



THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS COMES FIRST

Friday, May 18 - May 24, 2007 Volume 2, No.20

Are Housing Mandates and Employment Forecasts Unfair and Unrealistic?

By Susan Henderson

When Sierra Madre was denied a revision of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requiring 138 new units to be built in the city over the next six years, the question was begged "what do we do now?"

As the testimony of former Mayor John Buchanan at the RHNA hearing indicated, "Sierra Madre only has three potential open spaces for any development," which is certainly not sufficient to accommodate the number of units mandated.

Buchanan and City Attorney Sandra Levin questioned the basis for forecasting 471 new jobs in Sierra Madre over the same period of time. Both the housing mandates and the

job projections are not substantiated by what the city is capable of supporting.

Cathy Creswell, Deputy Director of California's Housing and Community Development (HCD) was asked about the way the allocations are distributed and the employment figures are forecast. According to Creswell, "the employment projections help dictate what the housing requirements are." When asked what the remedy is for a city that cannot meet those projections, her response was, "We haven't really imposed any penalties on cities that have not complied. However, cities can lose their right to participate in (continued on page 3)

Weekend Afternoons with Artists at the Fair

Visit Memorial Park Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20

Photos and Story by Katina Dunn



David Darbyshire and his paintings will be featured at the art fair this weekend, to benefit the Sierra Madre Library. The artist has lived in Sierra Madre for 65 years, and is an original member of the Sierra Madre Art Guild. He began studying art in 1943, taking lessons from Alfred J. Dewey, in the old adobe building on Montecito Avenue. Darbyshire and his wife, Barbara, were at the center of the city's artistic community. The couple met working on the Sierra Madre float for the Rose Parade. "We put her up on the stove and we drew her," said Darbyshire one afternoon, reminiscing how he met his wife. Together they raised two sons, David and John, and built an extraordinary rowboat out of mahogany and copper. His father, Leonard, published a magazine in Rochester, New York, titled "Spare Moments - a magazine of Inspiration for

The Ambitious of Both Sexes." His dad also knew Buffalo Bill's press agent and belonged to an exclusive club in Havana, Cuba, courtesy of Dr. Carlos Finlay, who was also a sculptor.

Darbyshire still paints seascapes and airplanes, and builds model ships. An airplane wing hangs on the wall in Darbyshire's studio, its frame built with fine precision. He also built, with John and Mignon Grijalva, Earl and Margaret Lalone, Marian Jamieson, Mike Griffin, Gwen Gordon, John Johnson, Joe Pergola, and Wayne Callaway, the scale model of Sierra Madre in 1944 that

will be a main attraction at the park this weekend. (See Page 3)



The portrait of Darbyshire as a young man at 15 years-old, drawn in the 1940's by Alfred J. Dewey, Artist Laureate of Sierra Madre.

Trial Date Set For Memorial Park Stabbing Case

Judge denies defendant Ryan Swender's request to travel to Las Vegas

By Susan Henderson

Six months after the brutal attack on an innocent teen in Sierra Madre's Memorial Park, a trial date has been set. Ryan Swender, 18 of Sierra Madre, will be tried beginning July 10 on five charges: 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 (unrelated) will each stand trial on 1 count of attempted murder and 1 count of assault with a deadly weapon.

By law, the defendants are entitled to a trial within 30 days of May 16th. However, with consent of their respective private attorneys, all waived their right to a speedy trial and agreed to a July 10th trial date. Swender, who is under house arrest on a \$1 million bond, is represented by attorney Mark Khalaf of Pasadena. Richfield Chang is represented by Redondo Beach attorney Evan Freed and Marvin Chang is represented by Pasadena Attorney Ray Fountain. Both Changs remain in custody.

Khalaf, on behalf of Ryan Swender, asked Judge Leslie E. Brown to release the defendant from electronic monitoring. Citing the fact that Swender had been under house arrest for six months without incident, Khalaf asked the court to allow the \$1 million bond to be a sufficient guarantee of Swender's appearance in court. He asked the court to remove the electronic monitoring bracelet from Swender.

Khalaf also asked the court to consider the fact that Swender has been paying \$105 per month for the device. Khalaf noted that Swender would be unable to attend a recording session with his band in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 27th and 28th.

Deputy District Attorney Kathryn Ratliff objected, reminding the court that two previous judges had found the combination of the \$1 million bail and house arrest via electronic monitoring to be "necessary and appropriate given the seriousness of the charges." Judge Brown agreed with the (continued on page 4)

50 Volunteers Needed for Red Flag Patrols

Fire Safe Council on the offensive to prevent wildfires

By Katina Dunn



Photography by Hood Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council President Mike Kinney and Fire Marshal Rich Snyder

Saturday's pancake breakfast at the firehouse is the ideal time to sign up for Red Flag Patrol duty, a fire prevention program in urgent need of volunteers. Children can join, although parents are required to accompany those under 16 years of age.

Patrols go on the lookout for fires

in the area. "The Red Flag patrol provides eyes and ears to the LA County Fire Department," said local Fire Safe Council President Mike Kinney. "We have a crisis situation." Kinney cited the two recent fires at Griffith Park and Catalina Island. In 2003, he said 13 fires occurred at the same time in the greater Los Angeles area. Teams of two in three-hour shifts will cover territories including Sierra Madre, Upper Hastings Ranch, Arcadia Highlands, Chantry Flats and the Pack Station.

Patrols will be mobilized from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and, in extreme conditions, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Pancake Breakfast to benefit the Sierra Madre Firefighter's Association will be held Saturday May 19 at the firehouse from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Volunteers for Red Flag Patrol can also call (626) 355-0741.



Anna Laws last Mother's Day weekend, gathering petitions for the equitable police salary initiative. This is not a tax, it would be a budget item.

Where to sign this weekend: Saturday May 19, at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot at Mail Boxes & Postal at 280 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sunday, May 20, at 10 a.m. at Sierra Juice Company, across from Kersting Court. Questions: Call Officer Hasmick Hartunian (626) 824-1353.



