

THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Friday, February 23 - March 1, 2007 Volume 2, No. 8

MEASURE V ARGUMENTS UPHELD Court Rules Against Lambdin - Finds Arguments For Measure V Are Not 'False and/or Misleading'

By Susan Henderson

Supporters of Measure V - also known as the 2-30-13 Voter Empowerment Initiative - won a major victory in Los Angeles Superior Court on Wednesday. Judge Dzintra Janavs ruled that the language in the initiative's arguments were not "false and/or misleading" as claimed by former mayor Glenn Lambdin.

Lambdin filed a Writ of Mandate asking the court to strike or amend four of the key arguments in favor of Measure V. In his petition filed on February 5, Lambdin asked the court to strike the following:

A YES VOTE guarantees Sierra Madre residents a voice in major land use decisions affecting our downtown.

A YES VOTE will ensure that Sierra Madre retains its strong property values. The cities of San Marino, La Canada Flintridge, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Santa Monica and Malibu all have height and density restrictions similar to 2-30-13.

A YES VOTE prevents over development that will generate gridlock and pollution from excessive traffic in our downtown;

overextend our local fire department and police force; and will require the taxpayers of Sierra Madre to foot the bill for millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements to accommodate these high density condominium projects.

A YES VOTE prevents the glut of new condominium overdevelopment which will drive down the value of our homes. Developers, while still making hefty profits, will discount their condo prices in order to sell in this bloated market.

Judge Janavs found nothing in the text of the arguments to be false and misleading and denied Lambdin's request in its entirety regarding the arguments.

As to Lambdin's amended complaint filed on February 7th, he asked the court to also strike or amend the sections of the Rebuttal Argument by supporters of the measure. Specifically, he requested deletion or changes to the following paragraphs:

"The costs of elections on development projects can be passed onto the developers and will not be borne by taxpayers."

"Less than 2-acre lots in our downtown, limited parking (continued page 3)

MOSCA RECALL BEGINS Notice Of Intent To Circulate Recall Petition Served On Surprised Councilman

By Susan Henderson



In a voice that appeared to be free from concern, Sierra Madre City Councilman Joe Mosca confirmed that he had been served with a Notice of Intention To Circulate Recall Petition on Sunday. The document, signed by 31 registered voters in Sierra Madre, is the first step in the process to oust Councilman Mosca.

Elected less than a year ago in April, 2006, Mosca, according to his critics, campaigned on an anti-development platform and has failed to keep his promises.

For instance, Gary Hood, often introduced as Mosca's campaign manager during the election, supports the recall. "I'm very disappointed. I thought Joe was for preserving the community. I personally liked and trusted Joe, but he has not lived up to his campaign promises. I would not have worked so hard in his campaign."

On the other hand, there are many like Eph Konigsberg. Eph admits that he did not vote for Joe in April, but has since come to respect him as a councilperson. "He's been pretty good," said Konigsberg.

(continued page 3)

Worby's Harmonic Convergence



Photo by Mark Lansdown

Maestra Rachael Worby of Pasadena Pops conducts the High School Orchestra of the Pasadena Unified School District at the Instrumental Music Festival held recently at PCC. These students played Grieg, Gershwin and Bach. Other performances included William Bing of Cal Tech who conducted the jazz band and Lawrence Stoffel of Cal State Northridge, who conducted the High School Band. Music Director David Miller of Pasadena High School coordinated the event with PUSD Music Directors Amy Crocker of Sierra Madre and Norma Coombs; Bob Stevenson of Wilson and Washington; Stephen Kaminsky of Wilson; Gary Green of Webster; Karen Klages of Elliot and Blair; Mitchell Cyman of Muir and Charles De Angelus of Marshall.

Inside This Edition

- 1 Recall Drive Begins
- 2 Weekly Highlights
- 3 Chantry Flats
- 4 Gillison Speaks Up
POA Responds
- 5 SUPER SUMMER
- 6 ADVENTURES
- 7 Special Pull Out
Section
- 8 Just for Kids
Reputation Defender
- 9 Peter Dills
- 10 Opinions
- 11 Birds Eye View
- 12 Sports



Visit Chinatown to celebrate the Lunar New Year Saturday, February 24 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Parade is from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, February 25, festival from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit www.lachineschamber.org

Sierra Madre
1907 - 2007
Centennial Celebration

Centennial Opening Night Gala • February 23
4th of July Centennial Concert • June 30
Community Picnic and Celebration • October 21



(626) 355-1146

VILLAGE AUTO CLINIC
Domestic & Foreign Repair

Bill Schlote
22 E. Montecito Ave.
Sierra Madre

Honesty • Integrity • Product Knowledge

Clarity in Real Estate

Guiding Clients to be Knowledgeable Buyer's and Seller's

Lia Schlote
(626) 355-5989
lia.schlote@dilbeck.com



Rhett Schlote
(626) 355-5989
rhett.schlote@dilbeck.com

Team Schlote

8 East Foothill Blvd.
Arcadia
(626) 840-4790 cell
(626) 445-8330 fax
www.TeamSchlote.com

Dilbeck
GMAC Real Estate

Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

Friday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 50s	50% Chance Rain
Saturday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 50s	
Sunday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 50s	
Monday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 50s	
Tuesday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 50s	

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

Citizens' Datebook



City of Sierra Madre February Events

- 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

Honk if You Love Geese

We heard geese flying over Sierra Madre Tuesday morning. One of our neighbors did, too. She remembers seeing them migrating years ago. She was in a Ralph's parking lot. "I heard the honking and I looked up and here's this V of these wonderful birds. This great big beautiful V."

She told us that last weekend was the Great Backyard Bird Count and offered some useful websites:

www.birdsource.org
www.audubon.org
www.lisashea.com/birding

Arlene Martinez, of the Whittier Narrows Nature Center in El Monte said some geese are still migrating, and they like to stop by the recreation center across the street where people gather - because that's where the crumbs are.

Kimball Garrett, Ornithology Collections Manager of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, said they are either migrating to the Northwestern United States or Western Canada - or they live here.

Geese live around the Santa Fe Flood Control Basin and the San Gabriel River. "They honk, basically. They do a lot of grazing on lawns," said Garrett.

What's Up at Hart Park House Senior Special Events

Brought to you by The Senior Commission of Sierra Madre

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.

JOIN US FOR A

NIGHT OF FANDANGO Y SON

Featuring The Sounds of

Los Cojolites and Son Mestizo



Los Cojolites are a collective of soneros who currently work and live together in Jalipan, Veracruz, Mexico. They started in 1997 as a workshop studying regional dance, poetry and music known as Son Jarocho. "Son Jarocho" is the characteristic musical and dance expression of the region's people. It's a genre fusing three cultures that blends so flavorfully

into today's Mexico: Christian European, Muslim North African and Indigenous.

The name "Los Cojolites" come from a bird (Pencople purpurascens, Wagler), a kind of pheasant that was venerated as a god of the trees by the ancient Nahuatl speaking people. **Friday, February 23, 2007 from 7:00 - 10:00 pm**

\$10.00 donation requested

Bring your dancing shoes and stomp to the sounds of Veracruz Avenue 50 Studio, Inc., 131 No. Avenue 50, Highland Park, CA 90042 (323) 258-1435

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.**

Driver's Ed Class In Sierra Madre

If you are 15 years and older winter is the perfect time to take Driver's Ed. The class costs \$280 which includes the 30 hours of required classroom time and the 6 hours of behind the wheel driving. The classroom portion takes place in Sierra Madre's Youth Activity Center for four consecutive Sundays starting February 25 through March 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information or to register, contact the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-5278.

SIERRAMADRE 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 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. Menudo & tamale stand.

PHS parking lot
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Beantown

45 N. Baldwin
(626) 355-1596

Lucky Baldwin's

21 Kersting Court
(626) 355-1140

Sunday, February 25 at 2:30 p.m.

