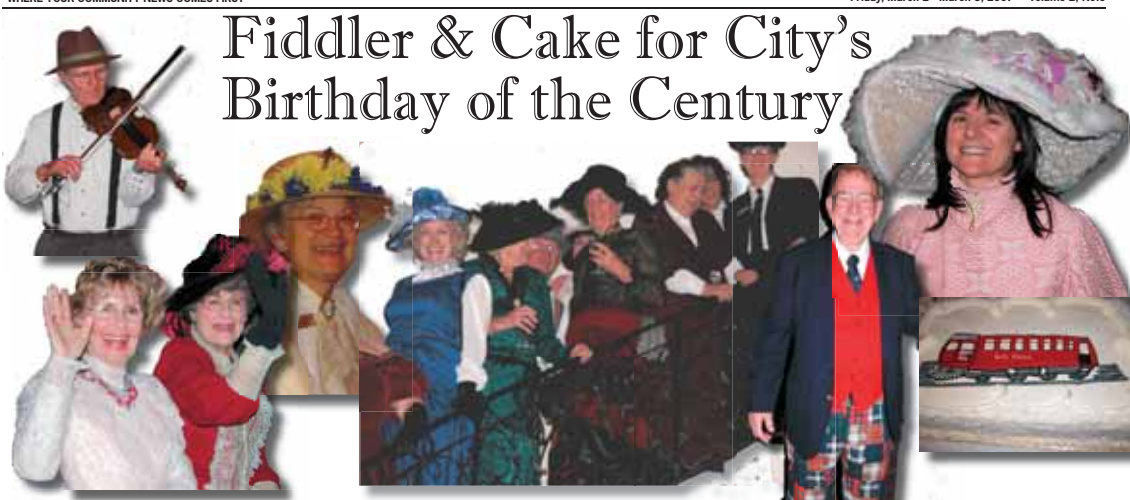


THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

A DEUXAMIS PUBLICATION

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Friday, March 2 - March 8, 2007 Volume 2, No. 9



Photos By K. Dunn/Dixie Coutant by Bill Coburn
(Top left to right) Fiddler Alan Davis of Happy Neighbor Club, Jan Reed and Phyllis Chapman, Dixie Coutant, Gloria Denison, a staircase of lovelies including Red Car Conductor Toni Buckner at top of stairs, dapper Don Reed, Ilona Linden, and delicious Red Car cake by Wildflower Bakery.

By Katina Dunn

The fiddler from the "Happy Neighbor Club" band echoed throughout the rooms of the Villa del Sol d'Oro last Friday 23, the date of Sierra Madre's incorporation as a city 100 years ago.

Ursula Wassner and Uli Proctor playfully danced and twirled in their 1900s costumes; they were the ultimate party guests swept away by the feeling of pure celebration. Jan Reed, Gloria Denison, Ilona Linden, Phyllis Chapman, Dixie Coutant, Lydia Bangston and the mother-daughter team of volunteers Jacqueline and Linda Knowles were especially radiant and attention-getting in gowns and feathered hats.

One had to wonder if Rose Float Association President Robert Young was orbiting around the enormous flowered and feathered hats because they are so reminiscent of you-know-what. And, like eager children, some adults hovered close to three enormous and beautiful birthday cakes, checking frequently on the clock, ticking past the scheduled time of the cake cutting.

Actor and writer Barry Schwam strolled through the rooms as John J. Hart, the ill-fated local vintner whose vineyard in Memorial Park was shut down by the Prohibition. Other actors from the Sierra Madre Playhouse mingled with the crowd of about 200 people.

Mayor John Buchanan was there in person and on the big screen, with his birthday message to the city that included a slide show of heirloom photos. "But rather than seeing the future with fear for a daunting task," wrote the Mayor in his official Centennial greeting, "we should, as our City's founders did, welcome the challenge of preserving our hometown."

"I was just thinking tonight, how long I've been in town - close to 72 years," said David Duran. He reported that downtown Sierra Madre was so quiet that evening that Lady Godiva could have gone up Baldwin and nobody would have noticed. Duran remembered all the citrus groves that used to be in town - lemon and orange trees everywhere. His wife, Margaret, works at the library, which Dr. Bill White said has an admirable

collection of history archived in a special room.

"Sierra Madre is an extremely fascinating subject," said White, who recommends that everybody go to the library to have a look at the city's history. Archivist Debbie Henderson was also there, with Director of Library Services Toni Buckner. Buckner was dapper in uniform and cap as conductor of the Red Car. Everyone was quite pleased with the party favors of Red Car tiles, created by Rick Simpson, which features a photo of the Red Car on Baldwin Avenue in front of the Hotel Shirley.

Wendy and Rob Stockly were co-chairs of the event, which featured businesses and proprietors the Wildflower Bakery, Gooden Delicious Caterers, The Bottle Shop's Bill and Patty Sullivan, Savor the Flavor's Karen and Denis Keegan, Gwen Gordon of Graphic Solutions, Paul Kalemkiarian of Wine-of-the-Month Club, Leonora Moss Florists, Norman Nursery, Pat Dolphin of Dolphin Rents and Steamers Coffeehouse - the new café coming soon at The Congregational Church.

Sierra Madre City Council Report

COUNCIL RECEIVES AND FILES MEASURE V ANALYSIS

"Ain't America Great?" - Mayor John Buchanan after he called for Interim Police Lieutenant Dave Hing to escort author Joe Scalzo out of council chambers.

By Katina Dunn

Mayor John Buchanan called for police and ordered the TV cameras and sound turned off as resident Joe Scalzo spoke 13 seconds over the three minute time limit during Community Communications at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Scalzo addressed "Disgraced mayor and council members" defended the police and took what he called "Tricky Joe Mosca" to task. "I denounce you for turning citizens of Sierra Madre into figures of ridicule whenever we visit a foreign community. 'Oh, you're from Sierra Madre? That's where you have all those Cayenne Porsches, million dollar homes and the worst paid police force in Los Angeles County?'" he asked.

Scalzo also took Downtown Dirt website writer Beth Buck and her "all-star attack cast" to task for bullying and being "sewers of slurs" along with other

attack websites in the city.

Scalzo's speech was later finished by Cindy Duynstee. In between, PUSD school board candidate Renatta Cooper, who was introducing herself to the city, said Sierra Madre is "much more interesting than I thought you were."

Council member Joe Mosca began the evening with a brief talk about his recent recall process, thanking his supporters. Being on council, he said, is "a huge sacrifice for us," referring to himself and his family. "Together we'll fight this and beat this and get the city back on track," said Mosca.

Kathy Childs, a sponsor of the Dirt website, spoke in defense of Mosca, saying "this is a sad time for Sierra Madre." Childs said Mosca has not changed his position on allowing the people to vote on the downtown plan, that he listens to people, and that his goal is to be a problem solver. "I'm proud to have Joe Mosca my representative," said Childs. "I do not stand alone." The camera swept the council chambers to reveal dozens of residents standing for Mosca while wearing Mosca pins.

(continued on page 4)

Sierra Madre City Manager John Gillison Resigns To Take New Post in Rancho Cucamonga

By Katina Dunn

City Manager John Gillison will be leaving Sierra Madre for a new job in Rancho Cucamonga - a larger city of 172,000 people in 39 square miles. Gillison's new position is Deputy City Manager for Administrative Services which he begins April 2, according to Rancho Cucamonga's City Manager Jack Lam.

Gillison's duties will include risk management, purchasing, finance, IT, business licenses and special district administration. "We're very excited," said Lam. "I think being a city manager of a small city is also a plus, with management experience at the same time."

Rancho Cucamonga is home to Frito-Lay and the largest open air regional shopping center in the country - Victoria Gardens. Soon to be completed is the first Bass Pro retail outlet, which will feature 185,000 square feet under one roof of restaurants, a 40,000 gallon fish tank and ecology displays. "It's a community with a lot of growth and a lot of activity," said Lam.

As of 3 p.m. Wednesday afternoon, Trish Pietrzak of

(continued page 4)

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



Friday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Saturday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Sunday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Monday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
Tuesday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s 40% Chance Rain

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



Roy Roams' 91024

A Star on Our Walk of Fame

Actor Barry Schram of Sierra Madre Playhouse just signed with Steve Stevens Group for commercial representation. Schram sent the Stevens Group the character shots from all his roles at the Playhouse, and they proved to be irresistible. If you're ever in Kentucky, you'll hear Schram's voice as the man himself.

Classified Clarification

George Maurer contacted us to say he was not in attendance at the focus group meetings which we wrote about on February 16. We called Rob Stockly and he said he wasn't there. We checked with Amy Siadak, company owner of House of Market Research at 2555 E. Colorado Blvd. who couldn't tell us anything. The whole process is top secret. "Its proprietary information," said Siadak. She said that only her building site was used for focus groups - the study was conducted by a company called Voter Consumer Research from Washington, D.C.

Focus group attendees have all kinds of comments as to who was behind the two-way mirrors - those who would knock before secret notes were passed to moderators, and who came out from behind the mirror. Can't help but think of Oz and the magic curtain.

Meanwhile, yet another telephone survey around the city last week - this one by "CCS" and another secret client.

And Another Clarification

Readers called us to say Susan

Henderson's column last week neglected to mention another local newspaper in the last ten years since Jan Reed's which provided N.E.W.S. - and that was the Sierra Madre News published by Salvatore Tesoro.

Wimbledon for Women

And, another columnist - Stanley J. Forrester - is happy that Wimbledon now pays its female tennis players as much as men - something Forrester spoke up about loud and often.

