

In the Wistaria's Shade There's No Such Thing As a Stranger – Kobayashi Issa (slightly revised)



Kees Hood (above) knows what to do at a festival.



Scott O. Storie with daughters Hanna and Greta. Storie is a kilt merchant, at (562) 912-4676. Or www.mackinnonsqualitykilts.com

Hannah Soule (left) at Her First Wistaria Festival with her mom, Kym. Hannah is five months-old.

Famed artist Sonny Salsbury (right) with his rendition on you-know-what. For prints, call Leonora Moss at (626) 355-1180.



Bill Cosso with son, Will (above) enjoy a perfect day. "The vine is our ambassador to the world," said Cosso.



The Interact Club of Rotary International made cupcakes to fundraise for orphanages in China and Mexico. From left Molly Novell, Courtney Zimmerman, Mary-Claire Malooly, Vanessa Cullen, and Meghan Malooly. Next meeting is Monday, April 2 at 7 p.m. at the YAC. To join, call Director Karen Swisher at (626) 355-4371.

Photos by Katina Dunn

More photos to appear next week.

Council Appropriates \$145,000 from General Fund Reserves

Story on Page 3

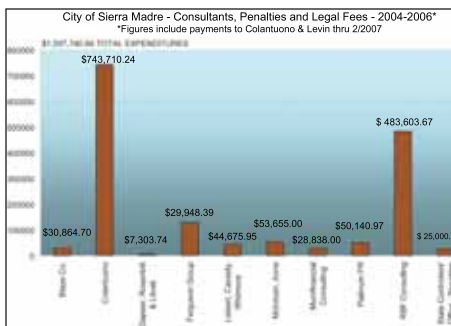
By Katina Dunn

The chart on the right shows expenditures by the City of Sierra Madre for consultants, attorneys' fees and penalties for the period from 1/1/2004 through 12/31/2006.

The city spent \$483,603.67 on RBF Consulting, \$50,140.97 on Platinum PR and \$30,864.70 on Blaze Co. PR. Anne McIntosh has been paid \$53,655.00. Attorney Michael Colantuono, from 2004 to date (27 months), has been paid \$743,710.24. Using a 12-month average, City Attorney payouts are greater by \$201,262.00 from the budget for previous city attorney Charles Martin.

The total amount is \$1,597,740.66

Information is collected from the city's warrants.



AUCTION

APRIL 15

Charming Updated Mountain Cabin
660 Alta Vista, Sierra Madre

Get away from it all! Completely updated original 1635 sq. ft. cabin. Dual master bedrooms, modern bath, central heating/air. Set back from street, surrounded by ancient live oaks. Privacy and seclusion. Just miles from Old Town Pasadena. Tucked against the base of Mt. Wilson at the top of the hill, this is the last buildable lot before the National Forest begins. City lights views for miles.

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Ryan Swender To Stand Trial For Attempted Murder

Judge upholds District Attorney's refiling of charges

By Susan Henderson

Ryan Swender, one of three adults originally charged in the 2006 stabbing of an unsuspecting Sierra Madre teen, will be tried on the charge of attempted murder. At the preliminary hearing held in front of Judge Fred Fujioka in February, a ruling was made that there were not sufficient grounds to charge Swender with attempted murder and the charge therefore was dropped.

(Continued on Page 3)

INSIDE THIS WEEK

- 1 Wistaria for Everyone**
City Hall Expenditures
- 2 April Citizens Datebook**
Also, Weekly Highlights and Roy Roams 91024
- 3 What? No Light Bulbs?**
Measure V Debate April 5th
- 4 Mayor Goes No On V**
What Is Measure V?; Mountain Clymer Will Return Next Week
- 5 OBSERVER PASADENA**
Pasadena Games Resume; Green Advisory Commission
- 6 Opinion**
Harvey Rosenfield Speaks To Residents
- 7 Letters To The Editor**
Residents Speak Their Minds
- 8 ED**
New: Oak Crest Institute of Science
- 9 Peter Dills**
Table For Two: The King of Bar B Que
- 10 TechKnowledge**
Mt. Wilson Observatory Begins 2007 Guided Tours
- 11 One Of A Kind**
Chris visits a very special treasure: MATER DOLOROSA
- 12 Sports**
Watch out for St. Francis; Stanley has drama just for you

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Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2

Friday:	Sunny	Hi 70 - 80s	Lows 50s
Saturday:	Sunny	Hi 70 - 80s	Lows 50s
Sunday:	Sunny	Hi 70 - 80s	Lows 50s
Monday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60 - 70s	Lows 50s
Tuesday:	Mostly Sunny	Hi 60 - 70s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



City of Sierra Madre April Events

- 1 - Family Fishing - 7 AM-4 PM - Public Works Settling Bins
- 4 - Welcome Reception for Edwin Diaz, PUSD Superintendent - 5:30 PM - Sierra Madre School
- 5 - Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 5 - Senior Community Commission - 3:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 6 - City Hall Art Show Opening, James Faulkner - 6:00 PM - City Hall
- 6 & 7 - Best Used Book Sales - Public Library
- 9 - Fire Safe Council - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 10 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 11 - Cultural Arts Master Plan Meeting - 5:00 PM - City Hall Conference Room
- 11 - Community Arts Commission Meeting - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 12 - Alcohol Beverage Control LEADS Training - 11:00 AM - Council Chamber
- 12 - Chamber Mixer - 5:30 PM - Public Library
- 13 - City Hall Closed
- 13 - Travelers and Collectors - 7:30 PM - Council Chambers
- 16 - Community Services Commission - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 17 - Special Election
- 18 - Tree Advisory Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 19 - Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM - Council Chamber
- 20 - Friends of the Library Cuisine and Wine Tasting - 7:00 PM - Alverno Villa
- 24 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
- 25 - Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 PM - Conference Room
- 25 - All-America City Rally - 6:00 PM - Sierra Madre School
- 27 - Arbor Day
- 27 - City Hall Closed

For more information on these and other City programs, call 355-7135 or visit www.cityofsierramadre.com.

Roy Roams' 91024

Mayor Pro Tem Enid Joffe Next in Line for Mayor

Former Sierra Madre council member Kris Miller-Fisher offers congratulations to Joffe, who is poised to be our city's next mayor during the second city council meeting in April. Now residing in Santa Barbara, Miller-Fisher hopes Joffe's mountain path is clear. Miller-Fisher was not so lucky - when it was her turn to become Mayor Pro Tem in April 2001, she was cut off at the pass by fellow council members Glenn Lambdin, Bart Doyle, Doug Hayes and Rob Stockly! At the time, resident Lisa Spigai-Perez also spoke at the podium against Miller-Fisher's ascendancy. "They were worried I would set the agenda," said Miller-Fisher. "That was the big fear, I'm sure it was." And for a Heady Dose of Déjà-Vu Miller-Fisher says she was "shredded" in the local press so relentlessly that her husband threatened to sue former *Mountain Views* publisher Beth Buck, now head of the *Dirt* website which is sponsored by Spigai-Perez, Lambdin, Hayes, Doyle, Stockly and friends.

Former Mayors In and Out of Mailings and City Hall People say they see former mayors including Bart Doyle going in and out of city hall a lot lately. Recently, Doyle's name was on all the "No on V" brochures signed by six ex-mayors... then it was off... then it was on and now it is off. Former Mayor Doug Hayes was off... then on... On one brochure, Doyle and Hayes were both absent at the same time.

Causes are unknown for this brochure confusion. In the latest "No on V" brochure, current Mayor John Buchanan now tops the list of former mayors - he himself is scheduled to be an "ex" in late April when mayoral rotation is scheduled to take place.

We Really Like the Clam-Up Chowder

Here's the invite to the luncheon sponsored by the Building Industry Association at McCormick & Schmick's seafood house in Pasadena February 28. The luncheon topic was: "No-Growth Hits Infill Development!"

The invite says "A new wave of no-growth ballot measures is appearing on the scene in Southern California. Yorba Linda and Newport Beach measures were on the November 2006 ballot, one being successful in Yorba Linda and the other failing in Newport Beach. In April 2007, another measure, this one uniquely targeting infill development, will be on the ballot in Sierra Madre. A similar measure is being promoted by a citizen's group in Redondo Beach. Could the city where you are considering a project be next? **Come learn about these measures and the work BIA is doing to prevent their ballot box success!**" Speakers scheduled were D. Barton Doyle (former Sierra Madre mayor), and Chip Ahlswede, Managing Director, Schubert & Flint Public Affairs.

Time for Reflection - The grounds of the magnificent Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center will be open to the public on Good Friday, April 6. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. the gardens and grounds will be available for private reflection and prayer, including the Stations of the Cross, traveling the same distance walked by Jesus on the road to Calvary, the Garden of Mary's Seven Sorrows, and the Plaza of the Sacred Heart, all set in the beautiful foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. At noon the gates will be closed. Later, at 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Passionist clergy, staff, and volunteers will direct public devotions and prayer of the Stations of the Cross.

Many say that just driving through the Mater Dolorosa gates, one can feel that our space here is sacred ground and the perfect place for quiet reflection and prayer. Come spend Good Friday with us! Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center 700 N. Sunnyside Avenue Sierra Madre, CA 91024 626-355-7188 www.MaterDolorosa.org

You Are All Welcome!

A Personal Invitation From Deanne Davis

Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene invites you, your family and friends to experience For Such A One As This, a powerful and unique retelling of the Greatest Story Ever Told, featuring the full Pasadena First Church choir and orchestra. Playing principal dramatic parts will be members of Actor's Co-op, the nation's only professional, Christian theatre company, based at Hollywood Presbyterian Church. For Such A One As This will be presented twice: Palm Sunday, April 1st at 6:00 p.m. and again on Good Friday, April 6th at 7:30 p.m. This life-impacting program will be presented on a no-charge, donations only, open seating basis, child care for children 0-5. A free reception in Gilmore Hall will follow both presentations.

Celebrate Easter at Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene with a Sunrise Service at 6:30 in the Easter Garden, followed by a full breakfast from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. (\$5/ person - \$25 maximum - children 0-5 free). There will also be Easter Celebrations at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. in the main sanctuary with PazNaz Pastor, Scott Daniels, bringing a message of joy and hope in both services.

Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene, 3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena. Call (626) 351-9631 for information. Easter is the perfect occasion to bring a friend to church and all are welcome!