Luisa Rebull Speaks on Star Formation
Altadena Library at 600 E. Mariposa in Altadena

Space is, in many ways, an ideal environment for infrared astronomy, and NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope has been taking infrared images of the stars from space since its 2003 launch into an Earth-trailing orbit around the Sun. Some of Spitzer's recent scientific results will be presented at a public lecture on Sunday.

The speaker is Dr. Luisa Rebull, a research scientist at the Spitzer Science Center at Caltech. Title of her talk is "Star Formation." The program is sponsored by the Mount Wilson Observatory Association (MWOA). Refreshments will be served before the talk, beginning at 2:00. Free of charge

The Altadena Library is located at 600 E. Mariposa St. in Altadena, two stop signs west of Lake Ave. at the corner of Mariposa and Santa Rosa Ave. ("Christmas Tree Lane"). Exit the 210 freeway at Lake Ave. in Pasadena and go approximately 2.5 miles north to Mariposa St. in Altadena. Turn left on Mariposa, go to the second stop sign, turn left on Santa Rosa.

Save the Date

Friday, March 2

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Impressions of Sierra Madre at Creative Arts Group

Sunday March 4

Noon to 1 p.m. at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena
U.S. Marine Corps Drum & Bugle Corps
U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard
U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon

Free to the public

"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. Marines don't have that problem."

- Ronald Reagan, President

Saturday March 31

Huck Finn Fishing Derby
7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Derby
12:30 to 4 p.m. Family Fishing

Sunday April 1

7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family Fishing
Camp & Derby: \$45 up to 4 kids
Family Fishing: \$10 per family, or \$6 per person
Call (626) 355-5278

MARY KAY®

makeup
now

From the latest **on-trend colors**

to the classics. I can help

you create a look for every occasion

and every new outfit in your

wardrobe. **Call today for**

your complimentary

color makeover.

Dale Ann Perales

Independent Beauty Specialist
www.marykay.com/dalearn
626.576.2787

SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS SERIES

"Sturtevant Camp: And a Few Steps Beyond"

By **Chris Kasten and Joe Tortomasi**
Friday, March 9, 2007 7:30 pm City Hall Chambers
Admission: Free For information call: 626-355-7186 or
go to: www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us

The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

Chantry Flats

Good people of Sierra Madre, drive north on Santa Anita Ave. (Maybe it's the last day of a long weekend and you planned to work in the yard but it rained all night last night and everything is sopping wet outside. It's not raining right now, though, and you have a whole afternoon in front of you. The laundry is done, and Westfield Shoppingtown is not calling your name). Go past the large yellow sign that claims that the road will be closed in 500 feet. Ignore it. The large yellow sign is not telling the truth. Drive through the open gate, and head for Chantry Flats.

Drive slowly. The road is twisty and narrow. There are fallen rocks and bicyclists. And your oldest daughter might be prone to carsickness (remember what happened last summer on the way to Ventura - we don't want a repeat of that scene). The man in the Toyota pickup truck behind you may get impatient. Don't worry. Soon there will be a turnoff and he'll speed right by you. But he won't get better parking.

When you get to the top, don't buy a US Forest Service Adventure Pass. Instead give your five bucks to the people at the Adams' Pack Station and General Store and park on their dirt lot. Maybe you'll get lucky and the donkeys (they are donkeys, not mules... well there is one mule, but most of them are pack donkeys... sorry) will be out when you arrive. This is not something that is supposed to happen. And if it does, Sue (she's the owner) will come running out of the door and start yelling for Greg (he's the "hand"). As soon as the donkeys see her they'll realize that the jig is now up (you'll actually see a facial expression that is the donkey equivalent of "oh, shoot!") and off they'll go, across the parking lot, galloping. This will be of great interest to both of your little daughters and you will likely decide that this is a good time to move them up onto the porch.

Greg will appear (He has a blog. It's wonderful - the only ranch hand donkey packer blog I have ever come across. It is full of stories like the one where Brad learns

the hard way always to carry the lead rope in the downhill hand. He ends up hanging on to a cliff edge by his fingertips. The blog also has an R-rated song about the joys of shoveling donkey feces. Find it at the Adams' Pack Station Homepage www.adamspackstation.com.



Photo courtesy Google Images

Greg will be wearing green rubber boots and will have a dog. The dog is a Queensland Heeler, an Australian cattle dog that could care less that this isn't Australia and those aren't cows. All he knows is that something with hooves is "out" and alpha-Greg (provider of food and belly scratches) wants them "in." This is what Queensland Heelers live for. And off they'll go (Greg and the dog) across the parking lot after the escaped donkeys (which, by now, have surprised and aroused the curiosity of the attractive couple unloading mountain bikes from their Subaru in the paved parking lot).

You will walk up the hill, through the picnic area, to the road. On the way you'll see the donkeys come galloping back through the dirt parking lot straight into their coral. Greg and the dog will be walking casually some distance behind. You'll walk up the road about half a mile to the heliport (a slab of concrete labeled "heliport") where you will find a spectacular view that will include the following inspiring visual elements:

1. Sunshine
2. Poofy Clouds
3. Green Mountains
4. Far-off cities. Take some pictures. Then walk back down to the pack station. The blue heeler will be asleep, curled up on the porch and maybe gloating a little. Greg will sell you a hot chocolate.

VICTORY (from page 1)

opportunities and a small customer base make it impossible for Big Box stores to locate in Sierra Madre. In fact, "chain drug stores" have confirmed in writing that they are NOT coming to Sierra Madre" and "Measure V would amend current zoning ordinances to actually REDUCE the number of low-income housing units that could be built in our downtown."

Judge Janavs did order supporters of the measure to delete the first paragraph, "the costs of elections..." because no proof existed to support that claim.

She upheld all other language in the rebuttals as accurate.

The deadline for filing changes that would appear on the ballot was February 21, 2007. According to Sierra Madre City Clerk the arguments and the rebuttal have been submitted pursuant to the court's instructions.

RECALL (from page 1)

In April, 2006, the Sierra Madre City Council election had the highest turnout in the city's history. The turnout, and the margins by which Councilmen Don Watts, Kurt Zimmerman and Joe Mosca won, were due to residents' concerns over development issues.

Since the election, however, many of Councilman Mosca's votes have appeared to be pro development. On each of three critical votes concerning downtown development, Mosca's votes have been inconsistent with his campaign promises.

He voted not to pass a resolution offered by Zimmerman that would put the Downtown Specific Plan to a binding public vote. After sufficient signatures (over 20% of registered Sierra Madre voters) were gathered for Measure V - the initiative to restrict height and density requirements for Downtown Development - the council had the option of turning the measure into an ordinance and sparing the city the cost of the measure going on the ballot. Mosca voted against such action.

Mosca also voted to approve the hiring of consultants to analyze the impact of Measure V in January of this year at a cost that may be as high as \$60,000. Many recall proponents believe this was a last ditch effort to delay the initiative going on the ballot. The study was not completed in time to have any impact on what was printed on the ballot. The deadline for changes in ballot arguments was February 21. The report will not be presented to the council until the next council meeting on February 28.

Leslie Hinton says enough is enough. "He's had time," said Hinton. "He had an opportunity to vote on 2-30-13 and save us the cost of a special election and the study, but he chose not to do it."

Mosca says the recall is "a big surprise." "I knew there was talk," said Mosca. "I thought we would all move on."

Some supporters of Mosca have concerns they say go beyond the scope of the recall. Jackie Knowles dislikes the process. "I think the people in this town do not like recalls. I think they know enough to know that it is not good government," said Knowles.

Nevertheless, the clock has started ticking. Supporters of Mosca, in a little more than 24 hours, began raising money to fight the effort.

The Recall Supporters will begin collecting signatures within the next week. For more information regarding the recall, contact recalljoe@hotmail.com.