Have Tomatoes, Will Travel

We always wondered how they did it. Scott Shacklett, aka "The Tomato Man" at the Farmer's Market Saturday in the parking lot of Pasadena High School, has a rather arduous task bringing his fruit to market. Scott and wife, Gale, drive from Onyx in Kern County every Friday with a ton of tomatoes in his truck - that's two thousand pounds of fresh picked tomatoes. They drive the 140 miles (a 2.5 hour drive) and stay in a hotel to attend the weekly markets. They sell in Venice Beach on Friday, he does Pasadena and she does Glendale on Saturday; and on Sundays, Gale sells in Santa Monica and Scott sells in Studio City.

Then they go home to farm more tomatoes. People swear by "The Tomato Man" tomatoes. Shacklett's secret - "Use the organic methods as closely as you can. If the soil has good minerals and is well fertilized, it eliminates the need for insecticides. You get the flavor - and the shelf life," said Shacklett. Thanks to the Shackletts for dedicating their life to growing good tomatoes.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE ASSOCIATION SIGNATURE COLLECTION DAY

WHERE: Sierra Madre Women's Club
550 West Sierra Madre Blvd.

WHEN: Saturday, March 3, 2007
10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. to; 11:00 a.m.
Breakfast, Introduction and Instruction

4:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m.
Lunch, Signature Collection & Count

PLEASE R.S.V.P. by Friday, March 2, 2007
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What's Up at Hart Park House Senior Special Events

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law.

Make an Appointment Now with
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And don't forget Ping-Pong
every Friday
from 2 to 4 p.m.

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.
Lili's herbs, Cara Cara oranges, artichokes, The Tomato
Man, fresh flowers, honey, and fresh baked bread.
Menu & 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

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 &
Silent Drill Platoon
*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 10 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. &
Sunday, March 11 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
by Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center
3130 Huntington Drive, San Marino
For more information, call (626) 355-6964

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

REMEMBRANCES

Robert Alcorn,
C'Etait un Homme Merveilleux



Robert George Alcorn was born at the Stork's Nest Hospital in Los Angeles 83 years ago. He died Feb. 21 of natural causes. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Carol; 3 children Steve, Sarah and Adam and 3 grandchildren Tanner, Seth and Claire.

He has also left us with happy memories of his great love of the French language and of anything related to France; his giftedness at learning other languages, especially Japanese; his pride at being a 4th generation Californian; his pleasure at being a USC graduate; his fondness for opera, played loudly; his keen wit; his affection for syntax and grammar; his taste for licorice, rum raisin ice cream and martinis; his connection with La Salle High School, his years at Monrovia High School and his skill as a superb teacher.

Memorial Mass will be Saturday, March 3 at 11:00 AM at St. Rita Catholic Church, Sierra Madre.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Robert Alcorn Scholarship Fund c/o La Salle High School, 3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107-1996, or to your favorite charity.

www.mtwilsonobserver.com

Visit Our Remembrance Pages and Sign the guest book for family & friends

SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS SERIES

"Sturtevant Camp: And a Few Steps Beyond"

By Chris Kasten and Joe Torionasi

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MIXER

Thursday, March 8 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce mixer. This annual event is popular due to the home-prepared delicacies prepared by the Club members. Come celebrate the city centennial and meet some of the Chamber's many new members.
Sierra Madre Woman's Club at 550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
\$5 members, \$6 for nonmembers. For information call (626) 355-5111.

The Wild West

With Kyle McClure

Science Fair

Now I could be wrong about this (as a teacher of seventh grade science I am not exactly in a position to behold the "wide view"), but it seems to me that there is no school activity more polarizing and anxiety inducing among all involved parties (students, parents, teachers) than the Science Fair.

Some kids love it because they get to build cool things (of their own choosing) and blow them up in creative ways (if they so desire) and decorate their display boards with puffy paint. While other kids flinch at its first mention and crawl into their backpacks and stay really still hoping that it will go away and leave them alone.

A minority of the parents are pumped. They have their calculators and digital cameras and triple-beam balances and stopwatches all ready to go. They've got a whole list of possible questions they have been adding to for the past year. Their biggest challenge is figuring out how to make it look like their kids actually did some percentage of the actual work. Most parents, though, gag violently when they find out that the Science Fair is approaching. Teachers are divided as well. Sometimes we argue about it in the staff lounge... down in the basement bowling alley... you know that one behind the staff arcade? Right by the faculty theater? Yeah, that's where we argue about the Science Fair. Heatedly.

Personally, I get a kick out of the whole thing. The first few days are the most entertaining. It is wonderful to witness just how ambitiously and impressively disoriented a 13 year-old scientist can become when he is attempting to formulate his official scientific question.

Because I am good teacher and I know what I am doing, I give my students some criteria to help them decide what branch of science holds the most interest for them. I ask them questions like:

Do you like plants and animals?

Do you like magnets and electricity?

Are you interested in the bacteria growing in a public restroom?

And, I teach a whole unit on the scientific method and asking scientific questions. By the time we are done, the kids know that a scientific question is one that can be answered by gathering evidence; that "what kind of music should I listen to?" is not a scientific question but "will listening to my iPod under my hood

during class cause permanent hearing loss?" is totally a scientific question. I even provide them with some sample questions and encourage them to steal and modify.

Eventually, though, we get to the point where the kids must choose and write down their very own Science Fair questions.

This is where the actual "effectiveness" of my teaching becomes painfully evident. It's like the kids are helium balloons with the strings cut and there's no roof. The sky is the limit, right? So that's where they go. Here's an exchange that is typical of the conversations I hold all day long when we are beginning to work on our projects for the Science Fair:

Thirty-year-old: Tell me, oh future curer of cancer, future governor, future changer of my nursing home bedpan, what is your scientific question?

Thirteen-year-old: I want to build a shrink ray laser gun!

Thirty-year-old: Um, OK... that sounds hard. What's your scientific question?

Thirteen-year-old: Can I successfully build a shrink ray laser gun?

Thirty-year-old: Still... what data will you collect?

Thirteen-year-old: What type of shrink ray laser gun works best?

Now we are getting somewhere.

So, we are going to the Los Angeles County Science Fair, some of my students and I (sorry, we will not be taking any parent projects this year). It's in April and we are going to win the whole thing with a groundbreaking study on shrink ray laser gun efficacy. Just you wait and see.



"The good news is I finished my science project.
The bad news is it's right behind me."

Opening Day for Sierra Madre Girls Softball

Saturday, March 10 at 9 a.m.

Opening Day Speaker:

Lisa Longaker, a one of the all-time great UCLA Bruin softball pitchers (1987-90).

Longaker was twice selected as the winner of the prestigious Honda/Broderick Award recognizing her as the nation's top collegiate athlete in the sport of softball. She was also a three-time All-American and selected as Pac-10 Player of the Year on three occasions. She is married with two children and is a teacher at the Crossroads School of Arts & Sciences in Los Angeles County.

SMGSA, started in 1971 as the Sierra Madre Athletic Association, is devoted to the 350 girls playing in the league this year. With 29 teams in four divisions - 8U, 10U, 12U & 14/16U - Sierra Madre Girls Softball is the largest ASA sanctioned league in the San Gabriel Valley. All are welcome to support our girls this season.



SMGSA Opening Day Speaker, UCLA pitcher Lisa Longaker with her husband Philip and John Wooden, at Lisa's induction into the UCLA Hall of Fame in 2001.

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Saturday

March 10, 2007

1 p.m. - Opening Ceremonies

1:30 to 3 p.m. - Open House

3 p.m. - Red Cars in Our Town
Presentation by Bill Meyers

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ARMED RESPONSE

Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK

From Caroline Brown

The rains signal the end of the fire season and should signal to the homeowner in the "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone" that preparation for the next fire season can get underway with some ease of mind. Remembering that dead brush is now just soggy from the recent rains and will be a fire hazard when dried out, it is time to cut out dried brush, limb up from the ground under your larger bushes two and a half feet to remove the ladder fuels and trim out any dried limbs from your trees and bushes. Another region around your house that comes to mind during the rain storms are your rain gutters. Keeping them clear of debris is necessary so they function to take the rain away from your roof edges and foundations. Everywhere they are plugged up is also an indication of a collection of roof top debris that

can be a hazard during fire storms. Leaf matter that merely falls directly from overhanging tree branches or that are blown onto the roof during the winter windstorms collect and restrict rain runoff also indicate where the flying embers will land in advance of a windblown fire storm. Winter preparation for rain and fire safety go hand in hand.

The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be March 12 at 7 P.M. in the City Council chambers.

In the meantime, go to the state website: www.firesafecouncil.org for important fire protection measures for you home. Also, www.firecenter.berkeley.edu/people/Quarles for a link to "Vulnerable parts of your home." For information call: 355-9350 or 355-1182 or e-mail us at: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail

COUNCIL (cont. from page 1)
Resident Bill Tice gave the council a grade of D- for its' recent vote of a four percent raise for the police. Resident Fay Angus said the \$60,000 study wouldn't have happened at all if Mosca had "kept faith with his constituents like myself who voted for him." Angus said Council Member Kurt Zimmerman presented a measure to vote for the Downtown Specific Plan and Mosca did not vote for that. "... there were several other occasions when he broke the faith. That's why 2-30-13 came into being, that's why the \$60,000 came into being." Money better spent on the police, Angus said.

The \$60,000 study - the analysis of the Measure V Initiative (2-30-13 for two stories, 30 feet in height and 13 to 18 units per acre) - was prepared by Pacific Municipal Consultants. It says Measure V is not in conflict with the City's Redevelopment Plan and is consistent with the City's General Plan. It also reads: "Adoption of Measure V would not have a significant impact on the City's ability to attract retail business and employment in the central Core area. However, if Measure V passes, the increase in residential development capacity of 96 units in the Central Core Area could have a positive economic impact through increased demand for goods and services locally."

Mayor Pro Tem Enid Joffe said the analysis "creates a lot of uncertainty" and asked City Attorney Sandra Levin if a vote was allowed project by project. Levin replied "there isn't a procedure in the initiative for parcel by parcel approval." Mayor Buchanan said "you have to amend the entire ordinance."