Friday,
April 13 at 7:00 p.m.
**Heirloom Tomato Seminar
and Super Sale**

Lecture Hall A
The Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave.

Friday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.
**Travelers & Collectors
Series**

**"The Big Island, Kauai
and Maui:**
by Jack & Barbara Ludt
Sierra Madre City Hall
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
(626) 355-7186 or visit
www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us

**What's Up at
Hart Park
House?**

**Tax Help with
Don Bruner**

Every Wednesday
through April 11
1 to 2 p.m. at
222 W. Sierra Madre
Blvd.
Call (626) 355-7394

Thursday, April 19

Flower Fields of
Carlsbad Rancho
Lunch at Karl Strauss
Brewing Co.

\$43 per person,
Reserve Space Now
Call Commissioner
Theresa Daley
(626) 355-7427

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Café 322

A good Sunday for singing Opera and Broadway
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.
Strawberries, Lili's herbs, live music, fresh flowers,
honey, and fresh baked bread. Menudo & tamale
stand. The Tomato Man is gone until November - by
the time his June crop is ready, another farmer has his
spot at the market.
PHS parking lot
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Beantown

45 N. Baldwin
Order an ice cream cone
(626) 355-1596

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21 Kersting Court
(626) 355-1140

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

Both Days:
Family Fishing: \$10 per family, or \$6 per person
Call (626) 355-5278

MISSING CAT: \$500 REWARD.

Name - Otis
All white cat, blue collar,
microchip.
Last seen 2/23/07.
Please call 626-824-8839
or email
at
FindCatOtis@yahoo.com
with any information.



The Majestical Roof - Artist Boutique
Saturday March 31 from 1 to 3 p.m.

NEXT TOP DOG Runway Show

Host: Actor James Duvall: Top Dog Show

Dog Expo featuring
Christina Bernal
with *Flea Bag Clothing*

Free and Open To The
Public

The Courtyard at 88 N.
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For more info contact:
Yvonne Russo
626-844-8886

"For Such A One As This"

Riveting Presentation of
The Greatest Story Ever Told
Full Orchestra - Choir - Professional Cast

Two Nights Only

April 1, Palm Sunday - 6 p.m. &

April 6, Good Friday - 7:30 p.m.

Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene

3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Pasadena 91107

Information/Directions: 626.351.9631

www.paznaz.org



No Tickets

Open Seating

Donations Accepted

Childcare Available
(0-5 years)

Free Reception
Immediately Following

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Give New Meaning To Your Easter Season This Year...

Invite Friends & Neighbors To Share The Experience With You

Al Gore Has An Idea



Did you know that Al Gore wants to ban the light bulb? It's true. I wouldn't lie to you about something as important as this. Last week when he made his victory lap around the U.S. House of Representatives chanting "I am not running for President," he paused in front of a microphone just long enough to suggest that a date be set for the ban of light bulbs and microwave ovens and power steering and television remote controls. OK, now I am lying. I'll stop.

Al Gore did, though, in his testimony on Global Warming before Congress, suggest that a date be set for the ban of incandescent light bulbs, a proposal that promises to wreak havoc on the future pictorial representation of "bright" ideas.

It just won't be the same when a cartoon character comes up with the perfect plan and instead of a nice little "bling" as the soft white glow of a 60 watt bulb appears over his head, you get a muffled buzzing noise and a yellowish greenish color oozing from a twisted tube of fluorescent gas. Do you see the problem here? I personally would be willing to have a planet that was a few degrees warmer if I could only hold onto my beloved incandescent bulbs.

Not only are they required for cartoon thought, they also happen to be the only things left in my house that were actually invented, rather than "engineered" by a team of scientists and test-marketers larger than the

population of Kern County - unless you count my hand crank telephone, and my cotton gin.

Are you aware of this testimony of Al's? You probably saw a clip of it on the news or read about it in other papers whose writers publish things the next day. If you did, you probably know about some of Al's other proposals. You know that he advised the United States makers-of-law to "freeze" (a fun word choice in this situation) carbon dioxide emissions at their current level, and to reduce such emissions by 90 percent by the year 2050. But had you heard about the threat to the light bulb? I didn't think so.

What about Al's attack on your right to have your income taxed? Did you hear about that? That's right. Instead of taxing income and production (which we do now, econ majors), he wants to tax pollution. This would, Al claims, encourage work and discourage pollution. Whatever. He also wants to halt all construction of new coal fired power plants, and to create an "electranet" (it's kind of like the "internet," see, but different) of small energy producers that would allow people and businesses to feed power back into the grid (maybe using exercycles and elliptical machines connected to television sets and candy machines).

Al also suggested that a "Connie Mae" carbon-neutral mortgage association be created to help pay the upfront costs of energy efficient buildings, and that corporations be required to report carbon emissions as a "material risk" (This has something to do with accounting. If you are rich and connected and you know what it means, it will make you nervous... If you aren't, and it doesn't, just nod.)

It took Al, like, four hours to make all of these recommendations to old white men in blue suits who kept interrupting him and wrestling each other to the floor for the gavel (It's mine! Give it back! Ow! Ow! Uncle!). Al was affable and knowledgeable and witty and a little bit charming. And you know what? He looked pretty good, too. Thanks to the lighting.

SWENDER (continued from page 1)

Deputy District Attorney Kathryn Ratliff refilled the attempted murder charge on February 26th citing a "legally incorrect decision" by Judge Fujioka. Attorney Mark Khalaf, Defense Council for Swender, filed a motion to dismiss the re-filed charges, based upon insufficiency of the evidence. That hearing was held last Wednesday.

At the hearing, Judge Leslie Brown denied the defense motion after compelling arguments from Ratliff in which she pointed out that Swender, based upon testimony at the preliminary hearing, "put together the fight, employed the assistance of the co-defendants" and as a result entered into "an agreement to commit a criminal act in which there was a foreseeable outcome."

Ratliff also noted that according to that same testimony, "Swender did nothing to stop the stabbing and he knew it was the wrong guy." After ruling for the prosecution and denying the defense motion, Judge Brown also reminded Attorney Khalaf that the ultimate decision on whether or not there was sufficient evidence would be up to the jury.

Swender, who according to testimony, lives in Sierra

Madre, will now stand trial on five counts: 1 count of attempted murder, 1 count of assault with a deadly weapon, 2 counts of criminal threats and 1 count of battery. His co-defendants, Marvin and Richfield Chang, will each stand trial on 1 count of attempted murder and 1 count of assault with a deadly weapon. Richfield and Marvin Chang are not related.

In another matter before Judge Brown, the attorney for Richfield Chang filed a motion to have his client tried separately from the other defendants. The motion was denied. The attorney for Marvin Chang filed no new motions citing duplicity as the judge's ruling on the severance motion would also include his client.

All three defendants waived their rights to a trial within the next 30 days. A tentative trial date is scheduled on May 16, 2007. The case may advance, however, if a plea bargain is reached.

The three are charged with the brutal stabbing of an unsuspecting youth in Memorial Park on December 1. The victim was savagely stabbed, allegedly by the two men who had been summoned to Sierra Madre to "kick some ass."

Swender remains free on a \$ million bail. The other defendants remain in custody.

Save the Date: Measure V Debate

Friday, April 6 at 7 p.m.

Sierra Madre School Auditorium 141 W. Highland Ave.

Moderator :

James Macpherson of Pasadena Now

Facilitators:

Instructor Tzeitel Paras and students from the Model U.N. Youth & Government Program, YMCA

Concessions will be sold to benefit Sierra Madre School.

Sponsored by the Mt. Wilson Observer

Election Day is Tuesday April 17 for Measure V and Pasadena Unified School Board seats

Creative Arts Group Fundraiser: Art of the Garden

By Donna Packer

Garden lovers will again be invited to stroll through some of Pasadena's finest residential landscapes on the 2007 Art of the Garden tour presented by Creative Arts Group. The April 22nd tour will showcase the work of some of our best landscape architects and designers including Mark Bartos, Mark Berry and Bob and Nord Eriksson.

This year's gardens are notable for the synthesis of landscape and architecture. Widely divergent homes require gardens that are harmonious with a particular residential style. This year a Monterey Colonial, a Madison Heights Tudor, and a Georgian Traditional are among the architectural styles represented. In one design, a French Country manor, completely replaced a modest mid-century home. The landscape was redesigned and transformed to balance the very different residence. As a structure changes, the landscape needs to evolve to enhance the architectural style.

As important as the architectural compatibility, the garden must function to meet the needs of the owners. Southern California's outdoor lifestyle at its finest is represented with an array of outdoor dining and living spaces including kitchen gardens, formal and informal dining terraces, kitchens, fireplaces, pools and spas. Two gardens which were designed for families with children include a fairy garden and railroad garden as well.

Marrying function with form, sweeping lawns, terraced slopes, redwood groves, rose gardens, pergolas, arbors, fountains, gracefully curving beds of perennials and shady bower gardens soften and adorn the classic architecture of these residential estates.

The Art of the Garden tour is Sunday, April 22nd from 10:30-4:30 pm. For more information or to order tickets, please call Creative Arts Group at (626) 355-8350.



APRIL

TBA - Steamers Coffee Tasting at Sierra Madre Congregational Church
6 - 7 - Used Book Sale and Friends' Historical Display at Sierra Madre Public Library

7 - Easter Egg Hunt at Memorial Park
14 - Civic Club Centennial Luncheon and Chinese Auction at La Salle High School Cafeteria
15 - Sierra Madre Community Nursery School's 60th Birthday at Sierra Madre Community Nursery School
20 - Centennial Friends of the Library Cuisine and Wine Tasting at Alverno High School
22 - Creative Arts Group Garden Tour, various locations
23 - Redlands Chapel Singers at Church of the Ascension
25 - All-America City Delegation Rally, Sierra Madre Elementary School, Lower Campus, 6 pm
29 - Healthy Family Fun Days: Overnight Camp-Out to Orchard Camp with Search & Rescue

CENTENNIAL PINS are now available for \$5 each at various shops in town.

CENTENNIAL CALENDARS listing commemorative events throughout 2007 in the community have been sent to every home in Sierra Madre. Additional copies of the beautiful commemorative calendars are available at the library.

COUNCIL (Cont. from page 1)

A draft of the city's audit for 2004-05 is expected to be completed by May, according to Karin Schnaider, Administrative Services Director. The audit for 2005-06 should begin in two weeks with a draft completed by the end of June, Schnaider said.