Councilman Mosca says he will stay focused on the business of the city. He also plans to walk door to door to present his case.

Donna Embree
All Occasions Florist
Specializing in Wedding

For an Appointment
Call: 626-355-2019
www.donnaembree.com

MILLER ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

Personal Service & Proven Results

HELPING YOU BECOME MORE PROFITABLE
IS OUR BUSINESS

BUSINESSES	INDIVIDUALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive Accounting & Book Keeping Financial Statements & Management Reports Tax Planning & Income Tax Preparation Computer Payroll Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income Tax Planning & Income Tax Preparation Audit Assistance & Representation Estate Planning, Trusts & Retirement Strategies Divorce Tax Consultations

YOUR GROWTH IS OUR VISION
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

(626) 445-0509

444 E. Huntington Drive, Ste. 201
Arcadia
or
Visit us online at

www.jimmillercpa.com

S.O.S MAID & S.O.S REPAIRS

Maid Service
You Can Trust
Every Time!

Call (626) 383-9522

Residential & Commercial
High Quality & Dependable
All Supplies & Equipment Provided
All Jobs 100% Guaranteed
Family Owned & Operated

<http://www.sosmaid.com>
e-mail: info@sosmaid.com Licensed, Insured & Bonded

Feb. 23 Gala To Set Stage For Centennial Celebration

Period costumes, champagne, a wine bar and buffet in a historic villa will set the stage for the Opening Night Gala of the Sierra Madre Centennial Feb. 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The event will be held at the Villa del Sol d'Oro on the Alverno High School Campus, 200 N. Michillinda Ave., Sierra Madre.

Guests will receive keepsake favors, which are marble coasters with an imprint of a Red Car, that featured prominently in the growth of Sierra Madre. Population doubled within a year after the trolleys rolled into Kersting Court.

Tickets, which also are keepsakes, are \$50. They are available at the Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., or at The Bottle Shop, 58 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Information: 626-355-7186

FEBRUARY CENTENNIAL EVENTS

FEB 1-28 - Display from Historical Archives, Sierra Madre Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

FEB. 23 - Opening Night Gala, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm., Alverno Villa, 200 N. Michillinda Ave. Information: 626-355-7186

FEB. 24 - Little League Opening Day Parade, Carnival, 8 am, Sierra Vista Park.

FEB. 28 - All America City Rally, California Lyric Theater, 258 E. Alegria Ave. Information: 626-355-5278

OTHER CENTENNIAL INFORMATION

Centennial Calendars listing events throughout the year are available at the Sierra Madre Public Library.

Centennial Pins at \$5 each are available from various merchants and community organizations.

A fully
customized
cleaning

in a one-size-fits-all
world.

Thorough cleaning
Satisfaction guaranteed
\$20.00 off 2 hours

merrymaids.com
626.564.8724

merry maids.

Happy Jacks Video & Anime

M-TH \$5

2 New Releases
all
3 Rentals

3885 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena
626-355-5200

Payment Center for all your needs

disH NETWORK

A REAL ESTATE COMPANY

-Where the Accent is on Service

ENRIQUE LIZARAZU
ASSOCIATES Broker

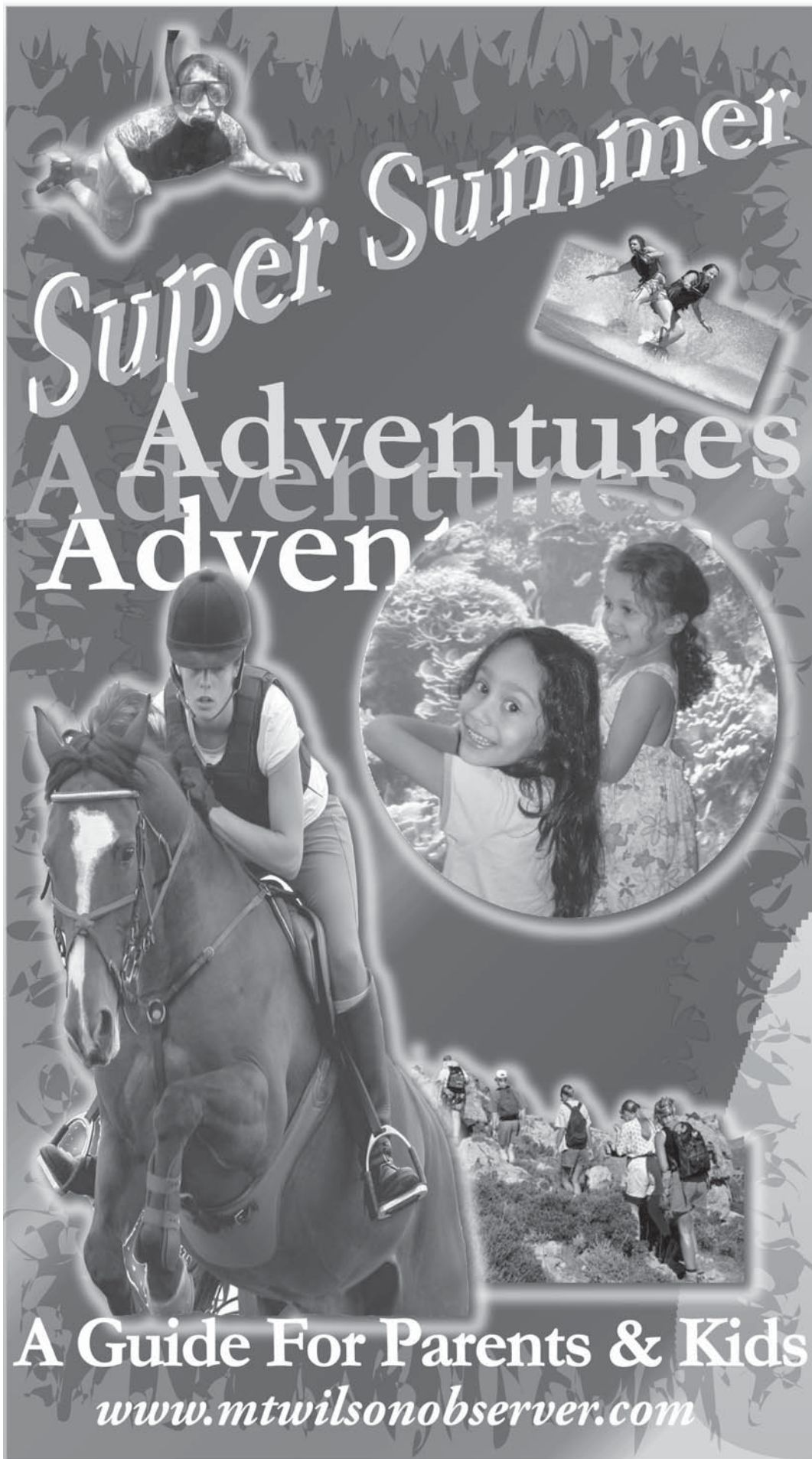
Council Residential Specialists
Graduate Realtors Institute

Call 626.798.3838
or cell 626.818.0980

Website: lizarazuerealty.com
E-mail: enrique@lizarazuerealty.com

1844 north Allen Ave. Pasadena, CA

www.mtwilsonobserver.com



Super Summer Adventures Adventures

A Guide For Parents & Kids
www.mtwilsonobserver.com

Super Summer Adventures

Claremont Colleges Super Camp - Johns Hopkins Engineering Camp - Clairbourne Schools - High Point Academy - Pasadena Educational Foundation - Kanoa Aquatics Surf Camp - Mayfield - Lazy J Ranch - iD Tech Camps

Special promotion

Excellence for Everyone at Super Camp

By Katina Dunn

Bobbi DePorter was so fascinated by elements of education that she deconstructed and reassembled its properties to stunning effect. Her Quantum Learning Network at SuperCamp programs spans 25 years, 12 countries and 45,000 graduates.