Council Member Zimmerman said "That's the purpose of it. If the point of the initiative is to allow voter approval - the votes are still able to do that, whether it's site by site or project by project. Is there anything incorrect, Sandy, to what I've said?"

Levin answered it's about "nuance" whether the initiative is administrative, adjudicative or legislative. "The trend in case law is increasing power of voters

to amend zoning codes," she said. Buchanan said "The problem is, this initiative didn't do it. The purpose was to allow a project by project vote... you have to amend the whole ordinance to do this."

Zimmerman said "This strikes me as a very strange and artificial argument the court will look askance at... this is a challenge being confronted by communities throughout California." Joffe wondered if it would invite litigation by developers. Buchanan said "What this does... it's taken the density and sprinkled it out over various areas... that's the challenge. It may turn upside down the planning we've done in this city for the last 10 years."

"That's what scares me," said Joffe. "One of the philosophies of 2-30-13 was a fear of overdevelopment, not development as such," said Council Member Don Watts.

Watts said that when he was a Peace Corps volunteer, his job was to go into countries to do urban planning. "There was so much graft and so much corruption and so much temptation... they had to have Peace Corps volunteers to go in with urban planning," said Watts. He said he didn't think the people of California wanted to see more overdevelopment, and that 2-30-13 was a formula created by the Specific Plan - although he personally would like to see less than 13 units per acre.

"All I wanted to do was see some control over this process by the voters," said Watts.

There were also arguments over the rebuilding of the facade of the Hotel Shirley, in the event of a fire or natural disaster. Buchanan argued the initiative doesn't allow for it to be rebuilt to its original height which exceeds 30 feet. Zimmerman said he was sure the voters would approve of reconstructing the landmark to its original height.

The council received and filed the report. It can be viewed at www.mtwilsonobserver.com

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, February 11th, to Saturday February 17th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 263 calls for service.

Sunday, February 11th:

2:15 PM - Vandalism/graffiti, 200 block E. Montecito Ave. A resident called to report his Toyota truck was damaged while parked in the alley to the rear of his apartment. The suspect(s) wrote on the hood and passenger door. The vandalism occurred between 5:30 PM Saturday, 2/10 and 9:30 AM Sunday, 2/11 9:30 AM. The damage was estimated at \$1000.00.

8:10 PM - Vandalism, 160 North Canon Ave. Sierra Madre School upper campus. A teacher reported several window screens cut, a supply room window open, and the blinds pulled down. The damage occurred between 11 AM Friday, 2/9 and 8:00 PM Sunday, 2/11. No damage estimate was available.

Monday, February 12th:

8:39 AM - Theft of U.S. mail, 600 blk. N. Hermosa Ave. Opened mail was found by a neighbor strewn in the bushes from a residential postal box on Hermosa Ave. The addressee, who had been out of town, left mail in his mailbox until he returned. The loss is unknown at this time.

11:13 AM - Theft from vehicle, 200 block E. Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident reported a theft from an unlocked car between 12:00 a.m. Monday, 2/12 and 10:30 AM Monday, 2/12. The loss consisted of a nap sack, note books, utility knife, money and a wallet. Total loss \$600.00.

2:12 PM - Grand theft from vehicle, 200 blk. E. Sierra Madre Blvd. A resident reported a theft from his unlocked car between 12:00 noon Sunday, 2/11 and Monday 7:00 AM, 2/12. The loss consisted of 10 CDs, 5 misc. Disney DVDs, remote control for car DVD/player and 2 Disneyland Annual Passports, total loss \$1015.00.

8:31 PM - Petty theft, 200 Block East Laurel Ave. A resident called to report her mail box was missing from her home. The box was last seen Sunday, 2/4 at 12:00 noon and discovered missing Friday, 2/9 at 2:00 PM. The loss was estimated at \$50.00.

Tuesday, February 13th:

1:34 AM - Petty Theft, 00 block West Carter Ave. While on patrol Sergeant Long found a parked car unlocked and the driver's door partly opened. The owner said he parked the car Sunday, 2/11 at 10 AM and had not returned until now. The loss was \$5.00 in change.

4:25 AM - Vandalism, 160 North Canon Ave. A teacher reported her classroom vandalized, Sierra Madre School Upper Campus. The damage occurred between Friday, 2/9 at 4:00 PM and Tuesday, 2/13 at 4:20 AM. A classroom fire extinguisher was discharged, covering the room with powder.

2:21 PM - Theft, 611 East Sierra Madre Blvd., Heasley Field. A Pasadena resident reported her son's Sharp Sidekick 3 cellular telephone was stolen while he was a baseball practice. The cellular phone was taken Monday, 2/11 between 4:00 PM and 4:30 PM. The phone was valued at \$300.00.

4:02 PM - Theft from vehicle, 200 block East Laurel Ave. A resident reported leaving her car unlocked with the convertible top down 7:00 PM Sunday, 2/11 and 6:00 AM Monday, 2/12. Her owners' manual stolen and registration was missing. The manual was valued at \$27.00.

Thursday, February 15th:

12:12 PM - Auto burglary, 700 block Orange Drive. A resident called reporting the rear window of his truck pushed in and several keys valued at \$200.00 missing from the center console of his truck. The truck was parked at 12:30 AM Thursday, 2/15 and the loss was discovered at 2/15 at 8:00 AM.

Friday, February 16th:

4:34 PM - Grand theft, 300 block West Laurel Ave. The residents reported cash, a Nikon Coolpix 4500 and Kodak Easy Share Digital cameras were stolen from their home. The loss occurred between 4:00 PM Thursday, 2/8 and 12:00 Sunday, 2/11. The loss totaled \$440.00.

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CITY MANAGER (cont. from page 1)

Platinum PR had not released Gillison's official statement. Resident Bill Tice, a frequent visitor to city hall, said Wednesday he is saddened by the news. "He's good. He's the best we ever had," said Tice, who remembers a list of city managers, beginning with Jim McRea, Shawn Joyce, John Davidson, Tammy Gates and interim City Manager Don Hopper. "We've had a lot of city managers," said Tice. "They use this job as a stepping stone to another job."



A Look At The Pasadena Unified School Board Candidates

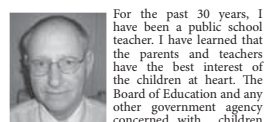
Editor's Note:

The upcoming Pasadena Unified School District Election includes voters in the City of Sierra Madre. Whether or not you have children in the district, this election is important to you. After all, the quality of our public schools have a direct impact on the quality of life we enjoy. Our schools not only educate our children, they also produce our neighbors, employees, co-workers, entrepreneurs and professionals of the future. Therefore, what we invest in their development is important. To that end, The Mt. Wilson Observer, as a public service, contacted each of the 9 candidates vying for three seats on the School Board. We are presenting to the residents of Sierra Madre the information that has been provided by the candidates for your consideration. This paper is not endorsing any candidate. We are simply sharing the information they have provided. Our hope is that you will investigate each candidate thoroughly and then exercise your right to vote on March 6, 2007. If you need information on your polling place you may contact City Hall at 626-355-7135 or go to: www.lavote.net.

Rush Henderson, Managing Editor and Co-Publisher, The Mt. Wilson Observer

Seat 2 - Full Term - 3 Candidates

GEORGE LEOW, Retired Teacher



For the past 30 years, I have been a public school teacher. I have learned that the parents and teachers have the best interest of the children at heart. The Board of Education and any other government agency concerned with children must support and empower that partnership. It's the dawn of a new day in Pasadena, Unified School District. With Edwin Diaz poised to take on the responsibilities of superintendent and the election of three board seats, there is much reason to be hopeful.

Elementary standardized test scores are rising dramatically. Suspensions and expulsions are declining, indicating improvement in behavior. Transparency is needed now at the Board of Education. Decisions being made behind closed doors must stop. Citizens of Sierra Madre and Altadena must be brought to the process. Altadenans for Quality Education has begun a movement to secede from PUSD. At the ACT forum, I said loud and clear, "I am not a politician. I am a teacher." At the Democratic forum, my opponent proved that she was a politician by winning the endorsement without having to show up.

It came as a shock to hear of United Teachers of Pasadena's endorsement. I had all but publicly stated that if elected I would be in the pocket of UTP. I was a very active member of UTLA for more than 20 years. Before that I was an active member of the Monrovia Teachers Association.

The Sample Ballot with candidates' statements are already in the voters' hands. Statements were written months ago. I am only sorry that I did not emphasize

the parental role more. I have had to explain why I emphasize support for the teacher more than for the student. "Dedicated teacher" is a redundancy. There is no reason for teaching other than dedication to the children's education. The children are the primary interest of the teachers. Unions should ideally serve the children as the interests of their members." *George Leow Pasadena, CA <http://www.geocities.com/glow225>*



MARK MASTROMATTEO, Small Business Owner

I am excited about the prospect of creating one of California's best school districts, and I can help achieve that goal as a member of the Board of Education for the Pasadena Unified School District.

Test scores are up. We have a new Superintendent with a reputation for collaboration. People in Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre understand that a strong PUSD is the best investment we can make for the future of all our children. More young families are choosing PUSD schools.

This is the time to create a clear long term plan for PUSD for lasting progress, and my presence on the Board will help ensure our District's success. As a PTA President, Advisory Council Chair, Site Council member, Arts Board member, and advocate for public education, I have learned how to help schools identify their needs, connect to resources, and help guide schools to success. As the only candidate in my race for Seat 2 with a child currently enrolled in a PUSD school, I have the best day to day understanding of what

works and what needs work at PUSD and how to build a great PUSD at the school sites, at the District level, and with the community at large.

As a Board member, I believe I can help create a great school system, at every school, in every class, with every student. But to do so, I need your vote on March 6. It's time to get it right! With your support and your vote, I can change the conversation about public education and make all our schools great again! Vote Mark Mastromatteo for PUSD Board of Education, Seat 2! Thank you.