Schnaider responded to questions in the lobby of city hall last Tuesday, during City Manager John Gillison's going-away gathering held just before the city council meeting. Gillison has accepted a job with the city of Rancho Cucamonga.

Don Hopper, former Monrovia City Manager, will be interim City Manager for Sierra Madre.

Later that evening during the council meeting, Schnaider said the appropriations were needed due to the city's new paramedic program, the 4 percent salary raise for police officers, the purchase of Goldberg Park, and several lawsuits. "You can look at the legal fees as paying for services you have already received," said Gillison.

Gillison and Council Member Joe Mosca both noted that the upcoming election on Measure V on April 17 cost \$70,000. Schnaider clarified that \$60,000 of that went to the analysis of Measure V by Pacific Municipal Consultants. The analysis expenditure had been approved by the city council with a 3-2 vote. Mayor John Buchanan, Mayor Pro Tem Enid Joffe and Council Member Joe Mosca voted for the analysis on Measure V.

Usually, such analyses are prepared to assist the council in deciding whether to proceed with an ordinance or an election. The election date, however, was set at the same time the survey was approved. The analysis was not used by the city to prepare information for the ballot.

The ballot information was due before the analysis was received and filed by the city council Tuesday February 27.

Pacific Municipal Consultants concluded in its analysis that Measure V is not in conflict with the city's Redevelopment Plan and is consistent with the city's General Plan. Next week's issue: Traffic on Hermosa

LOFT ONE-22

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ARMED RESPONSE

Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK
From Caroline Brown will be back next week. Remember:
The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be April 9 at 7 P.M. in the City Council chambers. For information call: 355-9350, 355-1182 or 355-0741 or e-mail us at: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.co

Mayor Buchanan Defends \$119,850 War Chest for "No on V"



Photo by Gary Hood
By Katina Dunn

Mayor John Buchanan last Monday morning defended the high cost of fighting Measure V with \$119,850 in donations from the California and National Realtors Association, as well as from the Building Industry Association.

"You can talk about the cost of actually delivering the message," said Buchanan, on videotape recorded by photographer Gary Hood.

"The message is coming from people who are living in this town who are taking responsibility..." Buchanan referred to former mayors standing with him, including George Maurer, Clem Bartolai, Doug Hayes, Rob Stockly, Glenn Lambdin, and Bart Doyle. Doyle is listed as treasurer of the Building Industry Association.

The Mt. Wilson Observer did not receive an invitation to the press event, held in front of Webb-Martin Realtors. Sierra Madre Weekly reporter Erica Blodgett was the only reporter in attendance. Beth Buck of the Dirt website has referred to Blodgett as her protégée. The six former mayors are also listed as sponsors of Buck's website. Buck's company named A Buck or Two was listed as a payee of the No on V Committee. The committee's treasurer is Cary Davidson of Reed & Davidson which also represents the Building Industry Association.

According to California Form 460, of the four individuals who contributed \$550 to the "No on V" war chest, none of them were former mayors.

Sierra Madre Election Watch: What Is Measure V?

By Susan Henderson

On April 17th Voters in Sierra Madre will determine whether or not Measure V will become the law governing development in Downtown Sierra Madre. We asked the No on V and the Yes on V supporters to answer a series of questions. As of press time, No on V supporters had not responded to our repeated requests. We did, however, receive a response from a reader who is Yes on V which is printed below in its entirety. The question that was posed to both campaigns was: "What is your assessment of the measure's impact on the city's finances and quality of life?"

One of the key conclusions reached by the Independent Analysis of Measure V pertains to both financing and quality of life. The Analysis states that "potential fee revenue increase due to passage of Measure V is estimated at \$1,692,288.00" with a park fee revenue increase of \$570,000, library impact revenue of \$63,000, administration \$108,000, schools \$322,560, public safety \$84,768, Transportation \$285,024, water \$345,984, and sewer \$238,176, with maximum build out under the Measure's guidelines. (pg. IV-40)

"Furthermore, the additional projected revenues may be used to fund small improvements or equipment purchases that allow the Public Works Department to keep up with this relatively small increase in growth."

Smaller growth with Measure V keeps quality of life in Sierra Madre at a premium, not taxing our infrastructure with massive construction to upgrade water, sewer, waste disposal, etc.

Taxpayers won't have to bear the cost (over \$4 Million) for these infrastructure needs to accommodate high density development in the downtown area, while still allowing for new businesses to take root in our downtown at a digestible pace.

The Analysis goes on to conclude, "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."

Responsible development, slow growth, bolstering infrastructure on a smaller, more affordable scale is simply a Win-Win proposition for our city. Submitted By Kevin Dunn

Kevin Dunn is a member of Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development (SMRRD). He is married to Observer Editor Katina Dunn. Mr. Dunn became concerned about the fate of Sierra Madre after reading articles written by his wife and Susan Henderson. Henderson is also a member of SMRRD.

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, March 18th, to Saturday March 24th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 182 calls for service.

Monday, March 19th:

10:24 AM - Grand theft, 100 block Esperanza Ave. A resident reported her Trek bicycle missing from the apartment carport. The chain securing her white Trek bicycle was cut and her bike was stolen. The bike was last seen Monday, 3/19 at 8:00 AM and discovered missing at 10:15 AM. The bike was valued at \$500.00.

1:30 PM - Attempt auto burglary, 700 Block West Highland Ave. A resident called to report the driver's side door lock cylinder damaged. The car was last seen undamaged Monday, 3/19 at 1:30 AM and the damage was discovered at Monday morning at 10:00 AM. Nothing was taken from the car and repair cost was not available.

Tuesday, March 20th:

7:30 AM - Auto burglary, 300 block North Lima Ave. A resident reported her driver's door unlocked and several homemade CDs missing. The car was parked Monday, 3/19 at 4:30 PM and the loss was discovered Tuesday, 3/20 at 7:15 AM. Value of the stolen CDs is unknown at this time.

Thursday, March 22nd:

3:33 PM - Residential burglary, 400 block East Laurel Ave. A resident reported a Minolta, Dimage 2300, six Super Nintendo video games and a black soft computer case missing from his home. The rear sliding door was left unsecured Thursday 3/22 between 11:30 AM and 3:30 PM. The loss was valued at \$500.00. Witnesses described the suspects, who drove a black Chevrolet SUV, to police. The suspects were arrested later that day while committing another burglary in Monrovia. Officers recovered part of the loss from the Laurel Ave. burglary. Both suspects were from Los Angeles.

Friday, March 23rd:

6:07 PM - Stolen bicycle, 200 block East Highland Ave. A resident's son reported his dark green Diamond Back (BMX style) bicycle was stolen. The bike was last seen 9:00 AM Friday, 3/23 and discovered missing at 2:20 PM. The bike was valued at \$300.00.

Saturday, March 24th:

2:47 AM - Petty theft, 1900 block Storehouse RD. A resident reported the political signs, "No on V" placed in the front yard was stolen. The sign was displayed Saturday 3/24 at 10:30 AM and the discovered missing by 2:00PM.

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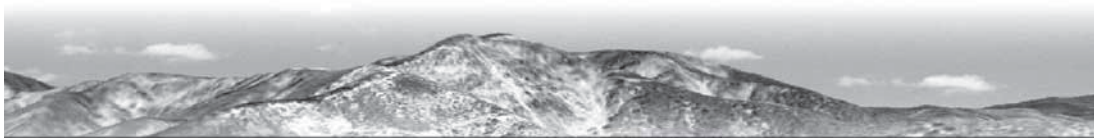
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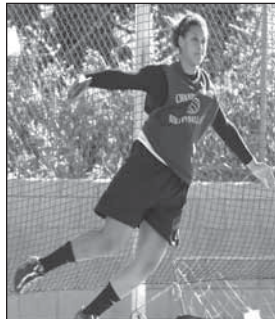
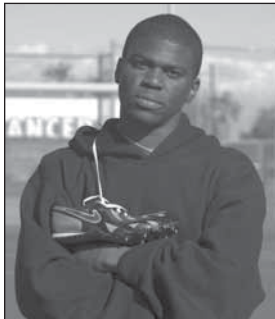
The Mt. Wilson Observer



PASADENA

Pasadena Games on Track at PCC

By Larry Bortstein



Photos by Jacqueline Truong
LaSalle students Westley Riley (left) and Shelby McCray (right) are just two of the many talented athletes that will meet this weekend at the Pasadena Games.

When the Pasadena Games returns to the track and field calendar Saturday night after a one-year absence, La Salle High, which is sanctioning the Meet at Pasadena City College, hopes to play a major role.

Fred Riley, in his 13th year of coaching the boys and girls track teams at La Salle, will send out some of the athletes who contributed to the Lancers' third-place showing in the CIF championships last year.

Among them will be 800-meter runner Westley Riley, the coach's son, and Shelby McCray, who doubles in the girls' shot put and discus throw.

The younger Riley and McCray, both seniors, have been multi-sport athletes at La Salle. Westley has been a running back and wide receiver for the Lancers' football team and has received an athletic scholarship for football and track to Southern University in Baton Rouge, La.

"Before I go there in the fall, I'd like to beat my personal best time in the 800 by a few seconds," he said. He has run the distance in the 1:55 range.

Though his father is his coach, the 5-foot-8, 160-pound Riley said he receives no special favors or perks.

"If anything, he makes me work harder than some of the other people on the team," young Riley pointed out.

McCray, who stands 6-foot-1 and weighs 170 pounds, came to track relatively late. Her first sport was basketball, at which she has represented the Lancers all through high school.

But La Salle history teacher David Desmond, who also coaches the school's throwers, thought Shelby had the size and physique of a shot-and-discus athlete and recommended she come out for track two years ago.

"I didn't even know the right way to hold the shot or the discus when I first started," she recalled. "I didn't know the techniques or the spins or anything."

She now knows enough to send the discus more than 130 feet and enjoys the individual challenges in track and field.

"In basketball, you have to throw the ball to a teammate or have a teammate throw it to you," McCray said. "In track, you're on your own. I like that."

Fred Riley, a native of New Orleans, ran the 400 meters at Mississippi Valley State in Itta Bena, Miss., the school that later produced Jerry Rice, the most prolific wide receiver in National Football League history. Riley graduated in 1970.

"Jerry Rice wasn't even born when I went to school there," Riley said, exaggerating by a few years.

