

## CITY LEADERS REJECT FUTURE HOUSING MANDATES

### Mayor Defends Endorsement Of Adult Website

By Susan Henderson

At Tuesday's study session, all five council members, the city attorney and city manager unanimously decided to reject the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) proposed housing allocation for Sierra Madre.

In an unusual display of solidarity on development issues, the council voted 5-0 to have staff prepare the necessary documents to appeal SCAG's 2006-2014 Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for Sierra Madre. Staff was also instructed to request a revision of the numbers in the event sufficient grounds were not established for the appeal.

The assessment, which attempts to equitably allocate housing demands within the six southern California counties represented by SCAG, calls for the construction of 138 units in Sierra Madre to be built during the six year period including 36 units of very low income housing and 22 units of low income

housing.

Council members and residents alike brought up the fact that the allocation for Sierra Madre was extraordinarily high. San Marino, whose population is larger than Sierra Madre's has only been allocated 26 units; Palos Verdes Estates - 72; Rancho Palos Verdes 90; Rolling Hills Estates 26. The only cities to have allocations larger than Sierra Madre were Port Hueneme and Avalon.

City Manager John Gillison explained in great detail the significance of these numbers and what alternatives were available to the city. He also informed the council that the formulas used (continued on page 4)

## FATHER KREKELBERG REFLECTS ON LOVE AND LONELINESS

By Katina Dunn



Photos by Jacqueline Truong and Gloria Prins

*St. Rita of Cascia is the patron saint of the impossible. Married off to an abusive man at a young age, she bore twins and later gained entry to a monastery after being rejected twice for political reasons. She is the protector of parents, abuse victims, desperate causes, difficult marriages, widows and loneliness. On her deathbed, she requested a rose, so a friend went to her family's estate in January to find a single rose blossom. In Sierra Madre, her shrine at the church is always filled with roses.*



Father Richard Krekelberg of St. Rita's Church has spent many years pondering the imponderable. Although he has been student or teacher over the years, he finds himself being both at the parish in Sierra Madre, which he has led for three years.

One of the ultimate questions is the nature of love, and Krekelberg says one of its answers is the gift of time, the gift of one's company with another. This is not always easy, for so many reasons. Krekelberg knows this from his experience traveling, studying and interacting with people of all ages. At St. Rita's, he is working simultaneously on a youth ministry as well as a bereavement ministry, and plans on a workshop on "spiritual journaling." All of this involves attending to people.

Krekelberg says the cathartic experience of writing one's "Stepping Stones" in a journal fascinated him. "Stepping Stones" mark the end of one period and the beginning of another. Journaling works best as a continued effort, not just making bullet (continued on page 4)

## ALVERNO HEADS TO PLAYOFFS



Photo by Jacqueline Truong  
Alverno Jaguars Senior Danielle Tan See pg. 10



### TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS

Okay clear your plates... This is my first article on the wonderful world of restaurants. So, to take on some restaurant terminology, it's a soft opening. The publishers promised me the opportunity to write about what makes me and (hopefully) you happy. Each week we will discuss neighborhood restaurants, fun stuff and value at "concept" restaurants. Just to define "concept," I call restaurants with less than

30 locations, concepts, above that I call them chains.

The idea here is to create some dialogue with you, my reader. So, if you agree with me, great. If you disagree even better. Sound off!

Tell me your favorite restaurant experience. For restaurants to get a righteous review they don't have to advertise in the Mt. Wilson Observer. They just need to do it right.

In the next couple of weeks I plan to tackle questions and find the best of the best. Margaritas, crab cakes and steak just to name a few. E mail me at [chilipete@aol.com](mailto:chilipete@aol.com) or Watch me on KPXN/ION on Thursday Nights at 5:30

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## Volunteers Needed for Public Safety Initiative

By Katina Dunn

Sierra Madre police continue their efforts gathering signatures for an initiative that requires them to be paid equal to the lowest paid department in Los Angeles County. The initiative also prohibits the city from contracting out the police force without voter approval. The police have been without a contract for four years. Police and volunteers are pleased with the turnout so far, and reported that out of 400 signatures, six people said no. "They were just happy to sign," said volunteer Margaret Lalone. "I didn't even have to finish the sentence" said Volunteer Dana Pelsone. Others, including Sgt. Lance Long, reported that residents told them repeatedly "I think it's ridiculous that you guys have to be begging for our police." About 1,500 signatures are needed to put the initiative to a vote. Volunteers are out at all times. To volunteer, call POA President John Ellins at (626) 808-5998

## Inside This Edition

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# Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



Friday:	Cloudy	Hi 60s	Lows 50s	30% Chance Rain
Saturday:	Cloudy	Hi 60s	Lows 50s	40% Chance Rain
Sunday:	Cloudy	Hi 60s	Lows 50s	40% Chance Rain
Monday:	Cloudy	Hi 60s	Lows 50s	20% Chance Rain
Tuesday:	Cloudy	Hi 60s	Lows 50s	20% Chance Rain

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## Citizens' Datebook



## City of Sierra Madre February Events

- 9 - All-America City Application Committee Meeting - 9:00 am - Wistaria Room
- 9 - SMTV3 Fundraiser - Live TV Taping - 4:00 PM - WB Studios
- 9 - Travelers & Collectors - 7:30 pm - City Hall
- 10 - Huntington Library Arts Trip - 9:30 am - Huntington Library
- 10 - A Day in Troy (Teen Excursion) - 8:00 am - USC
- 12 - Preschool Story Hour - 10:00 am - Library
- 12 - Fire Safe Council - 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
- 13 - All-America City Rally Committee Meeting - 4:30 pm - Wistaria Room
- 13 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 pm - Council Chambers
- 14 - Preschool Storyhour - 7:00 pm - Library
- 14 - Community Arts Commission Meeting - 6:30 pm - Council Chambers
- 15 - Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
- 16 - City Hall Closed
- 19 - City Hall Closed
- 20 - All-America City Steering Committee Meeting - 5:00 pm - Wistaria Room
- 21 - SMTV3 Programming Committee Meeting - 8:00 am - Wistaria Room
- 21 - Tree Advisory Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm - Council Chamber
- 21 - Friends of the Library Board Meeting - 7:00 pm - Hart Park House
- 21 - Preschool Storyhour - 7:00 pm - Library
- 23 - Centennial Opening Night - 6:30 pm - Alverno High School
- 24 - Healthy Family Fun - Kickball - 9:00 am - Sierra Vista Park
- 24 - Sierra Madre Little League Opening Day - Sierra Vista Park
- 26 - Preschool Storyhour - 10:00 am - Library
- 26 - Community Services Commission - 6:00 pm - Council Chamber
- 27 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 pm - Council Chamber
- 28 - All-America City Rally - 6:00 pm - 258 E. Alegria Ave.
- 28 - Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 pm - Conference Room
- 28 - Preschool Storyhour - 7 pm - Library

The above Calendar of Events has been provided by the City of Sierra Madre. Please confirm meeting dates by calling 626-355-7135



## Roy Roams' 91024

### My Life As A Dog

Mayor John Buchanan graciously thanked city media – including our newspaper and secretive sock puppet websites – for publicizing the plight of his missing puppy at the last city council meeting. We hope the publicity resulted in the puppy being found. Shortly thereafter, though, the Mayor ended up in the doghouse. Resident and author Fay Angler inquired if the Mayor had actually read one of the websites he heartily endorsed recently in the Pasadena Star News. The Mayor answered he didn't really want to be questioned about his website preferences.