Mark Mastromatteo is the owner of Mastromedia, Inc. and handles advertising sales for The Mt. Wilson Observer.



RENATA COOPER, Educator

Over a career of almost 30 years I have developed considerable expertise in early care and education, public policy, and workforce development. I have a BS in Early Childhood Education, a career in academic leadership, county government and as a Commissioner for First 5 LA. After 21 years in higher education, I decided to work full time on the problems that confront children, families and those who support them in Los Angeles County. Tired of academic discussions I believe that we can all make a difference, but that in order to do so, we must be able to change what we wish to see.

I have a BS in Early Childhood Education, with a Minor in Psychology. My MA is in Human Development with a Specialization in Multicultural Studies. I spent 21 years on faculty and in administration at Pacific Oaks College, and Children's School. I served for five years as a Commissioner for First 5 LA.

I am currently the Education Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Office of Child Care, where I work to create a better educated workforce in child development programs.

I believe in informed public policy, but have become concerned when the drive to create more research trumps the knowledge and experience of practitioners. I have served on many boards, published several articles, and co-authored a book *Playing to Get Smart*, which was published by Teachers University Press in 2006. I believe that my education and experience give me a great deal of expertise to bring to the PUSD Board.

The PUSD Board is not a "Super PTA", it is a policy making body that is to create and see to the implementation of agreed upon policy decisions. The Board is also charged with strategic planning for the school district. The Board accomplishes many of these tasks through its supervision of the Superintendent. The present Board has been remiss in these responsibilities, resulting in a governing body that careers from crisis to crisis, led by a superintendent who received a raise before he was removed from his position! It is time for things to change.

Oversight and governance of our children's education is a serious business. I believe the work demands someone with knowledge and expertise in educational trends, and is committed to the education of all the children of the school district. I would welcome your support of my candidacy and your vote on March 6.

Contact information: Renata Cooper for Kids 821 Merrett Drive Pasadena (626)644-3065.

Seat 4 - Full Term - 4 Candidates

GEORGE LEWIS, Business Owner

BOB HARRISON, Business Owner



As a parent of PUSD students, local business owner (Green Street Restaurant), a trained mediator and a community leader, I understand the face of our schools. I will be a board member who listens to teachers, parents and involves the entire community in moving our schools in a bold new direction so that our students can compete in the 21st century. This school board election is all about leadership and who can bring about the type of changes that we have been promised for years. So whether you have children in our public schools, private schools or no children at all... the future of our democracy is reliant on having well educated citizens. It's time for a change on the PUSD School Board.



WILLIAM BIBBIANI, Retired School Administrator

The key aspect of my vision for the PUSD centers on changing the relationship between the Education Center and the schools to create a better balance in decision-making authority. Such a change is: 1) a financial necessity - we cannot afford the current, ineffective, top-down system; 2) a pre-requisite to re-establishing public trust in how we use the funds which their taxes provide; and 3) a pre-condition for real, school-generated, school-focused reform. If the chief attribute of private and charter schools is their ability to adapt to the needs of their students (and parents), I believe that PUSD's schools ought to be delegated a similar range of flexibility if they are ever to be held accountable. The current system too easily allows lower performing schools to argue that they are just following orders from the Ed Center. Changing the relationship between the schools and the Ed Center is a necessary first step in changing the relationships between schools and their neighborhoods and constituencies. In poll after poll, people express frustration with

public education in general, while simultaneously expressing their belief that the schools their children attend are doing well. When we strengthen this direct relationship, we will all be better for it.

Please note: I was chief architect of the Quality Schools Initiative as approved by the board in 2002 which reduced busing to its lowest extent since 1970 while re-establishing neighborhood schools. And I also was wholly supportive of the re-opening of Sierra Mesa School in Sierra Madre. I believe its re-opening is, in fact, a model of a community driven effort which should be replicated in other parts of the PUSD.



MELINA ALBERT, Public Servant/Parent

Our Choices are Their Chances

During the last couple of years we have seen positive changes taking place in our schools. Some of our elementary schools have surpassed the test scores goals set by the California Department of Education. I am very proud of that. However, most of our schools, particularly middle and high schools are still struggling to a

great degree.

It is time for our district to recognize that it will take more than just its own efforts to revive our schools. The whole community needs to step up. Parents need to get involved. If it "takes a village to raise a child," then that is what needs to happen. We need to engage families and create partnerships with local organizations to create a valuable educational experience for all children.

We need to strengthen academic subjects and bring back art, music, and athletics. Some skeptics say that we don't have money. I say where there is a will, there is a way. If we want our children to get world class education, then we will find the money. Creatively develop education. Our children are life learners. Once fully engaged, children will thrive in school.

In today's world being an effective school board member is largely about understanding that our children have to be prepared to compete not just locally but globally. Their future depends on leaders with broad vision and an unwavering commitment to prepare them to meet life's challenges.

In addition to my cross-cultural life experience, I bring with me an extensive practical knowledge of policy making, public finance, shared governance and

social services. With your support I will:

- Support educational reforms to help our children achieve their full potential; increase number of AP classes and promote career and technical education for high school students to enable them to get competitive jobs;
- Ensure accountability and equity at all levels, so the money actually reach the classrooms;
- Engage and empower families and communities in forming partnerships with schools to further enhance educational experience for all children;
- And I will advocate tirelessly at the State and Federal level on behalf of our schools.

I need your support and together we will make a difference in our youth. The destiny of our children is in our hands!

For more information please visit my website at www.milena4schools.com

Feel free to contact me at 626-507-8036 or via email at mlena4schools@yahoo.com. I would love to hear from all of you! With Gratitude, Milena Albert

Seat 4 - Full Term - 2 Candidates



ROBERTA MARTINEZ, Community Volunteer

Dear Neighbor:

I'm writing to ask for your support and your vote as I run for election to Seat #6 on the Pasadena Unified School District School Board.

My children have attended, and I have been employed by, public and independent schools in the PUSD area. I've been a teacher at the preschool, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary settings. My experience on public and private boards has taught me how to improve performance through long-range plans and strategies. My experiences - from the Arts Commission to the City Manager's Hiring and Retention Task Force, to work as an organizational facilitator - have prepared me to listen to all sides and help them listen to one another.

As a school board member I will be committed to: Focus on students and classrooms. District resources should be focused on students' classroom needs and those that most closely support and enhance the learning environment.

Discuss issues, not personalities. Board members should work collaboratively and collegially with each other and the Superintendent. Doing so allows for better interaction with all stakeholders and provides positive role models for our students.

Build a successful School System for every child. Excellence, effectiveness and equity: using these principles

we can build a school system, which will provide every child in PUSD a positive educational experience. School configurations, magnet and charter schools, teacher retention, open enrollment and the technical needs of the learning environment must be reviewed as part of a long-range plan for a successful system.

Lead PUSD in effective self-assessment and evaluation. We must insist on best practices in our classrooms, at our schools and in our administrative offices. To implement best practices, administrative staff must produce sound budgets, assessments, and evaluations using accurate and detailed data. Consultants and grant-funded programs should be assessed regularly to clarify their value to the educational environment.

Strengthen communication between the PUSD and its communities. In speaking with the various communities PUSD serves, there are common concerns expressed in each group. We must work to improve how PUSD listens to its distinct constituents and create an effective communication model.

As a mother of PUSD students, a teacher, and a community member, I believe I will be an effective and positive member of the PUSD School Board. I am pleased that so many others agree and have joined the campaign to help get me elected. We are all working hard because we are committed to making a difference in children's lives.

I hope you will join your neighbors in supporting my election to the PUSD Board of Education.



TOM SELINSKE, Businessperson

I'm writing to you because I am running for the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education (Seat 6), and I'm asking for your vote. As a PUSD parent, I understand our opportunities and challenges in PUSD, and I'm invested in PUSD's long term success for all students.

As President of the Pasadena Educational Foundation (PEF) for 3 years and a Board member for 9 years, I've worked hard to increase annual contributions to PUSD schools from \$1.3 million in 1997 to over \$7 million in 2006.

As a PUSD Board member, I'll continue to work towards increased school funding to ensure that our school leaders and teachers are properly compensated, and that our facilities and school equipment provide the best possible learning environment for PUSD students.

As a successful local businessman and community leader, I'll work for new partnerships between PUSD, local business, government and community - partnerships that create greater pathways to higher learning and career opportunities for middle and high school students.

I will also work towards:

- Sound financial management and accountability
- Applying my business and leadership experience towards the most effective policy decision-making
- Supporting innovative and proven programs that increase academic achievement in our schools

But I need your vote on March 6, 2007 to accomplish these goals. Please support my campaign to advance student success in PUSD! Thank you.

THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

OPINION

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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.



TELLING THE TRUTH

By David Smith

From the very beginning, I have been hoping that the opponents of Measure V would challenge the charge I've been making that high-density condominium projects downtown will have a very negative impact on home prices.

Up until Glenn Lambdin's lawsuit, no one did. Even when someone wrote a letter to the Editor attacking my first column, she did not dispute my core argument regarding the negative market impact of high-density development. She tacitly conceded I was correct. Glenn Lambdin, however, took me on.

What is most gratifying for me is to see just how powerful the opponents are to me. I'm facing. What I'm referring to are the "false and misleading" accounts of the recent trial printed in the *Pasadena Star News* and the *Sierra Madre Weekly*. You must have a lot of power and money to get newspaper reporters to lie for you, even if they are lies of omission.

Here is what happened at the trial of Glenn Lambdin's lawsuit. I know. I was there.

First, it must be pointed out that Glenn Lambdin sued to have NINE sentences stricken from our arguments. When the Judge began the trial, she informed both parties that she would hear arguments on only two. There was nothing to dispute in the other seven. They were neither false nor misleading. Three of those seven sentences, I might add, are charges about the impact of high-density condominium projects on neighboring home values.

