade through some time-worn Christmas Specials -- "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," with Burl Ives, and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," with Fred Astaire. Fred Astaire? If the writer's strike ever ends perhaps some new Christmas show ideas will flow. I guess that would imply that I still believe in Santa Claus though wouldn't it?

The conveyor belt shifts into high gear now...We're caught up in the whirlwind of Christmas parties. Potlucks, elegant affairs, office parties, oops...I repeat myself. Food and drink, food and drink. The fitness clubs will grease the conveyor belt as they are waiting in the wings with their onslaught of guilt-based advertising.

Fast-forward to the day itself. The gifts are opened, smiles flashed, hugs proffered, etc. The gifts are then repackaged; receipts exchanged and the presents are "good-to-go" for return to the stores on December 26th, when bigger and better sales will begin. Whew!

I remember how I scoffed when my mother told me that when she was a little girl in Omaha, Nebraska, she was so happy to receive an orange in her Christmas stocking. Progress, ain't it grand?

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From the Inside Out

An Ongoing Series of Personal Points of View on Health

... By Mary Carney

How Sweet It Is.....

I love it, I just love it! For years now I've been noticing scientists' scoffingly reporting that Grandma's wisdom was an "old wives' tale" until such time as they decided to actually check it out. I've always been thrilled when research has proven that ancient wisdom really was correct.

Here comes another one. Did you notice the Associated Press snippet about honey in the LA Times Health section on Monday? Because of the recent concern about children's cough syrups being inappropriate for children under 6, Penn State ("my" school) scientists did a "what can I give my kid if s/he's coughing before s/he goes to sleep?" study. (Study details at the December Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine.)

The gist of it was that maybe, just maybe, Grandma's suggestion of a small amount of buckwheat honey before your child goes to sleep at night is "just the thing." Parents of the children taking the dosages of honey consistently reported better cough and sleep symptoms, than did the parents of those offered a honey-flavored dextromethorphan syrup or nothing. Whee, hoooo! There it is again! Validation that coughs may be helped by a simple natural food - honey.

I reviewed the Archives report for details, and then moved on to Wikipedia. For over 10,000 years honey bee honey has been important - even being as valuable as gold. Honeybee honey, from flowers like clover, fruit and nut trees and field crops, has a long list of benefits. It is generally antiseptic and anti-bacterial in nature. When skin liquids interact with honey, a small amount of hydrogen peroxide is created, a product often used to clean a wound. It is reported to be useful for treating diabetic ulcers. Because of honey's thickness, it may keep wounds from being pulled apart by bandages being removed. A New Zealand researcher says a particular type of honey may be useful in treating MRSA - that Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus infection that is moving steadily out of hospitals and into homes and schools and other public places. (Having buckwheat honey on hand might be right up there with keeping thermogel stocked at the house as a protection against wildfires).

Caution is required to ensure that honey comes from safe and edible plant blossoms, because a honey-like substance created by insects other than bees (which are generally NOT sold in stores) can be very toxic. Some honeys may contain a trace of botulinum spores, which is why it is strongly recommended that only children older than one year be given honey. And, yes indeed, some people are allergic to honey. While living in Africa, I had a friend who told me that he had never had a birthday cake. Naturally, when his birthday came up, I made him a birthday cake - and since I wanted it to be the best cake ever, I made it with honey. Several days later he told me that he got sick after eating the cake, and I was appalled ... and then remembered that he had said he was allergic to honey ... I felt so bad ...

In addition to honey before sleeping, try adding a tablespoon of thyme to a cup of boiling water, then turn off the heat and let it sit for about 10 minutes before drinking. That, too, works - natural self care from the inside out ... May any coughs be few and far between.

© 2007. Mary Carney is a Certified Practitioner offering holistic "Integrative Development Services," including Polarity, Reiki, Onnetsu Life Force Infrared Energies and more, for stress reduction and energy enhancements that support innate healing capabilities. For more information, 626-355-6225 or m.carney@mvobserver.com

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TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Whole Foods in The Westside of Pasadena



It took me a few times to decide to visit and review the new Whole Foods mega Market in Pasadena. I know the pressure is on to be cute, whimsical, charming and truthful when doing a grocery store review...but let's all focus now.

If you are over the age of thirty-five you probably remember Jurgensen's Grocery Store. And if you follow my career via this newspaper and watch me on TV on Sunday Nights you will know that, in my youth, I delivered groceries to all the mansions in San Marino and Pasadena. So Whole Foods, and the idea behind it, is really nothing new to me. Bottom line... it is like Jurgensen's! Whole Foods is expensive but 'you get what you pay for'. After two visits, and being somewhat of a regular at their Hastings Ranch Store, I have a true fondness for the new Whole Foods. A few months ago I mentioned that Whole Foods has one of the best sandwiches in all of The San Gabriel Valley.