Saturday, June 2, 2007, the Sierra Madre Police Officers Association will sponsor the first Centennial Car Show for Sierra Madre. The show will feature approximately 200 pre-1974 antique cars, hot rods, American muscle and specialty car displays. The public is encouraged to come, shop in the quaint village shops and enjoy dining al fresco against the backdrop of the beautiful San Gabriel Mountains. More on Pg. 2.

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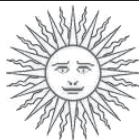
5-Day Forecast for Sierra Madre, Ca.

Longitude W118.0, Latitude N34.2



Day	Weather	Hi	Lo
Friday	Sunny	80s	50s - 60s
Saturday	Sunny	80s	50s - 60s
Sunday	Sunny	80s	50s - 60s
Monday	Sunny	70s	50s - 60s
Tuesday	Sunny	70s	50s - 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



City of Sierra Madre May Events

- 18 - Spring Family Movie Friday - 7:30 pm - Kersting Court
- 19 - SMVFA Pancake Breakfast - 7:00 am - Fire Department
- 19 - Friends of the Library Art Fair - Memorial Park
- 20 - Friends of the Library Art Fair - Memorial Park
- 21 - Community Services Commission - 6:00 pm - Council Chamber
- 21 - Community Arts Commission Author's Night - 7:00 pm - Sierra Madre School
- 22 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6:30 pm - Council Chamber
- 22 - Strategic Planning Meeting - 8:00 am - Alverno villa
- 23 - Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 pm - Conference Room
- 25 - City Hall - Closed
- 25 - MWTR Pasta Feed - 6:00 pm - Kersting Court
- 26 - Mount Wilson Trail Race - 7:30 pm - Kersting Court
- 26 - Healthy Family Fun MWTR Kids Fun Run - 8:00 am - Kersting Court
- 28 - Memorial Day Holiday - City Hall Closed
- 30 - All-America City Presentation Rehearsal - 6:00 pm - Sierra Madre Room

For more information on these and other City programs, call 353-7135 or visit www.cityofsierramadre.com

Roy Roams' 91024

Eau de Pepe Le Peu

Here's the best formula for washing skunk out of your pet's fur, according to Veronica Fincher, who gave a great talk at city hall last Monday for the Fire Safe Council.

4 cups hydrogen peroxide
1/4 cup baking soda
1 tablespoon to 1/4 cup dish soap
Mix and use immediately.

Fincher works with the Pasadena Humane Society, which handles about 10,000 animals each year. Last year, out of 18,669 calls, 2,799 of them were about wildlife.

Fincher's measures to discouraging wildlife from backyards seem severe - No bird feeders, no water bowls, no backyard fruit, no fish ponds, no brushy areas.

Here's a scary thought - a coyote can scale a six-foot fence and run as fast as 30 mph. Coyote Highway stretches from Orange Grove to Bailey Canyon. Bears like to hang around Carter and Chaparral, she said. Fincher said bears are captured and released in the Angeles National Forest. If the bears return, it means they are not able to live in the wild. Those bears are usually euthanized, she said.

Fincher says "remember to keep all small pets indoors at night."

Lame-O

Who is the Starbucks scribe who writes about nothing, so often?

The aggravating blurbs are posted everywhere in the coffee franchise. The holiday sentences were irritating, and the spring phrases are even more so:

"Pairs with dad's lawn chair."
"Enjoy a cup on the porch."
"Sit down to a game with dad on the front porch."

"Do you like it iced or hot?"
"The art of chaise lounge-ing."
Here's our favorite: "Clearance."

Dodging Dobbs

Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) writes that 60 Minutes Correspondent Lesley Stahl asked CNN anchor and Americans-at-work activist Lou Dobbs about a leprosy statistic he recently cited on his program.

Last April, Dobbs had claimed that 7,000 new cases of leprosy, or Hansen's

Disease, have been discovered in the past three years - implying it was due to increased immigration.

STAHL: We checked that and found a report issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, saying: "Seven thousand is the number of leprosy cases over the last 30 years," not the past three, and nobody knows how many of those cases involved illegal immigrants. Now we went to try and check that number, 7,000. We can't. Just so you know....

DOBBS: Well, I can tell you this. If we reported it, it's a fact. STAHL: You can't tell me that. You did report it. DOBBS: Well, no, I just did. STAHL: How can you guarantee that to me? DOBBS: Because I'm the managing editor, and that's the way we do business. We don't make up numbers, Lesley. Do we?

FAIR says Stahl's numbers match the leprosy statistics compiled by the [National Hansen's Disease Program](http://www.fair.org). (The above transcript and information is from FAIR.)

Anyway, Pasadena Now website founder and hard-working journalist James Macpherson says he also found himself at the ruder end of an interview with a member of Dobbs' CNN team. Macpherson made national news last week when his ad in Craig's list - India - asked for journalistic help. Macpherson took it on the chin as well as the back of the knees for outsourcing work beyond the USA's borders. Macpherson says he sends his video and audio tapes to India, and journalists there transcribe it and send it back to him. "One is a graduate of Berkeley," Macpherson told us.

Macpherson says U.S. newspapers already outsource display advertising to India.

We would have chatted more with Macpherson, but we had to take a call from Earthlink technical support - from India.

Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19 at 7 p.m.
Sunday, May 20 at 2 p.m.

The Wizard of Oz
St. Rita Drama Club
In O'Malley Hall
Proceeds go to Orphans
Against AIDS

Friday, May 25 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Pasta Dinners \$6.75 - Carbo Load for Mt. Wilson Trail Race By Café 322
Percentage to benefit Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team

Saturday, May 26 at 7:30 a.m.
Mt. Wilson Trail Race
Finish Line 10:30 a.m.
Run - or view the runners from Beantown, Starbucks or Casa del Rey

Kiwanis Club Grants
The Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club offers cash grants to students and schools.

Paul Magaris Community Service Grants can be applied for by any local student or school. Up to \$300 per student or \$500 per school may be awarded to applicants who can show that a grant would benefit their education or provide a benefit to the community. Grants are awarded twice each year: in November and in May.

Any individual, school, or organization who wishes to apply for a grant should contact Kiwanis Club Present Hank Landsberg via e-mail: henryeng@aol.com. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2007

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Farmer's Market

Every Saturday to 12:30 p.m.
B-B-Berries. Lili's herbs, honey, menudo & tamale stand. Bring the kiddies. PHS parking lot
2925 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.



