

THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WEEKLY NEWS FOR SIERRA MADRE AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

Friday, October 27-November 2, 2006 Volume 1, No.5

The Pumpkin Supremacy



Photo By Jacqueline Truong

By Dean Lee

There they were sitting in front of BeanTown, Bud Switzer and John Grijalva, legends in the city of Sierra Madre when it comes to Halloween, having carved thousands of pumpkins over the years and displaying them all along Switzer's driveway on Alegria Avenue.

Switzer himself said he is single-handedly responsible for the chaos that surrounds the estimated 10,000 people that come to the city every year during Halloween. So many so, that City Manager John Gillison said the city now needs "event planning" since the population swells to almost twice normal

during Halloween. One year, a busload of tourists from China trundled through the town to behold the graveyards, flying ghosts and bubbling cauldrons that decorated front lawns gauzy with spider webs.

"I've had family that said they turned around after seeing the traffic just to get up the hill," Grijalva said. "I've heard it backs up at Foothill."

Switzer added that the freeway can back up for miles. "My son said it could take him hours just to get up the hill," he said. "If you don't get here early you're not going to make it up the hill."

Switzer sat sipping on his coffee then explained that he had just gotten a new shipment of pumpkins to carve this year,

including six robust beauties that weigh over 100 pounds apiece.

"I slowed way down," said Switzer. "After my son left and went back to Alabama a few years ago, I just haven't been able to keep it up. With the 35 or so I have now it will take me until Halloween just to carve them all."

Switzer said 10 years ago he would, along with his son, carve out hundreds of pumpkins and display them Halloween night. At times he said his son Kevin carved out pumpkins that weighed more than two hundred pounds. One year Kevin received the Sumo of all Squash, an 829-pound pumpkin to carve.

"I think another year we had over 300 of them," he said. "The funny thing is there have been a few years I skipped and people got mad. They would come up to the house demanding to know where the pumpkins were."

According to both Switzer and Grijalva, the Alegria Avenue Halloween Extravaganza began in 1971. Everyone had kids on

the block, they said.

"The neighbors across the street from us had four kids and we had our kids plus the ones from down the street - it adds up," Switzer said. "There were a lot of kids around the area back then."

He said both Monrovia and Hastings Ranch have events, but those are too planned out and controlled, so people like to come to Sierra Madre.

"I think people like the feeling here," Grijalva said. "It's friendly. That's it."

Switzer said that his neighbor three doors down from him normally grows large pumpkins for Halloween, but because of this year's drought, he lost the patch and had to resort to buying them along with everybody else.

"I think this is a cult, they trade pumpkin seeds like they are sacred," Switzer said. "You'll hear them talk, 'I'll trade you two of these for five of your seeds.' It must work though because you should see some of the pumpkins they grow."



Council Approves Largest Public Works Project Ever

Votes Down Emergency 2-30-13 Ordinance

By Dean Lee

The Sierra Madre City Council voted unanimously Tuesday in favor of the most expensive public works project in the city's 100-year history with an estimated cost of 9.7 million.

The project calls for the Mira Monte reservoirs and booster pump stations to be replaced and retrofitted to provide a seismically reliable water system to the city in the event of an emergency.

It was announced at the meeting that the work will be completed by Spiess Construction Company, Inc. which successfully won the contract after an open bid process.

Emergency Ordinance

The most contentious item on the agenda, however, was Council member Kurt Zimmerman's effort to provide Sierra Madre with an urgency ordinance prohibiting development in the Downtown Overlay Zone in excess of the existing general plan provisions. "What I see this as, is a stop gap measure until the Downtown Specific Plan either passes or the people vote on 2-30-13."

said Zimmerman Don Watts was the only other person to vote in favor of the ordinance and many residents said they thought this was no big surprise. The 3-2 vote was quickly becoming the standard on development issues, they said.

Zimmerman said he thought the city needed the ordinance because developers were planning a high density condominium project for the downtown area in the very near future. He also asked that the ordinance be amended to include all projects along the East Montecito area.

City Manager John Gillison confirmed recent plans for a development project in the downtown and said that building plans had been submitted but had been rejected by the Planning Commission. "As we have found out this evening there was a plan for a multi-story building with a density of higher than 55 units per acre," Zimmerman said.

Council Member Joe Mosca said that he thought the council was moving too fast. "To move forward would be rushing

it," said Mosca. "I'm not comfortable reversing that many years of policy." Mosca also talked about the lack of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the ordinance, questioned where the city would upzone if it downzoned downtown and added there would be lawsuits. However, neither the proposed ordinance nor the proposed initiative have any provisions that would cause the downtown to be downzoned.

While Councilman Mosca was concerned that the council was moving too fast, earlier this month, Mosca voted in favor of an amended Hillside Management Zone ordinance rushed to beat the Nov. 7 election date in fear of a passing Proposition 90.

The emergency ordinance was put forth with the same reasoning behind passing an HMZ ordinance, something which the council passed.

The council chamber was packed with Downtown Specific Plan supporters that broke out in a cheer after the vote. Webb Martin realtor Carol Canterbury, smiled saying "Now that's the way they should vote."

Shirley Meets McScary Bradbury



Photo By Nard Kardell

By Shirley Moore

Master storyteller Ray Bradbury's favorite season is upon us, and with the advent of autumn come the reminders of this season of transitions: piles of cast-off crackling leaves, ripening pumpkins, darkening days and the whisper of a chill in the air and down the spine—the best time of year to stage a Ray Bradbury piece. Running through November 5 at the

Fremont Theater in South Pasadena (and possibly extending through November 19; please call theater for confirmation) are two short plays adapted from stories written by Mr. Bradbury, directed by longtime Bradbury artistic associate Alan Neal Hubbs (the first to produce a stage adaptation of "The Martian Chronicles" in 1970), and produced by Bradbury and Mindy Brandt.

"Pillar of Fire" is reminiscent of a satisfying

episode of Rod Serling's Twilight Zone, although an entirely different sensual experience when viewed live. The story unfolds on a man whose uncertain mortal state drives him to lethal determination of his function in a futuristic world where death and dying are denied their proper due.

"Touched with Fire" (world premiere) revolves around the efforts of two retired insurance salesmen

(continued on page 5)



Photos by Gloria Prins

Harvest Festival Hosts 1,000 at St. Rita's

An evening of fun for children and adults at St. Rita's Annual Harvest Festival last Saturday raised at least \$50,000, according to PTO Board Member Andrea Bertollini.

The Football Toss was still crowded past 11 p.m. and at that late hour, people were still carrying out pots of lavender, sage and roses from the Garden Shop sponsored by Norman's Nursery. Other donors included Paulina's Catering, Gordon Biersch Restaurant & Brewery, Chiquita Bonita, T-Burgers, Savor the Flavor, Starbucks, The Bottle Shop, the Ellis Family and the church's Women's Guild and Men's Club.