I can't remember everything in the 'new' store (I asked for a press release and am still waiting) but they have it all - Wine tasting - a Sushi dept, a Meat dept, and a Wine dept. There is also a juice area---similar to Jamba Juice - but not! How about a Nut Dept.? No, not the editorial staff here at the paper, but at Whole Foods you can get five different kinds of Cashews!!! Pizza By the slice, seafood, beer on tap.

Whole Foods is two stories high. I must say this blows away their Hastings Ranch location, Bristol Farms, Gelson's and any other contenders. There is really no point in discussing price. I mentioned, and warned you, this is high-end stuff baby!!! They do carry their own brand of organics, labeled as 365, and their wine prices aren't that bad. Their buyer did warn me that if you are looking for cheap, go to Bev MO!!!

Two heads ups: Parking during the holidays is crazy and they only have one bathroom downstairs.

Bonus Spot: Wine and Cheese available at reasonable prices and Moet Chandon a big glass for \$10.

All in all, if they had Big Screens TV's for football, I might just sleep there.

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SPORTS

Back Page Journal



SO WHAT SHALL WE TALK ABOUT?

By: Brad Eastland, Sports Editor

Good morning, Sierra Madre. I'd like to take this opportunity to officially welcome myself to the staff of the Observer.

Why, thank you, Brad! Thank you very much. It's a pleasure to be on board.

It's been a whirlwind couple of weeks for me. After coming down from the genuine rush of accepting a new job (and after recovering from the even greater natural high that comes from the drug-like jolt of self-respect one gleans from the realization that one has just acquiesced, of his own free will, to a \$90,000 or so pay cut from his *previous* job), I immediately set about the task of trying to come up with something appropriately witty and urbane to say in my first column.

Alas, I couldn't come up with anything.

"Guess I'm a little out of practice. I couldn't understand it at first, though. I mean, pounding down several Kahluas-and-cream and then falling asleep on the couch in front of old *I Dream of Jeannie* reruns used to be so inspirational....

Then I had an epiphany. In order to establish a solid foundation for any dialog between you and me, first I had to ask the key question--to define, for myself and for you, my soon-to-be-loyal audience, "What is sports?" Good idea. Might provide a little perspective for both of us, I mused silently.

So what is sports? Hmm. Didn't some fine young novelist once say, "*News is Reality's cousin; Sports, the sublime salvation from such depressing and unwelcome ministers of the real world.*"? Man, that's deep. What brooding genius said that, anyway? I asked myself. (Okay, okay, it was me. Chapter 17 of my first book. A shameless plug, I apologize....)

Here's another one: "*News is Mankind's failures--Sports is Mankind's accomplishments.*" (Now I didn't come up with that one....but I wish I had.)

Anyway, both definitions worked just fine for me. And now that I had defined sports, I had to answer an even bigger question. Why write sports? In other words, why bother?

Truth is, the job description of the sportswriter is the same as for the sportsman himself. To entertain. To *entertain*. That's it, nothing more; and certainly nothing less. We skim the sports page at breakfast for a few harmless crumbs of entertainment, and we all do it for the same reason. Namely, that so much of Life is so ridiculous and harsh and unacceptable, if we didn't have a few harmless, vacuous, insipid, tasty, and utterly delightful diversions to look forward to on a regular basis we'd all go frigg'n' nuts.

So then what shall we talk about once a week in this column? I then found myself asking myself. (I talk to myself a lot these days). Local sports? Local youth sports? How about the colleges, or the pros? Will the Dodgers ever figure it out? Why does baseball still tolerate the designated hitter? Who's more overrated, Pete Rose or Reggie Jackson? What ruined horse racing; off-track betting or rich, dirty old men falling madly in love with making money from the seed of frisky, prematurely pensioned stallions? Will the Patriots ever lose a game? How come Bob Griese is in the Hall of Fame? How come Kenny Stabler is not? Shouldn't clay-court tennis be either abolished or at least designated as a wholly separate sport, separate and not quite equal to regular fast-court tennis? Shouldn't Harrison Ford play look-alike Nick Faldo in "*The Nick Faldo Story*"? And speaking of golf, exactly how does one go about explaining to thousands of you confused MV-O subscribers who don't even think golf is a sport, that golf on Sunday afternoon of a 'major' is *thee* most dramatic and exciting day of sports theater possible??? Heck, I suppose I could squeeze a column out of any of that stuff.

So is that what we're going to talk about? Stuff like that?

Yeah. Stuff just like that. Just not today.

Finally, I can't promise that you'll always agree with this column. I can't even promise it'll always be entertaining. But I can promise... I *can* promise you I, uh....ah, forget it. I'm not promising you a damn thing.