When Mr. Lambdin's attorney attempted to open an argument on those seven sentences, the Judge cut him

short. She told him he was wasting the Court's time, and she pointed out that the Measure V opponents used a style of language similar to ours. His argument was absurd.

We lost the argument for only ONE sentence, which was in our rebuttal, not in our main Arguments for Measure V - "The cost of elections on development projects can be passed onto developers and not be borne by the taxpayers." Why did we lose? Because the City of Sierra Madre does not currently have an ordinance enabling it to pass on election costs to developers, so the sentence was stricken due to the use of the present tense verb "can." Had we used the future tense verb "will," the sentence would have been allowed. (By law, the Judge cannot change the wording, only strike the sentence or allow it.)

Two things need to be pointed out here. First, other communities with similar provisions as Measure V have enacted ordinances that pass on election costs onto developers. Second, Measure V provides for votes on development projects only at regularly scheduled city elections, every two years. No special elections are allowed.

I personally believe the primary purpose of Glenn Lambdin's lawsuit was to discredit the charge I've been making that high-density condominium projects downtown will severely undermine home values in Sierra Madre. No one can directly refute my position since there are no reputable experts or reliable data to support their argument.

So the only weapons they have to fight with are lies and deceit. Glenn Lambdin, the *Pasadena Star News* and the *Sierra Madre Weekly* have just given you a perfect example of that.



IDENTITY CRISIS

By Susan Henderson

Identity crisis (n): a state of confusion in an institution or organization regarding its nature or direction

And that, my friends, is what is ailing the city of Sierra Madre, California. We are suffering from

a severe identity crisis.

Sierra Madre is supposed to be this lovely, peaceful, small village. We are supposed to be a tightly knit community concerned with the preservation of our environment. And that is what many believe we are. Except...

Behind the scenes is a very different story.

Now, co-mingled among the majority of the peace-loving, innocent residents is a very vocal and vicious group of people that seem to have a common malady: If they cannot control everything or things can't go their way, then it is wrong and must be stopped. That is confused thinking. It pollutes the environment.

On Tuesday, an angry, elderly citizen walked up to the microphone and was asked by the Mayor to leave for speaking 13 seconds beyond his allotted time. The time apparently wasn't the issue. It was the content of what he was saying. Anyone care to know why the gentleman was so upset? He was upset about what's going on in this town, especially the low priority we have placed on our police. His comments weren't flattering to the council, either.

Shortly thereafter, another citizen came to the microphone with a speech that had been staged in advance and apparently was pleasing to the council. There were no interruptions for her. There was no 30 second warning.

Yet another citizen read aloud a letter with falsehoods about this newspaper, swearing by statements that happened at events where he wasn't even present.

Last week, some malicious person or persons went to the expense to mail out a flyer to many residents in town that implied that this newspaper's publishers were the author.

Also last week, a website previously reported on by this newspaper, as a purveyor of character assassination, adult humor, sick sexual jokes at the expense of children and supported by the mayor, ran a story that falsely quoted this author and used one of the most vicious of racial slanders of modern times to depict me.

And now, poof, two of the sites are gone, sure to reappear in another form creating more dissent.

Today, a woman whose name was stated as Leslie Ingram called an advertiser in this paper and asked them to stop their ads. I heard the message with my own ears and could not believe it. Whether or not that was the real caller's name, the intent was the same. To discredit this newspaper.

I could go on and on. The attempts at intimidation are outrageous and all in the name of saving Sierra Madre?

The identity of Sierra Madre is changing and we have to accept that. I don't mean that we are turning into a metropolis. We only have three square miles so we can basically stay the same or become more dense or destroy our hillsides. The latter is not going to happen. But what is changing is the fact that no longer are people willing to just sit by and let the town's leadership rely on the advice of a favored few and ignore everyone else.

This paper wasn't started as a catalyst for any particular kind of change. It was started because we didn't have a newspaper. Period. Our town deserves to know what is going on. We are not going to suppress the news. For those who wonder why, there is no secret reason.

This newspaper is the vision of two friends, Deuxamis, who care about this town and want everyone to know its true identity - a diverse, quiet, beautiful foothill village, struggling to stay that way.



Invasion of the Property Snatchers

By Hail Hamilton

And I will never forget the terrifying moment when Dr. Bennel's girlfriend, Becky Driscoll (Dana Winter), suddenly turns into a pod person after briefly falling asleep.

Ironically fiction is becoming reality. Unlike Santa Mira, Sierra Madre is being invaded by greedy outside property developers in the guise of environmentally friendly preservationists.

More importantly, these developers are well organized, well-financed and absolutely committed to obtaining their goal of unlimited and unrestricted development of downtown Sierra Madre.

For example, the Arcadia Association of Realtors (AAR) has committed \$30,000 to \$50,000 to defeat Measure V. They have hired Chip Ahlswede of Schubert Flint, a well known public relations-lobbyist firm, to spearhead the effort. These guys are serious players and they play for keeps. For Chip and Schubert Flint the battle over downtown Sierra Madre has begun in earnest—our little town is now the poster child for real estate developers all over the country. For its part, AAR is going all out to defeat Measure V and is already lobbying our officials.

Three weeks ago AAR held a Mayor's Luncheon to discuss development issues in various cities in the San Gabriel Valley. Most mayors attended or at least sent a

spokesperson to discuss local development issues. Mayor John Buchanan was conspicuously absent. Instead he sent Ton Buckner, the co-chair of the Sierra Madre Centennial Committee. Rather than speak about the downtown development controversy, she spoke instead about the upcoming Centennial celebration.

Ever Arcadia Mayor Roge Chandler spoke about the development controversy facing his city. Mayo Buchanan's absence was unfortunate and his choice of Ms. Buckner was a mistake. You'd think the controversy over Measure V didn't even exist.

Although *Invasion of the Property Snatchers* hasn't been made into a film yet, the script is already being played out in the streets of our little city. The setting is our downtown, and the actors are the residents of Sierra Madre.

This April, we have a choice to make at the ballot box. We can vote for unrestricted downtown development, or we can vote for restricted downtown development. But however you vote remember this: little Santa Mira was never the same after the body snatchers took over. Sierra Madre will never be the same either if the property snatchers take over downtown. Wake up before it's late—the property snatchers are already here, and their target is downtown Sierra Madre!



Letters To The Editor

PUSD Board members,

I am a parent of 5 kids that are either in or have graduated from the PUSD. I've been an active part of the district for over 16 years. I've been a parent at PHS for 7 years and I find it appalling that the PUSD does not take seriously the implications of violating title nine by not providing the girls with a softball field.

You have an opportunity now to change that with the proceeds from the sale of the Palmer Tennis court. "We don't have any money" is no longer an excuse. If you choose to pass up on this opportunity, I would think it would be an even worse case for you if and when this were to get to court.

The parents at PHS are asking you to do what is right. \$200,000 - \$300,000 from proceeds of \$10 million is not a lot to ask for. We have come before this board on several occasions trying to rectify this inequity. You have the resources now to do it. Please vote to get this situation in line with the law.

Thank You,
Cathy Fraser

Ms. Angus, Thank you for bringing to everyone's attention.....

.....the web site you discussed the other night at the City Council meeting. I checked it out and found it amusing, and the satire clever and apt. I can see how one might find it a bit risqué, but it is mild compared with what can be found on TV or at the cinema.

Blasphemy, if present on the site, has not been a crime in the Occident since the 18th Century, although I understand in Afghanistan, Iran and elsewhere, they execute blasphemers, perhaps by stoning, although that may be reserved for adulteresses or women and girls who go to school.

Separation of church and state has guided our republic since its founding. I strongly object to your injection of religion into the political discourse. Not only is to do so un-American, it is divisive. The regrettable attempt by members of the Council to pander to the religious right by passing a religiously based and unconstitutional definition of family, comes to mind. So, too, does the attempt by the 1 Carter developers to mischaracterize opposition to their project as religious intolerance. Of course it doesn't help that the GOP-controlled Congress passed legislation designed to force local governments to approve religious facilities without regard to their land use impacts.

I hope, in future, you will refrain from poisoning the public debate with contrived and irrelevant religious diatribes.

Sincerely Yours, Gurdon Miller

"... political discourse in this town has reached a new low."

Dear Editor

After reading "In Sierra Madre, Politics Makes Strange Web Fellows" (February 16, 2007 edition), I decided that the political discourse in this town has reached a new low. Maybe I'm giving this the benefit of the doubt to call it discourse because I'm finding little evidence of anything that addresses any of the ideas or issues that are before the people of Sierra Madre now. First of all, I felt the Mayor was a bit self-absorbed for the Mayor to respond to Fay Angus' comments by resisting the notion that anybody could tell him what was funny. This isn't about what you, Mayor Buchanan, think is funny. It's about leadership. When a mature person addresses the Mayor in a public forum in a courteous way (she wasn't screaming, or using insulting language), that person - any citizen should be addressed respectfully.

The position of Mayor is Mayor of everybody - there is no parallel universe available. Obviously Mrs. Angus was troubled by the notion that you were suggesting that this web site had something to offer to the political discourse in Sierra Madre. At the very least she should have been treated respectfully, not cut off by a retort about your personal preferences and your rights to have them. I have visited the cumquat web site and I have read the posting on the companion web site described in the MWO article. I found them objectionable because they added nothing to the discussion of the issues, but were merely efforts at insulting caricature designed to demean some of the public figures that have taken leading roles in opposing the downtown development. Personally, I thought that the author must have thought he was funnier than he actually was. I have to wonder that Mayor Buchanan thinks they are so funny as to take a public stand endorsing them in the political climate of the town. There is a controversy raging and rather than urging people to have a civilized discussion of the issues, he recommends a web site that he thinks is funny. Would he think it was funny if it depicted him a public official receiving bribes of laundered funds? Would he think it was funny if it depicted Enid Joffe as a skinhead KKK member? I think you get the picture. It's funny to him because it's not him or his friends. What kind of leadership is that? I guess I can't be surprised. The politics of this town have been substandard for some time now. People who have had the temerity to challenge or publicly question what the government of the day is doing have been the objects of innuendo, and malicious lies and dirty tricks for years now.