Terry Bing Memorial Saturday Oct. 28

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Weather Wise

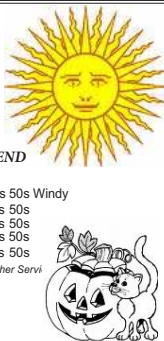
5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2
FALL BACK - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS THIS WEEKEND



Friday: Mostly Sunny Hi 80s - 90s Lows 50s Windy
Saturday: Mostly Sunny Hi 70s - 80s Lows 50s
Sunday: Mostly Sunny Hi 70s - 80s Lows 50s
Monday: Partly Cloudy Hi 70s - 80s Lows 50s
Tuesday: Partly Cloudy Hi 70s - 80s Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



Warnings Wise

Do you know exactly what your weather person means when they use the following terms?

Wind Advisory: MEANS THAT WINDS OF 30 TO 39 MPH AND/OR FREQUENT WIND GUSTS OF 40 MPH OR GREATER ARE EXPECTED. WINDS THIS STRONG CAN BE DRIVING DIFFICULT...ESPECIALLY FOR HIGH PROFILE VEHICLES.

High Wind Warning: MEANS A HAZARDOUS HIGH WIND EVENT IS EXPECTED OR OCCURRING. SUSTAINED WIND SPEEDS OF AT LEAST 40 MPH OR GUSTS OF 58 MPH OR MORE CAN LEAD TO PROPERTY DAMAGE

Red Flag Warning: MEANS THAT CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE EITHER OCCURRING NOW...OR WILL SHORTLY. THE COMBINATION OF LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND WARMER TEMPERATURES WILL CREATE RAPID FIRE GROWTH POTENTIAL.

Citizens' Datebook

Saturday, October 28 8:00 am - noon
Bailey Canyon Fall Clean Up
Sponsored by Sierra Madre Environmental Council

11:00 am
Memorial for Environmentalist Terry Bing

Monday, October 30 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Downtown Dialogue
Downtown Specific Plan
Sponsored by Sierra Madre City Council & Planning Commission
Youth Activity Center
611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Thursday, November 2 3:00 pm
Senior Commission
7:00pm
Planning Commission

FLU SHOTS

Thursday-November 2nd 9 - 11:30 am
Adults 60 years of age and older at
Hart Memorial Park House
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca.
For more information call Dr. Neiby 626-355-1291

Sierra Madre Library Notes & Notices

BARGAIN BOOKS TABLE EARLY HOLIDAY SHOPPING

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will have a "Bargain Books Table" inside the Library from Monday, November 6 through Saturday, November 11. Biographies, fiction, and mysteries in good condition will be sold for \$1 each during the Library's public open hours.

The Sierra Madre Public Library, which is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from noon to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday from noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For further information on programs and services please visit the Library's web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call (626) 355-7186.

SUZANNA GUZMAN PERFORMS "CANTA LUNA" ON THE BOSTON COURT MAIN STAGE



Sierra Madre's own opera diva Suzanna Guzman in a workshop production of "Canta Luna." Based on an idea by Guzman, "Canta Luna" is a passionate look at the life and times of Federico Garcia Lorca, the Spanish poet and composer.

"Canta Luna" plays for six performances on the Main Stage Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 & Nov. 6-8, 7:30 p.m. at Boston Court Performing Arts Complex, 70 North Mentor (at Boston Court). Guzman is a mezzo-soprano and principal soloist with many

international opera companies.

Based on the writings of Lorca, the show was compiled by the production's director, Thor Steingraber, who also wrote additional material. Steingraber has directed for leading opera companies, including Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, LA Opera, Opera Pacific, and New York City Opera. Pianist is John Ballerino, one of the foremost experts on Spanish music. The cast includes Danny Bolero, Marc Cardiff, Guzman, Margo Reymundo and Vincent Zamora.

Tickets for "Canta Luna" are \$25 and are available online at www.bostoncourt.org. Senior and student discounts are also available. Zebulon Projects is headed by raconteur and philanthropist Clark Branson, who financed the Boston Court performing arts complex. Zebulon's producer is Mimi Champlin.

Seniors
Reserve Your Spot Today!
Thursday, November 16
A Deluxe Excursion

Tour Rogers Gardens in Corona del Mar, known for holiday inspiration and decorations. Rogers offers exclusive artifacts in an elaborate world of nutcrackers, peppermints, pine boughs, angels and stars. The gardens feature unusual plants such as purple elephant ears, the Don Gillogly Avocado tree and spiral aloe from the mountains in Lesotho, Africa.

After the Gardens, lunch at the landmark Five Crowns, built in 1953 to replicate Ye Olde Bell at Hurley-on-the-Thames in England. The restaurant, also has an English garden.

Call Senior Commissioner Theresa Daley for information at (626)-355-7427.

The Pasadena League of Women Voters Presents...

Election Musings: Are We Being Served?

Thursday, November 2
Women's City Club
160 N. Oakland Ave.
Pasadena
parking at rear; enter off N. Madison

9:30 a.m. Registration
10:00 Panel Discussion on the Initiative
12:00 Luncheon
12:45 Afternoon Session:
Election Quiz
Show and Inka Vote Plus
Demonstration

For reservations, please phone the League office (626) 798-0965 by Friday, October 27 at noon. Cost is \$20.00, including registration for the program



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 nationwide. "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.



Sons of The Wild Pilot

"I think that was my father," David Edwards called from Corona to say he'd seen our column in the Mt. Wilson Observer about the daredevil pilot who not only strafed our town but - it turns out - waggled the wings of the aircraft over his home on Mariposa Street to wave hello and shouted "Hi Mom!" before zooming away.

That was his father, Roy Edwards, who later moved to Huntington Beach to work the oil rigs there. Dad also used to ride down Baldwin standing on the seat of his Indian motorcycle, with his arms out, recalled Edwards. Roy's other son, Douglas, inherited his father's daredevil genes.

"He was 16 and I was five or six," said Edwards of his brother. "I'm lucky I survived those years." Big brother would do things like make a rope pulley system over a ravine and put little brother David into a milk crate and haul him over the chasm.

Edwards' good memories include walking to the movie theater in town, and going to the dairy on

Sierra Madre Boulevard in Pasadena for "hand packed ice cream."

"I'm on the veteran's wall," said Edwards, and so is his uncle and great-uncle. His mother's name was Fairbanks and they still have relatives who live in town.

Although Edwards was the more cautious one in the family, he did go postal delivering the U.S. Mail.