The Pasadena Games, one of the most important invitational meets for high school athletes in Southern California, is being conducted for the 64th time.

It was canceled last year for a variety of reasons. But it has come back to life, much to the relief of area coaches and athletes.

City Moves Against "Nuisance" Businesses

*"Which is worse, a whore house or drug rehab?"
 -Pasadena Council Member Paul Little*

By Dean Lee

With crowd approval, the Pasadena City Council Monday tried ridding the city of all illicit businesses by voting unanimously to limit the number of all occupants living at unlicensed boarding homes, singling out drug rehabs, to six people. It also called for an immediate moratorium on issuing permits for all new massage parlors, suggesting some were brothels.

The council also asked for a mandated distance requirement of 500 feet between boarding homes and the same for massage parlors, calling both nuisances.

Council member Paul Little requested a change in the city's zoning codes after reading a local newspaper article on, what he referred to as "illegal massages" also saying he thought the city had shut down such an establishment only to find it open years later.

"Which is worse, a whore house or drug rehab?" Little asked.

Earlier, residents gave testimony and told stories of how recovery homes had suddenly popped up in various single family neighborhoods all over the city, overwhelming many with fear and without recourse.

Many testified in favor of restrictions referring to a recovery house on Arroyo saying that a number of the occupants' cars were consistently parked illegally outside in the early mornings. Some went as far as saying the police had been called to the location once at 2 a.m. after neighbors witnessed drug activities and others said prostitution had occurred in the middle of the day.

Affordable Housing Services Executive Director Michelle White, the only person that defended the rights of recovery homes allowed under state law, explained the reasoning behind having rehabs

in the city. White spoke as the public booed and hissed.

"These people go on to serve as productive members of the community after coming off the streets," she said. "It's not fair to single out one house as an example for all."

Residents applauded the council, saying the homes were businesses and should be treated as such. They urged the council to regulate their numbers of which they said there were 91. One resident showed a map of all 91 locations including, youth group homes and mental facilities, arguing that both neighboring cities of Glendale and Burbank had less than one fourth of Pasadena numbers.

City Attorney Michele Bagneris said she did not know if new restrictions would bring litigation but said that the ordinance could be easily amended, if needed.

"I'm going to now go and measure the distance between boarding homes," White said. "I'm not sure yet how this will affect the tenants. What do want us to do, throw them all out?"

Little said background checks should be done on operators and technicians prior to hearing a conditional use permit application, something that was also brought up for boarding homes.

City Attorney, Michele Bagneris said that city staff would bring back an ordinance for first reading sometime next month than again for second reading at which time the moratorium would go into affect lasting 45 days.

The council said during this time they wanted a review by the city's Public Safety Committee.

Turning Pasadena Green One Advisory Commission at a Time

By Dean Lee

With a light agenda but a lot of city business to contend to, Pasadena's new highly anticipated Environmental Advisory Commission met recently for the first time as members were briefed on the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords and U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement among other worldly government policies.

The meeting was standing room only as the eager crowd, including members of the local chapter of the U.N. Association, Pasadena City College and the Sierra Club, also listened to an overview of the city's Green Action Plan, which the city created in September.

The city's Planning and Development Department's Project Manager, Alice Sterling, outlined seven general improvement areas as part of the plan including energy, waste, urban design, urban nature, transportation, health and water. The plan comprised 21 possible city actions seven of which she said have been completed and another 10 that were likely to be completed.

"We hope to have 10 actions completed by 2010 making us a 'One Star' city as part of the U.N. Accords," Sterling said. "We then hope to have at least 12 by 2012 moving us up to a Two Star city." If all 21 possible goals are reached a city can get a total of four stars she said.

She then said the city had implemented measures to use 10 percent renewable energy by 2010 as part of the U.N. Green Sites Declaration and Urban Environmental Accords something Pasadena Sierra Club co-chair, David Czamanske said he was leery of.

Czamanske then said he wanted to see the city end its contract with Intermountain Power Plant in Utah as a primary source of power for the city shifting green house gases out of state. He said he thought that overall, the commission was good for the city and was eager to work with them.

PCC biology instructor, Russell DiFiori, also addressed the new commission saying the school had implemented a new environmental program, starting in fall, focused around the U.N. Accords. He said the school was interested in working with the city and that the program was set to start with 96 students but anticipated an enrollment of 750 after it was fully

implemented.

Sterling jumped on the opportunity to work with the school saying that a partnership would be perfect for adopting a policy for creating environmental jobs as part of the city's plan.

She also invited students to come out to the city's green building workshops something she was instrumental in starting.

"We were just, literally, sitting around and had read about the U.N. Accords," DiFiori said. "Then when we found out the city was involved we wanted to somehow also get involved."

Czamanske said the city should think about following Seattle as a model for the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. The Mayor's Agreement started in Seattle and is something he said the group is working on nationally as part of their "Cool Cities Campaign."

"Bogaard, has taken the first steps to becoming a Cool City," Sierra Club members said.

City staff said he has committed to reducing global warming pollution levels to seven percent below the 1990 levels by 2012 in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol.

Before any new business the 10 member commission first selected Michael Hurly as the interim chair and Rodger Gray as the vice chair. They also set the third Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Hale Building's Hearing Room as their regular meeting place and time although the commission did ask city staff to set up a series for special meetings focused on getting them up to speed.

The commission's next special meeting will be held in two weeks although no actual date has been set. Sterling said the information would be available on the city's website as soon as she collaborated with the new member's schedules.

The city staff also briefed new members on the state's Brown Act regarding open government requirements as well as the well as filing Conflict of Interest form 700 with the California Fair Political Practices Commission to avoid fines.

THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

OPINION



Editor
Katina Dunn

Managing Editor
Susan Henderson

Art Director
Marco Carreno

Photography
Felix Orona
Buddy Windsor
Jacqueline Truong
Steve Padilla
Linda Ott-Albright

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

Student Correspondents
Pasadena High School
Alverno High School
Oak Crest Institute of Science
Grace Persico

Editorial Cartoonist
Ann Cleaves
Web Master
Gary Miller

For Advertising Inquiries contact:
MASTROMEDIA, INC.
626-355-2737
JULIE PUTERBAUGH
626-836-6521
DOROTHY JIMENEZ
818-314-9417

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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.

Democracy in America

by Harvey Rosenfield

This is Harvey Rosenfield's speech to the audience at last Sunday's concert at PCC by Grammy Award winning artist Billy Childs to benefit Sierra Madre Residents for Responsible Development (SMRRD).

Democracy in America started in small towns like Sierra Madre. It took awhile, but now the same forces that have corrupted Democracy in Sacramento and Washington DC have infested towns and cities all over America. All it takes is a few greedy developers and a few corrupt politicians in their pockets and all of the sudden you wake up one day and your home town has become an unrecognizable, homogenized haven for construction blight and commercial excess. If that is the worst that can happen to a small town like Sierra Madre - and make no mistake, it can - what's happening tonight is the best that can happen. Because the developers and the politicians can only win when no one else is paying attention to Democracy. Fortunately for Sierra Madre, the public is paying attention - because Measure V stands for VIGILANCE, vigilance of the People over the place they and their families call home. Thanks to the leadership of people like Kevin Dunn, Kurt Zimmerman and Don Watts and others who have invoked the ultimate power of our democracy - the initiative process - Sierra Madre voters will have the chance in a few weeks to protect their hometown from the kind of economic and cultural disaster that has befallen other, less vigilant, places.

Now, I'm not saying that Measure V is sure to win on April 17. Nope - I've fought in many initiative battles, and let me warn you: when the special interests are threatened, they will do anything they can to protect their political payday.

Back in 1988, insurance companies spent \$80 million trying to defeat Proposition 103, which had nothing behind it except the support of millions of Californians who needed relief from high insurance rates and took matters into their own hands when state lawmakers were too beholden to the insurance industry. I've been watching the battle over Measure V from afar and I can tell you



this: the developers are getting desperate. When they and their politicians realize they can't win on the merits of their position - when they realize they are going to lose - that's when they resort to lies, dirty deeds and mudslinging. The insurance industry put ads on television attacking me as a gun-toting extremist who - and this part is true - dumped manure on the lawn of an insurance company. They thought that by discrediting me that they'd discredit the initiative. But most voters watching those ads figured that anyone dumping manure on insurance companies was on the right side of things. Their strategy backfired. I see that kind of mudslinging campaign happening now in Sierra Madre, and that's why I think you've got your opponents on the run. They're desperate, they're afraid.

Your job is to campaign every hour and every minute between now and April 17, every place you go, every neighbor you see, every person you come across. For V you need Voters - and word of mouth, friend to stranger, neighbor to neighbor, is what it takes.

You do that, and I predict that come Election Day, it'll be V FOR VICTORY in Sierra Madre.

Rosenfield is founder of The Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights and is one of the nation's foremost consumer advocates.

The American Way of Lying

by Susan Henderson



Lie (v): to make an untrue statement with intent to deceive

I was really trying very hard to take a humorous look at what's going on in Sierra Madre, but every day that I pick up the telephone or open my mail box, I find there is nothing funny about the current fight over Measure V. In fact, this situation has become so outrageous that I was reminded of a conversation I had once with a very wise, outspoken woman, Jessica Mitford.

Years ago, I had the good fortune of meeting a mellowed 'Decca' at her home in Northern California. Needless to say, after first meeting her at a political fundraiser, every subsequent visit lasted twice as long as scheduled due to my fascination with her talents, history and activism. 'Decca' didn't believe in pulling any punches and truly hated hypocrites. I thought of her the other day because I wish I could pick up the telephone and chat with her about this 'war' that is being waged in Sierra Madre. Well, I couldn't and I couldn't call Molly Ivins either, so what I have to say won't be laced with any of the wit and wisdom of these great women.

I do know, however, that both would turn over in their graves if they saw what is being done in the name of 'democracy' and 'freedom of speech'.

Best known for her exposé of Americans and our funeral rituals, Decca published a book call "The American Way of Dying." If I could talk to her today, I would let her know that I have seriously been thinking about writing my own book about politics today called, "The American Way of Lying" or "Buying and Lying."

What the citizens of Sierra Madre have been subjected to in recent weeks via telephone calls, mailers and other means of harassment may actually be illegal but certainly would be the basis for my book. Our political system has become the victim of power wielded by well-funded self interests. With enough money, you can bully your way to victory and to hell with the little people who stand in your way.