Café 322

Sunday Nights
Let's Sing Opera & Broadway
Pianist Danny Guerrero & Friends
322 Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre (626) 836-5414

Beantown

45 N. Baldwin
Time for Ice Cream
(626) 355-1596

Lucky Baldwin's

21 Kersting Court
(626) 355-1140

Mary's Market

561 Woodland Drive
(626) 355-4534

The Harvey Hyde Show

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Hard-hitting, high impact sports talk radio
KSHP Las Vegas - 1400 AM
Live! from BURGER CONTINENTAL
535 South Lake Avenue Pasadena

Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JPL Open House
Visitors will learn about JPL's exciting space missions and see robots in action. Scientists and engineers will also answer questions about the solar system, the universe and our home planet. Fun activities for kids of all ages.
4800 Oak Grove Drive. Exit the 210 (Foothill) at the Berkshire Avenue/Oak Grove Drive exit in La Canada-Flintridge - Free admission

Big Brown Bag Sale!

All you can fit in a brown grocery bag \$3 per bag • Fill as many bags as you like
Sierra Madre Woman's Club
550 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre
One block East of Michilinda
Wistaria Thrift Shop
Sat., June 2 • 9 am to 3 pm
Quality clothing for all the family, jewelry, linens, kitchenware, glassware, books, toys, bric-a-brac, remnants, craft supplies, decorations, workshop and garden items, and much more! Rock bottom prices on items too big for a bag.
For information call 626-355-7739 Proceeds support club philanthropies

SIERRA MADRE CENTENNIAL CAR SHOW

presented by Sierra Madre Police Officer's Association

Saturday June 2, 2007 7am - 3pm

Directions: Take the 210 freeway to Balboa Blvd. Enter at Balboa & Sierra Madre Blvd.

OPEN TO 1974 & OLDER VEHICLES (no motorcycle please)
LOJACK SYSTEM GIVEN AWAY - DASH PLAQUES
EVENT T-SHIRTS - GENERAL RAFFLE - 50/50 RAFFLE
Explore the town and enjoy lunch at one of Sierra Madre's great restaurants.
NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED

Pre registration by May 19, 2007 - Entry Fee \$10.00
Day of Show - Entry Fee \$25.00

Event T-shirt: Large _____ X-Large _____ XXL Large _____ \$15.00

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE MAILED THEIR CONFIRMATION NO LATER THAN MAY 19, 2007
Please make checks payable to the Sierra Madre Police Officer's Association
Mail Entries and Check to: c/o Ted Saraf - 670 Skyland Dr. - Sierra Madre, CA 91024
For further information please call Ted Saraf at: 310 505-9817 Fax: 626 355-8582 Email: ts10851@aol.com

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ Vehicle Year _____ Make _____ Model _____ Club _____

As a participant in the Sierra Madre Centennial Car Show, the participant agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend Sierra Madre Police Officer's Association, City of Sierra Madre, all officers, employees, committees, and volunteers from and against all liability of loss, claims, obligations, judgments, or damages that the participant and/or guests (family, relatives) may sustain as a result of claims, demands, and costs arising from the participants involvement in the Sierra Madre Centennial Car Show.

Participants Signature _____ Date _____

Special Announcement

"Just Say No" ... to Paper AND Plastic

By Pat Birdsall

According to the Wall Street Journal, American consumers use 100 billion plastic bags each year. If this number is divided by the number of households currently in the U.S., (2003 U.S. Census Report) a staggering 900 plastic bags are used each year in each household. Of which, the EPA reports, 99% are not recycled and end up in the trash.

While paper bags are recycled at a much higher rate than plastic, paper is less energy efficient to produce and generates more waste than plastic and is the product of a

natural resource, trees. Both plastic and paper create tons of waste which clog up our landfills and often end up in our parks, streams and oceans. Those that make it into parks and waterways create a series of hazards for terrestrial animals and marine life.

Is there a solution? Absolutely...Taking reusable shopping bags to the various stores you patronize will help eliminate waste, pollution and energy. In New York City alone, one less grocery bag per person would reduce waste by five million pounds per year! (EPA)

The solution is so easy and literally right at your fingertips. The reusable cloth bags are sturdy; hold an awful lot and fold up for easy storage in your car where they will be easily accessible for your next shopping trip, and the next, and the next....

The effort would literally be, to quote Neil Armstrong, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Mercury In Your Light Bulbs

Can it be that the diminutive, unassuming, intestine-like Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb is really going to be the single-most important piece of technology in saving ourselves from ourselves? Is the path to a greener, more eco-groovy future to be lit by the Al Gore, Leo DiCaprio (and my mother-in-law) endorsed CFL? This little greenhouse-gas-buster seems to have everything going for it.

One of those things it has is that it takes electricity and actually turns it into light, which is not something that can be said for the incandescent bulb, which turns 90 percent of the energy it consumes into heat. Another is that a CFL lasts, like, eight times longer than an incandescent bulb. And, even though you pay more for a CFL up front, all of the experts in white lab coats tell us that a CFL will save you 30 bucks in energy costs over the life of the bulb as compared to the old school Thomas Edison model.

There is no denying (unless you are really bad at math and are very stubborn) that if everyone started using CFLs there would be a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (lighting accounts for about 10 percent of all household electricity usage), and that the polar bears would dance clumsy polar bear dances of joy on their non-melting icebergs. Also, if there were ever any doubts as to the mainstream viability of the CFL, let those be banished by Wal-Mart's commitment to sell 100 million of them this year.

Thanks to the CFL, you can save money as you save the planet. So if you already happen to have a shopping cart filled with typical Wal-Mart fare (maybe a shotgun, toilet paper, Cinderella underpants, goldfish, hair dye, and a bocce ball set) throw in a pack of planet-saving light bulbs, too.