Curtain Call

Are actors and directors aware that board members of the Sierra Madre Playhouse prevailed upon a representative to call the Mt. Wilson Observer to pull a free advertisement for the play The Miracle Worker? So who needs an audience?

Perhaps the board members will fill seats themselves performance after performance.

Managing Editor Susan Henderson sent an email to the Playhouse weeks ago regarding the complimentary ad - a way for this paper to support artistic efforts in the community. The ad was received weekly by over 6,000 residents at no cost to the Playhouse.

Just dying to repeat history?

The Orange County Business Journal reports that residents of Newport Beach will be voting November 7 on a measure called Greenlight II.

The slow-growth measure requires public votes on large development projects. The first Greenlight garnered 63% of the vote. Kristine Thalman, Chief Executive of the Orange County chapter of the Building Industry Association, calls the measure "horribly flawed."

Where are the little blue pills when you need them?

At the last city council meeting, Dan Bryant, who sold the Howie's Market site to its present development group, told the city council:

"Would you like a downtown like San Marino? I don't think so... I know and understand real estate... This draconian measure would emasculate the downtown..."

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Cafe 322
322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sing-A-Long Opera & Broadway

Every Sunday at 6:30 p.m.
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

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

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

Beantown
45 N. Baldwin
(626) 355-1596

Friday, October 27th
Barry Schwamm, Theramin Master
Saturday, October 28th
Archie Francis, Country & Western

Vive Dining & Lounge

Tuesday, October 31st
HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY
Age 21 and Over
Free Entrance with Full Costume
Before 11pm

Every Sunday
Salsa Dancing with Live Salsa Band!
Free dance classes between 4 and 5 p.m.

Dance until 10 p.m.
Ages 21 and up
61 N. Raymond Avenue
Pasadena
(626) 583-8483

Halloween Activities

Tuesday, October 31

Trick or Treat Downtown
3:30 to 5 p.m.

Costume Parade
4:30 p.m.

from Kersting Court to Memorial Park
Costume awards for toddlers to teens in various categories



PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT. DISPOSE OF BATTERIES PROPERLY!
At City Hall, Police Department, Library
Alkaline/Zinc/Carbon NiCad - rechargeable Mercury (hearing aids and watches)
Silver Oxide Lithium Ion (computers) Nickel Metal Hydride (cell phones)

For more information, call (626) 355-7135 X803

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 web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call the (626) 355-7186.

The Wild West

Ecology Update

with Kyle McClure



Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

I realize that 2001 was, like, half a decade ago (that's fourteen U2 albums, six Madonna accents, sixty generations of butterflies) and it is probably stretching it a bit to be reporting on presidential press conferences that took place way back before today's kindergartners were even born.

But I just couldn't help myself. For one thing, that press conference on the Kyoto Accord was apparently the only time George Bush has ever actually said the words "global warming" in public, so if you have a column and you are fishing for quotes, there just aren't going to be a whole lot of bites. For another thing, I didn't have a column in 2001; I was busy spackling and painting the upstairs. Luckily the Bush Administration's position on global warming has been firm and steadfast, giving quotes from 2001 a nice long shelf life, keeping them relevant to us today (from the future we extend our thanks, Mr. President).

But, if you want, we can talk about something more current, more now, more late-breaking. How about 1960? Yes, that would be the year immediately following 1959, the very same year that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was created.



The Refuge is more than 19 million acres in the most isolated and remote corner of the United States (no, not Rancho Cucamonga... Alaska!).

It was set aside by Fred Seaton, Secretary of the Interior under Dwight Eisenhower, who was President when men wore hats and carried folded newspapers. Eight million acres of the Refuge are designated "U.S. Wilderness Area," and the rest are classified as "minimal management lands," a useful, alliterative combination of words generated by a small (but earnest) committee of government workers who thought they would best communicate the idea that this land is to be managed in a way that "maintains existing natural conditions and resources."

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has no roads, but there is a town - Kaktovik - with competing Starbucks, Coffee Beans, and Peet's Coffee shops, and a Hot Topic on the second floor of the mall. Lies. Lies. I'm lying. But I will bet you money that you can find



a snowmobile repair shop with antlers and offensive posters hanging from the wall.

Kaktovik has a human population of 276 of which, I can, with sincere and enthusiastic happiness, report that I am not one. Other animals you can find on the streets of Kaktovik, and next door in the Refuge include: bears (brown and black), wolves, wolverines, lynx, marten, musk ox, moose, caribou, falcons, eagles, ducks and mergansers, geese, and (during the 3.5 hour-long summer) bazillions of mosquitoes.

The northernmost reaches of the Rocky Mountains extend into the Refuge, which lies along the continental divide. There are rushing rivers and placid lakes and blue skies and white clouds and green trees just like you have seen in the brochure.

Peter Matthiessen, in an article called "Inside the Endangered Arctic Refuge" in last month's New York Review of Books, writes that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is "the earth's last sanctuary of the great ice age fauna." It is, he says, "one of the last places on earth where a human being can kneel down and drink from a wild stream without being measurably more poisoned or polluted than before."

It is also, apparently, the place that can provide the solution to U.S. dependence on foreign oil. For, this past March, the U.S. Senate passed a bill authorizing oil drilling in the refuge. And if the Senate and the House of Representatives (which had already passed such a bill) can reconcile their differences as to which gigantic corporations get which massive tax breaks, soon the "great ice age fauna" will be sharing their rivers and lakes with drilling rigs and men in orange hardhats. So let's talk about that, shall we?



Chronicle photo, 2005, by Kat Wade

Memorial for Environmental Activist Terry Bing

A ceremony honoring Terry Bing will be held Saturday at Bailey Canyon Park at 11 a.m. A plaque will be dedicated to Bing, who volunteered with the Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council for 14 years. Bing was also a member of The Sierra Club, The Sierra Madre Mountain Conservancy, the League of Women Voters and Friends of The Library.

Terry's husband, Colin Bing, is expected to speak, along with Midge Morash who was Bing's best friend. The event was coordinated by SMEAC President Allison Wesley.

The Bings also volunteered together at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia.

"Terry loved Sierra Madre," Bing said of his late wife. "The fact that it was close to the action - and remote at the same time."

Terry Bing passed away 18 months ago in March of 2005.



Photo courtesy of the Bing family



Sierra Madre Centennial Banner Sell Out

The banner sales that will help finance the planning, development and implementation of activities for the Sierra Madre Centennial Celebration have completely sold out. The events celebrating the milestone will begin Feb. 23 - the incorporation date - and culminate

with Pioneer Days in October 2007.

Two-sided banners will be at 12 prime downtown locations and two at the city's western entry at Michillinda Avenue cost \$1,000 each. The 40 single-sided banners that will line both sides of the boulevard cost \$500.