One thing is for sure, if that story goes national, there will be enough dog houses in Sierra Madre to satisfy RHNA requirements for decades to come.

### Spotlight Village Chamber of Commerce?

Not every board member at the last Chamber meeting wanted Sierra Madre's Chamber of Commerce to take a public stand against the April 17th Voters Empowerment Initiative (2-30-13), requiring a vote by the citizens for projects exceeding the city's 1996 General Plan. Historians tell us that the Maranatha school-complex-in-the-hillside issue years ago makes it very clear residents want the shops downtown to be as neutral as Switzerland. When store owners put up political signs, residents demanded they be taken down. They haven't forgotten.

### Crossing the Line

At the same city council meeting, Council Member Don Watts asked why the Arcadia Association of Realtors is pouring money and time into fighting the Voters Empowerment Initiative of Sierra Madre. Maybe they just need a quiet condo to chill in, you know, escape the traffic and noise of their own city. Maybe we'll be seeing them hanging around Memorial Park, eyeing commuters for investment opportunities. Maybe they'll be spinning those big cardboard index fingers to let commuters know there are big discounts available on condos – like they do in Pasadena. Let's just hope that Hail Hamilton doesn't drive by.

## SIERRA MADRE ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO AT SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

During the month of February, the display case at the Sierra Madre Public Library will feature artifacts and ephemera from Sierra Madre circa 1907, the year of the city's incorporation. The display is one of many events planned in Sierra Madre as part of the city's 2007 Centennial Celebration.

All materials are from the Sierra Madre Historical Archives Collection, jointly owned by the Library and the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society.

The Sierra Madre Public Library, 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](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call (626) 355-7186.

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

### Café 322

Broadway and Opera Favorites.  
Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends  
322 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

### Farmer's Market

Every Saturday  
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Artisan chocolates, fresh flowers, honey, fruits, vegetables and fresh baked bread.  
Menuudo & tamale stand.  
PHS parking lot  
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

### Beantown

45 N. Baldwin  
(626) 355-1596

### Be Jeweled

Friday, February 9 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Opening Night - Premier Jewelry Exhibition  
Creative Arts Group  
108 N. Baldwin Ave.

### Lucky Baldwin's

Saturday, February 10  
Belgian Beer Festival  
8 a.m. to 1 a.m.  
21 Kersting Court  
(626) 355-1140

### The Majestic Roof

Saturday, February 10  
Reception for Argentinian Artist Vanessa Martinelli  
Art Show: New Buddhist Series  
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
88 N. Fair Oaks in the courtyard, Pasadena  
Proprietor Yvonne Russo, Sierra Madre artist & canyonite  
(626) 804-8886

### Monday February 12

Container Gardening with Lisa Beach  
6:30 p.m. at Memorial Park Hart Senior Center  
Beach is staff member of the Los Angeles County Arboretum  
For Dinner (\$8) please call (626) 355-0606  
Without dinner, program begins at 7:30 p.m.  
Sponsored by Sierra Madre Garden Club

### Rose Float Fundraiser

Tuesday, February 13 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
The Only Place in Town  
110 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
20% off your check to the Rose Float Association - Must bring flyer.

## REMEMBRANCES

## David Holt

### Television Co-Host of "This Week on Wall Street"



Photograph courtesy of the Holt family

David D. Holt, 79, beloved husband, father, grandfather, mentor and friend, died January 10. He was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and moved to Monrovia, California at the age of nine. He graduated from Monrovia High School and Pasadena City College; and attended UCLA and UC Berkeley. He was proud to serve in the Merchant Marines and U.S. Army.

Holt met his wife, Marilyn Lynch, at PCC and they enjoyed many happy years together raising a family, enjoying their grandchildren, traveling and spending time with friends. He was highly accomplished in his professional life, from Outstanding Sales Manager for VW USA at Bozzani Motors in Monrovia to co-host of the nationally televised "This Week on Wall Street."

Holt worked for more than 25 years in the securities business as Registered Rep, Investment Advisor, Editor of Stock and Options newsletters, Market Analyst and Portfolio Strategist. He was a member of the Market Technicians Association, a founding governor of the National Options and Futures Society and an officer and director of the Southern California Options Society.

Since his retirement in 1977, Holt played some golf and worked as an arbitrator for the New York Stock Exchange and the NASD. He volunteered for 50 years with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, six years at Huntington Memorial Hospital, and many years on the board of the Mary B. Thorne Club and the St. Rita's Men's Club.

The true joys of his life were his children and grandchildren. He loved nothing more than to spend time with his four granddaughters, whether it was attending their soccer games, cheer competitions, or just riding them on his shoulders. Dave's boundless enthusiasm for life and genuine concern for all he met was delivered with humor and wisdom.

Holt was preceded in death by his first grandchild, John David Brummelkamp. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; sons Thomas and Brian and daughter Alison; Brian's wife Lisa, Alison's husband John Brummelkamp and granddaughters Caitlin and Lauren Brummelkamp and Bailey and Madison Holt.

### St. Rita's Catholic Church Welcome Event

New to St. Rita's and don't feel you know many members? Moved to Sierra Madre recently, and looking for a new Catholic Church home? Belonged to St. Rita's for a long time, but don't feel you've connected yet?

Let us welcome you to St. Rita's!

Join us Sunday afternoon, February 25 at 3 p.m. for a casual wine and cheese gathering at the home of Dick and Chris Bertrand. Please bring a bottle of wine or non-alcoholic beverage, cheese, crackers or appetizer to share.

Pastor Richard Krekelberg and representatives of various St. Rita organizations will be on hand to welcome you to our wonderful parish community! After the gathering at 5 p.m. a tour will be offered of St. Rita's facilities.  
RSVP to Chris Bertrand at 626-355-1621.

### SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

#### TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS SERIES

Adventures On The Black Sea: The Ukraine by Don and Janet Heins

Friday, Feb. 9, 2007 7:30 pm City Hall Chambers

Admission: Free

For information call: 626-355-7186 or go to:

[www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us)



# The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

## Humble Apology

When I was eleven and living in Washington state my class went on a field trip to Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada (you may have heard of this country – it's basically the USA, but with healthcare and pretty money). I don't remember how long it took us to get there. Four hours? Six hours? A ferry boat was involved. And a school bus.

If you could indulge me for a second, I'd like to take this opportunity to humbly apologize to the grownups on that bus. My behavior was, I now realize, horrible and disrespectful and cruel. I am sorry. I sang for the entire trip. The whole time. Nonstop. I sang down from 500 "Bottles of Beer" on the wall, and back up from "The Ants Go Marching" one by one. My ears hung low. They wobbled to and fro. Clementine was lost and gone forever. And John Jacob Jingleheimer – Schmidt? That was my name too.

I promise you that I am not exaggerating when I say that I sang until my lungs collapsed and my vocal cords exploded into a million shredded pieces, and my carotid artery burst from my neck and wriggled around on the ridged and sticky bus floor. That's what happened.

And did I, for even one little instant, stop and think about the effect my singing might have on the parents and teachers who gave up their northwestern weekends (morning paper, smell of pine trees and coffee, crackling fire in the pot-bellied stove, omelet... no eleven year olds singing at the top of their lungs) so that the 6<sup>th</sup> graders of Meadowdale Elementary School could travel to a foreign country and have tea and weird English muffins in a fancy hotel? Nope. All I

knew was that there were no seatbelts, and I could swivel 360 degrees. I was free! free! free! So I sang and yelled and told jokes and threw little pieces of crumpled paper until I lost consciousness (maybe because of a tranquilizer dart?).