Bobbi DePorter, Founder

The Wall Street Journal wrote "SuperCamp turns so-so students into academic achievers" and other leaders of youth organizations say DePorter's program has a profound understanding of how teens think. Her own book - "The Seven Biggest Teen Problems And How To Turn Them Into Strengths" - is available at www.qln.com. It explores study strategies, communication and self image.

"When they are confident, everything changes," said DePorter during a recent interview. "Everything spirals up. We call it learning and life skills - we don't separate it. We call it intrinsic motivation."

Teachers train for 300 hours in the year before their first SuperCamp. "We look for the best teachers," said DePorter. Most work at SuperCamp as a summer job, after the school year ends. After they complete the SuperCamp program, "They are excited to teach again," said DePorter. "They say 'I remember why I went into teaching.' So often they have been beaten down by the system and politics." Quantum Learning Network also goes into schools for special training sessions with teachers and principals.

DePorter said she was inspired by the teaching methods of Dr. Georgi Lozanov of Bulgaria, and brought him to the United States to explore his research more thoroughly. "People were learning with phenomenal results and enjoying it," said DePorter, who first used his methods with adults. The adult students then said "We've got to try this with our children." That's how SuperCamp was launched.

SuperCamp is geared for all children, whether they are under or over achievers. So many academic programs are geared solely towards the over achieving child, which Porter finds too restrictive. "We just say some people open their gifts faster than others," she said.



www.supercamp.com

JUNE 25 - JULY 27

5 WEEKS

OF SUMMER FUN

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM 9-12 AM

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM 9-12 AM

GRADES 1ST-8TH WORKSHOPS 9-3 PM

SCIENCE * MATH * READING

COMPUTERS * FOREIGN LANGUAGE

WRITING * SPORTS * ART

SWIMMING * PERFORMANCE

GAMES * CRAFTS * AND MORE!

Register By May 25th - Space Is Limited!

SUMMER SPREE

Clairbourn School

8400 Huntington Dr., San Gabriel, CA 91775

www.clairbourn.org/summer/

(626) 286-3108

supercamp®

Co-ed Academic & Life Skills Camp

at Claremont Colleges

"It was the best 10 days of my life!"

At SuperCamp's 7-10 day summer camps, kids learn skills that last them a lifetime - from reading comprehension, creative writing and study techniques to goal setting, problem solving and communication. Self-imposed limitations and fears are overcome and self-confidence is gained.

Get your child ready for the world this summer at SuperCamp

Youth Forum July 13-19 entering grades 4-5	Junior Forum July 22-31 August 3-12 entering grades 6-8	Senior Forum July 22-31 August 3-12 entering grades 9-12
---	---	--

www.supercamp.com • 800.285.3276

LAZY 'J' RANCH CAMP

MALIBU RESIDENCE CAMP

\$50 DISCOUNT
on two week session offer valid through Summer 2007

✓ **out our camp near Big Bear**
CampWasewagan.com

One and Two Weeks Available

HORSEBACK RIDING

SURFING • KAYAKING

TENNIS • SWIMMING

RIFLERY • ARCHERY

BODYBOARDING

FENCING • HIKES

ANIMAL CARE

SPECIAL EVENTS

AND MORE ...

310 457-5572

www.LazyJRanchCamp.com

Lazy 'J' Ranch Camp

Children 5-13 Years

310-547-5572

www.LazyJRanchCamp.com

140-acre Malibu Ranch Camp. Children participate in activities such as horseback riding, kayaking, surfing, body boarding, tennis, swimming, archery, riflery, hiking, arts & crafts, fencing and volleyball. Also offered are: roller-skating, beach trips, overnights, horseshoes, basketball and other field sports. The entire camp enjoys a special event daily. Special care of the horses, ponies, goats, llama, pigs, ducks, chickens, rabbits and other animals is experienced by each child. Also, each camper earns a trophy or a ribbon and an assortment of awards. Campers can stay 1 or 2 weeks, or longer. Call for a brochure.

Also.....check out our other facility 20 miles south of Big Bear. "Crazy's Wasewagan Camp & Retreat" along with Summer Camp. Wasewagan also offers weekend programs for Scouts, Schools, Families and Church groups. Go to www.CampWasewagan.com for more information.

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

Reputation Defender



Search and Destroy

www.reputationdefender.com

By Katina Dunn

Michael Fertik doesn't think that kids should suffer in their adult life for youthful mistakes. Fertik says they won't publicly admit it, but more and more college admissions counselors and employers are searching online for inside information on applicants.

Urban legends abound of rejected applications due to confessions and photos found on My Space, Facebook, Xanga, Bebo, What The \$%&*, blogs, listserve, and more. "Some people focus on online sexual predators. But most of what people say online is not sexual predator stuff. The vast majority is kids saying horrible things to one another and about one another online," said Fertik. "Now it's on the internet and it's permanent and public. I just didn't think people should have to live with that. It can hurt you for years."

Last October, Fertik launched www.reputationdefender.com, a service which provides removal of undesirable cyber content. His original idea was to protect children, although adults also use the service for themselves. "We find it all and show it to you," he explained the process. "If you want any reference taken out, we do that. We do it politely - at first. If they don't respond to our polite request, we get less polite."

"Not all speech is treated equally according to the constitution," he said. "There's defamation, libel, slander and invasion of privacy," he said. His site states they do not target court records or news media for removal, however, individuals have the right to protect themselves from "inappropriate or illegal intrusions of their privacy."

After graduating from Harvard Law School, Fertik clerked for Chief Judge Danny J. Boggs of the Sixth

Circuit Court of Appeals. "I just have a strong sense of what is right or wrong," said Fertik. "I don't like the fact that the internet is a scarlet letter. Think of it as a tattoo - that's the best analogy I can think of."

Some of the content he has found includes online videos, comments in discussion forums, photos, blog items and social networking pages.

A six-month membership provides six Search reports for \$15.95 per month; and a two-year membership costs \$9.95 per month, with monthly Search Reports. The Destroy process is an additional \$29.95 per item. Fertik says this is the only service of its kind in the world at this time.



Michael Fertik Rescues Kids'

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

Pasadena Educational Foundation



Working to Build Excellence in our Public Schools

2007 Summer Enrichment Program



PEF will be offering for the fourth year a **Summer Enrichment Program!**

Kids K-8 can get a jumpstart on the next school year through fun and enriching classes including robotics, chess, algebra, knitting, art, dance and yoga, choir and much more. Brochures will be available at your school beginning in February.

JULY 2 thru AUGUST 2

8:15 am - 12:15 pm

Monday thru Thursday

For more information contact the Pasadena Educational Foundation office at 626-795-6981, ext 595 www.pasadenaeducationalfoundation.org

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.

The Wildflower Baking Company

Come in for a
Sandwich & Homemade Soup

328 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA.
Tel: (626) 355-9000 Fax: (626) 355-9900

Joan or Kelly

www.thelittlegym.com

Because They're Only Young Once.

Now Enrolling for Winter/Spring Semester--Call Today!

little gym
Monrovia/Arcadia
925 West Foothill Blvd
Monrovia, CA 91016
626-301-0100
www.lgmonrovia.com

- The premier children's motor skill development program in the world.
- Proven curriculum that builds coordination, balance, rhythm and flexibility.
- Parent/child classes for infants and toddlers.
- Classes in gymnastics, karate, sports skills and more for 3 to 12 years of age.
- Fun, nurturing environment for children and parents.

Looking Up TechKnowledge

With Bob Eklund

Technology Science Business



Photo by Jean Boenish

Whirling Dervishes: From Kansas to Neutron Stars

Yesterday I went out and bought a copy of The Wizard

of Oz. I wanted to participate in the reading of this classic, which has been selected as Sierra Madre's Centennial "One Book, One City" community read for 2007. So far, I've only read up to the part in Chapter 1 where Dorothy's house in Kansas is picked up by a tornado—but that got me started thinking about things that spin.