For more information contact Jackie Knowles at 626-355-6781.

Rediscovering An Old Passion

By Ron Cooper, Sierra Madre Resident



Photo By Jacqueline Truong

Fortuitously, quitting smoking two years ago and the ensuing weight gain reunited me with the first love of my life - the Bicycle.

As a boy, a bike represented fun, freedom and adventure. Today, each time I get on my bike I am catapulted back in time - I immediately become that carefree young lad with a spirit for fun and adventure.

Thus far this year I have pedaled over two thousand miles. A paltry distance for the club riders we see swarming in and around Kersting Court on Saturday mornings but a proud accomplishment for this recently turned 60 year-old who not that long ago was choking down three packs of stinkettes each and every day with no thought or concept of cardiovascular exercise much less riding a bike.

Last Tuesday, as I am prone to on my days off from work at Nobbe's Flower Shop, I jumped on my Gary Fisher hybrid bike and sped out of town, taking direct aim at the Santa Fe Dam and the San Gabriel River Trail - a bike trail that extends from the mouth of Azusa Canyon all the way to Seal Beach.

Accessing the trail in Duarte via an old railroad trestle that has since been converted to a bicycle-pedestrian bridge, I usually ride down to the 70-acre lake which is hidden within the massive stone architecture of the dam and eat my lunch. The lake is stocked with trout, bass and catfish and is a popular fishing spot for local residents who just want to relax and watch their cork bob in the water.

Today, however, with the crisp autumn air urging me onward, my journey took me up and atop of the Santa Fe Dam where I marveled at the panoramic view of the mountains and the San Gabriel Valley

stretching in all directions.

You may have noticed bicyclists riding on top of the dam as you travel north or south on the 605 Freeway? The dam is shaped like a crescent and the bike path on top of the dam is 3 miles from end to end. The views are breathtaking!

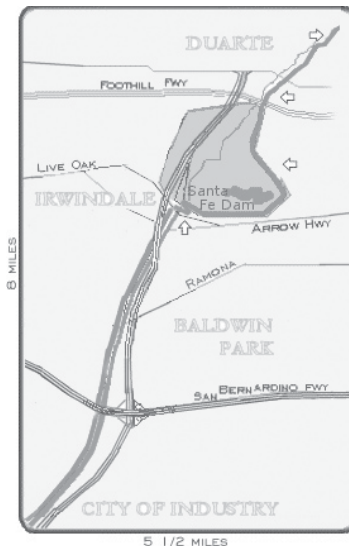
Looking south the trail beckoned me to pedal an additional 10 miles to Legg Lake - a beautifully scenic portion of the Whittier Narrows Dam and Recreational Region which also includes a wildlife preserve. This lake is a veritable oasis of lush green grass, trees, tranquil water and picnic tables aplenty.

After feasting on a sandwich that had been stowed in my rack pack and a brief respite to enjoy the comical antics of the multitudinous waterfowl

which call the lake their home I headed back toward Sierra Madre - completing my loop on the Upper Rio Hondo Trail, which also converges at the Whittier Narrows.

With the Mount Wilson as my compass point - having traveled the majority of my 37 mile trek on well-maintained paved bike trails - unencumbered by vehicular traffic on a seasonably cool day - I returned home with a sense of physical achievement, mental and spiritual exhilaration and, what's more, it was fun!

For pictures and descriptions of this biking adventure please Google "San Gabriel River Trail" and click on the first entry. I hope that the pictures will inspire and entice you to experience one of the beautiful bike trails we have here in Southern California. Happy Biking!



See the Upper and Lower San Gabriel River trail maps and the Rio Hondo map for continuations.

Ed ALVERNO, LaSalle, Pasadena High School, 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

Alverno's Theater Director Leads Students on An Extraordinary Journey

Director Luella Wagner writes of their experience



Photo By Candace Siegle Students at Alverno make origami birds for the play *One Thousand Cranes*.

When I was asked to direct the school play at Alverno High School, I wanted to come up with something really different. I had recently read an article on sacred activism, which called for activism from a spiritual perspective. It prompted everyday people to search within themselves and find ways to incorporate spiritual activism from where they were in their current work positions. With that in mind I took it upon myself to do the play "One Thousand Cranes."

One Thousand Cranes is the story of Sadako Sasaki. She lived in Hiroshima and was two-years old when the atomic bomb dropped. She suffered from leukemia 10 years later. There is a legend in Japan that if one folds one thousand cranes they will be cured.

Sadako began to fold one thousand cranes, but only got as far as 644. Her friends completed the task and today there is a peace monument to her in Hiroshima and every year people from all over the world send cranes, made from origami.

Here at Alverno High School, this play has special significance, since we have lost several members of our community. One of our students, Sasha Caraveo, a junior, passed away in June from leukemia. We also lost our receptionist, Stella Ananian, to breast cancer. One of our

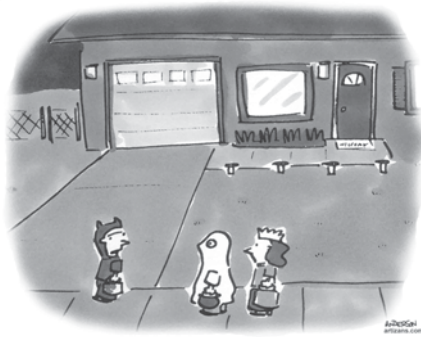
teachers, Karen Chavez, who was in her late 20's also passed away from a brain tumor. We are doing this play in honor of them and also to bring peace and hope to our community.

We are also folding cranes and will send them to the peace memorial in Hiroshima in their honor.

This play reaches all levels of society and all levels of each individual. We are enjoying the production of this play as well as learning about the ravages of war, solutions for peace and the value of a community coming together for healing and recovery. It is our belief that this play will touch the lives of all who see it and it will be remembered for a long time to come. I am also excited about this play because of the similarities it has with All Souls Day. Much of the play deals with the afterlife, but in a very positive sense.

It is reassuring to know that our loved ones have not forgotten us just as we have not forgotten them. A big part of the play is the Japanese tradition of celebrating OBAN - the Festival of Lanterns. It is celebrated in August but it is just like our All Souls Day. People remember those who have passed on, and light candles and say prayers in their memory. I don't think that it is a coincidence that our Opening Night is November 2.

Luella Wagner graduated from Boston University with a degree in history, received her teaching credential at UCLA and a Master's degree in Educational Theater from New York University. She has worked in England, Ireland, Scotland, South America and New York City.



"Don't bother, he's a dentist."