For years, there has been a wholesale refusal to discuss the issues and instead has used the personal insult as a response. It's not a question of what was said, but who said it. For years, those in power have used the City Council dais as a bully pulpit to assault their opponents and stage their own glorification. Where else would you get a web site that described itself as 'dirt'? So this isn't really new, it's just a new low. I would have hoped that the Mayor would have used some leadership and common sense. Instead of endorsing a web site that is all about personal attacks of the most juvenile nature, I would have hoped that he might have used some circumspection and avoided comment. As a person in a position of public trust, he has a duty to protect the rights of everybody in this town and he failed miserably. Not only do we now know that he has juvenile tastes in humor, we also know that he has no sense of his public responsibilities and cannot use judgment when confronted by an error of judgment. The Mayor owes not just Mrs. Angus, but the entire community, an apology. Our city needs something more than partisan, self-absorption - it needs leadership and it's not getting it. By the way, I'd love to sign this letter, but I'm not sure I agree that I should be subject to some evil depiction on an internet web site. It wouldn't be so bad if I were going to "get as good as I gave" but I'd rather not see myself on this web site, all decked out for prostitution with a crack pipe in my lips just because I felt inclined to exercise my first amendment rights.

Therefore, regrettably, please withhold my name.

IS SIERRA MADRE AN ALL AMERICAN CITY?

As stated in the criteria: "For a community to be named an All-America City, it must be able to demonstrate successful resolution of community issues through collaborative effort. Award winning criteria include the following: active citizen involvement, effective and efficient government performance, maximized local philanthropic and volunteer resources, a strong capacity for cooperation and consensus building, community vision and pride, intergroup relations, community information sharing, and intercommunity cooperation."

Are we an All American City when many members of this community openly hate each other and treat one another with enormous disrespect over differences of opinion or when some citizens can't even express what they really want for our city yet are causing enormous ill will and expense or when a certain politician disregards his mandate from those who elected him and won't even acknowledge why he has done so or when this city can't find a way to pay some of its employees and police an adequate wage, etcetera? We of course have wonderful people in this town, beautiful natural wonders and wildlife, energy, creativity, great shops, restaurants and volunteers. So are we an All American City?

Mostly we are. However, will hate, disrespect, not taking adequate care of city employees & massive divisive community issues help us to win this award? I don't think so! If we are to be worthy of this prize then we had better take a good look at our behavior and change and start acting decently and honorably and find a way to resolve these issues with cooperation and an effective city government! A. ALLEN



Who Should Have Been President

By Rich Johnson

I apologize in advance for this column. I just can't get off the subject of presidents. Then again, all the discussion may help us hone in on the right candidate.

Why don't we all consider who we think should have been president. I know I have made my selections. And I picked mine purely on their ability to communicate with the public. Just think if the commander in chief could turn around and dish it out to the media. Bravo. What scintillating press conferences we could have.

My first and obvious choice is Mark Twain. Imagine President Twain during a press conference in the White House: (All of my candidates responses are actual quotes)

Reporter: "Mr. President, Should we go into Iraq?"
President Twain: "It's easier to stay out than get out."

Reporter: "Mr. President, what do you think of the gridlock in Congress?"
President Twain: "Suppose you were an idiot and suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself."

Reporter: "Finally Mr. President, When will you start addressing our economic challenges?"
President Twain: "Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow."

My second choice is Will Rogers.

Reporter: "Mr. President, What is your prediction for the future of our country?"
President Rogers: "Things will get better-despite our efforts to improve them."

Reporter: "Mr. President, What is your political affiliation?"
President Rogers: "I'm not a member of any organized political party. I'm a democrat."

Reporter: "Mr. President, Why are you a Democrat?"
President Rogers: "It takes nerve to be a Democrat, but it takes money to be a Republican."

Finally, I think, during the depression, we could have done no better than electing Groucho Marx as our Commander in Chief.

Reporter: "Mr. President, how would you define the political process?"
President Marx: "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it, misdiagnosing it and then misapplying the wrong remedies."

Reporter: "Mr. President, Care to comment on your recent budget proposal?"
President Marx: "A four-year-old child could understand this report. Run out and find me a four-year-old child. I can't make heads or tails out of it."

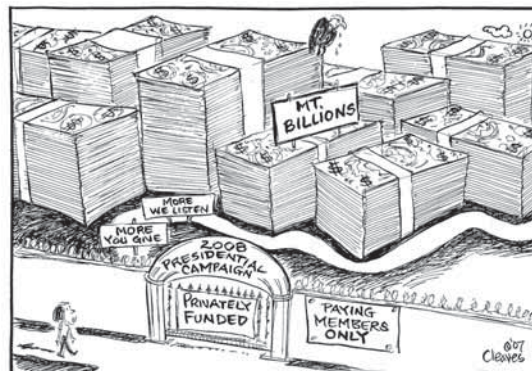
Reporter: "Finally Mr. President, how are you and the first lady doing?"
President Marx: "I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury."

Okay, I realize I haven't been politically correct in not listing a woman as one of my choices. But I have a fix for that. If you read my column and have an opinion as to who would have made a great president email it to me along with a short defense of your choice.

My email is Rich@versatape.com. If I receive any suggestions I will reproduce them next week in my column. Be sure to let me know if you want credit for your contribution.

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Ed

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



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CEC Summer and Specialty Camps

The Child Educational Center (CEC) will be offering its exciting and educational 10-week Summer Camp program, which is designed for children entering 1st through 7th grades. The program takes place from June 25th - Aug. 29th and includes fun and educational field trips, swimming, creative arts and crafts, outdoor physical activities and science exploration. The Zone offers specialized activities for older children enrolled in Summer Camp with specific trips and activities for that age group.

The CEC also provides child care before-and-after summer school at La Canada Elementary School from June 27th - July 31st for children enrolled in the Assistance League Summer School program.

The CEC is also offering three specialty camps in August that will take place on La Canada Elementary School's campus: Introduction to Theater, Fantastic Summer Science and Traveling Troubadours. Introduction to Theater is for children entering 1st through 3rd grades and Summer Science is for children entering 1st through 7th grades. Both take place during the week of August 6th - 10th. Traveling Troubadours will be offered August 13th - August 29th for children entering 3rd through 7th grades.

Introduction to Theater will offer theater games, improvisation and story theater experiences for young children in a relaxed atmosphere. The week will culminate in a performance for family and friends.

Fantastic Summer Science will provide children with the opportunity to explore both the physical and natural sciences with "behind the scenes" tours at JPL and Caltech. This camp will involve an inquiry based approach, and the staff will place emphasis on inspiring children's wonder, curiosity, and desire to learn.

Traveling Troubadours will focus on an extensive dramatic arts experience where children will be integrally involved in all aspects of producing a play, including script writing, costume creation, and set design. At the conclusion of the session, a play will be presented to parents, peers and the public.

Summer Camp Sign-Up Day is Saturday, March 17th, from 9 a.m. to noon at the CEC's Oak Grove office, 140 Foothill Blvd., La Canada. Enrollment is limited at each location so early enrollment is encouraged.

For more information, to obtain a brochure or application or to arrange a site visit, please call the CEC at (818) 354-3418. You may also visit our website at www.ceconline.org.

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- Arroyo Pacific Academy**
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Arcadia
(626) 294-0661
March 2, 2007- Rugby game at home.
- Alverno High School**
200 N. Michillinda
(626) 355-3463
March 7-9, 2007- Senior Retreat.
- Bethany Christian School**
93 B. N. Baldwin Ave.
(626) 355-3527
March 14-15, 2007- Hoop-a-thon fundraiser for computer lab.
March 23, 2007- Pre-school grandparent's day.
March 29, 2007- Pre-school and kindergarten partner's day.
- The Gooden School**
192 N. Baldwin Ave.
(626) 355-2410
www.goodenschool.org
March 9, 2007- Drama morning for kindergartners, first graders, and second graders.
March 14, 2007- Workshop for fourth and fifth grade parents whose children are going to middle school.
March 29-30, 2007- No school for students.
- LaSalle High School**
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena
(626) 351-8951
March 1, 2007- Swim meet vs. Sadwich (away) and track meet (home)
March 2, 2007- Volleyball vs. South Pasadena (away) and boy's tennis match at Web High School.
March 3, 2007- Arcadia Elks baseball tournament and track vs. Oak Christian High School.
March 15, 2007- Grandparent's day celebration.
March 20-24, 2007- Student Emersion Project in Tijuana, Mexico.
March 23, 24, 30, and 31, 2007- Spring musical.
March 27, 2007- Students make dinner at Union Station.
March 29, 2007- Café biblio-tech (arts learning day).
- Odyssey Charter School**
725 W. Altadena Dr.
Altadena, CA
(626) 229-0993
www.odysseycharterschool.com
March 1, 2007- Dr. Suess day.
March 15, 2007- Restaurant night at Souplantation, 5:30.
March 30, 2007- Spring Performance.
- Pasadena High School**
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena
(626) 798-8901
March 12, 2007- Welcome reception for Superintendent Diaz (Cafeteria 6:30-7:30)
March 23, 2007- Spring dance and career fair.
March 30, 2007- Talent show.
- Sierra Madre Elementary School**
141 W. Highland Ave.
(626) 355-1428
March 5, 2007- PTA meeting.
March 6, 2007- Fourth and seventh grade Star writing test.
March 14, 2007- Mother and son game night sponsored by the PTA.
- Sierra Madre Middle School**
160 N. Canon
(626) 836-2947
March 2, 2007- Spotlight play day.
March 3, 2007- Campus beautification.
March 5, 2007- PTA meeting.
March 14, 2007- Mother and son game night sponsored by the PTA.
March 15, 2007- Winter star session ends.
March 20, 2007- School sight council meeting.
March 22, 2007- ELAC meeting.
- St. Rita's Catholic School**
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TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS



I have friends who own restaurants - Andrew from Panda Inn, Robin from Robin's BBQ, Tommy from Mijare's, just to name a few. So writing about Central Park in Pasadena could be a little touchy. After all, owner Dave Yost and I have been together at many a UCLA football game at the Rose Bowl. When Dave told me about his plans to open Central Park, he suggested that it was going to be a little of this and a little of that - a little of Marston's, a little of Crocodile and a little bit of Huston's. I just hoped it wasn't a little bit of the Shakers. No, now don't get me wrong! Shakers has made many people very happy for years. But, I was eager to see Dave follow through on his promise. Sure Dave, pretty label but Shakers food?

