



THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WEEKLY NEWS FOR SIERRA MADRE AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

Friday, October 13, October 19, 2006 Volume 1, No.3

Lottery Held To Select Senior Housing Residents

46 New Units Scheduled To Open in 2007



Rendering Courtesy of PBWS Architects

Sierra Madre's new affordable senior housing complex at Esperanza and Hermosa was designed by PBWS Architects.

By Katina Dunn

Thirty three names for the senior housing units were publicly drawn by Pat Birdsall, President of the Sierra Madre Senior Commission, at the meeting on October 5th. All names will receive an application that must be filled out and returned by November 30th. Each applicant will be interviewed at Sierra Madre City Hall by Gary Braverman and his staff from Accessible Housing Corporation, Inc.. "The biggest nightmare" he said, "is matching occupants with units. Do they like rear, front, south view, north view, upstairs, downstairs..."

Out of 46 units, 43 are one-bedroom units - 575 square feet each. One unit will be set aside for the facility manager and other units will be saved for persons displaced by the construction.

Eleven additional names will be drawn during the meeting to be held December 7. Before that time, there will be extensive outreach for more applications to meet the federal requirements for low income housing according to Braverman. So far, 427 people are on the "interested" list for the apartments.

Not all chosen applicants will qualify. For 60% of the units, or 28 apartments, the occupant cannot make more than \$29,100 per year; and a couple cannot exceed \$33,240.

For 50% of the units, or 18 apartments, the occupant cannot make more than \$24,250 per year, a couple not to exceed \$27,700.

"When you put government money - city, state and federal - and we have all three, you can't by law discriminate and rent to one population in one area," said Braverman. He spoke to those in the audience who mistakenly thought the units would be available for Sierra Madre residents only.

So far, Braverman said there has been "no advertising" on the units, and all applicants received information via "word of mouth." Braverman surmised "they have family here or used to live here and couldn't afford it anymore."

The order of the waiting list will also be drawn December 7th along with the remaining 11 names. Once the complex is filled, as tenants move out, "we go to the next one" on the waiting list. "I don't want to be accused of favoritism and I don't want to be accused of slipping in names," said Braverman.

"You're coming out smelling like a flower," resident Karla McGlone told Braverman. "I don't have an agenda," he told her. "It's going to be a beautiful project," said Braverman.



Photo By Buddy Windsor

Meet Laurel Wood of Laurel's Apparel, one of our city's most extraordinary artisans on Page 7.



Colombian bird hailed as new species

See Story on Page 5

Walk This Way



Saturday, October 14, 2006, is the first annual Wine & Jazz Walk in Sierra Madre, benefiting the City of Hope. TIVO those football games, grab a few friends and take a walk around downtown from 4 to 7 p.m.

The \$30 ticket price (\$35 day of event) goes to City of Hope for cancer research and treatment. Also included in that admission price are wine-tasting tickets, a commemorative wine glass, raffle tickets and a drawing ticket for four seats at Rose Parade 2007 with complimentary parking, courtesy of Sharp Seating.

"Everybody is being so

generous," said Angel Throop of the boutique Angels Everywhere. Throop worked with Karen Keegan of Savor the Flavor, Kathy Girard of Provisions, Sindee Riboli of Sharp Seating and Donna Rey of Casa del Rey to coordinate 28 businesses with food and music. Café 322's Mario and Illiana Lalli helped coordinate music at the sites. During the Wine and Jazz Walk, performances include The Chuck Manning Trio, Mike McDaniel Quartet, Susan Krebs Trio, High Society Jazz Band from LaSalle High School,

(continued on Page 3)

Extra! Extra!

Read All About It!
As we went to press on Thursday, October 12th the Sierra Madre City Council was scheduled to hold a special council meeting with Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich. The Mt. Wilson Observer provides you with a complete report.

Just log on to:
www.mtwilsonobserver.com

This Edition






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Weather Wise

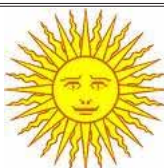
5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

Full Moon - October 6, 2006 8:12 pm

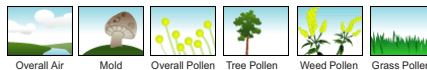
	Friday:	Increasing Clouds - 20% Chance Showers Hi 70S. Lows 50s
	Saturday:	Increasing Clouds - 20% Chance Showers Hi 70S. Lows 50s
	Sunday:	Mostly Clear - Highs 70s Lows Upper 40s - 50s
	Monday:	Clear. Highs 70s To Low 80s. Lows 40s - 50s
	Tuesday:	Clear. Highs 70s To Low 80s. Lows 40s - 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



AIR Wise

Sierra Madre Air Quality 5 Day Forecast:
MODERATE - ALL CATEGORIES



Roy Roams' 91024

Citizens' Datebook



Monday, October 16 6:00 pm
Community Services Commission
Sierra Madre City Hall

Wednesday, October 18 6:00 pm
"The Future of California Public Education"
with CA Secretary of Education Alan D. Bersin
Pasadena Senior Center
85 E. Holly - Pasadena

Wednesday, October 18 7:00 pm
Tree Advisory Committee
Sierra Madre City Hall

Thursday, October 19 7:30 pm
Planning Commission
Sierra Madre City Hall

Tuesday, October 24 6:30 pm
Sierra Madre City Council Meeting
SM City Hall

Pasadena Unified School District
Board Meeting
PUSD Education Center
351 S. Hudson
Pasadena

Ongoing
Bright Idea founder Kim Clymer promotes the use of compact fluorescent bulbs via free distribution. Clymer's organization aims to distribute more than 110 million bulbs nation-wide. "If every household replaced one 60-watt bulb with one compact fluorescent bulb of the same brightness... reduction of greenhouse gases emitted into the air would be equivalent to removing 1.3 million cars from the road," according to Bright Idea's flyer. For more information, call (626) 355-1629.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse Presents
MIRACLE WORKER
BY WILLIAM GIBSON
DIRECTED BY LINDA L. RAND
Opens October 6th, 2006
Playing Every Friday & Saturday Evening at 8pm, through November 11th.
Playing Every Sunday Afternoon at 3:30pm, through November 5th.
The Sierra Madre Playhouse
87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024 • 626-355-4318

Congratulations

To Sue and Bob Quarnstrom for their 38th wedding anniversary. The couple was spotted by Barbara and Lee Cline at Panda Inn on Friday night.