UNDER XPOSD

International Student Documentary Film Festival

Saturday, October 28, 10 am to 2 am
Art Center College of Design
Hillside Campus
1700 Lida Street
Pasadena

- Screenings
- Panel Discussions with Industry Leaders
- Networking
- Music and other surprises!
- Featuring: Keynote Speaker Cara Mertes, Director of the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program
- Michael Apted's latest chapter in the famed UP series *49 UP*
"Possibly the most exciting use of the documentary medium ever"
- *New York Daily News*
A special midnight screening of *New York Doll*

Advance Ticket Prices:

\$20 General Admission
\$15 ACCD alumni and IDA members
\$10 Students (with valid ID)

Tickets include admission to all screenings and events

To purchase tickets and for updated event information please visit:

www.UNDERXPOSD.org
or
call (626) 396-4254

Master Class Series at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music: Presenting Excellence and Mastery

The 2006-2007 master class series at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music offers students and lovers of music the opportunity to receive the wisdom of renowned performers and teachers.

Thursday, November 9 at 7 p.m.

Pianist Stephen Cook, currently a faculty member of the Colburn School of Performing Arts and Whittier College. He was the director of the pianist program at the Orange County High School of the Arts from 1996 to 2004 and is a frequent clinician and adjudicator for such organizations as the Music Teachers' Association of Ca., the California Association of Professional Music Teachers and the Southwestern Youth Music Festival.

Classes are held at the Conservatory, 100 N. Hill Avenue in Pasadena. All sessions of the series are free for PCM students and families and \$15 for the general public. Please call (626) 683-3355 or visit the website at pasadenaconservatory.org.

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

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

Sunday, November 5

Open House

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

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

Friday November 17th is the deadline for original stories, poems and art for consideration in the PHS literary magazine. Submit your work to Dr. Verdi in G206

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

Tuesday, October 31

Costume Parade

Monday, November 6 to

Friday, November 10

Scholastic Book Sale in the Library

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

Friday, October 27

Costume Dance

6:30 to 8:30 in the Cafetorium

Wednesday, November 1

Flag Football

3:30 p.m. in the field

Sierra Madre vs. Gooden

Friday, November 3

Flag Football

3:30 p.m. in the field

Sierra Madre vs. Barnhart

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

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

Alverno High School Presents A Thousand Cranes
November 2 and 4 at 7 p.m.
November 5 at 2 p.m.

The beautiful story of a Japanese girl who inspired a peace movement will be presented by Alverno at the Sierra Madre Elementary School Auditorium. A special tea reception precedes all performances.

The Auditorium is at 141 W. Highland in Sierra Madre.

Tickets are \$8 in advance, or \$11 at the door.

Call Alverno at (626) 355-3463 for more information.

Send us your school news.
deuxamispub@aol.com

TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

Firewalls: Good Guys in Bad Guys out.

By Paul the Cyberian

SearchSecurity.TechTarget.com defines a firewall as a set of related programs, located at a network gateway that protects the resources of a private network from users from other networks. A firewall basically lets a user configure their computer to allow certain traffic and disallow other types of traffic.

Users of other popular Operating Systems like Macintosh and Linux have had a bit of a head start on this aspect of computing security but Microsoft has been making strides in order to catch up in this vital area, as well they should for their products represent the largest install-base for home computer users and are therefore the biggest target.

Firewalls come in 2 basic varieties: Hardware Appliances and Software packages.

A firewall appliance is basically a small computer that inspects the traffic going to and leaving from your computer. Most home user firewall appliances are about the size of the cable modem connection box commonly supplied with a high-speed home connection.

A good example of the hardware variety is the Linksys Instant Broadband EtherFast Cable/DSL Firewall Router Model: BEFSX41 available at Best Buy. It retails around \$80.00 and can handle 3 or more computers or the average Home office. Linksys also offers the wireless version of this device.

Another good example of a software firewall is the LavaSoft Personal Firewall (<http://www.lavasoft.de/software/firewall/>). It comes with a One-Year subscription and retails for \$30.00.

Windows XP (Home and Professional) comes with a firewall add-on that is easily configurable. On an XP machine go to <Start> <Control Panel>. Switch to 'Classic View' in the top left-hand corner and select the Firewall Settings applet at the bottom of the page. You want to ensure that the settings for your firewall are set to 'On'. You can check the 'Allow Exceptions' box to be sure that programs that need to access the internet can do so. You do this by checking the box next to all the internet-enabled programs on your computer. If you see a program listed that you aren't sure exactly what it does and why it needs to access the internet, uncheck the box next to it.

Computing Security is founded upon awareness of what is going on during your computing activities. While there are few things that can keep a determined, knowledgeable and clever intruder out of your machine, these measures will definitely keep out the lazy ones.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Big Santa Anita Canyon in Angeles National Forest needs trail maintenance volunteers November 4 and 5. Call USFS, Chris Fabbro, 818-899-1900x250 for further information.

Volunteers can camp free as Sturtevant Campground. Also, visit www.adamspackstation.com to see the current activity at this historic Pack Station in our local National Forest. All are invited to join in this activity supported by the Big Santa Anita and Sierra Madre Fire Safe Councils.

For Fire Safe Council Information call: Caroline Brown 355-9350

U.S. News & World Report Honors JPL Director Dr. Charles Elachi



Photo courtesy of JPL

Dr. Charles Elachi, director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., is being honored as one of "America's Best Leaders" by U.S. News & World Report, in collaboration with the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

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've been a nurse for 10 years and am interested in a position with a pharmaceutical company as a sales representative. I don't have any sales experience. Do you think my expectations are out of reach?

A: Absolutely not. I always advise job changers to carefully consider their transferable skills. In your case, there are many. More than likely, you are aware of new drugs on the market. Make sure you are able to elaborate on this knowledge by visiting drug company websites. The more ammunition you have, the more confident you will be at your interview and the more likely you will be to wow the recruiter.

I'm assuming your communication techniques have been strengthened as a result of your daily interactions with patients, families, and the interdisciplinary team. Perhaps, you have also delivered formal presentations at staff meetings or have taught, in-service courses.

Your skills in multi-tasking, analyzing situations, developing care plans, and documenting detailed information would also prove to be valuable as a pharmaceutical sales representative.

All these points should be further discussed in your cover letter and résumé. Pharmaceutical companies look for professionals in the medical field, so you're certainly ahead of the game.

Q: I recently received my BA degree after being enrolled at a total of 4 colleges over a 6 year period. Should I make mention of all these schools on my résumé?

A: Employers are only interested in the school from which you attained your degree. If you list these other schools on your résumé, it would seem as if you're a "school hopper" and just couldn't decide where you wanted to be. You wouldn't want the company to think your employment career would be following a similar pattern.