School buses are the indisputable, unassailable domain of the eleven year-old. Nowhere is an eleven year-old more powerful than on a school bus. Now that I am no longer eleven, and have chosen a profession that requires the periodic riding of a school bus (with the kids to the Science Center or Medieval Times or the Museum of Tolerance or Pharaoh's Kingdom Mini-Golf and Water Slides), I am bitter.

My glory days have long passed. The seats are uncomfortable. The fumes give me a headache and turn the rims of my eyes red. And the kids will not shut up.

I have just returned from Idyllwild, where at the end of a two-hour bus ride, you will find the Desert Sun Science Center, home of Astro Camp. My school district sends a group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders there every year to build rockets out of 2-liter bottles, explode balloons filled with hydrogen gas, and aim lasers at each other's eyeballs. It's a wonderful trip. If you happen to be the fan of my column, tune in next week and I'll tell you all about it.

But good heavens, fifth graders, can we stop the yelling and singing and vomiting on the bus? Is that too much to ask? Just please please can we eliminate the yelling and singing and vomiting? And the yelling? And the singing?

Can't you just chat quietly or read a book? Maybe take a nap? Please? Don't make me use this tranquilizer gun.



## OPENING GALA

### SIERRA MADRE CENTENNIAL

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Friday, Feb. 23 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

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The villa at Alverno was built for Dr. Walter Barlow in the 1930s and is modeled on a Tuscan villa designed by Michelangelo. Phyllis Chapman, Sierra Madre historian, says the doctor wanted the villa to be a TB sanatorium, but the city fathers thought too many people were coming to Sierra Madre for their health. He made the villa his home.



## Joyce Ride Addresses Women in Prison Issue

By Katina Dunn

Eleanor Roosevelt was one, so was Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the Battle Hymn of The Republic. They were members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, among other grassroots activists across the country whose motto is "Unity in Diversity."

In Sierra Madre recently, The Woman's Club meeting of the minds emphasized the many causes for social justice that women's groups have historically fought for, from voting rights to eradicating child labor.

Speaker Joyce Ride addressed a packed house, and the mother of the astronaut spoke at length about her involvement with the Action Committee for Women in Prison. Ride said so many women who would be worthy in society were locked up for self defense against brutal husbands or boyfriends, without hope of parole.

Ride visits prison every other week, working on freeing some of the prisoners she has come to know. Ride says it is an injustice for these mothers and ex-wives to be languishing behind bars, but nobody will let them out.

"Politically, you have to look tough on crime," said Ride about stern governors who refuse to sign petitions for freedom. "If he starts letting women out of prison, they'll say 'he's not tough on crime.'"

After reading the personal histories of many of the incarcerated women, Ride offered up copies of letters on behalf of some women she has known, for Sierra Madreans to sign and send to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"He's a political person," she described one of the most salient characteristics of a governor. "If he gets a lot of letters about a person, he's going to take a second look."

### Daughters Sally and Karen Ride

Joyce Ride said her daughters have taken up the cause of young women in science. Karen, known as the Reverend Dr. "Bear" Ride (after Sally's nickname for her sister) helps organize Sally's educational tours. Sally, teacher and former astronaut; and Karen, an ordained Presbyterian Minister, work together on lectures and science festivals for middle school students.

Sally, who teaches astrophysics at UC San Diego, has authored books such as *The Third Planet* about Mars.

Her mother said her daughter quit NASA after serving on the investigative commission of the Challenger space shuttle tragedy in 1986, which killed seven of her friends, including Christa McAuliffe of the Teacher in Space program.

That disaster was triggered by the malfunction of a simple O-ring seal on a solid rocket booster, a discovery credited to Nobel Prize-winning physicist Dr. Richard Feynman, who also served on the commission with Ride.

"She didn't like what she saw at NASA... so she left," said Joyce Ride.

She says the success of her two daughters is double luck.

"Neither her father nor I were interested in molding children," she said. "We just supported what they were into."

Readers interested in helping out, the Action Committee for Women in Prison may telephone Gloria Killian at (626) 710-7543.

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## Cafe 322 Hosts Funky Blues Artist in February

By Shirley Moore

Thursday nights at Cafe 322 have taken on a whole new flavor with the upstaging antics of Mr. Preston Smith, a jazzy-bluesy music man whose sometimes quirky, sometimes spicy interpretations of standards such as Angel Eyes, All of Me and What a Wonderful World to name only a few favorites within his spectrum of sounds, can bring down the house.

Accompanied by bassist Adam Levy, a long-time friend who originally played with Preston in New York and reconnected with him via Internet over a year ago when he relocated to California, Preston's playful approach to classic ballads embraces masterpieces written and sung by artists as diverse as Robert Johnson and the Beatles.

Throw in a mean harmonica, an assortment of rattles, squeaky dog toys, a tambourine, a "lip-bone" and a bullhorn and sprinkle in his own snappy original compositions, and the recipe for this satisfying treat is complete.

Mr. Smith has some impressive credits to his name: he sang for Barbara Streisand's and James Brolin's wedding, has performed on the Tonight Show, wrote and performed the title song for the movie Cocktail, includes Steven Spielberg, Aaron Spelling and Bruce



Willis on his client list, and has had his song Black and White recorded by Roseanne Cash.

Although he has played the Pasadena and Burbank circuit for many years, as well as clubs in New York, Phoenix and Nashville, it's a rare pleasure to have this iconoclastic and extraordinarily talented musician in one of our own local digs. His inventive renditions served up with a mischievous twinkle of the eye are not to be missed. You can catch this act Thursday night February 15, from 8 to 11 p.m. at Cafe 322. No cover charge.



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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

**Fri. Feb 9- Vocalist Julie Kelly**  
**Sat. Feb 10- Bobby Braford's MO'TET**  
**Sun. Feb 11- Opera to Broadway**  
**Wed. Feb 14- Sensational Vocalist Judy Platt**  
**Thur. Feb 15- Preston Smith**  
**Fri. Feb 16- Pianist Joy Mayer**  
**Sat. Feb 17- BLUES!!! with the Marcy Levy Band**  
**Sun. Feb 18- Opera to Broadway**  
**Thur. Feb 22- Mike McGowen Trio**  
**Fri. Feb 23- Bruce Escovitz Jazz Orchestra**  
**Sat. Feb 24- The Chris Murphy Trio**  
**Sun. Feb 25- Opera to Broadway**

322 West Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 94108

[www.mtwilsonobserver.com](http://www.mtwilsonobserver.com)



# Ed Alverno, Arroyo Pacific Academy, La Salle, 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, Odyssey Charter School, Norma Coombs Alternative School, and the PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## What to Tell the Children

by Karen Maezen Miller

The tsunami hit the day before we flew to Hawaii for a holiday in paradise. The long trip and the time change are numbing enough without the odd narcotic of the disaster: a sky-falling, earth-swallowing event of incomparable horror. We traverse a few thousand miles across a now deeper and more ominous ocean. Our extended family from two states reunites, in one piece, in time to light candles beside a whispering night sea. We are all grateful.