I waited a few weeks for the paint to dry, and then made my way to Shakers/uh ah I mean Central Park named right after the park across the street.

Without further delay this is probably one of the best newcomers to the dining scene in Pasadena in the past four or five years. I put it into the category of the aforementioned restaurants without hesitation. And "tell you the truth of the matter" (my ex boss used you to say that and I hated it) is that Central Park might just be a cut above. Often I think that the lunch scene in Pasadena is just that - a scene - to be "seen" and yea the food is OK; guess who I saw at lunch? Back to reality!

My wise old mentor once said to try the soup first and if the soup passes, continue on. I ordered the Crab Bisque (\$4.95), it was good! Move on from there. Here are a few recommendations from Central Park - Caesar Salad (\$4.75), make sure you ask for the croutons tossed with the dressing; The USDA Prime Flat Iron Steak (\$16), The Braised Boneless Short Ribs (\$16). I have enjoyed the Eggplant Sandwich for lunch many times and being that creature of habit I will order it again (\$7.75). Other menu items - pizza, pasta salads, and fish - are all in the medium price range. Serving size is enormous - like the Claim Jumper, but not as small like Spago - Just right!

All in All a good experience - wines by the glass, and wine-specials by the glass and bottle. One complaint that I have and other friends have agreed is the wine prices; although they seem to be fair, the "special of the day" might be priced over the average on the menu. Make sure you ask the price before agreeing to a Pinot or Merlot by the glass.

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Thur. Mar 8- Preston Smith
Fri. Mar 9- Jane Fuller
Sat. Mar 10- San Gabriel Seven
Sun. Mar 11- Opera to Broadway
Wed. Mar 14- Gil Bernal
Thur Mar 15- Preston Smith
Fri. Mar 16- Cathy Segal Garcia
Sat. Mar 17- Steve Huffstaders Jazz In Latin

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Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business



Photo by Jean Boenish

100 Years Ago: 1907 on the Mt. Wilson Toll Road

1907 was a time of great growth for Mount Wilson Observatory. At the beginning of the year, plans were afoot to widen the 9-mile toll road from Pasadena (at a cost of \$10,000, paid for by the Observatory) in order to transport the heavy steel structures for the 60-foot solar tower and the 60-inch stellar telescope. Then, on January 10, winter descended on the mountain in all its fury. In her biography of Observatory founder George Ellery Hale, Explorer of the Universe, Helen Wright describes how Hale set out for the mountain that morning from Pasadena in a pouring rain. "As he climbed, the rain turned to snow. At the Half-Way House, he finally had to give up. It was only the middle of the afternoon, but it was so dark it might have been the middle of the night."

"For several days," Wright continues, "no one could reach the top. Telephone and power lines were down. Landslides carried hundreds of tons of rock over the trail. For weeks no pack train could get through, no equipment could be carried to the top. Finally, in March, a pack train started out. Just before it reached its goal, one of the most heavily loaded mules lost its footing and rolled over, down to the bottom of the canyon. He was saved by the deep snow, but until it melted there was no possible way of getting him out. So, as [Walter S.] Adams recalls, 'For some weeks the position of the mule and the driver were reversed, the driver packing hay on his back to feed the mule, who apparently enjoyed his vacation.' To which he [Adams] adds, 'The language of the driver was notable even among the remarks of his highly competent fellows.'"

Despite the weather, the widening of the road apparently proceeded at good speed, for on May 28, 1907, a local Franklin auto dealer drove his latest model up to the summit to inaugurate the newly finished road. His one passenger on the trip up refused to ride back down with the car, declaring that no amount of money could persuade him to go on that road in an automobile again.

Over that summer, the materials for the 60-foot solar tower and 60-inch telescope were successfully transported to the mountaintop. During this time, the Observatory tested a new "hybrid" gasoline-electric truck—state-of-the-art in 1907. The truck could take 3-ton loads by itself, but four mules had to be added to get 5-ton loads up the steepest slopes. Actually, mules turned out to be a far less expensive means of transport than the truck, so the greater part of the Observatory equipment came up on mule-back, with the truck reserved for the larger and heavier pieces.

1907 closed on a happy note. By November 27, all 150 tons of the 60-inch telescope housing and dome were successfully on the mountain, and the structure of the 60-foot solar tower telescope was also in place. Mount Wilson Observatory was now poised to begin its pioneering work of opening new windows to the sun and stars.



Photo courtesy of The Huntington Library

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One of a Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens... and the people who create them

By Chris Bertram

Le Veque Construction
*Creating a niche in the construction and remodel industry...
Defining themselves through quality*

Jim and Anthony LeVeque have quietly made a name for themselves in the remodel and construction business in the Sierra Madre, Arcadia and Pasadena corridor. Their meticulous work pretty much speaks for itself. Jim will proudly encourage prospective clients to see and understand the extent of their attention to detail by taking a field trip to the attic of one of the custom homes on Highland under construction. There you'll see behind the scenes, as it were, where even the workspaces of the home's attic show careful planning and execution, neatness and cutting edge technology.

The first of the three custom homes on adjacent parcels near Alverno just sold. The two in process now are a Spanish and a Cape Cod. Both offer approximately 2600 square feet, and also feature large outdoor living spaces under the roof line, for enjoyable fresh air living protected from the elements. Careful attention to fitting the projects to the surrounding neighborhood is evident in the completion of the first home, a Craftsman. It blends so well, you might not even notice that it's new construction.

A half barrel tile roof, wrought iron and arch detailing define the Spanish home on the outside. Inside both projects a myriad of modern amenities include: slab granite, custom windows, home theater, elegant master baths, GE Monogram kitchen appliances, layered custom lighting and much more. Currently the homes are on track for late Spring delivery. The anticipated price for each home is \$1.7 million.

15 years of projects dot the landscape of these communities - remodels, custom homes and home theater installations. In that time, the two brothers have honed their specialties and expertise, while drawing a circle smaller and smaller around their hometowns of Sierra Madre and Arcadia. "We just decided we didn't want to spend all our time driving from project to project, so we tightened our geographic circle. It leaves more time to devote to our clients, and time for a life after work," said Jim.

Tony shoulders the electrical and landscape areas. Jim handles the general design, carpentry and project management. In construction, there is just no substitute for hands-on involvement. Each day finds the brothers actively involved with each and every phase of the project. With the aid of a small trusted staff, most work is done in-house. Ronald provides the brawn, perfect for the demanding, physical work of demolition. Craig works with Tony on rough through finish electrical. Todd works with Jim on carpentry, tile and painting. All have been part of the LeVeque team for years.

Both enjoy a challenge, and an extensive remodel at our own home just a year ago



Jim and Anthony LeVeque

presented a full plate of challenges. As the third iteration of a home at this address, the unusual and unexpected became de rigueur: dual foundations from 1964 and 1990; numerous 5-sided rooms on a pie-shaped homesite; beautiful cathedral ceilings adjacent to rooms with extremely low flat ceilings and doorways; and even a windowless room in the middle of the house. We knew it needed quite a few changes to accommodate our living and entertaining preferences. All called out for creativity and a major dose of "thinking outside the box."

Spying a small ad in Sierra Madre's St. Rita Church bulletin we checked on the LeVeques with the church secretary. We figured she'd know the scoop. Several visits to their first Highland Avenue project ensued, including the attic, of course, and checking around thoroughly in town, including the building department, the city offices, and other contractors and residents in Sierra Madre. Absolutely everyone gave them a thumbs up. And we haven't been disappointed.

"They listened to our priorities, shared their knowledge on the topic at hand, then let us make an informed decision with good data. We were so impressed, we were prepared to wait as long as it took to fit us into their project schedule. The LeVeque staff and subs are exceptional, and we feel there is not one we would not have at our table for dinner."

Quite a deviation from the norm of a remodel! After seeing the LeVeque sign in front of our home, a couple even came to our door one weekend, saying how sorry they were to have chosen a different contractor for their project in process, based on price. They said that if they had it to do over, they would choose Le Veque, for their quality and ethics. *Le Veque Construction 626-836-6624*

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

Stuck on You...

I don't think we ever outgrow the need for "warm and fuzzy" when things aren't going well, or we're feeling poorly. I know I certainly haven't. Perhaps it's because I suffer from terminal immaturity, I don't know. At any rate, chicken soup, a comfortable robe and slippers, a good book, etc. all come to mind.

Due to recent circumstances and cool evening temperatures, I thought flannel sheets would literally be the perfect addition to the "warm and fuzzy" ambience I was basking in. I use them about every ten years, so the time seemed just right to put them on my bed. Boy, they should feel wonderful.

Bedtime arrived and I changed into my pajamas. They were also flannel. WARNING! A word to the wise...Don't ever wear flannel pajamas and then crawl between flannel sheets. I think the inventor of Velcro must have done so and hence the wonderful product we all use today.