Bob was the popular manager for many years at Howie's Market. His parents were Marjorie and Elmer Quarnstrom. The family lived in the historical house on the corner of N. Baldwin and Victoria Lane. Sue's parents were Dick and Betty James.

Joining the Quarnstroms at their celebration were their two daughters and two grandchildren. Their son was out of town and unable to attend.

To Sports Reporter Larry Bortstein who celebrated the Crown City Chorus' 60th anniversary with 32 of his closest friends. The group won the Plateau A Division of the Barbershop Harmony Society's Far Western District competition on Saturday at the San Jose Civic Auditorium.

With 24 choruses from California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii participating, Crown City finished 11th overall in its first appearance in competition since 1987.

Crown City Chorus rehearses every Thursday 7:30 pm at the New Hope Presbyterian Church, on the corner of California and Rosemead in Pasadena. To join, call Larry Bortstein at (626) 359-6536 or e-mail lbortstein@earthlink.net

The Pasadena League of Women Voters Presents...
Ballot Measures on a Roll
Novel and Impartial

Analysis
Saturday, October 14, 2006
Women's City Club
160 N. Oakland Ave.
Pasadena
parking at rear
Enter off N. Madison
9:00 a.m.

FLU SHOTS
Thursday-November 2nd
9 - 11:00 am
Adults 50 years of age and older at
Hart Park House
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, Ca.
For more information
Call 626-355-7394

Xtremely Good Commissioners

The Senior Commission is in top notch form. The ever-witty **Pat Birdsall**, is also in top form. She runs those meetings like a train conductor, each subject the next stop, and off they go. Where's the whistle?

This is one of the city's best commissions - former **Commissioner Ken Anhalt** is smiling and **Council Member Don Watts** is also pleased. New commissioners **Ann Bixel** and **Ann Luke** add more Xpertise. Bixel will oversee activities and trips separate from recreation, and Luke will work on publicity among other new duties.

This Commission is also gifted to have the wisdom of **Dr. Paul Neiby** guiding our seniors' constant health concerns. **Commissioner Nancy Walsh** is also superbly helpful, along with **Joan Spears** and **Theresa Daley**.

Next stop: Senior Commission Meeting Thursday November 2 at 3 p.m.

Mapmaker, Mapmaker Make Me a Map

Utter relief to find the Wine & Jazz Walk sponsors have only one version of their map for this weekend's event. So far, there are at least four different maps of the Hillside Management Zone. As for the Downtown Specific Plan... oh well, those maps reproduce like rabbits. The most recent one is almost two weeks old - called the City of Sierra Madre Land Use Designation Map and General Plan. Is the brown residential entrepreneurial area changed? Is the pink commercial

zone the real downtown? Where's Green Hornet's area? Watch for new maps on the city's website. If they're not there, ask for them. Make sure you have plenty of time, bring some moola and a pen, 'cause the city's new policy requires you fill out forms and pay money. You need lots of time to wait, but that was already policy.

Want To Play Match Game 2006?

Find changes in the city's General Plan of 1996. Match them to meeting minutes of the City Council in 2004. First, go to June 28, 2004 - Ordinance 1214 which calls for density up to 30 units per acre. See if you can match that with the 1996 General Plan of 13 units per acre. Then, find the parking reduction and height increases to 35 feet or three stories and match them with the 1996 General Plan's 30 feet at two stories. Next find the first public reading and match it to the second public reading. This might be a little tricky since the 2004 sitting council moved to waive all public readings of the ordinance. (See the July 12, 2004 Consent Calendar.) Next match the adoption of the Ordinance with the Public Comments in the meeting. **Good Luck. BONUS POINTS:** Can you find when dwelling units per acre changed to FAR - floor area ratio? **MORE BONUS POINTS:** Come up with an authentic EIR for the changes adopted in Ordinance 1214. If you score 100%, Roy will take winners on a shopping spree in the new Downtown. Do you have a scoop? Contact Roy at deuxamispub@aol.com

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Lindy Hop
Every Thursday
at 7:30 p.m.

All Ages- Teens to 90s
200 S. Euclid free parking
& free dance lessons from
7:30 to 8:15 p.m.
\$7 admission
www.lindygroove.com

Sing-A-Long Opera
&
Broadway
Every Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

Cafe 322
322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pianist Danny Guerrero
with world class singers
Domenico Zangeri, Norma
Guerrero, Mario Storace, Mark
Almy, Diana Briscoe, Mario
and Edalyn Lalli and many
more, including you!
Free admission

Beantown
45 N. Baldwin
(626) 355-1596

Friday, October 13
Peter Shawn Maloney
Urban Contemporary

Saturday, October 14
Robin Roberts
Folk

Farmer's Market
Every Saturday
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
PHS Parking Lot
2925 E. Sierra Madre
Blvd.

Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, October 14
7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
\$7 adults, \$3 children
Sierra Madre Community
Nursery School
701 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Wine & Jazz Walk to Benefit City of Hope

Saturday, October 14
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Visit the shops of Sierra
Madre, experiencing
different music and food
in each one.
(626) 355-0024
Tickets are \$30

Pioneer Days
Saturday, October 14
Hart Park House
Hosted by
John & Mignon Grijalva
1:00 - 5:00 pm
Come and view
Old Photos of Sierra Madre

Organist Bob Mitchell
accompanies silent film
"The Temptress" starring
Greta Garbo
Sunday, October 15
6:30 p.m.