There is no talk about what has happened elsewhere. My daughter Georgia is a preschooler and, at home, we have entered what will be a long stretch without a working television. We have disabled it: unplugging the non-stop signals that are still collected by the satellite dish on the roof and pulsed to that place in the living room where no one waits or watches. Like most solutions, this one is temporary, but it has provided all the relief we need right now. It has freed us from the need to police and intervene; it has released our child from a junkie's craving and stupor; and it has liberated us from what the mass media seems to suggest is the most prevalent issue in modern parenting: What to Tell the Children.

This is what the media serves up to us over and over again, within hours of natural and unnatural disasters: 9/11, floods, fires, hurricanes, wars, beheadings, school shootings, earthquakes, rampages, murders. Even contested presidential elections. "What to Tell the Children," they intone, delivering their expertly articulated opinions. They are, indeed, quite expert at giving this advice. It's the same advice dispatched after every catastrophic story -- stories we believe, by virtue of the ever-widening screens in our homes, to have happened to us. We say that these events have entered our collective consciousness. But if we

stopped long enough to consider how they got there, we might realize that "What to Tell the Children" is incidental to "What to Tell the Parents," which is to turn off the TV.

The aim of all my years of Zen practice has been to get to this point: the point of seeing what really happens in my life. All that sitting still and staring out during meditation is for the sole purpose of glimpsing the difference between what occurs in front of me and what occurs in the inaccessible, inexhaustible reaches of my imagination. In this

the good press about interpersonal communication, there's hardly ever very much that needs to be said.

We can learn this by spending years on a meditation cushion. Or we can learn this in three easy lessons from the children in our midst.

"What did you do at school today?" This is how Georgia and I always begin our drive home from preschool. I do the asking, studying my daughter's face in the rear-view mirror to intercept the visual clues that I decode into conversation. There is a smear of paint on the curve of her jaw; she sucks a grimy



Photo Courtesy US Weather Service

way, Zen practice is frequently misunderstood as disengaging from the life around us. Fully realized, Zen practice disengages only from the life of the ruminative mind; it is not for one moment disengaged from real life.

Attuned then, finally, to what is, a person might actually pick up a rather shocking bit of news. Despite all the talk about talk, contrary to the rarefied status of the spoken word, regardless of all

thumb while she gazes out the window. She never answers this question to my satisfaction. No kid ever answers this question to a parent's satisfaction. "I don't know," she says. She sounds like a troublesome teenager already. I dunno.

I hear it like a challenge. I take it as an affront. Is that sullenness? Is that concealment? What really went on today? Is she unhappy at school? Bored? (continued on page 8)

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Arroyo Pacific Academy  
41 W. Santa Clara St.  
Arcadia  
(626) 294-0661

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

The Gooden School  
192 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-2410  
www.goodenschool.org

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

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

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

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

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

Bethany Christian School  
93 B. N. Baldwin Ave.  
(626) 355-3527

Odyssey Charter School  
725 W. Altadena Dr.  
Altadena, CA  
(626) 229-0993  
www.odysseycharterschool.com

## High School Senior Education Awards By Phyllis Chapman

The Sierra Madre Civic Club announces sponsorship of its 2007 Education Awards. Applicants must be:

- \*A senior in high school and
- \*Be a resident or employee in Sierra Madre or
- \*Have one parent working in Sierra Madre or
- \*Have a relative who is a member of the Civic Club
- \* Provide two letters of reference - one from a teacher or school administrator and one from an adult leader from applicant's volunteer activity or employer

The Awards Committee considers a student's volunteer activities, interests, talents, hobbies, accomplishments of recognition and educational and career plans.

Applications are available from high school counselors or Awards Committee Chair Amy Putnam at (626) 355-4198.

The application deadline is March 1, 2007 and awards will be announced Thursday, May 19 at the Civic Club's General Meeting held at the Senior Center in Memorial Park.

The Monetary Education Awards are part of the Club's philanthropic support of young people, which is one of the Club's priorities.

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## London Calling



Don't miss student musicians of the Pasadena Unified School District performing Thursday, February 15 at 7 p.m. at Pasadena City College's Sexson Auditorium.

The Music Festival is a fundraiser kick-off for the 2008 engagement in England for the Mayor's Day Parade in January 2008. The concert is free, though donations will be accepted to help pay for this great opportunity.

High school musicians will be joined by guest conductors Rachael Worby, conductor of the Pasadena Pops Orchestra; Bill Bing, Director of Bands at Cal Tech and Larry Stoffell, Director of Bands at Cal State Northridge. Middle School musicians will be led by PUSD faculty members Karen Klages, Music Director of Eliot Middle School and Don Wetzel, Music Director of John Muir High School.

Music Festival Coordinator is David Miller, Music Director of Pasadena High School and the PUSD All Star Band. To donate funds or be a sponsor, call Mr. Miller at (626) 798-8901 X394.

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# THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

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Photography  
Felix Orona  
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For Advertising Inquiries  
contact:  
MASTROMEDIA, INC.  
626-355-2737  
JULIE PUTERBAUGH  
626-836-6524  
JORGE SALAZAR  
626-355-2737

The Mt. Wilson Observer is a publication of Deuxamis Publishing, Inc. established and copyrighted in 2006. This paper is published weekly with offices in Sierra Madre, California. All letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to: Mt. Wilson Observer, 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., #327, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024. Phone: 626-355-2737. Fax: 626-604-4548. email: [deuxamispub@aol.com](mailto:deuxamispub@aol.com)



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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.

The Mt. Wilson Observer welcomes your Comments, Letters To The Editors and Stories. Please send your submission to:

Editor  
Mt. Wilson Observer  
280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
No. 327  
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
or  
email us at:

[deuxamispub@aol.com](mailto:deuxamispub@aol.com)



## Remembering St. Valentine's Day

By Hail Hamilton

Men should never forget that February 14<sup>th</sup> is St. Valentine's Day because women expect to be honored and pampered on that day. I know because I forgot one year. My wife didn't. Perhaps to remind me, she sent a bouquet of red roses to me at work. The problem was I didn't see the card that came with them. I assumed they were a gift from an anonymous admirer. However, the unexpected present did make me realize that I'd forgotten to get my wife a Valentine's gift. So what does a bum like me do? Yes, you've probably already guessed. I gave the roses to my wife that evening pretending I'd gotten them for her in the first place.

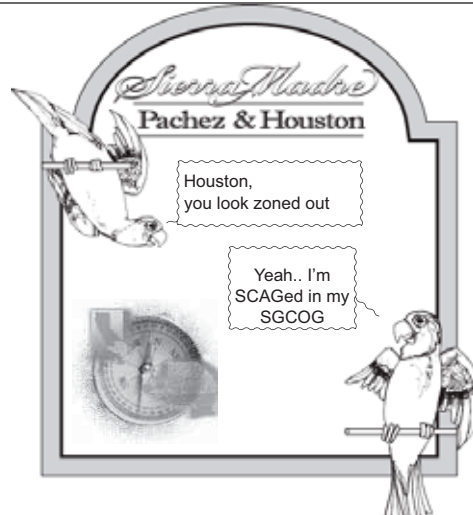
"I'll never forget the look on her face—pure loathing!" "How could you!" she exclaimed. "How could you be so thoughtless, so insensitive? Didn't you read the card?" I remember mumbling something about "a rose by any other name is still a rose" and then trying to apologize—all to no avail. This was one of those Kodak moments that I'd like to forget. My wife never will. Women have very long memories.