B.E.

PS---Once in awhile I'll probably have a kid from one of the local high schools pen a short column for you, 'cut their journalistic teeth right here on the Back Page. Be patient with them. Remember; you were once a scatterbrained kid with bad skin who had a hard time pushing nouns against verbs too....

Note: Brad can be reached at beastland@mvoobserver.com

CAL TECH COACH RE-DEFINES WINNING

Photo and Story By Brad Eastland

In 1971 John D'Auria was a bitter, burned-out minor league pitcher with a dead arm, no prospects, and no career compass. He'd hurt his arm a year earlier while stationed in South Korea, pitching in the Army, and when he tried to make a comeback with the same Detroit Tigers' minor league system that had drafted him back in '66 in the 3rd round out of Arcadia High, they released him instead. Career over. Washed up at twenty-two.

He kicked around for a decade, holding down a variety of jobs: oil driller, truck driver, construction worker, jewelry maker, you name it.

Then, in 1982 something happened that changed John's life forever. Introduced by a friend to a sports trainer working at Cal Tech, D'Auria rehabbed, the trainer got his arm healthy enough to where he could at least throw batting practice again, and then he soon discovered what he wanted to do. "I suddenly knew I wanted to be a coach. And I wanted to give something back to Cal Tech, because it was their trainer who fixed my shoulder," the long-time Sierra Madre resident wistfully recalls.

And so, from 1982 till 1989 he was assistant baseball coach at Cal Tech, and from 1990 until the present day he has served proudly as the head coach of the Cal Tech Beavers. And he's not going anywhere.

"People ask me all the time how I can coach these kids," says D'Auria, 59. It's certainly not for the thrill of victory. D'Auria estimates that his teams win an average of only three games a year out of thirty, and that the average score of a Cal Tech baseball game is about 14 to 3; that's 14 to 3 the wrong way. "Well, kids don't come here to play baseball, that's for sure," he says. "In fact, most of them weren't even good enough to make their high school teams. That's where I can help them. I can give them something no one else can---an actual collegiate baseball experience. You can't imagine how grateful some of them are."

For the few who try out for baseball at this fabled institution, the diamond and the dugout are blissful diversions. Cal Tech is generally considered not only the finest, most prestigious technical university in the country, it is also easily the most difficult. "All these kids do is homework," D'Auria says. "The university really drives them hard. They often come to practice after being up all night studying. In fact, much of the time they miss practice altogether. They're exhausted. All I ask is that they not miss an actual game."

D'Auria has never cut a player in eighteen years as head coach. And everyone who comes out for the team gets a roster spot. Everyone. "I've got twenty-four uniforms!" he jokes, adding, "I suppose if I ever had more than twenty-four guys come out for the team I'd have a problem. But it hasn't happened yet."

Perhaps most revealing about D'Auria's passion for baseball is the realization that the Beavers haven't won a single inter-conference baseball game in two decades. Not one. And this is playing in a

conference with the likes of the Whittier College 'Poets' and the University of LaVerne 'Leos'...names that don't exactly produce the same fear-factor as the Wolverines, the Trojans, or the Crimson Tide.

"We last won a conference game back in nineteen eighty seven. The score was ten to nine, and I remember our shortstop recorded the final out by backpedaling under a 'Texas Leaguer', staggering, catching the ball, and then tripping and falling over backwards. But he held on." That was approximately 350 conference games ago. Twenty years of 100% futility. When asked why he keeps showing up for work, only to labor under such futile circumstances, he replies with a straight face, "Why else? To win that next conference game and break the streak. It could happen at any time. We're due!" Then he laughs, a gravelly rumble that comes up from somewhere deep in his belly. And why not? The man has identified a whole different way to win the biggest game of all; the game of life itself.



"These are great kids, they stay in touch, and many of them have told me years later that the best thing about their college experience was getting to play on the baseball team. Imagine a Cal Tech grad saying that? Well, you can't imagine how that makes me feel. It makes it all worth it, believe me."

More than anyone, D'Auria understands that while he has given something back to baseball, baseball has also given something back to him: "The seventies were hard without baseball. I missed it. I realize now I'd turned my back on the game I loved. I was bitter. It took me ten years to figure out how much baseball meant to me."

Vince Lombardi, the great Green Bay Packers coach, once remarked famously, "*Winning isn't the important thing. It's the only thing.*" Well, John D'Auria for one would beg to differ.

"It's the game that matters," the silver-haired, win-starved skipper declares, two decades of job satisfaction and true inner contentment streaking his smiling face. "It's the game. It's the game."

Where's Stanley? Stanley J. Forrester, who has never missed an issue with his commentary, will be taking a leave of absence for a while. We will all miss him and want to say, "Thanks for sharing, Stanley."

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