Tickets \$20 each to benefit
Sierra Madre Historic
Preservation Society
and its work on a
comprehensive history
book on Sierra Madre for
the city's Centennial
Masonic Temple at 33 E.
Sierra Madre Blvd.
RSVP (626) 355-8129 or
visit www.SMHPs.org

Saturday, October 28
Entry Deadline
October 20, 2006
Oktoberfest Golf and
Tennis Tournament
benefiting the Youth of
Sierra Madre. Contact
Alexis Braun at abraun@ci.sierra-madre.ca.us



Number times around
Kersting Court to park = .5

Friday, October 13 - Travelers and Collectors Series
Sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library
"Route Of The Vikings" by Laurie Cooper at SM City Hall 7:30 pm
For additional information call (626) 355-7186

The Teen Book Club - For readers in grades 7 and up

Starts Thursday, October 5 and runs twelve weeks through Thursday, January 11, 2007, at the Sierra Madre Public Library. The program is free (including books) and open to all students, from public and private schools and home schooling. The group will meet Thursday afternoons from 4 to 5

in the Library basement. Enrollment is limited; please register at the Library. Now in its tenth year, the Teen Book Club encourages reading and peer discussion of selected books under the guidance of Cathy Ryne, Young Adult Librarian. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. For further information on this program and other Library programs and services please visit the Library's website at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call the (626) 355-7186.

Ed Alverno, LaSalle, Pasadena High, St. Francis, Sierra Mesa Middle School, The Barnhart School, The Gooden School, Sierra Madre Elementary School, Bethany Christian, St. Rita's, Wilson Middle School, Don Benito Fundamental, Norma Coombs Alternative School, and the Pasadena Unified School District



Dr. Michael J. Klein, JPL scientist who passed away last year. He was the founding scientist for the GAVRT program. This group is in a class with their teacher in Lewis Center's Mission Control, where students connect via the Internet to control the telescope. *Photo Courtesy of JPL*

Telescope Program At Goldstone Celebrates A Decade of Educational Excellence

By Dean Lee

The Goldstone Apple Valley Radio Telescope Program in California's Mojave Desert celebrates its 10th anniversary this month. Since its inception in October 1996, the program has partnered with NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., in creating an educational program for K-12 students. This premier educational program has trained 21,000 students at 177 schools in 27 states and 13 countries, and it continues to expand.

An anniversary celebration will be held on Tues., Oct. 17, at NASA's Goldstone's Deep Space Communication Complex. During the celebration, the telescope will be renamed the Dr. Michael J. Klein Radio Observatory, in honor of the late JPL scientist who was instrumental in helping to form the program.

The program's telescope, Deep Space Station-12, was once on the list to be decommissioned by NASA. In the early 1960s, the telescope was used to track unmanned spacecraft missions such as Voyager, Viking

and Galileo, and Apollo spacecraft returning from the moon.

The Lewis Center for Educational Research in Apple Valley operates the telescope as a unique learning tool for students, with the goal of partnering students with scientists in real-life, hands-on activities. Research studies have shown that the program allows students to feel a sense of accomplishment that they are collecting relevant data for NASA and JPL.

Students from around the world connect to the 34-meter (111-foot) telescope via the Internet. Once they are connected, mission control operators at the Lewis Center assist them in taking control of the telescope and collecting data from the deepest regions of space.

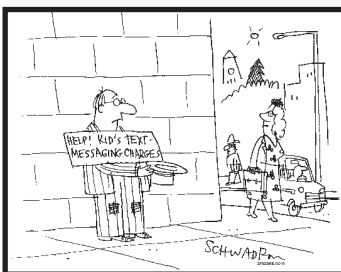
In 2001, students participated in the Cassini Jupiter Microwave Observing campaign, collecting data that were helpful in refining the calibrations of the passive radiometer instrument on the Cassini spacecraft as it made its way past Jupiter.

Students also observed the landing sites for the Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity.

For more information about the Lewis Center for Educational Research on the Internet, visit www.lewiscenter.org.

For more information about JPL on the Internet visit www.jpl.nasa.gov.

Pictured below is the program's telescope, Deep Space Station-12



PASADENA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION Public Information Committee Please save these three important dates and times:

Monday, Oct 23rd 9:30 a.m.
PEF Annual Parade of Banners
Paseo Colorado Garfield Plaza 280 E. Colorado Blvd.

Parade of Banners is our annual public recognition of business- community partners and business donors of the PUSD.

Thursday, Oct 26 10:00 a.m.
Speaker Tom DeLapp on Community Engagement
Pasadena Unified School District
District Ed Center Room 240
351 So. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, CA 91101

Thursday, Nov 2 7:00 p.m.
State Senator Jack Scott on Public Education
Armory Center for the Arts
145 No. Raymond Ave Pasadena, CA 91103

Get the scoop on how your child can get to college at two upcoming events. The PUSD's second annual College Fair will take place on Saturday, October 28, 2006 from 10 am to 1 pm at Pasadena City College.

FIRE continued from Page 3
"Remember, none of the experts are going to be there when it happens to you."

She also debunked American Rescue Team International Doug Copp's "The Triangle of Life" in which he theorizes that the safest place to be in an earthquake is not under something but beside it in which there is a triangular space created.

"This theory has had many disaster researchers rethinking the idea of 'drop, cover and hold,' something Kelcy said we need to go back to teaching."

"The old fashioned way is the best," she said. "I have looked at many pictures with objects, like a desk, holding up entire floors. If you are under a desk you're going to make it but beside it, all you have to do is look at the pictures."

She said more information about the dangers of the "Triangle of Life" can be found at her website www.earthquakesolutions.com.

Also at Monday's Fire Safe Council meeting, Fire Marshall Snyder supported an idea brought up by Fire Safe Council Public Relations spokesperson Caroline Brown, in which she said the Fire Safe Council had approached the city about buying their old Fire House Station No. 2 in the canyon currently used for storage.

"When the city said they wanted to sell it, to fund paramedics, at a previous city council meeting, that really got us thinking," Brown said. "We could use the space as not only a meeting place but also to house tools people might need in clearing brush on the hill. Stuff that nobody wants to go out and buy and what we could do is loan them out."

The Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council meets the second Monday of each month in the City Hall council chambers at 7 p.m. for more info (626) 355-1735.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Alverno High School
200 N. Michillinda
(626) 355-3463

Saturday October 28
Festival of Haunts
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Sierra Madre's Premier Spooky House
Costume contests: Ages 3 to 6 at 5 p.m.
Ages 7 to 11 at 6 p.m.

Creepy Attic for older kids only.
Tickets \$2 for kids 1 to 9,
\$3 ages 10 to 99.

The Gooden School
192 N. Baldwin
(626) 355-2410
www.goodenschool.org
Monday, October 23
Orientation & Tour
9:30 a.m.
Call Marianne Ryan, Director of Admissions
(626) 355-2410 X23

Sunday, November 12
Open House from 1 to 3 p.m.
All classrooms open for current and prospective families

LaSalle High School
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena
(626) 351-8951

Thursday, October 19
Homecoming Liturgy
Memorial for Nation's Students Felled by Violence
Saturday, October 21
Homecoming Football Game
Honoring David Taylor '98 and Brook Zaffina '98
Sunday, November 5
Open House

Pasadena High School
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena
(626) 798-8901

Tuesday, October 17
PHS Instrumental Music Club
Fundraiser at Red Brick Pizza
345 S. Lake Ave.
(Upstairs next to Trader Joe's)
20 % proceeds donated
Eat in or Take out
4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Order pizza at (626) 585-1600
Saturday, October 21
PSAT Testing at 8 a.m.

Sierra Madre Elementary School
141 W. Highland Ave.
(626) 355-1428

Tuesday, October 31
Costume Parade
ETA in downtown Sierra Madre to be announced

Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon
(626) 836-2947

More than \$2,400 was raised at the rummage sale October 7.

Friday, October 27
Costume Dance
6:30 to 8:30 in the Cafetorium

St. Rita's Catholic School
322 N. Baldwin
(626) 355-9028

Tuesday, October 17
Matt Denny's Fundraiser
20 % of proceeds donated
Eat in or Take out!
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Matt Denny's at
145 E. Huntington Dr. in Arcadia
Order take-out (626) 446-1077
Saturday, October 21
Harvest Festival & Carnival
Family fun for all ages - rides, games and tasty food including chicken and ribs from Newport Rib Company.
Free admission - rides 50 cents each, wristband for all-day-rides \$30.
West Campus, Noon to 10 p.m.
Questions, call Christen McKiernan
(626) 355-4208

The Barnhart School
240 W. Colorado in Arcadia
(626) 446-5588

Wednesday, October 25
Admissions Tour, K through 8

TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

“Do You See Those Blinking Lights...?” The Importance of Security Updates

By Paul the Cyberian

If you have a High-Speed Internet connection (DSL, Cable Modem, etc.) you may have wondered from time to time what all those blinking lights on your connection box are busy blinking about. Some of the blinks represent polling of active devices that come from your ISP (Internet Service Provider). This polling ensures that your connection receives the needed control signals to keep. Some are generated internally and show that your connection box is functioning correctly. And some of the blinks show data moving to and from your machine at your request. If we subtract the legitimate blinks listed above there is still a lot of activity unaccounted for and this is most likely illegitimate scanning from a variety of Internet threats. These threats pose a significant risk to your computer and your data and need to be taken very seriously.

Slashdot.org (News for Nerds, stuff that matters) posted an article based upon a BBC experiment simulating what the 'average home user' would face with an unprotected (read: unpatched) Windows XP Home system within minutes of being attached to an Internet connection.

From the article: "Seven hours of attacks: 36 warnings that pop-up via Windows Messenger. 11 separate visits by Blaster worm. 3 separate attacks by Slammer worm. 1 attack aimed at Microsoft IIS Server. 2-3 'port scans' seeking weak spots in Windows software." The machine was attacked within seconds of being connected to the

Internet, and at no time did more than 15 minutes elapse between attacks. (Slashdot.org/10/10/2006 / BBC - "Tracking Down Hi-Tech Crime" Sunday October 8, 2006).

There are people and processes active on the Internet that want access to your computer. Fortunately there is a significant level of protection that one can use to thwart these attacks. Windows Operating Systems (98, 2000, XP, 2003 and Vista) come equipped with a service called "Windows Update". You can find this by going to <Start - All Programs> on your taskbar. It's located at the top of the listed programs and will connect you to the Microsoft Update Website for the latest patches. When active this service updates your Operating System with the latest security update patches in order to protect your computer from unauthorized access. For users of other popular OS's check your vendor's website for update information. If you use Microsoft products on your computer (Office Suite, Internet Explorer X, etc.) you may also visit the site to obtain the latest patches. In short, if you are not sitting at your computer using it, either turn off your internet connection box or turn off your computer.

Today Microsoft released 26 separate Security Patches for users of Microsoft products. Some of the patches included were for products not commercially available at this time. Cybercrime is an exploiter of opportunity and the opportunity that it likes best is an unsecured, unpatched and unprotected computer.

In Baghdad, shops close early. Cars are not permitted on the streets after 9:00 p.m. Many parts of the city are completely deserted by sunset.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to move to parts of the city where they do not know the neighbours.

"I only go out on emergencies like attending a funeral or visiting a doctor," said Zainab, 35, an office secretary who asked to be identified by her first name. "Honestly, the outside craziness freaks me out." She has not seen her friends for months. Instead, she meets them over online video-conferences.

"Most of the time we talk about the security situation. Who had been killed, kidnapped, or recently fled the country."

By Hiba Moussa

BAGHDAD, Oct 2 (Reuters) - In the endless daily battle against the fear and isolation of life under lock-down, the people of Baghdad have found a way to keep their city alive: moving it online.

Instead of enjoying an outdoor meal at one of the fish restaurants along the Tigris embankment, 28-year-old housewife Dunya Saad spends her evenings at the computer in her living room, chatting with her friends on Yahoo! Messenger.

Most of her relatives and friends live on the far side of the Tigris, and seeing them in person is nearly impossible.