Which brings me to the subject of this week's column: Remembering St. Valentine's Day. Valentine was a real person who lived in the third century A.D. There are many myths surrounding his life but there is a consensus that he was an early Christian martyr who was later elevated by the Catholic Church to sainthood. How and why he died differs depending on who's telling the story. The story I prefer is the most romantic. This story has Valentine performing marriages of Roman soldiers in violation of an edict by the emperor at the time prohibiting such marriages. Apparently this particular emperor wanted his soldiers focused on making war not making love.

Around 270 A.D., Valentine was arrested, imprisoned, tortured, and finally put to death—whether crucified or fed to the lions is uncertain. The story, however, gets even more interesting. While Valentine awaited his fate in prison he was visited by none other than the emperor's own daughter. She was literally blind as a bat. But for reasons lost to time, she felt sorry for poor Valentine and eventually fell in love with him. In time, the emperor's daughter and Valentine became secret lovers—their love as doomed as those of other two Italians, Romeo and Juliet. Moreover, according to the story, their love - or perhaps her conversion to Christianity - resulted in her regaining her eye sight. But even this miracle wasn't enough to save Valentine.

On the day of his execution, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine wrote a final farewell letter to the emperor's daughter proclaiming his everlasting love. He signed the letter with the same words we use today: "Forever, Your Valentine."

So remember St. Valentine's Day for the special celebration it is - a day to recall and express your love for that special person in your life - a day to be joyful and thankful for having someone with which to share your love and passion. And if by chance you don't have someone special with which to celebrate St. Valentine's Day - go find a special someone immediately and without further ado. For a life without a Valentine is no life at all!



## TRUE LOVE

By Susan Henderson

**True:** (adj.) logically necessary; **love:** (n) the object of attachment, devotion, or admiration

Don't tell me that you love me if you don't mean it. Sound familiar? Well, that doesn't just apply to our personal relationships. We should not use the expression loosely when speaking of other subjects, like our town.

"I Love Sierra Madre" seems to be the mantra of every single pro development person that I have come across lately. Then again, I've never met a developer or investor that didn't "love" whatever is about to make them more money. We don't need that kind of love in this town. We need true love.

If you truly love something, you have to accept it as it is. In this city, we need everyone to love Sierra Madre for the 3 square mile village that it is. Love Sierra Madre by leaving it alone. Don't try to change it so it meets your needs.

True love means doing what is logically necessary for the object of your affections. What is logically necessary for this city is not to squeeze as many people in per square inch as possible. That would take away from its beauty.

True love would never allow Sierra Madre to be used by developers and investors for the sake of making a dollar.

And True Love would never aspire to make Sierra Madre become a pass-through for people going between Pasadena and Arcadia.

All of those things are illogical and not an indication of any kind of love for this city. It is logical, however, to do the things that we need, like, oh say, protecting our police and fire departments. Or, even protecting the hillsides and the natural wildlife.

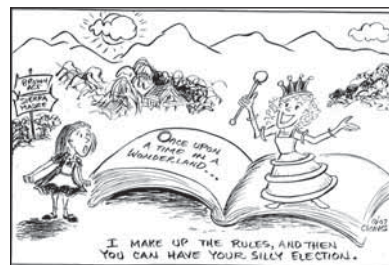
Lately, some of the proclamations - "I love this town", are starting to remind me of bad relationships.

You love Sierra Madre, but you want it to change from a size 6 dress to a size 26. You love Sierra Madre, but you want to choke it with traffic. And, you say, don't worry, we'll get more money from it in the long run.

Well, like in the life of humans, what good is the money if we have to change who we are? And, like real life, that talk about all the money you will have is a bunch of bull.

Let's love our city by protecting it for posterity. We are what we are. A small town.

Love Sierra Madre for the beautiful village that it is. But remember, beauty is in the eyes of the beholder and some of you will have to take off those dollar green shades in order to see it.



## Safety First

By David Smith



One of the most common things I hear people say about Sierra Madre is that, as soon as they enter the community, they feel a sense of peace and security. I feel the same way. It's another world here. It isn't? Well that's not an accident. The people who live and work here have created the unique character of Sierra Madre through a lot of hard work and dedication. And foremost among those special people are Officers of the Sierra Madre Police Force.

When you read the Police Blotter, you get the feeling that nothing is happening here. But the feeling of security in this town is an illusion, an illusion that has been created by a police force that's doing an outstanding job. A job they perform with quiet dedication.

The truth is Sierra Madre is located on the edge of a jungle. A jungle that grows more dangerous and violent with each passing day. The stabbing that occurred in Memorial Park last month sent chills down my spine. It told me the gangs know we're here. And we are a very fat

target. They'll be back, with reinforcements.

The police need our support now. They are grossly under paid. All they are asking for is to be compensated at the same level as the lowest paid police department in the San Gabriel Valley. And no new revenues will be needed to do this. All that is required is for Public Safety to be made a priority in this community.

Our City Councils have refused to do this. I think the reason is obvious. They want to out-source police services. They'll say it's cheaper to do it that way. Well, you get what you pay for, and Public Safety isn't a place to scrimp, not in this valley.

Besides, if you start out-sourcing our public services, why not just let Pasadena annex us. Watch what happens to home values if that happens, when the developers finally get total control.

They're our cops, and we need to keep it that way. They know us. We know them. They know this town like the palm of their hand. They can smell trouble before it gets into our community and into our homes. You're not going to get that with a bunch of hired mercenaries from other places.

So, a lot of volunteers and I are going to be out knocking on doors and asking you to sign a petition to put the very modest requests of our Police Department on the ballot as an initiative. Please open your doors and hearts and help them out.

The community you save will be your own.



# Letters To The Editor

.....*The city should do its job by strictly and fairly enforcing its laws!*

I'm a Sierra Madre resident and a naturalized U.S. citizen from Mexico. I am also Hail Hamilton's wife. Although I don't always agree with my husband, I read his editorial on the day workers in Memorial Park and I didn't find it "entirely lacking in substance," as did one of our readers. Quite the contrary—I found it, along with his other editorials on the park, refreshing and honest. I also think he makes a good point—the city should do its job by strictly and fairly enforcing its laws!

I don't think my husband is picking on the day laborers, illegal immigrants, or the poor trying to find work. I think what he is saying is that the park is for recreation and not some sort of outdoor employment office.

Moreover, I am incensed by the argument justifying the day workers in the park so that Sierra Madre residents can have a readily available source of cheap labor. I can remember when I first came to Sierra Madre in the late 1980's there were no day workers in the park—maybe you'd find them at Home Depot in Monrovia, but not in Memorial Park.

Finally, although I agree with the writer that perhaps a "community forum" might be called to address the issue, I do not agree with his characterization of my husband as "being a rabble rouser by giving out all the names of our elected officials." The telephone number of City Hall is in the phone book and the names of our elected officials are not a secret. And so what if residents "can call and be bothersome at any given time?" That's how democracy works. In America our public officials work for us!

By Norma Alarcon-Hamilton

Dear Hail,

Kudos to you for bringing to the public your view on the day laborers loitering in Memorial Park.

My husband and I totally agree: alas I always felt complaining would be pointless – who would listen?

You have inspired me to let our City Officials know our disfavor with the city's lack of enforcement of the loitering laws at best. I hope others who are displeased will do the same.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen J. Lucas, DDS

Dear Hail,

I was delighted to see your article in the January 12, 2007 Mt. Wilson Observer that speaks out about the ongoing problem at Memorial Park. I have been getting increasingly annoyed and upset about the situation. I am not comfortable walking by the park, even on the other side of the street, and driving by has also been uncomfortable. I have been wondering why I do not hear more outcry regarding the day laborer situation.