BRADBURY

(continued from page 1)
attempting to intervene between a shrewish, intolerably hateful woman and her seemingly tragic, inevitable fate on a feverishly hot, humid summer's day, a tale which is, sadly, pretty amusing.

The sardonic wit of Bradbury, a cast and crew serious about staging his work, the intimate setting (60- to 80-seat venue), and the after-party with friends and fans in the courtyard all combined to create an oddly pleasant and interesting theater-going experience. Making the afternoon complete was having the honor of meeting and greeting Mr. Bradbury himself (who is scheduled to attend the next two Sunday matinee performances) and walk away with a signed copy of a Bradbury favorite. If you miss this show, don't worry—Ray Bradbury's Pandemonium Theater Company has entered into an exclusive six-month contract with the Fremont Theater and will be mounting two more productions between now and March 5. And feel free to bring the kids; this material appeals to all age ranges, as evidenced by the audience in attendance at Sunday's presentation, from young children to seasoned sci-fi veterans.

WHERE:

Fremont Theater
1000 Fremont Ave.
South Pasadena

COST:

\$10 students
\$15 seniors
\$20 adults
323-960-4451

www.Plays411.com/raybradbury

Play runs through November 5th (may extend to Nov. 19th)
Fridays/Saturdays - 8 p.m.
Sundays - 3 p.m.

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THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

A DEUXAMIS PUBLICATION

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OPINION



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

Why I Chose Where I Live

By Stefan Bund

Modern economists like to look for signs that the economy is rolling along; new home starts, births, RV sales...

Sierra Madre has its own economic indicators. When I first discovered this town, I was looking for a house along the foothills. I rode my motorcycle here and people didn't throw things at me. There was a civic theater with a marquee, with a new play.

But the most telling sign was this: as I rolled along Grandview, downhill, I caught the sight of a pair of teenagers. A boy and a girl, standing at the curb, the boy getting into a beat-up hand-me-down compact auto. They seemed to share a joke that was so hilarious that he leaned his head up to the sky, hand on the battered, open car door.

So that is why I moved here. It was the teenagers who convinced me. If a pair of kids in high school could look happy, then something was going right. That's my economic indicator...

Here's another. I bought a quaint house

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.**

by the legendary Mary's Market. I loved the idea of hot coffee in the morning, and a short walk to brunch on Sunday, but a *For Sale* sign hung in the window shortly after I moved in. I considered, perhaps that the neighborhood was moving on, with the likes of city folk like myself arriving, with preferences for Visa cards and two minute cappuccinos.

My own economic indicator was that I worked late on weekdays, and therefore missed Taco Tuesday, a neighborhood institution. Typically a wood fire burned into the night with the sounds of an acoustic guitar, a singer, and the random beer bottle hitting the trash can.

A parking lot stood down the street where I parked my car so I could stash my motorcycle in my garage. It stood to reason that so long as I parked there that Mary's lost a parking space.

But this is how the story came out. Facing a lack of offers on the place, the *For Sale* sign came down, and a neon sign went up. FREE INTERNET ACCESS. ATM machine.

And TACO TUESDAY, hand painted in the window.

Modernity had arrived, with ancient rituals intact. The menu started to show some spark, with a SPECIALS sign boasting appetizing fare.

Then the cars arrived... The economic indicator of the neighborhood parking lot was overflowing. It caused me to clean out my garage to actually move my car back to the house. Taco Tuesday turned into a Crosby, Stills and Nash revival, with people spilling into the streets.

This indicates that if a Sierra Madre business wants to reinvent itself, it won't take much.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, October 15th, to Saturday, October 21st, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 146 Calls for service.

Sunday, October 15th:

5:47 AM – Commercial Burglary, 322 North Baldwin Ave. Officers were dispatched to St. Rita School regarding a burglary alarm activation. On arrival the officers found the main office door unlocked and discovered that forced entry was made into the principal's office. Several classrooms doors were opened with drawers and closets forced open. Stolen property: Sony DVD player, cash, student paperwork, a play station and a Smart & Final gift card. Included in the loss was damage to three doors at the school. The total loss was estimated at \$1485.00.

7:12AM – Vandalism, 297 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Arnold's Hardware Store. The business owner called to report that the front plate glass window was broken. The damage occurred between 7:00 PM Saturday, 10/14 and 7:00 AM Sunday, 10/15. The loss was estimated at \$500.00

Monday, October 16th:

2:55 PM – Vandalism, 160 North Canon Ave, (upper campus) Sierra Madre Elementary School. The assistant principal called to report damage to one of the classrooms on campus. Acoustic ceiling tiles, fluorescent light fixtures and mirrors were smashed. The vandalism occurred between 4:30 PM Friday, 10/13 and 7:30 AM Sunday, 10/15. No loss estimate has been established and is pending review by district personal.

4:11 PM – Vandalism, 225 West Sierra Madre Blvd. A representative of the new owner's of the vacant hospital facility (Sierra Madre Skilled Nursing) called to report plywood covering the entrance doors were pried off and other damage was found to the interior of the complex.

Thursday, October 19th:

3:01 PM – Grand Theft, 160 North Canon Ave, (upper campus) Sierra Madre Elementary School. A school employee called to report a stolen backpack. A student reported the loss of her backpack which contained: a new IPOD, cellular telephone and two books, *A Mid Summer Nights Dream* and *When It Happens*. The loss was estimated at \$434.00 and the backpack was last seen at 1:30 PM Thursday, 10/19.

Friday, October 20th:

2:02 PM – Vandalism, 400 block West Carter Ave. A resident reported finding scratches to the side body molding of her car. The damage occurred between Thursday, 10/19 and Friday, 10/20.

4:02 PM – Theft, 400 block North Baldwin Ave. A resident reported Christmas decorations were taken from his carport. The decorations were in three large Tupperware containers and last seen between 8:00 AM Tuesday, 10/17 and 1:00 PM Wednesday, 10/18, loss undetermined at this time.

Saturday, October 21st:

9:48 PM – Vandalism, 200 block North Baldwin Ave. A resident reported an obscene drawing was made on the hood of her car. The damage occurred between Friday, 10/20 and Saturday, 10/21.

Trick or Treat?

By Susan Henderson

trick (n): a crafty procedure or practice meant to deceive or defraud; **treat: (n):** an especially unexpected source of joy, delight, or amusement.

Do you think there is a very real reason why our general elections are close to Halloween? After all, they are, or should be, the two scariest days of the year. Think I'm kidding? Well consider this:

Halloween
Pumpkin Heads full of Holes
Skeletons (Out of the closet)
Strange Noises
Tricks and Treats
Bags of Tricks
Smoke and Mirrors
Creepy People
Costumes

Modern Elections
Talking Heads Full of Holes
Skeletons (In the closet)
Strange Noises
Tricks and Treats
Bags of Tricks
Smoke and Mirrors
Creepy People
Costumes

There are so many symbols and behaviors associated with Halloween that are identical to what we get from candidates that we probably should hold elections on Halloween!