"It's sad not to see your friends like in the good old days," she sighed. "But online chatting has made things better."

Since the February bombing of a Shi'ite shrine in Samarra sparked a wave of sectarian bloodshed, the Internet has gone from being a hobby for tech-savvy enthusiasts to a mass replacement for the daily interactions of city life.

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In Locked-down Baghdad City Life Moves Online



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BUSINESS

OPPORTUNITY

Moving Baghdad into cyberspace has been a feat of free-market ingenuity. Perhaps the hardest part is electricity. Much of Baghdad had electricity for 12-18 hours a day before the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. Most neighbourhoods now get electricity from the grid for just four to six hours a day.

It means ordinary people have to know their ohms from their mperes and their megabits from their kilohertz.

Most middle class households now have cables snaking down the street to a neighbourhood "generator man" who gives them diesel-generated power for a monthly fee of about \$10 per ampere. Six or seven amperes are usually enough for a computer, a TV and a fridge. An air conditioner costs more. A neighbourhood Internet cafe will sell a subscription for wireless Wi-Fi access

to its satellite broadband hookup for about \$40 a month.

Most Iraqis have only experienced the Internet since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

The ousted leader officially linked Iraq to the Web when his government set up the State Company for Internet Services in 2000. But private connections were banned and the only legal provider blocked access to e-mail and chat sites.

Today, companies have sprung up around Baghdad, taking advantage of new broadband satellite connections that make it possible to establish a mini internet service provider without relying on any centralised infrastructure at all.

Ali Youssif, whose company Infozone runs four Internet providers in different parts of Baghdad, says he subscribes to satellite broadband connections from firms in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

One of his providers has a two-megabit-per-second connection -- a similar speed to a single home's

broadband link in most Western countries -- which costs about \$7,000 a month over satellite.

It sells access to 200 subscribers across three Baghdad neighbourhoods, earning a total of about \$8,000 in revenue.

Private generators power the Wi-Fi hotspots during the day, with batteries offering up to 200 amperes of power to keep them running without interruption through the night.

LOVE ONLINE

For freelance journalist Ammar Ali, 30, the Internet is a place to find love in a city where flirting with a woman can get a man kidnapped or killed.

He has only been online for about a year, but he already has a long list of "female friends" with whom he keeps in touch on a nearly daily basis. Some live in other neighborhoods, some in other countries.

"It's not like reality. But I enjoy it," he says. "It's a good means to escape our miserable reality. At least, until a new morning comes."

ASK MADELINE

A question and answer column on résumé preparation, cover letters, interview skills, and everything having to do with the job search procedure. Please direct your concerns to Madeline at comptype2@aol.com or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).

Q: I am currently responding to newspaper ads for a new job. Some ask for references. None of the ads specify whether these references should be business or personal. What type of references do you think I should include?

A: First of all, you need to think about two important issues. How well does your reference know you? Are you certain he/she will say wonderful things about you? References present another opportunity for you to shine, so be selective.

Choose two business references. These should be people who have served as your supervisor. I would definitely not select co-workers of equal status even though they might have lovely comments to offer.

Use one personal reference. Perhaps, you have the good fortune to know someone who works for the company you are applying to. However, before including that person, consider his/her number of years of employment there and position. A good reference would also be a manager or executive from another business who could elaborate on your outstanding character traits. If you are actively involved in community service, choosing a program organizer who could vouch for your contributions would be impressive. In addition, you might personally know a prestigious person in your town such as a government official. Don't forget your clergyman (woman) or a college professor if you have graduated within the past few years. And, by all means, avoid listing your fifth grade teacher!

Make sure to touch base with your references so they won't be caught off guard should they be contacted by a recruiter. Hopefully, they'll prepare a few noteworthy things to say about you ahead of time.

Magnificent Discovery



BOGOTA, Colombia (Reuters) - A multicolored bird with reddish-brown and black eyes has been discovered as a new species in a Colombian cloud forest accessible only by helicopter, scientists say.

The first-sized yellow and black Yariquies Brush-Finch, topped with an orange plume, was found by a Colombian-English ProAves Foundation team high atop the country's eastern Andean range in Santander province.

Discovery of the bird, named after an Indian tribe that once lived in the nature reserve where it was found, was published in the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.

Colombia, one of the most ecologically diverse countries in the world, has about 1,800 species of bird. "The description of a new bird is a rare event," said expedition member Blanca Huertas of The Natural History Museum in London. "However, this is just the first of several new species that we will be describing from the Yariquies mountains, including several new butterflies."

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Position available for Executive Director of Center Stage Theater, a not-for-profit performing arts venue located in the heart of downtown Santa Barbara, upstars in the Paseo Nuevo Center. Experienced administrator with skill in fundraising to supervise a thriving community cultural program. Experience in marketing, accounting & working with the public preferred. Duties include contract negotiations with producers, supervision of box-office operation and liaison with the wider performing arts community. Salary \$35K- \$45K. Application should include cover letter, resume, 3 references with phone numbers and email addresses. Send by email to info@centerstagetheater.org or FAX to (805) 963-8167. Review of applications begins immediately. For more information on Center Stage Theater please also visit www.centerstagetheater.org.

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Mt. Wilson Observer Mission Statement

We honor the traditions of the community newspaper and place our readers above all other concerns. We deliver local, state and national news every week. 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.

OPINION

California Women are Cleaning House

By Stefan Bund, Columnist
Stefan is a software engineer who lives in Sierra Madre



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

If Proposition 89 passes this November, California women may just clean house. A few houses, really. Beginning with the State Assembly, and the Governor's Office, and anybody else's house who shows up on the ballot. And I am not talking about sending in a Roomba. Prop 89 will radically disassemble the machine for financing candidates for state offices.

Currently, if you wanted to run for Governor, you had better do a few things:

Activate your support circle. Friends, bridge partners, tennis group. Take up a political issue. Like building a giant wall on the border with Mexico.