Take our upcoming election. It seems that the Opposition to Measure V (the No on V people), can't find any way to prevail except through deliberate misrepresentations meant to deceive; by pulling political favors out of their hats and nullifying the citizen's interests by creating chaos and confusion.

I received a telephone call recently on the Mt. Wilson Observer line that demonstrates the levels of depravity these people will go to in order to get their way.

A tenant in an apartment building in Sierra Madre called because they hadn't been receiving this newspaper. After checking, I found that the address had requested that the newspaper stop being delivered to all units in the complex by the owner, who is a known advocate for "No on Measure V".

How pathetic that one would stoop so low as to attempt to censure the tenants of his apartment building. In another instance, and another apartment complex, an advocate for "No on V" was seen taking the paper out of mailboxes before other tenants received it.

But that is not the only kind of insanity that has been introduced into this 'war'. A recent mailer actually manipulated a court transcript in order to mislead, and in another instance on the same mailer, implied that a statement was made by a Superior Court Judge, except there were no quotations marks to verify it.

All of this is a part of the out of control landscape of The American Way of Lying.

Another tool of the liars is to discredit those who express opinions contrary to their own. Rather than submit their concerns to this newspaper where they would be printed and known to the entire population, or rather than purchase an ad as most campaigns do in order to get their message across, they would rather spread lies and innuendo about who we are and how we run our business. I am surprised that they haven't said Jimmy Hoffa's widow is financing the Mt. Wilson Observer.

My mother used to say, "Money doesn't buy everything."

But, being from New York, she also knew that the statement did not apply to votes. Don't let that happen in Sierra Madre.

Go to the polls on April 17th armed with the truth. Reverse the trend of letting money and lies determine your vote.

The American Way of Lying does not have to be a reality in Sierra Madre.

Editorial

The Hypocritical Oath

We couldn't believe our ears last Tuesday when the city council discussed the Fairfield Code of Conduct that would "govern the behavior of elected officials and the public at City Council and/or Commission meetings."

Mayor John Buchanan spoke about "a certain kind of decorum" expected from our public officials. We wondered if Mayor Pro Tem End Joffe, who brought the item to agenda, had told the mayor it was about time he retracted his public endorsement in the *Pasadena Star-News* of one of the town's self-proclaimed "smutty" websites authored by that poster boy for FBI profilers.

Since we have been besieged by cowards hiding behind web sock puppets, slashed tires, computer viruses, anonymous phone calls, threats and amazing lies we thought maybe the council was going to take a chivalrous stand against this thugery.

That wasn't what the council had in mind, however. Those sorts of intimidations are useful to some on the council. Otherwise they would stop it all.

There was some hope, however, in the discussion, even though Council Member Don Watts pronounced the whole thing as a complete waste of time.

The discussion of the behavior of city commissioners is particularly piqued our interest. A commissioner or two do seem bewildered lately as to their charge of acting on behalf of the city, or acting on behalf of friends or political agendas. Here's the good part from City Attorney Sandy Levin: "You can remove your commissioners at any point along the way," said Levin, if they are not representing the interests of the people. "They serve at will," said Levin.

Anybody in mind?



Letters To The Editor

Vote NO on Measure V

It is clear that if some downtown building that does not now meet the Measure V "one size fits all" formula were so damaged in a catastrophe, such as a fire or earthquake, that it had to be demolished and rebuilt, it could not be rebuilt to its present dimensions until and unless there were an election approving it, up to two years away.

A good example would be catastrophic damage to the Congregational Church (not an unprecedented type of disaster). The same applies to a number of the older and more distinctive buildings in our downtown area.

Vote YES on Measure V

This may very well be the most important election this city has ever had. Like Kevin Dunn pointed out.... the people of Sierra Madre who want to control their property values, their way of life in this small town are under attack, financial attack and a barrage of lies by the Building Industry Association, the Real Estate Associations and their PR companies who specialize in defeating public ballot measures to control overdevelopment. There are 6 figure \$\$\$ amounts flooding our mailboxes, our telephone lines. Why? Why are a small group of self appointed

Most people I talk to about this assume that the drafters of Measure V did not have anything personal against these historic buildings and probably did not intend this result. From our standpoint, it does not matter what they intended, but rather the words in the measure since that is what we will be voting on. For anyone who thinks this is not a good result or otherwise has their own ideas they want considered for downtown, they should get an absentee ballot or come to the polls and vote No on Measure V. - Eric Olson, Sierra Madre

"elitists" headed by certain elected officials, past and present and certain members of the real estate industry here in town getting all this money from these outside special interest groups? Why are the people who support YES on Measure V getting hundreds and hundreds of modest donations from citizens? Those are the facts, I only pray folks will ask themselves these questions and then decide. It should be an overwhelming, YES to Measure V. A no vote is a huge gamble. One I don't intend to take.

- Diane Shear, Sierra Madre

An Open Letter to Voters:

Don't be fooled by unsubstantiated claims and misleading rhetoric contained in the Sample Ballot "Arguments Against Measure V." Opponents of Measure V have resorted to the use of scare tactics and false statements to secure your "NO" vote on April 17. Contrary to the promise on their signs throughout town, a "NO" vote on V will not "Preserve Sierra Madre."

A "NO" vote will give the pro-developer/pro-building industry majority on the City Council the green light to decimate Sierra Madre as we know and love it.

A "NO" vote will enable the controlling majority to unilaterally approve projects exceeding 2-30-13 bringing with them more gridlock and traffic in our downtown. To control the influx of new vehicles downtown, Sierra Madre will need to install traffic signals.

Is that the Sierra Madre we want to "preserve"? I think not.

A "YES" vote will provide residents with a say in the size, scope and density in the downtown area. We can "Preserve Sierra Madre" with a "YES" vote on Measure V.

The city council majority commissioned an impartial analysis of Measure V at a cost of approximately \$60,000 of our "valuable resources." That analysis found that Measure V is consistent with the General Plan and it is far below the density impacts identified in the city's Draft Downtown Specific Plan.

Measure V is expected to produce a fee revenue increase benefiting the city estimated at \$1.7 million. Don't be fooled by claims by Opponents of Measure V that the city resources will be negatively impacted by the need to fund extra ballot measures every time developers want elections.

To the contrary, the City Attorney's own Impartial Analysis of Measure V contained in the Sample Ballot states that "such voter approval could be obtained only at city general elections which are currently held in April of even-numbered years."

There will be no special elections generated after approval of Measure V.

Don't be fooled or misled by statements by Opponents of Measure V that threaten, scare and confuse you into thinking that in order to preserve "valuable resources better used for public safety, roads and parks," you must vote "NO" on Measure V.

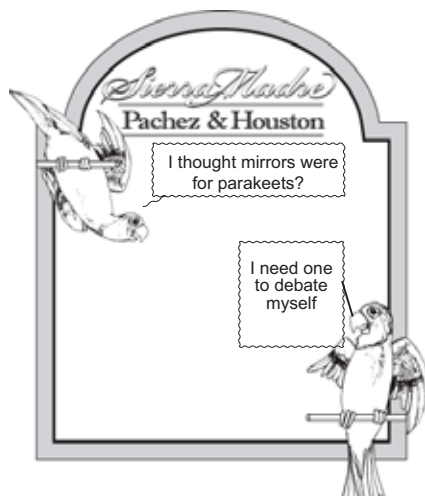
In fact, the city council has the power today to address public safety in Sierra Madre with currently available resources. The council can simply support and approve increased salaries for our Police personnel to ensure we are competitive with peer cities in LA County.

A "No" vote on Measure "V" will not magically provide the city council with additional funds to increase Police personnel salaries. The council must simply support the use of our city resources and direct them to benefit and prioritize public safety. The city council majority chooses not to do so. The trade off for us as citizens will be steadily increased crime as our Police personnel find themselves unable to meet public safety demands with the limited resources the city council majority provides.

The city council majority has no intention of approving salary increases for our Police personnel regardless of the outcome of the April 17th election. This issue is just a smokescreen intended to instill fear in our residents and create false expectations about the outcome of the election. In the last 4 years, Police personnel received a total of 4% in increased salaries. This increase did not even cover the cost of living, let alone their increased health premiums.

Sierra Madre Police personnel salaries today are still 21% lower than the next lowest paid city in LA County. I encourage each voter to take the time to truly study the Argument in Favor of Measure V in your Sample Ballot. A YES Vote does not mean we want no development contrary to the statements of our Opponents.

A YES Vote simply encourages "responsible development"... and "guarantees Sierra Madre residents a voice in major land use decisions affecting our downtown." Name Withheld Upon Request



The Only Column in Town

By Rich Johnson

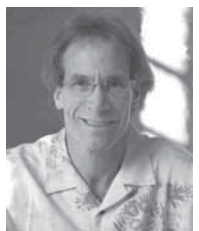
Breaking News: The wonderful woman who told me she saw my picture in the paper but didn't read the column has now read a column. And she has a complaint. Figures. Her complaint you ask? She complained I didn't mention The Only Place in Town on my list of restaurants experienced. Yet again, this woman rendered me instantly speechless. She should turn this mystical ability into a cottage industry. I know scads of people who would revel in my speechlessness. And I suspect they would be willing to pay her to follow me around. Have no fear. I'll get to The Only Place in Town. My uber Sierra Madre Fire Fightin' friend Thurman told me the owner read my column and noticed the exclusion. Great! I'll probably have to go in disguise just to be seated. Actually, there is a good reason why I've waited. I wanted to experience the other restaurants first. I figure someone who names a restaurant "The Only Place in Town" is either incredibly arrogant or unbelievably confident. And since I look for the best in people, and there are always lots of people eating there, the owners

must be unbelievably confident. Bravo. We need more confident people. But therein lies my problem. If they are THAT GOOD and I ate at The Only Place in Town first I would probably never eat anywhere else ever again, including my house. Sometimes I get hungry at 3 AM. Okay, I always get hungry at 3 AM. The Only Place in Town isn't even The Only Place in Town at 3 AM. They're closed.

Even the acronym of their name challenges all the other restaurants in town. The Only Place In Town: TOP IT. What is your favorite meal at TOP IT? Please. E-mail your fave entree to me. When I eat there, I want to go in having done my homework. If I pick your suggestion, I'll give you credit in next week's column. I suppose I better start addressing my farewell cards to Nanos, Café 322, Corfu, Casa del Rey, Delirium. Oh-oh, Delirium. I don't wanna make Lisa mad. You don't wanna make Lisamad.