A couple of months ago walking home from the bank, I was literally growled at like a dog (by one of the men.) The heart of our beautiful town has been usurped by illegal activity, and like you pointed out, right next to City Hall! Thank you for your efforts. I look forward to reading your complaint filed with the City of Sierra Madre. If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Susan Austin



## 30 Seconds Over Sierra Madre

By Rich Johnson

Wanna change the world? Who doesn't. I've wanted to for years but the world community has never recognized my brilliance. At least not enough to catapult me to absolute monarchy. Maybe the key to changing the world is to start small

and work my way up. I was formulating my small strategy when I read somewhere the price of a 30 second advertisement during the Super Bowl was \$3 million dollars.

\$3 million dollars? That's a lot of money for a measly 30 seconds. I felt myself tingling as though on the verge of a burst of brilliance. So I stumbled outside and sat under a tree. (Hey, it worked for Buddha and Sir Isaac Newton)

Yes, yes, it's coming. Closer, closer BOOM!!!! Enlightenment.

If 30 seconds is valuable and worth at least \$3 million dollars maybe we could change the world in increments of 30 seconds. I immediately called the White House to share my breakthrough with President Bush. Sadly, I was on hold for 10 minutes before someone told me the president wasn't available. I had just wasted \$60 million dollars waiting on hold.

Maybe I'll have better luck calling the United Nations. Hah! That call cost me \$100 million dollars on hold.

But I wasn't about to give up. I knew I had uncovered the secret to changing the world. I just need the right forum to share the secret of 30 seconds. Yes, yes, it was right in front of me all the time. I went on the information superhighway to Askjeeves.com and typed in "Change the world in 30 seconds."

And there it was. Thank you Lorelle at WordPress.com. She had come before me and I will never forget her. She even had some suggestions.

Between Lorelle and I, here are some acts you can do in 30 seconds in Sierra Madre to change the world.

1. Smile and wave at someone you don't know.
2. Pick up a piece of trash outside of Bean Town and toss it in the can
3. Let a car merge in front of you
4. Get up at a city council meeting and thank them for their sacrifices.
5. Patronize a local business even if it costs a little more
6. Thank Lisa, the code enforcement officer for her fine work chalking the tires of parked cars
7. Let a volunteer firefighter know how thankful you are that they are there
8. Polish the cannon (ask first)
9. Compliment someone on their snappy outfit
10. Subscribe to the Mt. Wilson Observer (pardon my schmoozing)

If we do this together we will be well on our way to changing the world. Now, who knows someone in Monrovia?

If you would like to send a letter to the editor for publication, you may do so via fax - 626-604-4548, email - [deuxamispub@aol.com](mailto:deuxamispub@aol.com) or U.S. Mail - 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. #327, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024. Please include your full name and telephone number for verification. All materials submitted become the property of The Mt. Wilson Observer and are subject to editing.

## Roses are Red - Violets are Blue: Lee and Barbara Cline - This Valentine Just For You



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

**You**

Sierra Madre residents Lee and Barbara Cline have been sweethearts for more than 53 years. Barbara Palmer of Massachusetts and Lee Cline of Oklahoma were married in 1954. At the time, Lee was in the Coast Guard.

They have four children who were all raised in Sierra Madre. They also have five grandchildren.

Barbara is retired from JPL where she worked in human resources and Lee, a former Mayor Pro Tem of Sierra Madre, retired from Cannon Electric. The Clines epitomize the spirit of Valentine's Day. They are committed and devoted friends, as well as husband and wife.

By Katrellya

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## TERMS OF ENDEARMENT

Dear Mom,  
Thank you so much for all your support. I couldn't do anything without you.

Don't die before I buy you that Chanel suit, and before you have the time to go to many places wearing it and looking good.  
I love you, daughter number two.

Happy Valentines Day  
Chris, Vincent, Autumn

With Much Love, Leena  
Happy Valentines Day 2007  
to all of the Johnson family

Happy Valentine's Day to all the Putterbaugh Family  
Happy Valentine's Day  
OOOXXX

JLP  
Happy Valentines Day to my very best friend.  
Q

Valentine, it is impossible to put into to words how special you are to me. All the happiness and love that your heart can hold is here waiting only for you. Love, Patricia

H, you are the bubbles in my champagne. I will love you forever, H

To the 3 P's - You are the sweetest - everyday.  
Love Mom

Doreen, My life would be empty without you and a million flowers couldn't show how much I love you. Love, Fred

Fred, Every day I celebrate our love, our life and our family. Thank you. Love, Doreen.

To The Sweetest Little Girls in the Whole Wide World - Happy Valentine's Day  
Grandma Susan

To KJK Have A Real Sweet Day - HTS

To The One and Only Treasure  
Happy Valentines Day  
Big Bank Hank

To Scooter and Cheerio,  
Have a doggone good day!  
But don't eat the chocolate!  
Phoebe and Josie

Sheri,  
When we met, I said that our life together would be an adventure, and it is. Thanks for being beside me and for wanting me beside you on our wonderful ride of life!  
Love, Mark

Happy Valentines Day to all the wonderful people of Sierra Madre who signed our petitions and got Prop. V on the ballot! I love you all, especially the 300+ sweet souls who signed mine.  
Diane

**Lina Johnson Photography**  
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# Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



Photo by Jean Boenish

wonder of the world—an electric motor measuring only 1/64th of an inch on each side.

The tiny motor, which originally could be made to run by pushing a button on the display (too-frequent pushing wore it out), might be expected to be a product of the latest 21st-century technology. Instead, it was built a half-century ago in response to a challenge made by the noted Caltech physicist and Nobel Laureate Richard P. Feynman.

Hoping to encourage the development of new techniques in the field of microminiaturization, Feynman had offered \$1,000 to the first person who could make an operating electric motor no larger than a 1/64th-inch cube. William H. McLellan, who had graduated from Caltech in 1950 with a BSME and was working for the Pasadena firm of Electro-Optical Systems (EOS), decided to take up the challenge.

McLellan began by spending \$250 of his own money to buy a microscope. As he describes it, every operation on the motor had to be done under at least one microscope and sometimes, as when drilling holes, two microscopes at right angles were used. A watchmaker's lathe with attachments and a micro-drill press were the machines used. A fine-bristle brush or a sharpened toothpick was used for handling the parts. The "McLellan micromotor," as it was called, is a two-phase permanent-magnet synchronous AC electric motor, weighing 350 milligrams and operating on milliamps of current at millivolts. It has an output of one-millionth horsepower.

**CHILDREN** (continued from page 5) Bullied? Ignored? Or worse? Silenced by unspeakable trauma? How can it be that nothing remarkable happened at school today to this most remarkable child?

I sound like a troublesome mother already. You never call. You never write.

The topic is communal around the school. It comes up at Parents' Night when a father suggests that the teachers in our class of 22 four-year-olds might busy themselves composing a little narrative report about what each one of our kids do every day. Our children's accounts are so insufficient, he reasons, so lacking. The teachers' eyes widen and roll. I find myself responding on their behalf and answering my own question in the process.

"What we have here is a gap between what we need to hear and what our children need to tell us." I say the words to the other parents, but I am soothing myself. As addicted as we might be to information and assessments, to emails and ringtones, to executive summaries and PowerPoints, to journals and blogs, to news and gossip, our children are altogether blessedly free of all that. They don't process their day as a set of events; they don't bullet-point it for easy recitation. There are no highs or lows. They just live it: playing, singing, climbing, painting, kicking, digging, shoving, crying, and who knows what all, completely immersed in the flow. When it's over, it's over, with nothing left to talk about.