It turns out that all kinds of things in the Universe—from figure skaters to tornados, hurricanes, and galaxies—have a tendency to spin. When a star is born from the gravitational collapse of a cloud of interstellar gas and dust into a sphere of white-hot gas, the material inevitably begins to spin in one direction or the other, and that rotation speeds up more and more as the star becomes more compact.

Our Sun rotates at the rather stately pace of once in about 27 days—a more or less average rate for stars midway through their lifetimes. But when a star begins to use up the hydrogen that fuels it—as our Sun is expected to in about 5 billion years—it grows unstable and begins blowing off its outer layers. For stars considerably more massive than the Sun, this can result in the violent event known as a supernova explosion. After such a star explodes, all that is left at the center is a super-dense core in which all the matter has been converted to neutrons.

Such a core, called a neutron star, has properties that are as strange as anything in the Land of Oz. All the matter that previously had occupied a space of more than a million miles across is now smashed into an object typically 7 miles in diameter—hardly larger than the city of Pasadena, with perhaps Altadena and Sierra Madre thrown in. Strangest of all is the fact that the neutron star is spinning—not once in 27 days, but many times each second.

Flash back 40 years to Cambridge University, England. In 1967 a graduate research student named Jocelyn Bell, conducting a survey of radio-frequency sources in the sky, noticed a peculiar radio signal that emanated from a fixed point relative to the stars. A more detailed examination of the signal showed that it was composed of a rapid set of pulses, coming at the rate of one every 1.337 seconds. The pulsed signal was as regular as the most regular clock on earth.

When this astonishing discovery was announced, many people assumed that it was an interstellar beacon sent out by extraterrestrial life on another star—and the source was initially given a number prefixed by "LGM," standing for "Little Green Men." However, within a few months, Bell had located three other similar sources, all pulsing at extremely regular rates. The idea of an intelligent source was dropped in favor of the more likely explanation that the signals were caused by a special kind of star—which was quickly dubbed a "pulsar." And as theory caught up with observation, it was soon realized that pulsars were, in fact, neutron stars. The pulses that were being detected were evidently narrow beams of powerful energy being ejected from the spinning neutron star.

In 1974, Jocelyn Bell's advisor, Anthony Hewish, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics (jointly with Martin Ryle) for the discovery of pulsars.

Fast forward 40 years, to February 2007. Astronomers using the European Space Agency's orbiting gamma-ray observatory, called Integral, announce they have detected what appears to be the fastest-spinning neutron star yet. This tiny stellar corpse is spinning 1,122 times every second. Rather than measuring the spin rate by means of radio signals, the Integral satellite is monitoring bursts of X-rays that may last from several seconds to several minutes. A second satellite capable of detecting stellar X-ray sources, NASA's Rossi X-ray Timing Explorer (RXTE), is also monitoring the neutron star, which is known simply by its catalog number, XTE-J1739-285. Together the two satellites recorded about twenty X-ray bursts from this object between September and November 2006.

As with radio waves, the X-ray bursts had extremely fast, periodic oscillations or pulses within them that indicated the spin rate of the star. A string of pulses coming from XTE-J1739-285 on November 4 with a frequency of 1,122 Hz showed that the star was spinning nearly twice as fast as any previously observed. The previous record was 619 times per second, and it was believed that a star could not spin faster than 760 times per second without breaking up.

"Our detection is just above the level where we think there is something real," said Erik Kuulkers of the ESA Integral Science Operations Centre in Spain. "We definitely need more observations. If we see the signal again, then everyone will believe it."

Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas anymore.

TABLE FOR TWO

by PETER DILLS



ZELO Pizzeria A Neighborhood Restaurant

I have a method of reviewing restaurants that I actually borrowed from a seasoned pro. The reviewer would categorize restaurants as the following:

- * By train or plane I would find a way to get to this restaurant
- * I would drive anywhere in the city to get to this restaurant
- * If I am in the neighborhood I would go to this restaurant
- * If I got a flat tire in front of this restaurant I might go inside.

Zelo restaurant in Arcadia is something unique and quite interesting; it's a neighborhood place that attracts pizza lovers from all over Los Angeles County. If you are a pizza lover, like I am, no matter where you drive from, check out Zelo. Now if you're not a pizza lover... but you happen to be in Arcadia, stop by as well. I wish I could say I discovered Zelo but, there have been others before me.

The menu is very limited. Pizza,

calzones, a few pasta dishes, salads and a roasted chicken. Prices are \$3.50 for a slice, \$9 for a half, and about \$16.50 for a whole. The pizza menu changes daily but they always offer a pepperoni and garlic. In my last visit I had the pepperoni without mushrooms. Before that it was the Corn Andouille.

What makes Zelo so special? The owner Mike is a very laid-back cat. Mike comes to us from San Francisco and Mike is the pizza maker (I guess that's why they are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays). Anyway the crust... it's the crust at Zelo that makes the pizza stand apart from your chains. While most pizza is made with flour, the crust at Zelo is actually a corn meal base with just a touch of flour. If I compared it to The Chicago Deep Dish, that just wouldn't be just right. Actually Mike imported the recipe from Vicolo in San Francisco; Mike spent eight years there and has made his own variation in Arcadia.

Get it to go! Zelo will cook a pizza halfway for you and you can finish it up at home. Hmmm, maybe I can open a pizza restaurant in Pasadena?

The restaurant is on the smallish side with patio dining and about 10 tables inside. Zelo

offers beer and wine and makes many of their own desserts, including a Zucotto, made with whipped cream, chocolate cake and ladyfingers.

ZELO Pizzeria ... 328 E. Foothill Blvd. Arcadia. (626) 358-8298
My Rating: Plane or train... get there!

Join me every Thursday at 5:30 PM on ION TV or log onto www.thechefknobs.com

What's New For You At www.mtwilsonobserver.com

Got A Favorite Restaurant or Chef? Tell Peter Dills

WorkForce with Madeline

Q: Recently, I was fired from my job of 3 years because I did not get along with my boss. She was very demanding and just impossible to work for. I suppose I spoke up once too often. I realize I cannot leave this job off my résumé otherwise there would be a glaring gap in employment. I'm afraid that at an interview I will be asked why I left my last job. If so, what should I say?

A: Definitely, DO NOT say you were fired. Say you were let go because your services were no longer needed. Do not offer any explanations although I can tell you would be tempted to do so. Do not whine about your job loss. Do not be defensive. Do not blame anyone. These types of actions are unprofessional and will certainly turn off the interviewer. Silence is best in this case. Hopefully, this question will pass over quickly.

Q: As a police lieutenant, my in-service courses are very important. I need to include them on my résumé. However, there are so many that they would take up an entire page. How can I consolidate yet show that I've kept up with my training?

A: Use the title Ongoing Career Development for this section. Group your courses into categories and decide how many hours you spent at each. You might want to say, for example, Traffic Enforcement - 50 hours. Traffic enforcement might consist of relevant sub-topics such as Survey Equipment, but there really is no need to go into these specifics. Other topics might be Crime Prevention - 40 hours or Disaster Management - 30 hours. Do not include dates since they will just add unnecessary clutter. By organizing your in-service courses in this way, the reader will clearly see that you've had much training but will not be bored by all the details.

Direct your questions to Madeline at comptype2@aol.com or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).



PIZZA PASTA PANINI STEAKS SEAFOOD COCKTAILS

LIVE BLUES AND JAZZ NIGHTLY
OPERA EVERY SUNDAY

OPEN FOR LUNCH AND DINNER
TUESDAY-SUNDAY

(626) 836-5414 www.cafe322.com

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

THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

OPINION



Editor
Katina Dunn
Managing Editor
Susan Henderson

Art Director
Marco Carreno
Photography
Felix Orona
Buddy Windsor
Jacqueline Truong
Steve Padilla
Linda Ott-Albright

Contributors
Dean Lee
Stefan Bund
Stanley J. Forrester
Paul the Cyberian
Madeline Miller
Kyle McClure
Pat Birdsall
Bob Eklund
Caroline Brown
David Smith
Rich Johnson
Peter Dills

Editorial Cartoonist
Ann Cleaves
Web Master
Gary Miller

For Advertising Inquiries
contact:

MASTROMEDIA, INC.
626-355-2737
JULIE PUTERBAUGH
626-836-6524
DOROTHY JIMINEZ
818-314-9417

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

All submissions become the property of The Mt. Wilson Observer.