There is just one little hang-up. Mercury. Not the planet. The element - it's used to make CFLs, and is somewhere in those twisty little white tubes doing something important. I don't know what it's doing, ... reacting with ultraviolet light? Exciting the white phosphor? Whatever it's purpose, work hard to make sure that it keeps doing that thing and does not get spread all over the kitchen floor in a tragic accident involving gravity and clumsiness and dropped light bulbs. But even if a little mercury does end up on the kitchen floor, the US Environmental Protection Agency says not to freak out. Just sweep and ventilate. There is not enough mercury in a single bulb to warrant deployment of the Haz-Mat team.

The real problem is in the landfills where all of the 3.3 mg of mercury per old broken bulb could add up to potentially significant environmental problems (not global warming, though). So, when you are all finished

with your CFLs, after they have flickered their last flicks, make sure that they do not end up in the trash with regular waste that you just throw into the landfill, like, you know, batteries and paint thinner. We don't want lots of mercury floating around out there causing things like neurological disorders, speech impairment, muscle weakness, and decreasing cognitive function. That would be bad.

But listen, don't get too agitated about a little mercury in your light bulbs. You can still save the planet. Make the trip to the city yard on that scheduled hazardous materials disposal day. Or, even better, go to IKEA (the only retailer offering the service) to turn in your old CFLs for proper disposal and recycling. While you are there, you can hit the cafeteria and enjoy the kid's Mac and Cheese for 95 cents among the brightly colored disposable furniture. Feel good. Be satisfied. The polar bears are dancing.

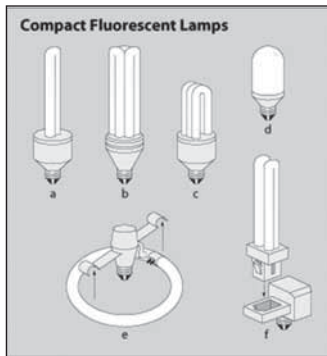


Photo Credit: U. S. Department of Energy
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) come in a variety of sizes and shapes including (a) twin-tube integral, (b and c) triple-tube integral, (d) integral model with casing that reduces glare, (e) modular circline and ballast, and (f) modular quad-tube and ballast. CFLs can be installed in regular incandescent fixtures, and they consume less than one-third as much electricity as incandescent lamps do.

Sierra Madre Memories



John and Mignon Grijalva stand before the city's original Downtown Specific Plan of 1944. Can you find the elopement ladder Mignon placed near a window?



The group that recently completed the scale model of Sierra Madre in 1944 also re-created the spirit of camaraderie among the city's artists and artisans of that time.

Martin Luther King's Eldest Daughter Dies



Yolanda King, eldest daughter of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King, attends the ground breaking ceremony for the King Memorial on the National Mall in Washington in this November 13, 2006 file photo. She died of apparent heart disease on May 15, 2007 in Santa Monica, California. Ms. King was 51 years old.

-Photo Courtesy Reuters

CORRECTION

In last week's issue May 11, in the story of the 2007 Senior Master Plan, a joke attributed to Senior Commission Chair Pat Birdsell was actually said by Senior Commissioner Nancy Walsh. The comment was in response to Public Works Director Bruce Inman, who queried "How do we attract more men?" to

senior programs. The Mt. Wilson Observer is happy to print readers varied responses to Inman's question next week, provided the answers do not violate parameters of good taste. Just send your answers to deuxamispub@aol.com.

UNREALISTIC

(continued from page 1)

many of our incentive programs."

Creswell cited a statewide program that provides a monetary "bonus" per unit to cities applying for infrastructure grants. "If a city applies for a grant and is not in compliance, that may hinder their chances of receiving funding. For example, the infrastructure bonus program. If a city is not in compliance, then the bonus would not be given." Grants do not have to be tied to a mandated development project in order for bonuses to be withheld. No other forms of sanctions or punishments for non-compliance have been levied.

Sierra Madre's Interim City Manager Don Hopper noted that even now, grant applications question whether or not cities are in compliance. "The state could eventually threaten you and deny grant applications," he said. Currently, Sierra Madre is in compliance with the last approved housing mandate. The city only has one pending grant of \$60,000 to be used for landscaping at the new park on Sunnyside.

On the issue of the employment projections, Hopper said "the inflated employment figures help the state with the housing numbers." He does not foresee Sierra Madre developing 471 jobs by 2014. "The opportunities are just not here," said Hopper. "Our biggest employer left years and years ago. It was a manufacturing company on Montecito with about 100 employees."

Hopper says Sierra Madre is a city that can expect modest growth, but doesn't compete with cities that attract hundreds of new employees over a six year period.

"Sierra Madre is a possible location for software designers with 30-40 employees," he said. Hopper added that such companies would be a point of origin, thus generating business tax revenue for the city. They would also bring employees that would add noon traffic for retailers.

"Our location is attractive to the kind of companies that could bring \$75,000-a-year employees, without demanding a lot of services," said Hopper. However, he added "Our greatest asset is our biggest liability - being tucked away."

Hopper remains optimistic about RHNA. "We are making a best effort to comply. The city has that kind of reputation - for trying," he said.

Neighboring Cities Populations & RHNA Allocations

City	Population and RHNA Allocation (1 icon = 100 units)
Alhambra	Population 85,804 1,533 RHNA units
Arcadia	Population 53,054 2,130 RHNA units
Baldwin Park	Population 75,837 738 RHNA units
Bradbury	Population 855 35 RHNA units
Duarte	Population 21,486 427 RHNA units. <i>Revised to 63</i>
El Monte	Population 115,965 2,189 RHNA units
Irvine	Population 1,446 67 RHNA units
Monrovia	Population 36,929 592 RHNA units
Pasadena	Population 133,976 2,844 RHNA units
Rosemead	Population 53,505 773 RHNA units
San Gabriel	Population 39,804 822 RHNA units
San Marino	Population 12,945 26 RHNA units
Sierra Madre	Population 18,578 138 RHNA units
Temple City	Population 33,377 1080 RHNA units. <i>Appealed to 182</i>

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ARMED
RESPONSE

Fire Safe Council TIP OF THE WEEK
From Caroline Brown



You may have seen the TV coverage on Catalina Island last week showing an outlying building surrounded by an area cleared of brush. The fire burned up to this clearing and you could see the blackened landscape of burned brush and grasses that came up to the cleared edge. It was dramatic proof of the value of brush clearance around your property. You can see many such photographs on line when you search web sites for brush clearing information. Creating defensible space around your home cannot be stressed strongly enough. Last week there were over 200 fires in Florida. Georgia was also in the middle of brush fire emergencies. Ham Lake, Minnesota had a brush fire raging. We have begun a long, hard fire season here in California and in many other parts of the U.S.