Practice public speaking. Spend more time with the California Teacher's Association. This is the most generous political lobbying group in California, according to the CA Secretary of State.[1]

Call your Chamber of Commerce. Make friends with the first person who answers. Ask to be transferred to their supervisor. Keep doing this until you reach someone at the state office. For example: inform them that you intend to begin a new topless revue, with franchise opportunities statewide. The California Chamber of Commerce was good for \$2.5 million in lobbying last year.

Perfect message / buy new wardrobe / purchase fuel cell SUV.

That's the cookbook for doing politics in CA. Now, under 89, here's the new recipe:

Purchase a bullhorn.
Activate your support circle.
Accept \$5 per person.

Repeat steps 1 and 2 until you have \$125,000.

Send the cash to the state. They will send you a check to cover the next round of expenses. (If you're good, you may be good for around \$25 million in state funds)

Get back on the bullhorn at a crowded intersection. The CTA and the Chamber can only forward you \$1000 each!

Go to debate camp.

Purchase a motorcycle. Ride to the gravestone of Huey Long himself. Lay a wreath.

Summon the hopes and dreams of your electorate. Barbara Boxer, the United Teachers of Los Angeles, The League of Women Voters, and the California Nurses' Association have supported Prop 89, which will take the current environment of campaign finance and break it over its knee.

If it passes this November, grass roots candidates who can follow the new recipe will receive funds from the state to campaign. Corporate income taxes will subsidize upwards of \$200 million to do it.

So who hates 89? The California Teacher's Association and the California Chamber of Commerce. I say take a look at 89, and tell me if by the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment that California women haven't cleaned house.

Sources
1. California Secretary of State's estimates on 2005 lobbying expenses, http://www.ss.ca.gov/prd/Lobreport2005/Lobbyist_Report_2005.pdf

Differences without Distinctions

By Susan Henderson

Difference (n): the element or factor that separates contrasting situations; **Distinction** (n): to make as separate or different; to mentally separate

A great defense lawyer once made that comment to a jury. "Ladies and Gentlemen, the fact is, what we have here are differences without distinctions". While the phrase sounds a little like doubletalk, what it really means is that while many have pointed out to you the differences of two or more situations, they really are not different at all. They have no distinction.

And that, is what the two most troubling domestic stories of the last five years are. The same thing, differences without distinction.

I speak of the recent revelation of Congressman Foley's attempts (some successful and some not) to exploit young people whose parents had entrusted to him. I compare it to the situations that continue to unfold regarding the exploitation of innocent children by some parish priests. Two different situations without any distinctions between them. Both violated their positions of trust. Innocent children were the victims of both.

However, the differences without distinction that I really want to speak of are the organized, institutionalized efforts to cover up the misdeeds. One perpetrated by certain leaders of the Catholic Church, the other by Leaders of Our Government.

In each case, when the cover ups were disclosed the excuses were almost identical. We didn't know, we were looking out for the greater good, we didn't have confirmation, etc. The literal translation in both instances is simply this, 'Look, we didn't think it was important; we thought it more important to protect our public persona and thought we could get away with it and sweep it under the rug. Now that everybody knows I guess it was wrong'.

Well, in the case of the Catholic Church, many were punished according to the law of the land including those leaders who failed to act when they should. In the case of the Republican Leadership - today it looks like the long arm of the law is getting chopped off.

There shouldn't be any different treatment for anyone who abuses a minor, much less a trusted public servant. Inaction by Foley's party leadership, its failure to truly investigate the allegations for six years, or until they were publicly disclosed, in my opinion makes the Republican Leadership guilty of aiding and abetting the crime. IF they had acted in 2000 when it was first brought to their attention, how many children would have been spared the demoralizing and life altering behavior of this pervert?

Their behavior differed, but there really is no distinction!



We welcome your participation in these pages.
Please fax or email your contributions to: The Mt. Wilson Observer
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MAKING ELECTIONS MAKE SENSE

SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY OFFERS HELPFUL VOTER INFORMATION

To help voters make informed decisions before the election on November 7, the Sierra Madre Public Library offers free, easy-to-use, non-partisan voting guides: the Easy Voter Guide for the California election and The Voter's Self Defense Manual, 2006 covering national issues.

For Californians, who will be choosing representatives for national, state and local government and deciding on 13 propositions, the Easy Voter Guide provides succinct information on candidates and propositions. The Voter's Self Defense Manual supplies information on the voting records of U.S. Senators and Representatives along with their issue positions and campaign finance information.

Also available at the Library is a cassette version of the California Voter Information Guide, the printed guide sent to all registered voters in the state.

The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard. For further information on services and programs please use the Library's web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call the Library at (626) 355-7186.

The Funnies



Along For The Ride

By Tina Salvatore

Some would call me optimistic to a degree of delusion. When I look in the rear view mirror while driving and see a cop behind me with his lights on, for a second, I think maybe he hit the flashing lights button by accident. Then they usually get on the loud speaker and demand I pull over. As I continue to drive home, I think this guy is a jokerster pretending he wants me to pull over. After driving a few hours to my house the good spirited police officers have escorted me to my home with about twenty cop cars and a few helicopters. They are just the nicest, making sure I get home safely. I guess the German Shepherds are just extra friendly, because one of them wanted so much attention he actually wrestled me to the ground. He was cute, quite a biter though I'll tell you that. I thought it would be extra fun to play chase with the pooch so I ran as fast as I could to my backyard and hid. Sometimes the police get such a kick out of this they film it and it's on the news. Anyway, someone named Warren looking out for an arrest has been calling. I don't know what they want so I just hang up on them.

As a side note: If you ever get arrested you should really smile on your mug shot. People always give off that shady disoriented look like they are already guilty. Instead they should smile or give the old "I don't know? It wasn't me" shrug, when the picture's taken.



Driving Him Crazy

Courtesy of Stephanie Antypas

A man arrives in Greece, hops in a cab at the airport and gives the driver the address to his hotel. As they approach a red light the driver speeds up and runs the light. "Hey what was that all about," said the man, "you just ran that red light!" "No worry," replies the cabbie. "Very good driver!"