We reserve the right to refuse publication of any material that conflicts with the mission of this paper.



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 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.



It's All About The Money

By David Smith

I want to start off by saying I have a lot of respect for realtors. Handling real estate

transactions is a difficult, high-pressure job. I, personally, would have never bought my home without the help of a realtor. And no matter how popular the Internet gets, nothing can replace the human touch a realtor brings to the transaction.

I reserve my endorsement to the realtors who deal with the parties involved, face to face. And I will further limit it to true professionals, not people in it for a quick buck. I will not extend it to the brokers and agency owners behind the scene who really call the shots. They're another matter, altogether, to be dealt with on a case by case basis.

In the very first column I wrote for this paper, "Selling (Out) Sierra Madre", I alluded to the high-density condominium projects in our downtown having two aspects. First, the condos would have to be designed and built to undercut the market. How else would you generate sales in a market that's the slowest we've seen since the bottom of the last crash 10 years ago? Second, creating a rapid decline in home values could have a very beneficial effect for realtors.

A story appeared on the front page of the February 13th LA Times titled "It's Their Default Position" that clearly illuminates the second premise. The story describes the real estate "crash" that's beginning out in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and how a

real estate agency is exploiting it. They target homeowners who are behind in their payments.

The story follows the activities of two new realtors, one, a former route salesman for Peet's coffee, and the other, a former body shop estimator who states his reason for getting into real estate as being; "It's all about money." However, the sentence that sums up their attitude best comes from their broker/boss. "Home Center Chief Executive Ron Barnard says that personally, he finds foreclosure sad, even tragic. 'But as a business owner, I think it's great.' "

Need I say more? There are two major complications in real estate being reported in the financial press. One is the ever-growing glut of housing, especially condos. The other is the failure of mortgage lenders to correctly assess the risks of their exotic, sub-prime lending practices. This latter problem extends all the way to Wall Street, with problems developing in mortgage backed securities, a subject the LA Times story also touches on.

Something everyone needs to understand is how ruthless the people are we're dealing with. Did Joe Mosca get on the City Council through the help and planning of developers? What exactly are the opponents on Measure V capable of? I don't know. But if we're not careful, the disaster that's developing out in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties will be coming to Sierra Madre.

* A direct link to this article can be found on my blog: SierraMadreSaga.blogspot.com



(626)
355-2737

By Susan Henderson

telephone number (n): a number assigned to a telephone line for a specific location that is used to call that location

I probably did not need to tell you that the number listed above is a telephone number. It is the direct line for The Mt. Wilson Observer. You probably figured that out too. However, there are those among you who apparently do not understand that a telephone number is what you dial when you want to know something. Sound strange? Well it's true, particularly in our lovely town of Sierra Madre. So, in an effort to improve communications, I am going to explain how you can use that number and quench your thirst for information:

a) To those who never return a phone call: That would include our City Attorney and City Manager - actually Mr. Gillison called me just before we went to press. (Thank you John). You want fair and objective reporting, however returning a phone call appears to be something you just won't do. This is to let you know that 626-355-2737 is the number to call back or to even call on your own. When you won't call back, don't complain that we did not hear your side or relied on another source for the information. Not calling doesn't make the news go away.

b) To Those who need to ask to get the facts straight: If you want to know who we are, who owns the paper, et cetera, call us. We'll tell you. It makes for much better conversation than rumors and lies. And you can rest assured, we only print the truth. If we err, we print corrections.

c) To those who don't speak French: Deuxamis Publishing, Inc. is the parent corporation for this paper. Deuxamis is French for two friends. Those two friends are Katina Dunn and Susan Henderson. Just two friends - not three or four, or spouses, significant others, or various associations.

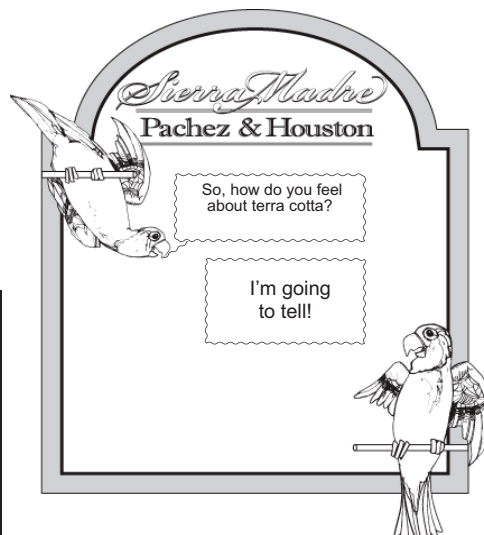
d) To those wishful thinking individuals who think this newspaper will disappear: This paper was started because we don't have one in this town. Since Jan Reed retired about a decade ago, no one else stepped up to the plate to deliver news to the residents of this town. Newsflash: Everyone had the same opportunity to do so as we did. So, if you still don't understand why we started this paper, call us. We'll tell you again. We are here to stay.

e) To those who don't understand why we do what we do: Call us, we will tell you. Residents need to know what is going on in town. The good, the bad and the ugly. I've heard Jan Reed always said it's all about "News. N. E. W. S. News."

f) To those who want to give us a piece of their mind: Call us. We are interested in all sides of the conversation.

g) To those who still don't know the difference between News and Opinion: We will be glad to explain it to you.

And last but certainly not least: To those of you who just want to say hello: Definitely call. We treasure your calls also.



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.



Joe Mosca Should Resign Now

By Hail Hamilton

I just heard the news Joe—the papers to recall you have been filed. It's about time. The sooner you get the boot, the better—the better for you and the better for Sierra Madre. Excuse me if I get a bit personal but I voted for you!

Joe most unforgivable of all is your reversal on almost every position you claimed you stood for when you were elected. Then, you were for limited downtown development and for preserving Sierra Madre's unique small town character. Now, you're an outspoken opponent to Measure V that would limit downtown development and apparently you could care less about preserving Sierra Madre's unique small town charm. Joe answer this simple question: Did you really sell out the rest of us to a few greedy developers who just want to make a quick

buck at our expense? Tell me it ain't so, Joe!

Joe if I sound angry, it's because I am. I feel totally betrayed. That you have succeeded in alienating yourself from most of those who voted for you is astonishing. Getting yourself threatened with recall in less than a year is one for the history books. One thing is certain; you blew a golden opportunity and you have no one to blame but yourself.

Joe take the advice of someone who was once one of your supporters. Do yourself and all the rest of us a big favor. Save your fellow citizens the expense of a recall election, an election you will surely lose.

Do the right thing, and save what little respect you have left—RESIGN IMMEDIATELY!

Letters To The Editor

Re: In Sierra Madre, Politics Makes Strange Web Followers, Feb 16-22 2007

What a stunning endorsement! What a dramatic compliment! Judging from the number of ignorant and reactionary enemies it is attracting, The Mt Wilson Observer, a courageous, responsible, well-written, and fun-to-read newspaper of a sort Sierra Madre never has known before, clearly is on its way to earning a Pulitzer.