The last time I felt this way was in 1957 at the Pike in Long Beach, California. They had a ride that some of you might remember, called the Rotor. You walked into the Rotor and stood with your back against its cylindrical flannel-like wall. It started to spin, going faster and faster. The floor eventually dropped out leaving you plastered against its walls, unable, or maybe too frightened to move, held there only by centrifugal force.

Phew! What a flashback...Now, where did I put those silk PJs?
(You're probably wondering if I own silk sheets. To the paramedics reading this, relax... I don't).

Young Web Entrepreneurs

By Paul the Cyberian

I have always been fascinated with those in their late teens and twenties who start new web sites that rocket to success. These young entrepreneurs are often in debt or lacking significant backing when they launch their web sites and often times end up millionaires just a few years later. Here, we will honor the "Top 50" young web entrepreneurs of the past 12 months.

1. Chad Hurley and Steve Chen - YouTube

YouTube is one of the fastest growing web sites in the world and less than a year after their official launch, the video sharing web site is already getting over 1 million new videos daily and tens of millions of page views daily. Recently, Google purchased the company for \$1.65 Billion.

2. Tom Anderson - MySpace

MySpace is the popular social networking web site that was launched in the July of 2003 and over the past three years has grown to a community of over 100 Million Members with over 200,000 new accounts being created daily. The web site has constantly been in the news the past two years and was purchased by News Corp. last year for a reported \$580 Million.

3. Mark Zuckerberg - Facebook

Facebook is a web site that is very similar to MySpace and after being open to only college students since its launch in February 2004, the web site recently opened up registration to anyone. Facebook started at Harvard while Zuckerberg was a student there and spread like wildfire through other colleges throughout the United States. Currently, Facebook has over 7.5 million accounts with over 20,000 new accounts daily. The web site is rumored to be in acquisition talks with Yahoo! for around \$800 Million - \$1 Billion.

4. Kevin Rose and Jay Adelson - Digg

Digg is a revolutionary news web site where members submit stories and choose what stories get featured on the home page. Digg was founded in November 2004 and since its official launch on December 5th, 2004, the web site has grown to a community of over 500,000 members and was reportedly in acquisition talks with various companies, but no deal has been made. They claim to get over 20 Million monthly unique visitors.

5. Steve Huffman and Alexis Ohanian - Reddit

Reddit.com is another community web site like Digg where members can vote on stories they like and get them voted to the top of the news results for that day. The web site gets over 70,000 unique visitors and over 700,000 page views daily. It was acquired by Conde Nast, the owner of Wired, for an undisclosed amount yesterday.

WorkForce with Madeline

Q: I'm a software engineer at a large company. Although I feel I'm doing a good job, it seems that those who have been working less time than me are getting all the promotions. I'm not quite sure what's wrong.

A: Be introspective. Are you doing an outstanding job or just a "good job"? Are you showing enthusiasm, motivation, and self-direction? Do you have a "don't put off until tomorrow what can be done today" attitude? Are you a team leader - a take charge person? Do others respect your opinion? Are you someone who has made significant contributions to the company?

This reminds me of a wonderful poem by Edgar A. Guest, an early 20th century poet.

GOOD ENOUGH ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH
by Edgar A. Guest

My child, beware of "good enough,"
It isn't made of sterling stuff;
It's something anyone can do,
It marks the many from the few.

"Good enough" has no merit to the eye,

It's something anyone can buy,
It's name is but a sham and bluff,
For it is never "good enough."

The flaw which may escape the eye
And temporarily get by,
Shall weaken underneath the strain
And wreck the ship or car or plane.

With "good enough" the shirkers stop
In every factory and shop;
With "good enough" the failures rest
And lose to one who gives the best.

With "good enough" have ships been wrecked,
The forward march of armies checked,
Great buildings burned and fortunes lost;
Nor can the world compute the cost
In life and money it has paid
Because at "good enough" one stayed.

Who stops at "good enough" shall find
Success has left them far behind.
For it is true of you and stuff
Only the best is "good enough."

Direct your questions to Madeline at comptype2@aol.com.



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SPORTS

SIERRA MADRE LITTLE LEAGUE TURNS 50 BEAUTIFULLY

Story by Mett Atbat
Photos by Neil Vance

On a picture-perfect Saturday, Sierra Madre Little League began its 50th season with pomp, circumstance and a lot of fun for its 275 ball-playing boys and girls in Sierra Vista Park.

The day started with the traditional parade down Sierra Madre Boulevard between Memorial Park and Sierra Vista Park. The little leaguers all pitched in to decorate their teams' pick-up trucks, which were accorded special parking spots when they arrived.

During the Opening Day ceremonies, those in attendance were introduced to the Sierra Madre LL board and city dignitaries, which included many members of the city council. Minors Yankees player Tanner Arden sang the national anthem, while Farm Padres player Danny Richman recited the Little League pledge.

After League President Pete Siberell listed the numerous improvements made to Heasley Field and the T-Ball field, a new scoreboard at Heasley Field was unveiled. It was donated by an anonymous resident whose kids enjoyed playing in both the SMLL and Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association programs.

Finally, the ceremonies ended with an appearance by "Tremor," the mascot of the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes and the guest speaker, Matt Young. Young was raised in Sierra Madre, played at Heasley Field in his Little League days and made it to the big leagues, playing for the Dodgers and Red Sox, among other teams. He made a point to tell the parents in attendance to "remember, it's only a GAME!" Mr. Young finished the ceremony by throwing out the first pitch to Majors Diamondbacks player Tommy Sparks.

After the ceremonies, the kids and their parents enjoyed a carnival, food, music and a number of games showcasing each of the T-Ball, Farm, Minors and Majors divisions. The day concluded with a tight 1-0 Majors Diamondback win over the Giants.

The Sierra Madre Little League season will run through Saturday, June 2.

For more information go to www.sml.org.



Photo by Anjelica Young

Matt Young Pitches to Adults at Little League Opening

By Katina Dunn

Retired baseball Hall of Famer Matt Young opened the Little League season at Heasley Field last Saturday with an inspiring talk about the love of the sport and a reminder that it is only a game and a fun one at that.

Young spoke to the crowd of hundreds in his second official appearance since he himself stood on that field as a 7 year-old in "Oaks" T-shirt and blue jeans in 1966. The star pitcher for the Seattle Mariners, Los Angeles Dodgers, Oakland As, Boston Red Sox and Cleveland Indians said later he kept to his own philosophy of fun when he coached his own children. "I don't want to be the reason why he or she didn't want to play sports the next year," said Young during a later interview. "It's recreation. It's fond memories for the rest of your life." He thanked

the parents for making the commitment to get involved by signing their kids up for Little League. "It's just as easy not to sign up your children and watch video games on Saturday. For six to eight hours a week, they would be doing something else and most of that something else is not good," he said.

Young told the coaches they had 12 players, and out of the 12, four would be pretty good, four would be medium and four would be not so good. "Your team is only going to be as good as those four not so good players," he said. "Spend a lot of time with them. They will see themselves get better and come back next year. The most memorable thing is having one of them catch a ground ball and throw somebody out at first. That makes his day."

For the last couple years, incidents have erupted across the nation of a parent or coach losing it and ending up in altercations and court rooms. "It's epidemic," said Young. "Sometimes, parents need to remember it's only a game and we're here for our kids to have fun. It's not a release for us. It's everywhere. People are trying to get college scholarships and put their kids in the big leagues from eight years-old. It's pathetic. They're kids. Let kids be kids. Let them have fun." Young said he didn't realize his dream of the big leagues until he was in college at UCLA.

Young said he is impressed by the parents he met at Heasley, by the upkeep of the field and the new score board. "Everything looks great," he said. "It was also nice having my mother there." Mary Ellen Young visited Heasley Field last Saturday to watch her son, Matt, just as she did 41 years ago. Now, both of them will be watching Gabe Young - Mary Ellen's grandson. Gabe is Matt's brother Bill's son and the Young family's latest addition to Sierra Madre Little League.

first year. Unfortunately, after one year we, as fans, will never have a chance to know the player. And that, says my colleague, is a problem.

The winners of last year's tournament are the exception to this rule. All of the players returned to school to see if they could repeat, Go Gators. We shall see if they can. But, even if you buy into my colleague's theory about not really knowing the college players because they leave so soon, the NCAA tournament is still very exciting. Until a few years ago who knew anything about Gonzaga? And, who denies that the run by George Mason University was pure drama? You just never know what these young men have in them and they tend to present their best on the stage of the NCAA tournament.

I guess the thing about college sports is that you can throw out the polls and conventional wisdom. College is not nearly as predictable as basketball at the professional level. So this year, we can look forward to March Madness with just as much anticipation as ever. Thus far this season the number one ranking has changed a number of times, the season started with Ohio State being ranked number one and it is now back to Ohio State. The end of the season has seen the Bruins of UCLA come on strong they are now listed as second, meaning they should have a good seed position. USC is still in the top twenty-five so if they hold they have a possibility to make the tournament. And who knows, maybe next year if the top 25 feels the impact of the new rule, March Madness might become March Sadness.

Anyway, here's hoping your team makes the cut and has a good run at the title - okay, you know I'm not being honest. Here's hoping my USC shuts you down.



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

MARCH MADNESS

Spring is almost here and that means March Madness will be starting soon.

The teams have not been selected, however there are certain teams that we all know will make up the field of sixty-four.

At my office our in-residence college expert started the conversation about the up coming events by saying the NBA has diluted the NCAA tournament. He talked about the great tournaments when UCLA was always among the elite programs, when freshman did not play on the varsity team. The point that my colleague was making was that the NBA, by taking young men now one year out of high school has altered the competition. This is a recent rule change. Previously, a youngster could have been drafted right out of high school and many good players went straight to the professional ranks by-passing college altogether.

The new rule allows the promising young player to play one year of college ball and then he is off to the professional ranks. Unlike football where the fans see the player develop for three years, the exceptional college basketball player will be gone after his

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