Just as the man begins to relax and enjoy the ride, he spots a red light and once again the driver speeds up and runs the light. "Hey mister, you just ran another red light!"

"No worry," answered the unconcerned cabbie. "Very good driver."

Needless to say, the man put on his seatbelt and braced himself for the rest of the ride. After a few minutes, they

approached a green light at which point the cabbie slams on his brakes, tossing the man around in the backseat. "What's going on?" the man says, "You had the green light!"

Pointing to the cross street the cabbie replies, "OTHER very good drivers!"

Manual of Style

Queen of Homecoming Gowns and All Other Clothes



Photo By Buddy Windsor

Laurel Wood brings the depth of true couture skill to clothing in her shop at 71 N. Baldwin Avenue (626) 355-3280.

By Katina Dunn

It's a street level shop, but you could be in an atelier in Paris or Milan at Laurel's dress shop on Baldwin Avenue. Is it the tall windows, the sewing machines, or the person inside, bent over cloth with flying fingers grasping needle and thread?

Its Laurel Wood, one of the city's great artisans, practicing what she calls a dying art, the art of sewing. For years, Wood has been aching to pass this skill onto the young students of Sierra Madre. Hopefully, she will begin classes this spring.

If you want an original dress, bring a picture and Wood will draw a pattern, make a muslin sample, fit you and then cut the cloth for the real thing. An original garment will take four to six weeks of preparation time. Alterations on an outfit will take one to two weeks' time.

Velvet, chiffon, stretch jersey – no fabric is out of her realm of expertise. Bridal, sundress, cocktail dress – no style she can't make.

"I do love formal wear," said Wood. "It's a time when women are feminine, romantic, sexy and feeling good about themselves."

A mother rushes in with her daughter's strapless bridesmaid's dress to be altered before they travel to the wedding in New York. Another mom comes in, to show Wood the photos of her daughter's wedding in Jamaica. "You did a great job," she says to Wood. "I just wanted to share that with you." Wood is finishing a kimono to mail off to another client in Fullerton.

"I love my customers," said Wood. "It's so unpredictable."

I never know who wants me to do what."

Wood studied costume design at the School of Fashion in Boston, and learned a great deal from a Sicilian tailor there. During the summers she worked in a coat factory, underwear factory, mattress factory and drapery factory – a true apprenticeship before becoming a master. As a result, she also does her own mechanical repair on her sewing machines.

Wood then went to work for the Tat Saunders shop in Boston's Ritz Carlton Hotel. "They taught me fabulous finishing work" she said of the shop's owners, who created couture gowns. It was in that shop she rescued Jackie Onassis from paparazzi, by leading her into the maid's elevator and through the kitchen exit.

In 1985, she came back home to California to work in the film industry, where greats such as Edith Head worked. But modern film costuming became a disappointment. "They were really professional shoppers," she said of most of them. "They don't know how to sew, let alone draw."

Her parents' legacy also continues in Sierra Madre – the collectible Petalware of Suman Pottery was made by her father, Michael, in an old adobe structure down the street. Her grandfather, Lawrence, used to work for Walt Disney and her grandmother, Doris, designed furniture for Barker Brothers.

"I do love Sierra Madre," said Wood. "I personally like the closeness. I'm a native and everyone knows me. It's a safe haven. This is a wonderful town to grow up in and raise a family. I'm just so grateful that I'm able to be here, doing what I love to do."

Shop Our Town

Food cognescenti in town are whispering "they're here" so we rushed to **Wildflower Bakery** at 328 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. to check out the rumor and there they were, resting behind a glass display case wearing swirled tops covered with candy sprinkles just waiting to be eaten – CUPCAKES.

Bakeries featuring cupcakes are opening all over New York City and Los Angeles' West Side, so it is good to know that Wildflower bakers Joan Collins and Kelly Flaherty have their radar on. They cost \$1.25 apiece or \$12 per dozen and come in vanilla, chocolate, marble and red velvet flavors. Telephone (626) 355-9000 to order.

Another good way to impress children of all ages is to present them with delicious mac 'n cheese which Wildflower offers in tins (\$5.95) that serve 8 toddlers or 1 teenager for \$5.95 each. Just slide them into the stove to bake.

Another easy dinner would be the chicken pot pies (\$10.95).

For dessert, there is the bread pudding with caramel sauce (\$5.95) and the seasonal pumpkin spice muffin (\$1.95 each). Halloween sugar cookies (from \$1.25 to \$3) include bats, pumpkins, spiders, cats and witches.

We are so full we can barely mention anything else, certainly not any other place, so, after a good work-out at Sierra Fitness and only then, can we return to Wildflower the next morning at 7 a.m. for a healthy bowl of hot multi-grain porridge with cranberries (\$2.95).



SPORTS

Great Athletes & Great Coaches

Stories by Larry Bortstein
Photography by Jacqueline Truong

Alverno's Selena Flores & Coach Brent Fabbri



Alverno High volleyball coach Brent Fabbri worked with Selena Flores long before the senior outside hitter became a star with the Jaguars.

"I coached her in elementary school and in club volleyball," said Fabbri, 24, in his second year as the Alverno head coach after a tenure with the school's junior varsity.

Flores has started all four years at Alverno and always has been an exceptional talent. But only recently has she become a leader on the floor.

"She's always been quiet, someone who was a little embarrassed about calling attention to herself," Fabbri said. "But now she's become our leader as well as our top player." That bodes well for the Jaguars, who are 3-0 in Horizon League play with more than half the league schedule still to play. Alverno plays its home games at Foothill Community Church in Pasadena. "We have only three seniors on the team, so I know I have to be a leader," said Flores, 17, a 5-foot-10 athlete from Rosemead.

She came to Alverno because she liked the campus. She favors English among her academic subjects and is eyeing a future in college volleyball. "I like playing outside hitter because I'm always in the action," she said. "But I've also been a setter. I just like the game."