Any paper surely would be jealous of having such righteous enemies to be able to boast of! To start with, consider those half-dozen ex-mayors all lusting to see the Observer go out of business. Clearly, with shared responsibility for the decades and decades of stupid decisions and miserably failed policies which have led to what current Mayor Buchanan describes as Sierra Madre's "substantial tension" (a state of affairs Mayor Buchanan seems to approve of) there is something ludicrous and raucously funny about past mayors Bartolai, Doyle, Hayes (a friend of mine in a non-political context), Lambdin (also a friend in another context), Maurer and Stockly having the colossal nerve to offer up their advice, gratis or otherwise, about ANYTHING - let alone something so crucial and complicated as a solution to the riddle of downtown development.

All these disgraced ex-pols, nonetheless, are doing so shamelessly. Well, geniuses, thanks but no thanks. You've done plenty already.

"Ludicrous" also describes the richly weird brew of affairs consisting of our good-humored mayor, along with at least one city-appointed Community Commissioner, feeling free to champion Web sites awash with

viciously cruel humor and close-to-libelous postings directed at some of Sierra Madre's best citizens. Man, that one's a true laugh-riot!

And Reverend Michael Bamberger! A man of the cloth, for pity's sake. Will pious Mike one Sunday go public before his congregation to explain why he, too, has no Christian objections to a web site acrawl with rough-edged spite and the novel portrayal of stabbing attacks and child pornography as real hoots.

We live in an equal-opportunity age. So how democratic it is that the royal potentate reigning over all these radically confused males is their own Queen Bee, Mrs. Beth Buck. Battling Beth is a figure of fun, more comic than dangerous.

When she's off on yet another print rampage - highlighted in the past by her demanding the murder of Saddam Hussein, perhaps implying that she'd gladly perform the deed herself; her passing along wonderful misinformation and marvelously embarrassing tirades about what she believes constitutes proper journalism; and, most recently, bad Beth's implication of possible physical abuse to be directed at the good and kind Fay Angus - throughout all of these terrifying, hyperventilating, attacks of roaring Beth's, the good lady struggles to create the impression that she's tough - one truly tough old broad. Sad thing for her is, she's lost her bite. Over and over, all she succeeds in accomplishing is making herself sound more over-the-top, more whacked-out, more bitterly frustrated. And, of course, more boring. I am sure that Beth, the self-important Queen Bee, is unaware of this!

Joe Scalzo

It's genuinely gratifying to see a community like Sierra Madre take ownership of a bad political situation, and do the things necessary to restore the peaceful, easy going lifestyle and atmosphere you've enjoyed for decades. Joe Mosca is every community's worst nightmare. Unfortunately, his style and manner of politics is widespread.

I live in north central Texas, but the problems the citizens of Sierra Madre are going through presently with Mr Mosca ring all too familiar. If he gets his way, you stand to lose more than just a political battle. Unique and special places to live and raise a family, like Sierra Madre, are so few and far between nowadays. It's nice to see that the citizens of Sierra Madre know exactly what they have in their special town, and are willing to stand up to those who plan to change all that for their own benefit, or to the benefit of their associates with moneyed interest. Keep up the good fight.

Regards, Steve Frenzel

Icons from Sinai at the Getty Center

A Review by
Despina Tsiknas-Arzuoman



Courtesy of The Getty Museum

I was brought up in the Greek Orthodox tradition; my grandfather was a priest in the town of Kardamila, on the island of Xios, Greece. I'll always remember the beautiful icons and smell of incense at St. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church on Schermerhorn Street in Brooklyn, NY where my family attended services. Though I claim no religion above another, I am compelled to look for, and find, universal meanings in all spiritually focused work. The Icons from Sinai done in the Byzantine tradition is a wonderful exhibit and a must-see for anyone seeking to behold such historic and extraordinary artistic beauty, as well as to grasp their spiritual meanings.

Undoubtedly, one can contemplate and feel the artists' conflict of reasoning underlying their making. From a purely artistic perspective, these icon artifacts - crafted 700-1000 years ago from wood, tempura paint, and gold - are stunningly beautiful. Each icon represented a moment (or moments) in time when the saints were faced with making a crucial choice between heeding the divine "word of God" and/or become ignorant, and acquiescing to "worldly ways."

So the questions arises, is there any

relevance in these depictions from the past that speaks to us modern sophisticates? Could it be that these paradigms of choice are not exclusive to saints, or priests, or monks, or nuns, but rather that we each face making such choices daily, moment-by-moment, whether we are conscious or not?

Simply stated: One can either choose to advance towards spiritual salvation, or contrarily succumb to the baseness of their animal nature and ways of the world.

St. Catherine's monastery was built at the foot of Mt. Sinai, the location where Moses was told (through the burning bush) to remove his shoes for he was standing on the hallowed ground where he was to obtain [and there obtained] the 10 commandment tablets. The Monks who live there are the caretakers of these artifacts. They've chosen to humbly sacrifice the world's modern conveniences (creature comforts) in order to work and abide by spiritual law only.

These icons made me see the meaning behind the words of the 2nd Commandment: "...the children of the fourth and fifth generations of them that hate [me].". I see that humanity, at large, has fallen to paying more attention to programs like American Idol; and "follow" and support the personality traits of persons such as Madonna, Paris, and Britney. And on the other hand, for several moments, those Icons caused me to drop my personal identity, and feel how, why, and where, the true meaning of the iconic depictions resonated in within my being.

Getty Center is open daily, except Monday and some holidays. Icons exhibition ends March 4th. Admission is free, no tickets or reservations are required for general admission. Parking is \$8.00. They are located at 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Take the 405 Fwy North, exit at Moraga Drive and follow the signs. Hours: Tuesday - Thursday & Sunday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm; Friday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 9:00pm. Guided tours start at 3:00pm, or you can view the exhibition on your own. Contact Info: 1 (310) 440-7330; gettymuseum@getty.edu



The Women Who Led The Presidents

By Rich Johnson

Disturbing reactions have just gotten back to me regarding my last column. You remember it, about the presidents. Well, it was pointed out to me that the column was totally male dominated. Sorry Mom, you

were right.

The only way I can fix this and satisfy Mom is to focus this column on the wives of all the presidents with the exception of James Buchanan. He didn't have one.

By my count there were 43 wives of Presidents. That may seem odd as there were only 41 married presidents. Fact is two presidents had two first ladies. No, not at the same time. President John Tyler's first wife was Letitia and second wife was Julia. Likewise, President Woodrow Wilson's first wife was Ellen and his second wife was Edith.

The record for same names of first ladies was three. There were three Elizabeths. There were two Abigails, two Marthas, two Annas, two Julias, two Ellens, two Frances, and two Ediths.

As far as careers only two first ladies held jobs outside the home prior to 1900. Millard Fillmore's wife Abigail was the first to hold a job. She was a teacher in the 1820s. And second was William McKinley's wife who went to work in her father's bank in the late 1860s.

Of course, in the 1900s women broke free from the shackles and chains of the 18th and 19th century.

Let's test your knowledge of first ladies and their careers. The left column lists those twentieth century first ladies who had early careers. And the right column lists those careers in random order. Care to test your luck? The answers are listed below.

1. Florence Harding
2. Grace Coolidge
3. Jacqueline Kennedy
4. Patricia Nixon
5. Bettie Ford
6. Nancy Reagan
7. Hillary Clinton
8. Laura Bush

- a. Photographer
- Teacher
- c. Model and Dancer
- d. Teacher
- e. Actress
- f. Piano Teacher
- g. Teacher of the Deaf
- h. Lawyer

9. Finally, which First Lady's first name was Claudia?

ANSWERS: 1f 2g 3a 4b 5c 6e 7h 8d. Claudia went by the nickname Lady Bird.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

To Catch a Thief...

I guess this is, in effect, an open letter to the thief who stole my terra-cotta birdbath sometime over the weekend...

When I noticed it was missing, I couldn't believe it! Obviously someone had taken it; it is not something that one can misplace. On the surface, it was just an old and inexpensive item that had sat in my front yard for many years, so what's the big deal? The big deal is this...You invaded my space, and took something that was mine, not yours. How dare you!