Hmmm. One more thing. Will TOP IT let me play cribbage there with my little buddies?

Email your suggestions to rich@versatape.com. Thanks. And bon appetit.



The Truth Measure V Opponents Don't Want You to Know

By Hail Hamilton

Recently, I obtained the minutes of the October 16, 2006 Local Government Relations Committee of the Arcadia Association of Realtors (AAR) meeting from a reliable source. In the minutes AAR ordered Chip Ahlswede, the Government Affairs Director of AAR, to go to New Orleans to request \$30,000 from the National Association of Realtors (NAR) to match State and Local funds to oppose measure 2-30-13 (Measure V) that was originally scheduled for the November 2006 ballot. Chip is a political operative on retainer for AAR from Schubert Flint Public Affairs, the Orange County public relations/lobbyist firm credited with defeating last year's limited growth initiative Measure X in Newport Beach.

I also obtained the January 2007 AAR Government Affairs Report from another reliable source. In it there is a whole section devoted to what they erroneously call the "Sierra Madre No Growth" initiative to be voted on April 17th. Here are just a few of the tactics planned:

- Committees formed to oppose Measure V—Residents Against Planning Restrictions, now called Residents Supporting Village Preservation ("RSVP")
- Applications for State, Local & Inter-

Realtor Board Money

- NAR—\$25 vs. \$30K Application for matching funds
- Involvement of local realtors, including outreach office meetings, emails to brokers & agents & caravans
- Need for additional fundraising component
- P.E.P. Incentives & PAC Issues including the January 31 Mayor's Luncheon, which our Mayor chose not to attend

• New Government Affairs focus on the Business Benefits of Government Affairs involvement in defeat of Measure V I've already reported on Chip's February 20th meeting at Webb-Martin to discuss how "the most respected realtor in Sierra Madre" could best help AAR's effort to defeat Measure V in April and Joe Mosca's recall in June. What I did not report was that similar meetings with Chip were held at Century 21 Village, Prudential Realty and other local realtors, according to reliable sources.

I'm reminded of the parking garage scene in All the President's Men when "Deep Throat" tells Bob Woodward, "These guys aren't very bright... follow the money." The Observer has been following the money that opponents of Measure V have amassed and the sum is much greater the previously thought. AAR, local developers and others who stand to profit millions if Measure V is defeated have so far put up \$119,850, according to papers recently filed with the Sierra Madre City Clerk.

Measure V is already the most expensively opposed city measure in the 100-year history of Sierra Madre. And the money keeps rolling in. I hear that by Election Day, opponents of Measure V will possibly spend more than \$150,000.

Sierra Madre residents should be asking themselves these three simple questions:

Why is so much money and effort being spent by AAR and developers to defeat Measure V? Why is the Downtown Dirt website and its supporters so upset by what I've reported in my column? Who will benefit the most from the defeat of Measure V?

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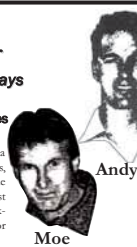
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Acorns: Notes From A Young Scientist

By Melissa Molyneux

Imagine a world in which the Los Angeles skyline is clear and the Pacific blue. There has not been an epidemic in years. AIDS is an historical threat. The carbon by-products of the civilized world are recycled, used as renewable energy, and global warming has been averted. Supreme efficiency, science and technology have advanced to the point where there is no longer the necessity for social stratification, thus allowing the developing world to join the developed.

This world would take an enormous effort to build, a fantastical effort, but that effort is underway in obscure places, and gaining strength through the efforts of responsible businesses, non-profits, scientists and students.

Every question begins a quest, and mine begins with a most unimposing building, the Oak Crest Institute of Science. Behind the modest brick edifice happens a peculiar phenomenon—magic! Not the kind of magic concerned with fantasy, but with empirical truth and practical problem-solving. Within its walls, the magic is in the method of science, the cooperation, and the purpose of its research.

The National Science Foundation awards fellowship grants to undergraduate researchers, and I was selected to conduct research through the Oak Crest Institute of Science for five months. Each project at Oak Crest involves some aspect of environmental, biological, or medical chemistry, from investigating air pollution and global warming to preventing breastmilk transmission of AIDS.

My project involves developing the technology that would allow suffers of meningitis in developing countries to be treated with a single sustained-release antibiotic injection, reducing the costs of hospitalization for patients and clinics, and the health risks of missed doses. I am ecstatic to be given the opportunity to make this contribution to medicine, and am in awe of the scope of it. The responsibility of performing this original research is the start of my life's dream. At the end of my twenty-week tour, I hope to have data supporting the efficacy of this technology. If not, then my colleagues and I will have a better idea about what doesn't work, which is also illuminating, and then go back to the drawing board. Success lies just as much in figuring out the wrong methods as the right



ones. The process of elimination just takes longer.

As a student of science I am never off duty. Juggling work and school is hectic and there are human anxieties and much excitement about crossing the threshold between academia and research, much like becoming an adult. There are those who are counting on the outcome of my actions, but no one is explicitly guiding them. I am the responsible party, the researcher. I've transitioned from the structured academic setting to an open setting, where I must structure my own activity and work independently. All useful information must be actively pursued. In this way, science is an empowering study, where I can answer my own questions, leading to independence of thought and action.

Working at Oak Crest is being part of a team of supportive individuals; people are available to learn from, but each person works autonomously on their own project. Mistakes are made, and hopefully learned from. My whole life, I've wanted to get paid to figure things out—to think. Now that the door is open, my wish is granted, and it is both frustrating and gratifying.

As an undergraduate, I still have so much to learn before I can master the material and freely move about within, improvise with, and conclude from, the underlying concepts. All of the techniques and equipment to be used during experimentation must be worked out in advance, but it takes more to be able to design an experiment—knowledge of the theory behind the methods, an intimate knowledge of the subject. It is a creative process with accountability. Inductive approaches are necessary to advance understanding of any subject under

investigation. One can memorize a list of methods and learn how to use equipment, but figuring out how to utilize resources and to what end, requires genuine originality. It encompasses art and detective work, but the detective does not have free reign.

A successful experiment is one that can be justified and reproduced by an objective party.

The core of one's preparation for such work really begins early in life, in childhood. My preparation began with my parents encouraging me to read as much as possible and to think critically and to self-educate, to analyze and dissect arguments, and separate speciousness from logic.

It is important for parents, educators, and communities to be pro-active in this step, and to invest in education, because these cultivated abilities are the most important tools one can bring with into this field. But the responsibility for an education ultimately lies with the individual—the information is out there in libraries and on the internet.

Ask questions—if no one is educating you, self-educate. That way, no one can close a door on you.

The scientist is not so much subject to her environment as she is the director of it.

Pursuing science gives a person the opportunity to inductively plumb her inner resources, all the places inside of her where ideas live, and deductively test the outside world for empirically verifiable, objective truth. That is the ultimate goal—objectivity and truth.

The efforts of the Oak Crest team will lead to practical solutions to global problems.

For more info go to:
www.oak-crest.org

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(626) 355-3527

March 23, 2007- Pre-school grandparent's day.
March 29, 2007- Pre-school & kindergarten partner's day.

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

www.goodenschool.org
March 29-30, 2007- No school for students.

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

March 20-24, 2007- Student 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 30, 2007- Spring Performance.

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

March 23, 2007- Spring dance and career fair.
March 30, 2007- Talent show.

Sierra Madre Elementary School
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Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon
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St. Rita's Catholic School
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TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS



The King of BBQ

One of my personal favorite foods is BBQ. Not oven-roasted like Tony Roma's. No, BBQ - Barbeque that is made 'low and slow' - low heat and slowly cooked. There is only one authentic BBQ in The San Gabriel Valley; you got it, it is Robin's Woodfire BBQ and Grill in Hastings Ranch.

Owner and head politician Robin Salzer has perfected the BBQ at his namesake restaurant. Robin hails from Milwaukee and opened Robin's 25 years ago this month. Robin, will readily admit it took a few months to perfect the BBQ at Robin's. The original menu had

everything from breakfast, to pizza, to nachos and a little bit of the BBQ. About five years ago Robin made the decision to go strictly BBQ. "Everyone in the neighborhood thought I was crazy," Robin explains. But, "I decided to stay the course." The result is some of the best BBQ in Southern California. The awards in the past five years include 'Best Of City Search,' numerous 'Best of Awards' by local newspapers and 'write ups' in the LA Times and Westways Magazine.

Depending on the meat, each entrée is cooked between 4 to 6 hours on wood. The sauce is only put on the meat about twenty seconds before the meat is done. This is to avoid burning the outside texture of the meat.

Prices range from \$8.95 for salads to \$27.95 for the ultimate 'Garbage Can Combo' that is big enough for two people; it includes chicken, beef ribs, tri tip, baby back, spare ribs and a beef link.

Specials: Every Tuesday and Sunday nights, kids eat ½-price with each adult entrée. Wednesday and Friday nights, Robin's offers a Fish Fry with all the fixings, Cole slaw and fries; and, seconds if you're still hungry. No Sharing.

What to order: The Beef Ribs are a must!! The Four Rib dinner is \$17.95 and the Seven Rib dinner is \$21.95. Robin tells me the ribs are notched, thus insuring extra meat. For dessert order the peach cobbler - it's house-made.

What to avoid: Mondays, the restaurant is closed. They don't take reservations on the weekends so I suggest making the visit on a Thursday night. No separate checks. TV's in the bar are pre-historic.

Robin's BBQ and Grill 395 N. Rosemead Pasadena, (626) 351-8885

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***I would drive anywhere in the city to get to this restaurant

**If I am in the neighborhood I would go to this restaurant

*If I got a flat tire in front of this restaurant, I might go inside

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Sat. Mar 24- Susan Krebbs
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Photo by Jean Boenish

Opening Tomorrow: Guided Tours of Mount Wilson Observatory

Tomorrow, Saturday March 31, the Mount Wilson Observatory area will be re-opened to the visiting public after being closed for the winter. The Observatory's grounds, the Astronomical Museum, and the visitor's gallery of the 100-inch telescope will all be open. The hours for public access will be 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., seven days a week.