Fabbri, the Alverno coach, has an unusual background for a volleyball mentor. He also works as an assistant to his uncle, noted thoroughbred trainer David Hofmans. He is the brother of Fabbri's mother. "I get to his barn at Hollywood Park at 4:30 in the morning,"



Fabbri said. "I sometimes don't get done with volleyball practices or matches until after 7 at night. So you can see I put in some long days." Fabbri recalled hanging around his uncle's barn as a teenager when the operation achieved its biggest victory, with Alphabet Soup in the 1996 \$4 million Breeders' Cup Classic in Toronto, defeating Cigar, the 2005 Horse of the Year. He played a greater role in the filly Adoration's upset victory in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Distaff at Santa Anita in 2003. He has high hopes for a comeback by Balance, one of the best 3-year-old fillies in the nation earlier this year but sidelined by injury the last few months. He would like to train horses on his own sometime in the future, but also wants to continue coaching volleyball. "Both jobs are very different," he said, "but also very similar. You're dealing with good athletes either way."



St. Francis' Luke Collis & Jim Bonds

Three weeks ago, with St. Francis High of La Cañada Flintridge trailing Burroughs of Burbank, 17-14, with less than two minutes to play in the fourth quarter, he hit Kevin Bessolo from five yards out for the winning touchdown—on a broken play.

A week later, the Golden Knights found themselves trailing on the road to Los Altos of Hacienda Heights with less than six minutes to play. On a third-down play from his 39, Collis rolled right but was immediately flushed left by heavy defensive pressure. He found himself on the left sideline, where, throwing off his back foot, he hurled a long pass to Kevin Wong, who ran 61 yards untouched to the end zone.

"Those are the kinds of plays we expect from Luke," said Jim Bonds, the former UCLA quarterback who is in his seventh season as the St. Francis head coach.

Collis, a senior who stands 6-foot-2 and weighs 200 pounds, is receiving considerable attention from college recruiters. Bob Toledo, the former UCLA head coach who now is assisting at New Mexico, has called. Collis attended a summer camp at Auburn in Alabama, one of the premier teams in the Southeastern Conference.

Before he leaves high school, Collis has more to accomplish on the high school level. Going into Friday night's road game at Bishop Amat in La Puente, the Golden Knights were 5-0 and ranked first in the CIF-Southern Section's Western Division.

"It's not just me," Collis said. "My offensive line and my receivers are doing a great job."

Following a meeting with Crespi High next week to complete the non-league portion of its schedule, St. Francis takes on its three opponents—Alemany, Chaminade and St. Paul—in the re-aligned Mission League. "We're not letting ourselves think about going undefeated," Bonds said. "I know it's a cliché, but we're taking each game one at a time. One thing about us that's exciting is that three of our first five games were on the road. It's a credit to our guys that they can succeed in a hostile environment."

A prep standout at Newhall Hart, Bonds was at UCLA from 1988-91. His first two years as a Bruin, he watched All-American Troy Aikman direct the offense. As a junior in 1990, he won the starting job for the season-opener, a loss to Oklahoma. But when UCLA fell behind to Stanford the following week, Bonds was replaced by Tommy Maddox, who rallied the Bruins to a 32-31 victory.

"I never started another game," Bonds recalled. "But I knew I wanted to coach and I learned a lot about coaching from all the people I worked with at UCLA. People like head coach Terry Donahue, my head coach; and Homer Smith, our offensive coordinator, who is still active in Alabama and is one of the great offensive innovators in the game."



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

THE POST SEASON October 8, 1956

Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet. We all know the lyric and if we are old enough we also know that October is baseball's post-game season. Back when baseball was truly America's past time, October was the time of year when the conversation at work, school or play was all about baseball. During the early fifties baseball included all of America, and it was truly the king of sports. It was as if baseball mirrored the American psyche—every aspect of our way of life—socially, politically and economically—was present in the great game. Remember in the old spy movies the bad guy would always get caught because he would not know some basic baseball trivia? Those were the good old days of baseball.

In the late forties Pasadena's own Jackie Robinson had crossed baseball's color line and by the mid 1950's all clubs had men of color playing for them. The fans owed their allegiance to a team and if you were on our team we loved you, some received more love than others but if you were on our team we loved you and we didn't care who you were.

I was lucky enough to grow up in that era and in an area where baseball was truly king. Recently I was telling a young fan that in my home town on opening day school was out so that we could go to see the parade and other opening day activities.

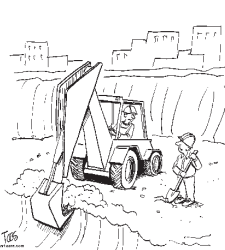
Our club, The Cincinnati Reds, being the oldest in baseball, always had the honor of playing the first game of the season.

During that time the Reds were not to be found during the post season, but that did not matter. The Reds belonged to the National League so Dad and I became National League fans rooting against those demons of the American League.

It was fifty years ago this year that Don Larsen of the Yankees broke my heart. He did something no one had done before, nor has anyone done since. He pitched a perfect game in the World Series against my beloved Brooklyn Dodgers. (Since the Reds weren't in the post season, the Dodgers were my next favorite.) Don Larsen faced 27 batters and got 27 outs in the fifth game of the 1956 World Series. The Dodgers vs. The Yankees. The Yankees won the series 4 to 3.

My Dad said of Larsen's performance that some guys will get their picture on the Wheaties Box but Larsen will take it one step further and get his picture on the box and his name on stamped on every single Cheerio! We hated that the National League had lost again, but that was fifty years ago. It's that time again, and once again my teams have been eliminated. However, the question that has been asked every year since 1956 remains the same. Will there ever be another perfect game? Guess we'll just have to wait and see.

Just thought I'd share a few memories from the couch. See ya' next week!



"In six months this will be a basketball arena, and we won't be able to afford courtside seats."

"Coaching is teaching. Some coaches try to make what they do sound mysterious and complicated when it's not... to be a good coach, you have to be a good teacher..."

— John Madden, Champion Professional Football Coach, Writer, and Award-Winning Broadcaster