The latter started as a Harvest Festival that got way out of control. Our elections also started as a harvesting of the best of the crop to lead us and it has gotten way out of control.

At least on Halloween we get the joy of seeing little children perform as opposed to the following week watching a bunch of overgrown children perform! At least on Halloween, when you give the little ones a treat, they go away. With the big ones, you can give them a treat, and then a bigger treat, and they still never go away.

And talk about the costumes! Let's see, we have a governor who came to town in a musclemans suit who now wears a costume that is politically correct, environmentally tolerable and walks on both sides of the aisle. In fact, he's so convincing that he just might pull his re-election off.

On the other hand his primary opponent never left town. He's been right here wearing his white construction hat and keeping busy. His new costume however, is mean and green, environmentally tolerable and politically correct. He tries to walk down both sides of the aisle although in his case one aisle is carpeted with play dough.

But they are not the only ones participating in this tradition. We have a big group of other costumed characters that fill up the ballroom. Our cast of proposition characters includes some whose bag of tricks have enough money to fund several foreign countries.

The thing about all of this is that you don't know when you will turn the corner and be scared half to death. The good news is that Halloween only happens once a year and then you get over it. The bad news is that these other characters are with you every day for years and they get harder and harder to recognize. They will be heavy on the tricks and you will be shocked if there are any treats! We won't know for a while whether we have been tricked or received a treat on election day. But don't let the anxiety get you down. You see, because Halloween has such a better participation rate than our elections, in all likelihood we won't be getting a treat – it will probably be a trick! BOO!



In response to inquiries to this paper regarding where to sign the ballot measure for an initiative to require a citywide vote on all projects exceeding the current limits of 2 stories, 30 feet high and 13 units per acre, the information below was supplied by Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development:

Volunteers will be gathering signatures for the Height and Density Restrictions Ballot Measure (commonly known as 2-30-13) at:

CAFE 322
322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre

9am - 12:00 noon
Saturday and Sunday
October 28th and 29th.

For additional information go to:
www.smrrd.org or call
626-388-2168



Pumpkins by Heather Allen
Photo by Jacqueline Truong

The Funnies



Along For The Ride

By Tina Salvatore

I think it's fair to say Halloween is a strange time it goes like this: Say no to strangers offering candy unless you are dressed in a costume then actually knock on their door and demand it.

Usually for Halloween people dress as scary monsters or ghosts.

I like to dress as my real fears such as a car that doesn't start in a bad neighborhood. That one's kind of difficult because you need to create a whole scene to go with you. Internally combusting. Having a really bad migraine. Public speaking. Dress up as someone who can't remember where their wallet is.

Try going as bruised shins.

If you're looking for something a little more simple go as a needle (I

know I'm scared of shots).

One year I did go as a bad investment, and yes, I did turn some heads.

If you want to do something exciting dress as a chimpanzee and frantically run through the zoo... see what happens. Don't wear a costume to a party but walk around as if you are continually asking if people think your costume is realistic.

Dress as Nair at a Rogaine convention, of course for that you'd have to find a convention first. Explain to anyone with a carved pumpkin that vegetarians find it disgraceful to humanize a vegetable like that by putting a face on it. Then run away really fast because that actually doesn't make much sense.

Shop Our Town



Step into Brown's Classic Interiors and leave everything up to Dee Walker. Holiday decorations, for one thing. Walker will come into your home and decorate your mantelpieces, staircases and even your holiday tree. Call (626) 355-2712 for an appointment before she is all booked up. She also decorates restaurants and homes for interior design tours.

By November 18, when Dickens Village opens in downtown Sierra Madre, "The whole store will be solid Christmas," said Walker. Eight pine trees will be laden with lights and ornaments, decorated in different themes. This year's holiday decorating trend, she says, is all "glitter and sparkle."

Walker's is a one-stop shop for home improvements. She even does the Home Improvement Surprise - a one-day room refresher. You

leave home, Walker decorates, and you return to a new room. The store shelves are packed with books of fabric samples for

furniture, drapes, pillows, bedspreads and window shades.

A full-service interior design business, Walker works with an upholstery shop as well as painting contractors. "I work with photos so people always know what they are going to get," said Walker. "I've never once heard anyone say 'this isn't what I ordered.'"

Brown's Classic Interiors

74 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
(626) 355-2712



SKYBARK HOWL-o-ween Fest!

Spooky fun for you AND your dog

Friday, October 27, 2006
8:00pm to 2:00am

SkyBark
1026 Santa Fe Avenue
Los Angeles, CA
www.skybark

The Howl-o-ween Fest auction will benefit Walk for the Underdog. Walk for the Underdog is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that raises funds for dogs in rescues in Los Angeles through an annual walk and other fundraising events. You can learn more at: www.walkfortheunderdog.com.

To add to an already fun filled night, October's SkyBark will include a doggie costume contest. The contest winner takes all so all pups are encouraged to come out dressed in their best Halloween attire. (The winner will receive a gift package valued at \$500!)

Tickets are \$20 per person and \$10 per dog in advance increasing to \$30 per person and \$15 per dog at the door.



Photo by Jacqueline Truong
Dressed to the '90s at the Little Angels Pug Rescue's Howl Fest at Bob Hope Park in Burbank. Pugalicious.

BIRDS EYE VIEW Cruel and Unusual?

By Pat Birdsall

I think I have happened on a very inexpensive and almost humane solution to the high recidivism rate exhibited by prisoners in our country. Having endured this myself last week while trying to beat my opponents in the fine art of poker at the Senior Center, I know it is a sure-fire solution, an absolute winner. It would bring a grown man or woman to their knees to the point where they would scream unabashedly, "No, no, I'm NEVER coming back." What is it, you might ask? It is being confined in a small space while a piano is being tuned! I know it will work, I just know it. We seem to have tried

everything else. In a men's prison in Arizona, there is a Warden who makes the prisoners live in tents in all types of weather. They eat bologna sandwiches and must wear pink underwear. Does this deter the crime rate? Perhaps. However, if the Warden added the piano tuning experience to his repertoire, he would be like the Maytag repairman...all alone. Need a confession, Detective? Just threaten to call the piano tuner, and your prisoner will confess to stealing the sunshine on a rainy day. I'm sure that once the ACLU gets wind of this, it would be classified as cruel and unusual punishment and therefore never implemented. Alas...