You didn't just take the birdbath however; you took away the modicum of safety I felt on my own property. More importantly than that, you took away sheer enjoyment... The enjoyment I got from watching the many varieties of birds, and there are many, that use the bath day after day, year after year.

In the morning and evening, the starlings would come in a group of five or six. They enjoyed their baths tremendously. Their black feathers, tinged with yellow specks, glistening with water, their bright yellow bills

standing out against the darkness of their feathers. They all got in at once and just chattered away, reminding me

of the old nursery rhyme - "Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie..."

The shy woodpeckers would wait their turn and come to drink, making the sounds we hear in Woody Woodpecker cartoons. The mourning doves came to drink, or sometimes just to stand in the water. Various sparrows and wrens would bathe and drink, ever wary of the hawk that might be circling them from above. The large banded pigeons would push each other out of the way, vociferously complaining as always, just to get a drink.

I know birds bathe to help condition their feathers, but I think that they truly enjoy the experience. None more than the blue jays. What fun they have coming back over and over again while splashing water everywhere. They finally end up looking like drowned rats, leaving very little water for the next guy.

In the hot summer months, I enjoyed providing a water source for them all. I got more out of it than they did, however. I just provided the water; they provided the never ending entertainment. I got to watch their antics and listen to the most beautiful music in the world.

So you see, you stole more from me than just a little terra-cotta bird bath, much more.

CLASSIFIED

FOR RENT

Sierra Madre
Small Cottage
Single Occupant Only
Available 2/1/2007
\$1700
Call: 626-355-3414

FOR RENT

SMOKE FREE
NO PETS
1 Bedroom
Apartment - Newly
Remodeled Kitchen
Fireplace/Garage/
Pool
\$1200
Really Nice
(626) 355-0251

FOR RENT REAR HOUSE

Single Occupancy
Available
February 20
\$850
Call 626-355-8189

FOR RENT

Sierra
Madre
Studio
Priced Right
\$650 in exchange
for walking my dog.
Call 626-355-5072

HELP WANTED

Substitute Teacher
Wanted
Qualification:
Must love children

(626) 355-9567

Mama Pete's
Nursery School

HELP WANTED

Permanent P/T
position at Museum
Store for motivated
individual.
Retail experience
preferred. Asian Art
interest a plus.
Phone (626) 449-2742
ext. 21.

SPORTS

FUN IS ON DECK:

SIERRA MADRE LITTLE LEAGUE OPENS ITS 50TH SEASON!



Photo by Roland Tchong

Trevor Gleason pitches the 1st Ball - Opening Day - 2006

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Sierra Vista Park
Saturday, February 24 starting at 8 a.m.

The entire community is invited to the long-awaited opening day of Sierra Madre Little League baseball season on Saturday, February 24.

It all starts with a parade from Memorial Park to Sierra Vista Park. As soon as the 275 kids and their managers and coaches are arranged in the outfield at Heasley Field, there will be a brief Opening Day ceremony. Former Dodger and Yankee major leaguer and home-grown Sierra Madrean Matt Young will speak to the kids, and there will be other surprises.

Following the ceremony, everyone will enjoy a carnival, the fundraising hit-a-thon, music and lots of food. In addition, the Sierra Madre Community Services Commission will sponsor its monthly Healthy Family Fun activity on the west side of the Recreation Center - a game of kickball open to both kids and parents.

Finally, there will be a full slate of baseball games on both Heasley and T-Ball fields.

Opening Day Timeline

8:00A Team parade on Sierra Madre Blvd.
8:30A Opening Day Ceremonies at Heasley Field
9:00A - 2:00P Carnival, Music and Food
9:00A Kickball Game
9:15A - 2:30P Hit-a-thon Fundraiser
12:30P - 9:00P Baseball Games
For more information, go to www.sml.org or call Pete Siberell at 355-6746.



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

The Real Star of The All Star Game

Last weekend the NBA was in Las Vegas. The event was the annual NBA All Star Game and from all reports it was one giant party. There was love for everyone, the players, the ex-players, and the fans. Kobe even acknowledged that in order for a team to be good there was a need for a big man in the middle. (About as close as he could say "Shaq I was wrong"). This realization came a few years too late for the Lakers fan. But that was an example of the love, which was being given to everyone.

Earlier in the week Tim Hardaway, the retired Miami Heat guard was told to leave the party. This order came from David Stearns, the commissioner of the NBA. Speaking of Hardaway and his views the commissioner said, "It is inappropriate for him to be representing us given the disparity between his views and our own."

The cause for all this fuss and confusion came from the fact that a little known retired reserve center, John Amaechi, revealed in his soon to be released autobiography that he is gay. Amaechi said that his desire was that his coming out would be a catalyst for intelligent discourse. Instead he got a diatribe of ignorance from Hardaway on how he (Hardaway) "hates gay people," and how their presence should not be allowed in the locker room.

The commissioner was correct in the first portion of his statement, it would have been inappropriate for Hardaway to represent the NBA. However I doubt very seriously if the ignorance espoused by Hardaway is his alone. I would be very surprised to find that his views regarding homosexuality are not shared by any number of players.

The world of professional sports lends itself to intolerance and bigotry. To think that this particular attitude would not be present when the issues of homosexuality are presented is to be naïve and to have your head in the sand. Perhaps the commissioner could have provided a forum for discussion of the issue. It probably would not have answered any questions, nor would a forum change any minds. But at least the conversations would begin.

However, overall, Stearns actions were correct. He let it be known to all fans and players that bigotry and intolerance will not be accepted. He is a wise man and knows that he is unable to legislate acceptance. What he can provide he did and the rest is up to the players and fans.

In a time when good sportsmanship seems to be climbing its way out of the window, tolerance must be embraced. We must all learn to get along and not reward those who espouse hatred. Congratulations to the real star of the allstar game, Commissioner Stearns, for standing up to bigotry.

Special Promotion

Roller Derby King & Queens



Photo by Kevin Dunn

One of the warmest salons in town is the 300 West Salon on Sierra Madre Blvd. Eight friendly and talented stylists work out of the salon, known for its camaraderie as well as the seemingly ancient art of hair dryers and curlers. So many get rolled at 300 West it's hard to remember when curlers were replaced by the curling iron and blow dryer. As for the roller derby team itself, Claudette Toney says it's like family.

"We've known each other so many years, we have an affection for each other," said Toney. "We are truly,

good friends beyond this shop. Our children have grown up together." Wanda Vo said customers are so devoted, they come by even when they are not getting their hair done. There's usually a little buffet going, especially on the holidays, and Dave Kallgren promises "We don't talk behind anybody's back. We talk in front of everyone." (From left, first row: Judie Gage, Dave Kallgren, Wanda Vo; From left, second row: Froukje Buttes, Christine Morgan, Terry Faulkner, Toney Claudette and Joy Alexanian.)

Fred Shaheen

Real Estate Services

Experienced Real Estate Consultation

Residential Commercial

- Brokerage
- Property Management
- Mortgage Loans
- Appraisal Services
- Real Estate Consulting
- Project Management

Fred Shaheen 818-790-9161

Sierra Madre's

Lucky Baldwins

21 Kersting Court

Breakfast Invasion

Think globally drink locally

TEA & CRUMPETS

8am - 11:30am Mon-Fri
8am - 1:30pm Sat & Sun

Call 626-355-1140

Bring This Ad For Discounts!

DELIRIUM
Pub & Cafe

OPEN FOR FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST

Banger, Irish Bacon, Heinz Baked Beans, potatoes, mushrooms, toast... only \$6.95 (with this coupon)

8am - 11:30am Mon-Fri
8am - 1:30pm Sat & Sun

TEA & CRUMPETS served with lemon curd \$1.95 (with this coupon)

Best Fish and Chips in Town 45 Beers On Tap!

Offer valid Mon-Fri 8am-5pm until March 31st 2007 not valid with any other promotional discount.