"I don't know," my daughter says again the next day, and I catch the drift, the wisdom of the ancients. Not knowing is most intimate.

Sometimes I engage Georgia in talk just for entertainment. Everyone does this. We ask the little ones what they want to be when they grow up. It's funny to watch them wobble forward into this strange place, this neverland of the future, and concoct something out of the wisps of the unreal, something charmingly unimaginable and sometimes biologically impossible. "I want to be a giraffe!"

We don't see the risk in this; we don't see the lesson. We ask a child what she wants for her birthday next month and -- whoops -- dislodge an avalanche of desires. We murmur about the doctor visit next week and -- gee whiz -- ignite a fireball of anxiety. We think out loud about our vacation plans for next year and -- never mind -- stir up restlessness. We don't realize how many times we aim to curry favor, tame tempers, or just distract ourselves by talking about what is going to happen tomorrow. It doesn't seem strange to us to spend so much time talking about what isn't. It's where we adults live most of the time.

"What day is tomorrow?" my daughter asks. I'm pleased that she has learned the days of the week. "Wednesday," I say. "No, what day is tomorrow?" she asks again. "Today is Tuesday, so tomorrow is Wednesday." "But when is it tomorrow?" I'm no longer sure what she is asking. "It goes Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday," she ticks them off. "But when is it Tomorrow?" When is that day called "Tomorrow," that factors so eternally in our plans and schemes? I gape at her clear-eyed misperception, at her supremely intelligent confusion. How many times have I lost her in the mists of my ramblings about that

McLellan recalls the day he first showed his motor to Feynman. "I had a big carton with me, and Feynman thought, 'Oh, here's another one!' because people had been bringing him all sorts of motors that came nowhere near meeting his specifications. But then I pulled out my microscope, and he said, 'Oh oh! Nobody else brought a microscope.' So then he looked at it and ended up admitting that it did, in fact, meet the challenge requirements."

Feynman's intention, in making his challenge, was to encourage the development of new tools, new techniques and new technologies for miniaturization. As it turned out, McLellan had built his motor using existing tools and techniques long known to jewelers and watchmakers.

"Feynman had been so convinced that nobody could build a motor 1/64 inch on a side using conventional tools," McLellan explains, "that he did not specify in his challenge that new tools or methods would have to be used. So, even though his primary goal had not been achieved, he acknowledged, in a letter dated November 15, 1960, that my motor had met his challenge."

Although Feynman did not get any new techniques for his money, McLellan points out that the story of the micromotor spread across the world and spurred interest in what is now nanotechnology, adding: "When asked, 'What is the best use for that little motor?' my answer is 'To show people is its best use.'"

McLellan ended up making ten of the motors in all. Because his employer, EOS, had allowed him to use their equipment in making it, that company retained the commercial rights to the motor—even though they never could come up with any practical way to use it. Meanwhile, McLellan went on in 1970 to join the engineering staff at the Hale Observatories, helping to keep both the Palomar and Mt. Wilson telescopes in good order.

The public is welcome to view this jewel of miniaturization any time Caltech's East Bridge building is open—but when you come, be sure to wear your best reading glasses. Watch for a sign, "THE WORLD'S SMALLEST MOTOR," on the left wall of the hallway near the entrance. Viewed directly, McLellan's creation is about the size of a dot over an "i." Through the built-in magnifier, its shape as a motor can be seen—with good eyes. It might not hurt to bring along an extra magnifying glass.

never-to-come day? Her question reverberates and I hear anew the last word of the immortals. Just this.

Surely there's more than just this to take care of, we might argue. Surely there's more than just our own spilt milk to cry over. In the face of so much pain and suffering, calamity, bloodshed, hunger, and homelessness, surely there's something more we can do somewhere else.

Driving home from a week's meditation retreat, stopped at a traffic light in the steamy summer heat, I see a man, his face crumpled, holding an old McDonald's cup. He's weaving through the idling cars with a sign. I don't think; after a week's retreat, I don't have to. I reach into my wallet, where I know I have no smaller than two untouched twenties, and I drop one into the cup. His eyes and mouth break open as he looks inside and blesses me.

I've talked about this kind of thing with my daughter. Explained, touted, preached. "When we come across people who need something, we give it to them," I say as I hold up traffic, tossing a dollar bill to the guy who stands on the corner at Lake Avenue.

The first day back at home the phone keeps ringing. The university calls. "We're asking all alumni—" the woman starts. I cut her off. "I'm happy with what I've given so far." The next time I pick up a call, it's from someplace called the Cancer Recovery Center. I end it quickly with a curt refusal. "Who was that?" my daughter wonders at my swiftness. "Someone who wanted money." I bear down on the last scurrilous word to close the case. "Maybe if they need it, we should give it to them," she says, and I'm face-to-face with the profound. The great Way knows no difficulty. Hawaii is now a memory. We holidayed by a crystal bay where sea turtles bobbed on a seamless gleam and baby waves broke at our feet.

One night, months later, I open up a favorite picture book for a bedtime story. "Hello, ocean, my old best friend," I begin the rhyme. "Amber seaweed, speckled sand, bubbly waves that kiss the land."

Georgia interrupts. "And sometimes the ocean comes way up and covers everything," she says, as sure as an eyewitness. I freeze. She has seen it. She was there when we turned on the TV, in vain search of a forecast so we could sightsee on a sunny day. She was there when we clicked back and forth and back again to that mesmerizing footage of the ocean retreating, then towering, then tumbling forward into a bottomless, screaming blackness.

Now. What to Tell the Children? "Sometimes it does."

*Karen Maazen Miller is a wife, mother, and author of Momma Zen: Walking the Crooked Path of Motherhood (see Literary Mama review here). In her life as a Zen Buddhist priest, she still cuts the crusts off her daughter's peanut butter sandwiches every day. She lives in Sierra Madre, California, and practices at the Hazy Moon Zen Center in Los Angeles. She can always be found at www.mommazen.com.*

Courtesy of www.literarymama.com "a literary magazine for the maternally inclined."

# TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business



By David Johnston

On January 18th, USA Today reported that MySpace.com and News Corp. parent company had been once again sued, this time by four families of teenage daughters that were lured and later sexually abused by adults on the popular social networking site.

The lawsuits allege negligence, recklessness, fraud and negligent misrepresentation by the two companies. A lawsuit filed in June 2006 seeks \$30 million in damages when a 19 year old assaulted a 14 year old female while posing as high school student.

Police departments across the country have become alarmed and increasing their warnings to parents about the dangerous exposure of youth to online predators at sites such as My Space and chat rooms.

"Parents can't sit back on this. They need to take immediate and vigilant action with active monitoring of their children's access to public and home computers and control the online experiences," said Marilyn Diaz, Police Chief of Sierra Madre.

Diaz expanded, "We are hearing from more parents about My Space and the extreme use of unsolicited adult language, aggressive posts, pornographic material and obvious lack of local parental supervision regarding computer usage of minors."

Dave Nardoni, Reserve Officer with the SMPD, recently gave a presentation at Sierra Madre Middle School on the topic, "Is your Child Safe on the Internet?"

Included in his presentation, Nardoni described the profile of a typical predator, who are predators targeting and how they lure children.