SPORTS

Mr. Youngblood AKA "The Touchdown Machine"



By Larry Bortstein

Photo by Jacqueline Truong

During his sophomore season at Muir High, Willie Youngblood ran for 768 yards and nine touchdowns. But he knew he'd have to get bigger and stronger to carry a heavy load for the Mustangs this year. He did and he has.

The 5-foot-9 junior who now weighs 205 pounds is the top ground-gainer in the Pacific League with well over 1,000 yards and is scoring TDs from all parts of the field at a dizzying rate.

"We call Willie our touchdown machine," said Ken Howard, in his second year as Muir's head coach.

Youngblood closed out 2005 on a high note, rushing for 190 yards and two touchdowns at the Rose Bowl in the Turkey Tussle against archrival Pasadena, won by Muir, 37-15.

Blessed with speed and power, Youngblood is summoning memories of the great running backs in Muir's storied football history—Ron Brown, Derick Holmes and the McCullough brothers, Saladin and Sultan. "The coaches talk about those guys all the time," Youngblood said. "Those guys are Muir football. I hope I can live up to that."

Though he hurt his hamstring during a 25-18 loss to Pacific League rival Burroughs on Oct. 20 and hardly played in the second half, Youngblood carried 15 times for 116 yards and a touchdown. Against non-league opponent Jefferson, he carried the ball 19 times for 184 yards and both Mustang TDs in a 15-12 victory. He scored from three and 22 yards out.

Youngblood ran wild in 49-0 and 47-6 routs of league rivals Hoover and Glendale in consecutive weeks.

Against Hoover, he needed only five carries to gain 196 yards and three TDs, for 96, 31 and 53 yards, all in the first half. He sustained a neck injury early in the second half of the game with Glendale and sat out most of the last two quarters. Before he left, he'd run nine times for 176 yards and two scores.

Youngblood, who is beginning to attract attention from college recruiters, has been a running back since he began playing football in youth leagues. But he only now is learning the refinements of the position.

"Last year I would get the ball and just run," Youngblood said. "Now I'm studying defenses, looking where the linebackers go. I'm reading the game so much better and trying to become as good as I can be."



Photo courtesy of Benoit

Cal Cup

By Larry Bortstein

The first stakes race down the hillside turf course at Santa Anita was run in 1959, more than five years after the first turf sprint on the unique downhill layout was contested on Dec. 31, 1954.

Horses with a particular fondness for the trip of 6 1/2 furlongs plus 7.64 feet have included Irish O'Brien, Champagne Bid, Baffle and El Cielo.

Lennyfromalibu, winner of the Cal Cup Mile in 2003, set the record for the distance when he sped down the course in 1:11.13 on Jan. 22, 2004.

But Cambiocorsa is truly the "Queen of the Hill."

No runner ever has displayed more of an affinity for the course than the 4-year-old California-bred gray filly named for a Maserati sports car.

On Sept. 29, the first day

of the Oak Tree meeting, she won the \$100,000 Senator Ken Maddy Handicap to extend her streak of consecutive victories over the course to an unprecedented eight.

She figures to end the 26-day Oak Tree season as the strong favorite in the \$150,000 Cal Cup Matron when 10 stakes races worth \$1,325,000 for state-breds are run Oct. 28, the next-to-last day of the season.

Among the other runners taking part on Cal Cup Day are Moscow Burning, the all-time leading Calbred female thoroughbred earner, who will be making her final career start in the \$100,000 Distance Handicap, an event she won last year, and Jet West, the defending champion in the \$150,000 Cal Cup Sprint.

But no horse on Cal Cup Day has compiled a streak like the one that's been fashioned by Cambiocorsa.

She has won nine of her 15 races overall for earnings of \$504,055. Of that total, she has banked \$405,675 while winning all eight of her races down the hill at Santa Anita.

Even trainer Doug O'Neill admitted he doesn't know why the filly is so fond of the trip, which includes the only right-hand turn in American racing, then a left-hand turn and a 38-foot dip that slows a horse's momentum.

"She seems to like the configuration," O'Neill said of Cambiocorsa. "When horses sprint on conventional tracks, the turn comes up right away. She's not a horse that likes being held back much."

Jockey Jon Court has ridden Cambiocorsa to six of her eight victories during her Santa Anita streak. "On this course, I can let the reins down and let her do her thing."



View From The Couch

A SOUND MIND IN A SOUND BODY

English philosopher, John Locke said that a sound mind in a sound body are the ingredients for a happy life. When looking at the athlete of today you wonder, have these guys ever heard that?

Every day we hear of yet another athlete that has defiled themselves and disgraced their associates by introducing foreign substances to their bodies. There is no soundness in that practice. However, I am continually struck by the disregard that a world-class athlete gives to what goes into his body. When I speak of drugs it is not just the mind altering variety, it is also the body changing type that athletes of today must guard against.

Look at what athletes have done to themselves. Has there been a more exciting time in recent baseball history than the Mark and Sammy show of 1998? There are those who felt that the rivalry between them gave new life and a renewed interest in baseball. During the baseball summer of '98" we had two good guys going at it, home run for

home run. The baseball fans loved it, even those with a mild interest in the sport paid attention. All of America watched, we loved it; the stats were checked each day. We wanted to see what our guy had done and compare it to the other fellow. Baseball fans love the "dinger" or the "big swat". No matter what you call it we love to see the ball leave the yard. When Sammy Sosa and Mark McGuire were battling for the home run title of "98", there was the added attraction of breaking Roger Maris' record of 61 homers which had stood for 37 years. McGuire got the home run title hitting 70 home runs that year, a mere three years later Barry Bonds hit 73. How did that happen so quickly?

The rumors begin to fly, the air of suspicion rose, Congress had hearings the suspect was the dreaded, P E R F O R M A N C E ENHANCING DRUGS. The question, had they been used? Those particular ball players were placed in a peculiar dilemma for baseball at the time did not have a ban on such things, i.e. steroids. Yet each player when asked about their use denied it. Why? Because the use of drugs is cheating.

Fans want\ to see records broken, but we want to see them broken due to skill, not because of pharmaceuticals.

This year the winner of the Tour de France American rider Floyd Landis was accused of blood doping. Those accusations have basically run Landis out of cycling. Marion Jones, the great American sprinter was accused of using a banned substance. She was later cleared, but the rumors remain.

A sound body and a sound mind are the key to real success. We all know that winning brings big bucks in sports, but cheating brings bigger disgrace. Barry Bonds will more than likely not break the home run record of Hank Aaron, does anyone care? Is anyone rooting for Barry? Bonds says that he did not use steroids, but the stench is so great with the Balco smell that no one believes him. He is a man chasing baseball's greatest individual record with no one to cheer for him.

So what sense does it make to take ruin your chances at being great? You will be rejected in the end. Use a sound mind to build a sound body.

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