Free Walking Tours—Free weekend walking tours of Mount Wilson Observatory will also resume on Saturday, March 31, and will continue every Saturday and Sunday through November 25, 2007 (unless weather conditions make a tour impractical or the U.S. Forest Service closes the area, as sometimes occurs during the late-summer fire season). These docent-led tours start at 1:00 p.m. and last about two hours (although you need not stay with the tour the whole time). The tours begin at the Skyline Park Pavilion (the building overlooking the big parking lot), where you will be met by a docent from the Mount Wilson Observatory Association (MWOA). These guided tours are open to all and require no reservations—just show up. Remember that Mt. Wilson is at 5,700 feet elevation, and it can get chilly. So even if it is warm down in the city, it is wise to bring a sweater, jacket, or coat. Also, since there is no food service available and water is limited, it would be wise to bring a snack and your own bottled water or soft drink. Alcoholic drinks are not permitted in the Observatory area, nor is smoking allowed.

The walking tours take visitors to the Observatory's astronomical museum, past the UCLA 150-foot solar tower telescope

and the dome of the 60-inch Telescope, and into the visitors' gallery of the 100-inch Hooker Telescope (where the telescope can be seen through a large glass window). Your docent will tell you about the Observatory's rich history as well as its ongoing scientific research, educational, and public outreach activities.

Special Group Tours—In addition to the regular weekend walking tours for the general public, MWOA docents also conduct special tours for groups such as service clubs, school classes, etc. These tours may be on any day of the week. They must be arranged in advance. Contact Mr. Gale Grant by e-mail (galeg@mwoa.org) for more information or to schedule a tour. Tours are held in the daytime only and do not include looking through a telescope.

To assist the many visitors who arrive at the Observatory at times when there are no guided tours by docents, MWOA has created a Self-Guided Tour Brochure. Copies of the brochure are available free at the Observatory's Astronomical Museum. Or go to the "Tour Brochure" page on the MWOA web site, www.mwoa.org, where you may download a version in PDF format. And while few things can match the satisfaction of a real, hands-on visit in the cool, mile-high Mt. Wilson air, until you can come in person you can take a virtual tour of the Observatory on your computer. Go to the MWOA web site and click on "virtual tour." With its 103-year history, Mount Wilson Observatory is arguably the best-known astronomical site in the world, and each year brings a steady stream of visitors from every corner of the globe. Typical of their appreciation is this comment, left by a young lady in an Observatory guest book: "This was awesome. Love the 100-inch. I'll be returning! (hopefully even work here someday!)"

Would you like to become a part of Mt. Wilson's future? As a MWOA Associate Member, for just \$20 per year, you will receive monthly newsletters and can become as involved as you'd like in Observatory volunteer activities. Or, as a MWOA Sustaining Member for \$100 per year, you can have nighttime observing privileges on the historic 60-inch telescope. To join, send your check (payable to "MWOA") to: MWOA, P.O. Box 70076, Pasadena, CA 91117. Please include your name, address, telephone, and e-mail address.



Photo by Steve Padilla Sunset from the Observatory

BiblioFile

with Jeff Brown

The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family by Martha Raddatz (2007)

Martha Raddatz, Chief White House correspondent for ABC News, spent the last four years covering the Iraqi war. In her first book, *The Long Road Home*, Raddatz traces the intertwining stories of soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas and their families through the first battle of the Iraqi insurgency in Sadr City on April 4, 2004. She follows the fighting on the ground while drawing a personal portrait of their soldiers. This is a powerful true story. The Battle is in some respects like



Black Hawk Down. The Sadr City Battle is a small portrait of the big picture in Iraq. The soldiers thought the people would be friendly as they thought of themselves as their liberators from Saddam Hussein and were there to help rebuild the city in a peace mission - yet thousands of Iraqis attacked in a massive assault over forty-eight hours which ended killing eight soldiers and wounded more than 70 others. This battle changed the mission in Iraq from one of peace-keeping to one of war. Her research included hundreds of interviews with the commanding officers of the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry division, the wives and parents at home and the soldiers in the streets which gives us a narrative of that terrible day and its aftermath. She describes in terrible detail the blood, guts, fear and bravery of the men and women she talked to who endured on the front lines. She alternates graphic scenes with moving ones from back home, where family members await their loved one's deployment or worry about the fateful knock on the door with awful news. She also provides details about the personal lives of these soldiers, many who had never fired a gun in combat. Who should read this book? As Raddatz has said, she wrote this book for those not in the military yet she also wanted the families and soldiers to know about the battle. She feels that we owe it to the families and soldiers to know who these people are, who is taking the risk for us, who is fighting the fight. It is written in real time. Raddatz wants people to feel this war and if we are to have an intelligent debate about this we need to know where we are now with the people involved.

WorkForce with Madeline

Q: My boss and I are both female and in our early 30s. Apparently, my boss would like to become social friends with me. She has suggested that we hang out together after work. She has even started to confide in me about her boyfriend problems. I really don't want to become friends with my boss and am uncomfortable with this situation. What approach should I take without creating hard feelings?

A: The old saying, "business and pleasure don't mix," rings true here. Be straightforward. Tell your boss you really enjoy working with her and have learned a lot from her, but you prefer to maintain a professional relationship. If she continues to share personal information with you, show little interest and turn the subject back to business. Of course, continue to be friendly with your boss but not in the social sense.

According to Eunice Miller, MSW, "Crossing professional lines is dysfunctional and leads to ineffectiveness. Appropriate roles and boundaries should always be maintained."

Eunice Miller is host of Plain Wrapper, an Internet talk show (www.eunicemiller.com).

Q: My friend and fraternity brother, Rob, recently had an interview. The interviewer, Joe, was in the same fraternity but at a different school. Joe spent the entire time talking about his fraternity and asking questions about our fraternity. Rob was surprised that he was not asked any of the typical interview questions. I have an interview with the same company in a few weeks. If I get this recruiter, how should I respond?

A: Don't be fooled. This might have been Joe's technique for putting Rob at ease. Also, by engaging in small talk, Joe might actually have been trying to decipher those traits which would make Rob an asset to the company. For example, if the interview was for a sales position, Joe might have been looking for someone with an outgoing personality.

If you are presented with the same situation, think in terms of your accomplishments within the fraternity and elaborate on those. Did you hold an office? Did you team with your peers to organize a special event? Were you successful in bringing in new members? Did you attend a leadership convention?

This interview could be your opportunity for a great bonding experience so take advantage of it. I have found that people who are heavily into the Greek system love to "open the door" for brothers and sisters.

Direct your questions to Madeline at comtype2@aol.com or 888-489-8372 (8 AM - 6 PM, Monday - Friday).

"Is Your Computer a Gang Member?"

Paul the Cyberian

"What kind of question is that?" you might ask yourself. The last time I checked, gang members were bad-mannered kids (other peoples' kids, of course) who roamed the streets at all times of the day or night engaging in nefarious activities like tagging and theft and other varieties of mayhem.

Of course your computer isn't out at night driving up and down the city with his or her friends making a general nuisance of itself. That would be ridiculous. But the truth of the matter is that your computer may be doing something along the same lines without your knowledge.

The e-commerce boom, cheaper and more powerful technology and inexpensive high-speed Internet connections have proven themselves able tools to be used for nefarious purposes.

Technical advances in computer programming and communications technology have made collaboration by groups of users more effective than ever and an ever-growing Internet user population has become a very enticing target for exploitation.

The new user generation is quite comfortable conducting business (and pleasure) on their computers and are far less wary than their computing predecessors.

All these factors taken together add up to form a very ripe field ready for harvest to someone with less than honorable intentions. The main reason these factors add up to such a scary scenario is that the average user is far too comfortable with this hi-speed, hi-tech environment. Sometimes they get so comfortable that they do things that facilitate their unwitting participation in some fairly hairy activities. One of the things that they tend to do is use an unsecured computer to surf the Internet. The danger in that is the possibility of your computer being controlled by another user without your knowledge or permission.

That is one of the main goals of the new breed of threat writers. By using a combination of sophisticated, underhanded computing techniques in combination with an unsecured computer with a hi-speed internet connection a modern hacker can "draft" your computer into his "Bot" (short for robot) Army and use these troops to cause all kinds of havoc on the web and you would be none the wiser.

Your computer would then be a gang member. More correctly, your computer will be a Bot Army.

Hackers use Bot Armies (groups of thousands of compromised computers) to launch attacks against business institutions, websites and other internet entities. They are also used to steal financial information from all sorts of unprotected systems.

By keeping your computers' antivirus software and OS patches up-to-date and turning your firewall on you will keep your computer safe from most Internet threats. And if you're not using your computer at any given time you can add a free and effective layer of protection by simply turning it off.





One of a Kind:

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

Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

Hidden Above Sierra Madre: The Gardens of Mater Dolorosa



Life size bronzes representing Jesus carrying the cross, and his mother, Mary

So many local residents have seen Mater Dolorosa Retreat only from afar, if at all. Likely the largest building, and probably the largest single parcel of land in Sierra Madre, its Spanish style architecture, clay tile roof and bell tower peak above the trees that encircle the buildings. Beautiful gates at the North end of Sunnyside open to a long drive of overarching trees leading slowly up to the building. Perhaps you have heard their deep bell calls during retreats, or hymn melodies wafting, as if other-worldly, from their carillon through Bailey Canyon.

I knew little more until this week, save passionate direction from neighbors and friends, enjoining me to make a visit, not only for religious services but for the soul satisfying experience of exploring these extraordinary grounds.

Fr. Patrick J. Brennan, C.P., director, guided me on a tour of his favorite of the gardens. After a short stop in the chapel for a bit of history and artwork awe, I am struck by how hard they work to make this a place to step back from real life, to take a moment, an hour, a day or a week to reflect, pray and revel in the spectacular nature that abounds here. Fr. Pat takes a short detour to adjust a chair in a newly established prayer area, angled for the perfect long view of the valley with a short view of a beautiful crucifix. There are dozens and dozens of different places for one to sit quietly and take it in, or let the world go.

We descended into a small forest of trees, through a magnificent path tracing Christ's walk on Calvary. The Catholic tradition calls out fourteen different points in this journey to Christ's crucifixion, calling it the Stations of the Cross. Fr. Pat comments that the retreat house has hosted ecumenical Christian groups unfamiliar with this tradition, and often finds them showing their families through this special, sacred place. Over 50 years ago, the stations were built by a former mayor of Sierra Madre, Schiltz, whose son was a member of this religious order, the Passionists, here.