News of these fires is not going to stop anytime soon. The next Fire Safe Council meeting will be June 11, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers. We need your participation and input. For information on brush clearance remember to check out www.firesafecouncil.org or www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry/BrushManagement for additional information. For information call: 355-9350 or e-mail us at: smfiresafecouncil@hotmail.com

STABBING (continued from page 1) prosecution and denied the request. "I don't believe there has been a sufficient change of circumstances to warrant releasing Mr. Swender from electronic monitoring," said Brown.

In a last-ditch effort to gain freedom for Swender, his attorney then asked the court to consider just allowing the defendant to be free of monitoring for two days in order to go to Las Vegas. Again the prosecution objected.

In response to the defendant's attorney's statement that Swender had no prior criminal record and that should be taken into consideration, Ratliff reminded the court that "Granted there is no prior criminal record, however, there have been nine prior incidents in which Swender was involved."

Ratliff noted that in each of those cases the prosecution chose not to move forward. "The community needs to be protected. The defendant [Swender] needs to be protected from himself," Ratliff said.

Judge Brown agreed with the prosecution. "Based upon the nature of the charges and allegations I am not inclined to grant your request. Motion denied."

A Discovery and Compliance hearing will be held on June 4th at which the defendants do not have to appear. The purpose of that hearing is to ensure that both the prosecution and defense have received copies of all evidence and related documents that will be used at trial, including a complete witness list.



Hair Today...

Alverno High School students Wednesday sat for hair cutting sessions to donate to Locks of Love, which makes wigs for children who have cancer. (Pictured above) Jayme Wile from Karin's in Sierra Madre cuts the hair of Spanish Instructor Gallene Lancey. Other stylists who participated were Ashley Garstang and Albert Vergara of Lunch Salon in Sierra Madre, and Christina Osti of The Hair Upstairs, also in Sierra Madre. -Photo by Katina Dunn

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of Sunday, May 6th, to Saturday May 12th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 203 calls for service.

Monday, May 7th:

8:47 AM – Commercial burglary, 695 West Sierra Madre Blvd, Methodist Church. The secretary called to report her Dell Computer CPU and 17" flat screen monitor were stolen from the church office. The theft occurred between 2:00 PM Sunday, 5/6 and 8:40 AM Monday, 5/7. The loss was estimated at \$900.00.

9:16 AM – Petty theft, 600 block West Algeria Ave. A resident reported gasoline siphoned from her car's gas tank. The total loss was \$100.00.

11:15 AM – Grand theft, 600 block Orange Drive. A resident reported his Dell laptop computer stolen from the trunk of his unlocked car. The car was parked in the unlocked garage from 2:30 PM 5/4 until 9:30 AM 5/7. The computer's value was not known when reported.

11:57 PM – Vandalism, Pioneer Cemetery, 525 East Sierra Madre Blvd. The president of the cemetery called to report that someone had broken the lock to the cemetery's automated computer. The damage occurred between 8:00 AM Monday 4/23 and Monday 5/7. The cost of repair was estimated at \$50.00.

Saturday, May 12th:

7:19 AM – Vandalism, Memorial Park. A city worker reported three letters sprayed on the men's restroom in Memorial Park sometime between Friday 5/11 and Saturday 5/12.

11:28 AM – Vandalism/graffiti. A resident called to the report black marking pen graffiti to a condominium mailbox. The same letters that appeared at Memorial Park were written on the box between 11:00 PM Friday, 5/11 and 7:00 AM Saturday, 5/12.

Honeybees Disappearing Throughout World

By: Jennifer Wolf

Almonds, apples, cherries, peaches, plums, kiwis, avocados, blueberries, cranberries, melons and pumpkins. These are some of the foods that could be in extremely short supply if the honeybee, also known as *Apis mellifera*, went extinct, according to experts.



Recognized in the fall of 2006, a new phenomenon called colony collapse disorder (CCD) threatens domesticated honeybees worldwide. Beekeepers in 27 states, Canada, Europe and Brazil have reported cases of the syndrome, the cause of which has yet to be determined.

One-third of food eaten by humans depends upon insect pollination to develop into fruit, and the honeybee is responsible for 80 percent of all pollination performed by insects. Put in monetary terms, the honeybee and its industry are worth \$14.6 billion in the United States, according to a Cornell University study.

"We're very aware of what diseases honeybees have, and when something new comes along it becomes quite critical mainly because the honeybee is a very important animal to us," said Robbin Thorp, a UC Davis professor emeritus in the department of entomology.

The honeybee has survived a turbulent history of disease in recent years. In addition to the 12 or more bacterial, fungal and viral diseases that afflict the honeybee, two parasitic mites were introduced to North America in the 1980s which caused the population of honeybees to decline by one-third. According to a survey conducted by the Apiary Inspectors of America, the honeybee industry sustains a 17-percent loss of colonies each year, an amount considered normal.

Now, beekeepers are experiencing losses between 30 to 70 percent, according to an article in The New York Times, which experts attribute to varied causes. The absence of worker bees and their bodies is a symptom of CCD, while the queen, immature bees and a hive full of resources remain. Collapsed hives are often infected with many different diseases but do not show signs of parasitism.

Thorp said basic beekeeping could be one of the main causes of CCD. He explained that if bees are not given sufficient food during the fall to reproduce, next season's population will severely decline. "Although your population looks good, it's all old bees and those will die of natural [causes] anyway in the springtime," Thorp said. However, others have differing opinions.

"I think it's probably a combination of factors," said Karl Mogel, a member of the Davis Bee Collective. "There's the tracheal mite, the varroa mite - now we have the small hive beetle and we have some viruses that come along with them.... And then add to this that we're moving them around and breeding them for a while - probably pushing out the genetic diversity, all the instincts - each

one is adding up, a tiny bit."