Surprisingly, it's pretty simple for predators to find and target children. They do their homework to find targets. Predators will watch chat rooms, what's being said and who is providing detailed information about themselves.

Profiles on My Space can be set to "private" but this function can be easily overcome by predators by posing as a minor or posting a false profile that mimics the interests of minors.

Typically, young children are most vulnerable to the reach of an online predator. Predators target children living with a single parent, children looking for validation, and those that don't communicate with their parents.

The Sierra Madre Police Department suggests that parents need to take significant steps to safeguard their children and not allow "privacy" be an issue. Place home computers in a family room and children not be allowed to use public computers without supervision.

Officer Nardoni listed instant messaging, including to cell phones as becoming increasingly common and unmonitored by parents. This real time, private conversation is usually a final step towards a predator seeking a face to face meeting.

Given the fact that the predator has already spent hours researching the child, reading profiles and likes/dislikes, favorite movies, schools, hometown, the predator is at an advantage and able to establish a rapport with the unsuspecting child.

My Space at no time verifies the identity or age of its member. My Space posts warnings about its forums are public spaces and that it will delete the account of anyone under the age of 14.

"Parents must know how their children are talking to on the computer and where they are using the computer. If a parent finds out their child has a My Space profile, the parent should immediately research their child's profile and what is being posted," said Chief Diaz.

Diaz added, "Parents may be shocked at what their children are posting and what their children are being exposed to and the inherent dangers of online chat rooms and alleged social networking sites."

Next: Profiling a predator, online dangers, resources and parental responsibilities.

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## What's Up at Hart Park House Senior Special Events

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**Monday, February 26 at 3 p.m.**

Meet new Paramedic Coordinator Greg Christmas

**Nominate Older Sierra Madre American of the Year**

The Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission is accepting nominations for the 2007 Older Sierra Madre American of the Year. Deadline for applications is Wednesday, February 28. This year's theme is "Living Well, Aging Well." The person nominated must be age 60 or older and demonstrate outstanding community service.

For nomination forms or for further information, please call Rosemary Garcia at (626) 355-5278.

**And don't forget Ping-Pong every Friday from 2 to 4 p.m.**

**Saturday, February 10 and Sunday, February 11  
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Santa Anita Park, 285 West Huntington Drive, in Arcadia.

Chairperson Evelyn Greathouse says this event benefits women's health services at Methodist Hospital. The hospital's community outreach activities are beneficial to all women in the San Gabriel Valley, with a wide variety of programs and classes that are offered in English, Spanish and Chinese.

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# SPORTS

## Way to Go: Alverno Jaguars To CIF Playoffs



Photo courtesy of Alverno

By Candace Siegle

For the first time in more than a decade, Alverno High School's basketball team is Horizon league champion, bound for the first round of CIF playoffs.

"This is so exciting," says team co-captain Mary Claire Malooly. "I think we finally came together as a team."

Last season was coach Brent Fabbri's first at Alverno. He has coached the school's winning volleyball team for several years. "I had the same girls on basketball last year, and we lost only one senior, so we've worked together for two years now. That time as a team really paid off," he says.

Alverno holds many Horizon

League championships in cross country, volleyball, soccer, and softball—all its sports but basketball. With the varsity basketball team's triumph, the 290-student school is current league champion in all its sports. The Jaguars will compete in track & field for the first time this spring.

The champion athletes are seniors Mary Claire Malooly and Danielle Tan (co-captains); seniors Vanessa Cullen and Monique Veneracion; juniors Melissa Campo, Addie Coronado, and Gabriella Laussu; and sophomores Angelica Camacho, Tiffany Lecain, Jinky Lim, and Lily Stewart. Brent Fabbri coaches, and Ralph Mohutsky is assistant coach.

## St. Francis Super Forwards Posthuma and Swart Lead Team to Playoffs



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

By Larry Bortstein

St. Francis' soccer team is headed for the CIF Division 1 playoffs, which begin Feb. 17, with a feeling that it hasn't accomplished everything it could have.

Two 1-0 losses to Loyola High of Los Angeles were the only Mission League defeats suffered by the Golden Knights in an excellent 24-4 season.

But those losses cost St. Francis a higher CIF seeding for the postseason tournament. The Golden Knights were ranked overall in Division 1 this week.

"When we lost at Loyola, I scored a goal in the second half that would have tied the game, but it was disallowed because of an offside penalty," recalls junior forward Nick Posthuma, whose 24 goals are the most of any player in the area.

"If we'd won that game, we could have won league instead of Loyola. Their only loss in the league was against Harvard, and that's a team we beat, 4-0."

St. Francis and Loyola could meet for a third time if both teams advance deep into the postseason—a distinct possibility.

And coach Glen Appels already is looking

forward to next season, when he returns many players from a 2006-2007 squad that is laden with underclassmen.

That group includes, besides Posthuma, junior forward Nick Swart, who has scored 18 goals.

"We'll have our top two goal-scorers back, and some other juniors and sophomores, so we should be pretty good," Appels says.

"But for now, we want to finish this season with a good showing in the playoffs."

Appels will have to find a new goalkeeper as starter Nick Goldreich and backup Neil Savor both are graduating.

"Neil played a lot because we were in a lot of one-sided games," Posthuma says. "We have confidence in both of them."

Justin, Posthuma's younger brother, also attends St. Francis, where last fall he was a freshman on the football team.

"I played football too, up until my freshman year," says older brother Nick, who is six feet tall and weighs 168 pounds.

"But I gave it up because soccer is my passion."



### View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

## THE SUPER BOWL

Why does the Super Bowl create such a fuss? I mean after all it's just a football game. Wrong. It's not just a football game; it is an event, an event that the whole football establishment celebrates. So what makes it so different than the championship in other sports? Think about the World Series. There are no players from other teams present at the games. Oh, there may be a retired player but not players that had been knocked out of the playoffs there to watch the game. Reggie Bush was at the Super Bowl and so was Marcus Allen.

The same is true for basketball - if your team is not playing you are not there.

The Super Bowl is different. Players that played this season are there, players that played some seasons in the past are there, and the veteran players who did not necessarily play for either are there. They are all there.

Other professional athletes in other sports are there throwing parties celebrating the Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl is synonymous with parties. This year, Shaq's party was an "A" list party for everybody that was anybody. Singers, actors and fans threw parties before and after the game.

The NFL celebrates the Super Bowl - new inductees to the football Hall of Fame are announced during Super Bowl week. All week we watch TV to get some insight into what will happen. The entertainment during half time is a big deal. Can anyone forget the furor caused by Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction? We had Senate Hearings on that subject. Why anyone was surprised always intrigued me, after all the lyrics of the song was that he would have her naked by the end of the song.

Prince gave a performance that will last in our memories forever. The Ads are also watched. After all, we get to vote on which is the best. I have heard it said that those are the most expensive minutes in television. This year my favorites were the ones done by amateurs.

Maybe this Super Bowl was especially appealing because we were witnessing history with each team being coached by an African-American or maybe it was because we wanted to see Peyton Manning rid himself of the "he can't win the big ones" curse. Whatever the reason we watched this game. Some 93.3 million of us watched and celebrated this Super Bowl. That may make it one of the safest days of the year, too. The Sierra Madre police submitted a blotter that has nothing posted on that date.

So with all that having been said can the Colts repeat, will the Bears be back, will next year see San Diego go all the way, will Dungy be back? I'll be sitting right here on the couch next year to let you know.

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