As we descend the many steps, it's easy to see he is a detail person. A leaf out of place here, a nearly invisible juice box straw wrapper there, go into his pocket for disposal. A chipped stone step needing repair goes into a mental mailbox for attention. He seems to have the vision for the big picture, discussing large

capital improvement projects and plans for a new shrine to Juan Diego, but does not lose sight of those small things that might become distractions or hazards to his retreatant guests.

In every sentence is a commitment and excitement about creating and improving this special place for prayer and reflection. With all these acres of grounds come many expenses. Fr. Pat points out the pillars with names of hundreds of donors famous and not so famous, and reminds that there are spaces for other appreciative retreatants to affix their names and commitment in granite, to keep Mater Dolorosa alive.

The cactus garden is in need of refurbishment and knowledgeable advice on same. Discussion ensues about finding just the right person, perhaps from the Huntington Gardens to advise. The succulents are beautiful if not touchable. He shows me how a fungus on a particular cactus, appearing white, was used as a red dye by Native Americans.

We finally arrive at Fr. Pat's favorite garden, the Seven Sorrows of Mary Garden, referring to Christ's Mother. Beautiful wrought iron gates encircle this garden, the only place where the abundant wildlife cannot freely enter. Inside, a wisteria arbor completely encircles the garden, (as seen in the center of the aerial picture), punctuated by brilliant yellow trumpet vine, roses and many other plants tasty to the local deer. The fragrance is heady. Four of the nine fountains or water features are here in this garden. Each of Mary's seven sorrows merits a small outdoor "room" delineated with beautiful mosaic representations, following the circle. Off to the side of the center plaza stands a life-size bronze of Jesus carrying his cross, and his mother.

All of this draws me return to this hidden jewel high above our little town... to be silent and reflective, to take it all in, and to let the world go.

The public is invited on Good Friday, April 6, for private reflection and prayer from 9a.m. - 12 p.m. From 5:30-8:00 the Passionist clergy, staff and volunteers will lead a directed devotion at the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome at 700 N. Sunnyside Avenue, Sierra Madre. For more information call Mater Dolorosa at 626-355-7188 or visit www.MaterDolorosa.org. You can e-mail Chris at: c.bertrand@themtwillsonobserver.com

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

Cell Phone Elbow...

Before our society was so technologically advanced there was a common malady called "tennis elbow." I think in no time at all, if it hasn't already been done, it will be replaced by the term "cell phone elbow." That's rather mundane and with none of the je ne sais quoi that tennis implied, but it is what it is. It seems like everyone you look at these days has one of their arms crooked like a tree branch. Nine times out of ten it's because their hand is continuously holding a cell phone. At the doctor's office, movie theater, grocery store or restaurant, it doesn't matter, the arm is always in this crooked position.

Because I am of a "certain age," I don't find this acceptable behavior. Unless a person is a transplant patient, or the physician doing the impending surgery, I don't see the burning need to have to be "hooked-up" at all times. At the grocery store I have seen people go through the entire shopping experience including the check-out process, on their cell phone without even acknowledging the person processing their transaction. The warm and fuzzy, "Paper or Plastic?" is totally lost on these people.

When I first heard a person who was obviously alone talking in the canned vegetables aisle, I thought that the poor soul was in obvious need of psychiatric care and I high-tailed it to the next aisle. I now realize that they had a cell phone apparatus coiled around one ear a la Mr. Spock. No cell phone elbow there. Are surgical cell phone implants far behind? I think not.

I saw a young girl trying to get her mother's attention while shopping. She couldn't get it because mom was deep in conversation on the cell. This is the same mother who in ten years or so is going to be telling a psychologist or a parole board that she was always with her child... no day care for her as they were together all the time. So near, but yet so far. I have seen people in a booth at a restaurant and one of them is having a cell phone conversation. This instantly makes the person or persons with them feel non-relevant and embarrassed. Embarrassed because in addition to being ignored, the diner on the cell is speaking in a voice loud enough for Helen Keller to hear.

Technology is a wonderful thing and cell phones undeniably play an important part in our lives; however, put the call on hold...not your life.

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SPORTS

B-52s Bomb Daredevils

By Larry Hom

The 12-Under B-52s came from behind to defeat the Daredevils, 12-6 in Sierra Madre Girls Softball action at Heasley Field last Sunday. After jumping out to a quick 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning, the B-52s fell behind 6-4, then rallied for eight runs in the last two innings to win going away.

The B-52s offense was led by Sydney Kranzmann, who went 4-for-4, scoring three runs, and McKay Weiler, who had three hits, and also scored three times. Brooke Jones hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning to cap a five run rally. Pitcher Rachel Albright struck out four, and retired the side in order in the last two innings to earn a complete game victory.

Daredevils highlights included a three-run homer by pitcher Brooke Edwards to give her team the lead in the third inning. Natalie Sheng, Emily Rail and Ashlie Tello each had two hits and scored runs for the Daredevils. Natalie played flawless defense at second base, combining with Mary-Rose Magnolia at first base to record several outs.

BROOKE JONES CLEARS THE FENCE WITH A GRAND SLAM AT LONGLEY WAY

The Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association's home run sign, recently put on display at Heasley Field, may soon require a modification.



Photo by Lynda Ott-Albright DareDevils' Brooke Edwards slides under the tag of B-52's catcher, McKay Weiler.



Photo by Lynda Ott-Albright Kellie Natham, of Tsunami

Bold, black letters read "SIERRA MADRE GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION 16-UNDER DIVISION" above the growing list of girls who have hit over-the-fence home runs at Heasley, but it looks like another player is getting ready to join the list, and she won't reach the 16-Under Division until 2009. 12-year old Brooke Jones crushed a line drive grand slam home run over the fence at Longley Way School last Monday, as the B-52s remained undefeated atop the SMGSA 12-Under Division with a convincing 19-4 win over the Arcadia Battitudes. The B-52s opened up the game with seven runs in the top of the first inning, and never looked back. Pitcher Rachel Albright recorded six strikeouts, including a mid-game stretch when she struck out five out of six batters, and contributed with her bat, ripping two doubles and scoring three times. Multiple runs were also scored by Sydney Kranzmann, Megan Derick, Shelby Dreves, Lauren Pulciano and Rachel Downer.



Photo by Jacqueline Truong

Watch St. Francis Power Ball

By Larry Bortstein

St. Francis High moved from Division II to Division III this year in a realignment by the California Interscholastic Federation. Five members of the team that posted a 25-5 record last year and went to the Division II championship game, where it lost in extra innings to Foothill High of Santa Ana, graduated. But one key feature of the Golden Knights baseball team hasn't changed. They are still one of the diamond powerhouse of the San Gabriel Valley. The La Canada school remains a major force in the Mission League, winning nine of its first 10 games, including two in league play, and scoring a whopping 104 games during that span.

"We like to get after teams early," said Mike Solar, in his sixth year as the baseball coach at St. Francis. "We won't score that many runs in all our games, but we know we're capable of great offense."

In their first Mission League game last week, the Golden Knights ripped Alemany High of Mission Hills, 10-0, at Pasadena's Brookside Park, where St. Francis plays its home games.

The first eight Golden Knights hit safely and St. Francis scored six times en route to the rout—an outburst which helped their ace pitcher, senior righthander Luke Collis, roll to an easy victory, his third of the young season.

Collis, who had a 7-2 record with a 1.70 earned run average last season, also has been St. Francis' football quarterback the past two years for coach Jim Bonds, a former UCLA quarterback.

Football will be Collis' sport of the future, so this year appears to be his baseball swan song. "He's got a football scholarship to the University of Nevada in Reno," Solar said. "In baseball, he doesn't have overpowering speed, but he has great command of his pitches. If this is the last year of baseball he plays, we're glad to have him."

Behind Collis, St. Francis' best pitcher is junior Andrew Sember, who also is one of the Golden Knights' most productive hitters.

In the 10-0 victory over Alemany last week, Sember had two hits and three runs batted in during four trips to the plate, striking a two-run bases loaded single in the first inning and an RBI single in the second.

It's All About the Drama



View From The Couch

By Stanley J. Forrester

The Pac-10 had three teams to go to the Sweet-Sixteen (UCLA, Oregon & USC). UCLA is the lone survivor. Congratulations to Ben Howland and his Tough Bruins for this Saturday in Atlanta, Georgia they will have the opportunity to play Florida State again. Remember, the Gators are the team who beat them so badly last year for the national championship. The Bruins will make a better showing this year. The question still lingers - what will the Bruins be able to do with the two big men in the Florida line-up? Another upside of this game is the fact that Florida will be playing for history, attempting to be the first University to hold both football and basketball championship titles. That scene plays out very well because Ohio State will be attempting to get to the championship and would love to see Florida there also.

The Buckeyes feel they owe the Gators a little pain and heartache because the Buckeyes remember the thumping they took in Glendale, Arizona. Don't you just love college sports? There so many things riding on one basketball game, payback, redemption and atonement plus a place in the sports history book. WOW!!!

With March Madness, college basketball has been front and center, but the Lakers have also had some excitement flowing for the last five games. Not only have they discovered how to win again, but Kobe has been putting on a scoring clinic. What Kobe has done is quite frankly unbelievable during his four game streak of fifty or more points per game. His combined total score for the four games was 225 points. On Sunday when he cooled off he only scored 43 points for the Lakers' fifth consecutive win. It's not quite time to say that they are ready to go deep into the play-off, but they have been exciting lately. No matter the sport, competition, rivalry and a little something to prove always adds to the excitement in a sporting event. This past Sunday Tiger Woods was leading the WGC (World Golf Championship) tournament at Doral by three strokes going into the final hole of regulation play. Tiger Woods, the greatest golfer of today, a man who can bomb a drive over three hundred fifty yards, chose to put his game on cruise control to ensure his victory. That was unusual. His nearest competitor had hit his drive over water and safely in the fairway. Woods chose to play it safe and hit an iron off the tee, taking the water out of play. His competitor hit his second to the green leaving a birdie putt of about eight feet.

Now this is where the drama comes in. Woods, who had used up an extra stroke playing it safe, hit his ball to the back of the green. Woods could three putt and tie if his playing partner sank his putt. Everybody wondered, is this going to end up in a playoff or worse for Woods? Woods then nestled a putt some 12 inches from the hole and Wetterich missed his birdie putt. But they made that last hole exciting.

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