This constant movement may be a stressor on bees and may facilitate the spread of disease, he noted.

Thorp said, however, that such migratory beekeeping practices are common.

"Beekeeping has been a very migratory business for a long, long while," said Thorp. To pollinate the almond crop in California this year, masses of bees were imported from Australia and the Eastern United States. Routinely, bees are shipped from Florida to New York, from the Dakotas to Texas and from Wisconsin to the apiary Southeastern United States, according to Thorp.

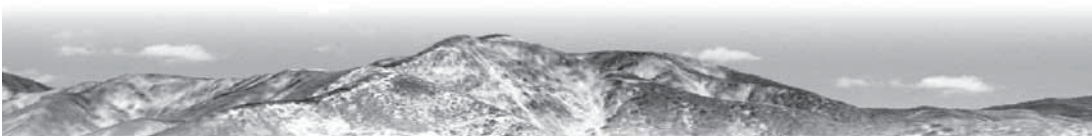
"It seems a matter of time before the final straw could hit the honeybee," said Eli Sarnat, also a member of the Davis Bee Collective. "So it's really important to be looking at other pollinators. Not just honeybees but native bees for replacing the pollination services of the honeybee."

Other pollinators include native bees, flies, butterflies, beetles, birds and bats. According to Thorp, there are 1,600 species of native bees just within California and 4,500 within North America. Demand for pollination services is increasing, yet the population of pollinators is declining.

There are a number of reasons for general decline [of native pollinators] and that is things that we do to the environment, such as building towns, urbanizing areas, converting wildlands to agricultural lands, pesticides - the whole variety of environmental impacts that we ourselves produce and that in itself will cause decline in lots of different kinds organisms, including pollinators," Thorp said.

JENNIFER WOLF can be reached at science@californiaaggie.com.

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The Mt. Wilson Observer PASADENA

Everything Is Bike

By Dean Lee



Photo by Daniel Bellis - Bike Week

Standing Tall: with his office in the background, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard takes a rest after leading the Mayor's Bike to Work Brigade Monday morning kicking off a week's worth of bicycle-related activities in support of cycling as a healthy transportation mode.

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard broke away from the pack, leaving even the Pasadena bike police in the dust, as he led about 50 avid cyclists through the streets of old town Monday, ending up in front of the newly renovated City Hall as part of the city's Bike Week. Bogaard said he only wished Monday's ride was longer and asked that he tries to make time for at least three bike rides a week. Each ride is usually anywhere from 25 to 30 miles, he said.

"I'm involved with a local riding group," he said. "We like to go down to the Original Pantry and eat breakfast Sunday's. It's getting back on the bike afterward, that's the hard part."

The Pantry is owned by former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, he added.

Bogaard said he has been riding regularly for about ten years and during that time he has been on a number of 500-mile bike rides across Iowa. "That's where I'm from," he said. Each of his extended bike trips have been part of The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, also known as RAGBRAI. The event lasts seven days and riders averaged a little more than 70 miles a day and camp out each night.

Liz Elliott, co-director of C.I.C.L.E. (Cyclists Inciting Change thru Live Exchange) said that 40 percent of all bike rides are under two miles and the Pasadena event was great for getting people out and introduced to cycling.

"Bogaard is obviously fit and you can see that," she said. "But I think what really counts here is being fit on the inside. What I mean is you don't need to be in shape to ride eight city blocks."

Elliott said her group focused on transportation, not athleticism. "I think the number one problem out there is getting people aware of their part in the safety aspects of cycling," she

said. "Don't get me wrong, there are a lot of bad drivers out there that don't pay attention..."

Riding against traffic, as well as too close to cars doors that may suddenly open, or on the sidewalk - all lead to the majority of bike accidents.

The Caltech Cycling Club, Patagonia, Kaiser Permanente, Fuller Theological Seminary, Foothill Bicycle Initiative, the city of Pasadena and teams from C.I.C.L.E. all participated in Monday's event.

Tonight at 8 p.m. a film showing at One Colorado will feature a documentary in the courtyard looking at bike culture around the world, from China, to The Netherlands, to Denmark, and the U.S. in the 1890's.

Saturday morning at 8 a.m. C.I.C.L.E. invites everyone for a ride from One Colorado to the Pasadena Farmer's Market at Victory Park. Breakfast will be served and then a return ride to the Urban Bicycle Commuter Expo featuring folding and electric bicycles, accessories, cargo bikes and trailers that handle everything from shopping trips to hauling lumber according to C.I.C.L.E. At 8 p.m. the film "2 Seconds" will be shown in the One Colorado courtyard. All day Sunday, the courtyard at One Colorado will offer Bike Basics, "An overview of the simple steps you should take to confirm that your bike is safe and ready to ride."

One Colorado is the city block bound by Fair Oaks, Colorado Boulevard, Delacey and Union Street in Old Pasadena. For more information call (626) 564-1066 or visit www.onecolorado.com.



For more information on C.I.C.L.E. call (323) 478-0060 or visit www.bikenow.org

Pasadena Hosts Firefighter Rescue Training

Lack of standards for oxygen tanks is discussed

By Dean Lee



Smoke billowed out from a vacant building scheduled for demolition at 150 W. Dayton Street as two firefighters were reported down, one trapped and the other lost, during a 3-alarm blaze that broke out shortly before 4 p.m. Tuesday, fire officials said. Or so, the simulated rescue training exercise went.

"We have him out of the building," said one firefighter through his radio as five others surrounded the rescued "injured" firefighter, tied down on a bright yellow sked, after pulling him from the darkness.

Tuesday's exercise was part of a larger week-long Rapid Intervention Crew/Company (RIC) training that included more than 11 fire departments in full gear; getting hands-on training techniques for survival when they are trapped in buildings.

"Firefighters rescuing firefighter, that's what this is all about," said Pasadena Fire Captain Armando Guerrero.

The training was broken down into four areas, the first being how to attach different breathing apparatus. This part also included the use of a *sked* - a flat plastic board to hold the patient in place during transport.

The firefighters were given an overview of how different air tanks work. The biggest problem firefighter's face is running out of air. Unfortunately, there is no standard between any of the companies that manufacture breathing apparatus, according to Fire Captain Rob Blake.

"As you can see, Scott has one size that will not match any other," he said standing in front of four common air tank models and the RIC kit with all the tools attached. "This goes for the other brands as well," said Blake.

The RIC kits include a strobe light, rope, and other gear centered around a tank full of 60 minutes of air. During the training, rescuers used 100 feet of rope with knots tied very ten feet to locate their position in the dark although they were all told that in real life situations, 200 feet should be used and no less.

Guerrero further explained all the difficulty this could present without

visibility. "You have to feel around for things and get to know them before. Also it's a good idea to know what fire departments in your area use what brands of tanks."

To further complicate the situation, Burbank Fire Capt. Guy Thompson, later said most departments have different size tanks.

"We use a 45-minute tank," he said. "But like these guys from Monrovia over here might use 30-minute tanks. Being lighter they get around quick but, breathing hard, that tank will last 10 minutes."

Thompson said it is critical for each fire captain to know how much time they have. "Most of us will glance at our watch before going in, not solely relying on the alarm to go off on the regulator before time is up. It's all about timing."

Thompson said during his 27 years as part of the Burbank Fire Department he has never had to rescue another firefighter, although over the past two decades, more than 100 U.S. firefighters have been killed while putting out fires and other rescues, according to Pasadena Fire spokesperson Lisa Derderian.

Assessing the outside of the building for access points in and egress points out was another critical part of the training. "The last thing I want to see is a pair of gloves grabbing at those mini-blinds," said Pasadena Fire Captain Scott Dandridge. "I'm probably too large to get through these skinny windows so you have to think about access in."

Thompson said Burbank sent crews to last week's Griffith Park fire that burned over 800 acres. "Most departments here only have 25 percent of their guys training at a time," Thompson said. "So this takes them more than a week, the last day is tomorrow with make-up on Thursday and I've been here the whole time through both that [Griffith Park] and the Catalina Island fire."

Guerrero said Pasadena Fire had sent one strike team to Catalina to help. "Getting picked really all depends on what they need and who is available," said Guerrero.



New School/City Park Facilities

By Dean Lee

After introductions by new members of both the Pasadena City Council and PUSD board of Education Monday, the two governmental bodies got down to business during a joint meeting in which they approved using PUSD facilities and school grounds for additional city parks and open space.

The City of Pasadena and PUSD staff had worked on a study of potential locations coming up with McKinley School and Hamilton Elementary School as the next sites to be developed into school/park facilities.

New PUSD board president Esteban Lizardo and Pasadena's new Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein led the study for each of their boards.

"There is a map on the wall and as you can see these two areas were selected because there are no parks in the area they serve," Haderlein said.

The two boards also discussed a priority list of joint school/park sites for future consideration, including Linda Vista Elementary, Marshall Fundamental, Cleveland, Longfellow and Washington schools.

Linda Vista Elementary has been the focus of a number of recent fiery debates over a decision to either place Rhythms of the Village Charter School or All Saints Children's Center on the now vacant site.

Prior to the school/park facilities approval, Pasadena City Manager Cynthia Kurtz, PUSD Superintendent Edwin Diaz and city staff gave updates on city and PUSD partnership projects that included, pre-employment physicals, school policing, emergency preparedness, Madison Elementary School/Park, and tennis courts at Pasadena High School and John Muir High School.

Last October Madison Elementary School became the first school/park joint site and project manager Martain Pastucha gave an overview of how that situation worked.

Staff said the city would help with \$224,000 needed to upgrade the fields at McKinley and Hamilton elementary schools similar to the current park space at Madison Elementary.

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THE MT. WILSON OBSERVER

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Member

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.

Around The Town With Sir Eric Maundry



"The accomplice to the crime of corruption is frequently our own indifference." - Bess Myerson

What is it about (Sierra Madre) that attracts the unwanted attention of those whose interest is appalling to us? Why is a town as sweet as this one draws so many lousy suitors?

The latest unshaven and beer belled lout to come a-visiting the Femme Fatale of the Foothills is something called the **Southern California Association of Governments**, or, as it is known in the murky slough it comes from, **SCAG**. According to my dog-eared copy of the **Beatnik Dictionary** - **Lawrence Lipton**, now there's one gone cat - **SCAG** is a name the more hardcore users of that colorful era had for heroin. But we're not talking about that now. No, apparently this SCAG wants what all our bad dates want, they desire to build a lot of houses here. And, of course, they want to tell us exactly how and where we should do it. Isn't that always the way? Those who are wrong for us always presume to know better than we do. So who or what is this SCAG, anyway? Another **amorphous meddling bureaucracy**? A **quasi-governmental stalking horse** for the usual devious developers? A quick trip to their website reveals that their two most salient concerns are **overcrowded freeways** and **air pollution**. Apparently on the bad air issue they have become so alarmed that they are demanding a state of emergency be declared. So let me ask you this, if SCAG is so concerned about traffic and air quality, why are they pushing for more development in one of the most congested and polluted corridors in the world? According to an April 27 article in the **L.A. Weekly**, SCAG has a stated goal of 700,000 new housing units in the region by 2014. Wouldn't that mean more cars, more traffic, and therefore even more air pollution? Something smells bad here, and it ain't just the tailpipes. Ever wonder why it is that those who want the worst for us wrap themselves in a shroud of social concern? ... But wait, there's more! Apparently SCAG has a problem balancing their checkbook. In a March 10, 2005 **L.A. City Beat** article called "Money Train" author Chip Jacobs exposed SCAG's less than stellar fiscal reputation. "Caltrans examiners questioned SCAG about how the \$947,921 contract with Omaha-based HDR was structured and where the proper documentation was. When no satisfactory answer came back, Caltrans notified the Federal Highway

Administration that SCAG was 'a high-risk recipient' for money out of Washington D.C. - a major blow." Interesting, Caltrans and the Feds think SCAG can't be trusted with taxpayer money. And then it gets worse. "The audit report also hit the papers with an embarrassing thud, as word spread that SCAG had bounced some employees' paychecks, lost money on a business venture, and overused purchase orders." And these are the gents who presume to tell us how to run our town? With credit references as bad as these they'd be hard-pressed to open a bar tab at **The Buccaneer** ... Yet more disturbing revelations about the creepy tactics used by certain parties within the **'No on V'** campaign have emerged. **Diane Shear**, in an excellent letter published in this publication last week, revealed how **profiling** was used in the attempt to divide the people of this town over the development issue. Those who were profiled as being **Gay** were invited to the home of a City Councilman where they were told that those who were in favor of Measure V were anti-Gay. Those profiled as being politically **Conservative** were invited to the home of a former mayor where they were told that those in favor of Measure V were dangerous radicals bent on destroying Sierra Madre. Those profiled as being **Liberal** were told that Measure V proponents were pushing an agenda designed to deny the economically vulnerable affordable housing. **Handicapped** persons were told that unless Measure V was defeated the public transportation they are so dependent upon would all but vanish. So why would the anti-V folks have worked so hard to set the people of Sierra Madre at each others' throats in so divisive a way? As always, the answer is money ... This correspondent has been out pounding the pavement gathering signatures for both the **Recall Joe Mosca** initiative and the effort to get our **Police Department** their well-deserved raise. And I must tell you, I have been pleasantly surprised at how well things are going. It is gratifying to observe just how involved and well-informed the people of this besieged town are on the important issues facing us, and the conversations have been illuminating and enjoyable. We always hear about how beautiful this town is, and that it is a well-designed and pleasant place to live. Which is fine. But for me what makes this town the unique place it is are the people who live here. In an era when indifference to political and economic reality is the norm, Sierra Madre is a shining example of how a citizenry can stand up and take control of their civic destiny. I can't begin to tell you just how proud that makes me ... My kids are chasing each other around the backyard with plastic baseball bats, so I guess it is time for me to wrap this one up. And always I can be reached at sir.eric_maundry@yahoo.com. Until next week, cheers!

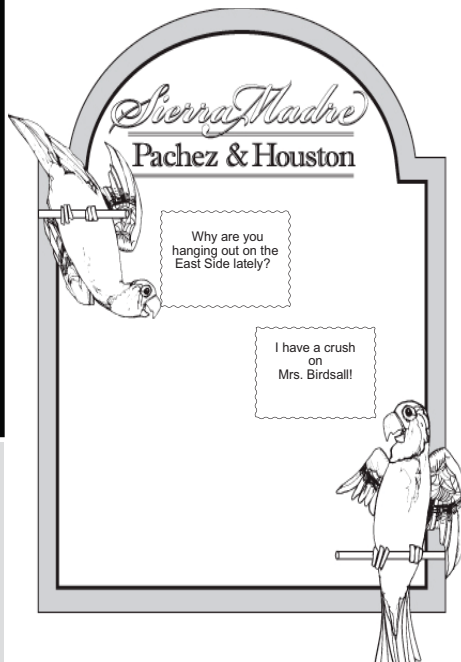
Country Music

By Rich Johnson



Well, I'm still here in Sierra Madre. In case you forgot, I was up in Oregon two weekends ago where I broke the law. Yep, I pumped my own gas (Gasp). If I'd been caught it would have cost me \$500. Anyway, I guess the State of Oregon has no extradition treaty with California. It figures. They don't like us down here anyway. Why would they go to any trouble to force one of us to come back? Besides, I wouldn't have lasted long up there, the fresh air was killing me. While on the road in Oregon in my illegally gassed up Ford SUV I scanned the radio dial for listenable music. Sure seems like there are a lot of country stations up there. Now believe me, I don't want to make any country fans angry (that would be real stupid) but I have a theory. I believe you can gauge the sophistication of a city by counting the number of country stations serving its citizens. Here in Los Angeles we have one. Barely. I don't know how many country music stations there are up in Portland but there sure are a lot of pick-ups with gun racks. So, where did country music come from? I'm not sure but I do know it had to be invented by white guys. When you think of music influenced by African Americans you naturally think of jazz, rhythm & blues, and soul. Now that music is cool. Country music does not make

me think of cool. It makes me think of another word. Hick. I'll go so far as to say country music shows us how American society would look without the benefit of multi-ethnic influences. Thank goodness we are a melting pot. Not that I don't like country music. Fact is, some of the best titled songs in the world are country songs. Tunes like: "I Don't Want Your Body If Your Heart's Not In It," "Her Teeth Was Stained, But Her Heart Was Pure," "I'm So Miserable Without You, It's Like Having You Here," "If I Can't Be Number One In Your Life, Then Number Two On You," "If The Phone Don't Ring Baby, You'll Know It's Me." Wait, there's more. "Thank God And Greyhound She's Gone," "I Fell In A Pile Of You And Got Love All Over Me," "I've Been Flushed From The Bathroom Of Your Heart," "My Wife Ran Off With My Best Friend, And Boy, I Sure Do Miss Him." And my personal favorite, "You can keep me in prison but you can't stop my face from breakin' out." This is quality stuff! And I'll just bet you Sierra Madre's Cumquat Kid likes country music. He seems like a hick. Write me if you have a literary quest idea. You can reach me at rich@versatape.com



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British Parade Director Visits Pasadena High School

District band will march in London's 2008 New Year's Day Parade

By Katina Dunn

The Executive Director of London's New Year's Day Parade, Bob Bone, was not surprised to hear that officials of Pasadena's Tournament of Roses describe his city as "the greatest city in the world." He agrees, of course. The London parade is different, he says, though no less of a spectacle. "We don't have the weather, the flowers and the American sense of razzmatazz and Hollywood," he said. "What we do have is pageantry and our own style of razzmatazz... something completely unique."

Bone came to Pasadena last Tuesday to visit the high school musicians scheduled to perform in his city's parade. The PUSD All-Star Band performed twice in Pasadena's Rose Parade, beginning in 2004 and then in the rain-drenched 2005 parade. Now many students will be able to add London to their musical resumes. "Do you play an instrument? Anybody can join in," Bone graciously excludes no interested parties from joining in the London parade. "Parents or anybody or friends... we'd love it if absolutely everybody can come."

The London parade route is 2.2 miles, compared to the Rose Parade's 6 miles. It begins by the historic clock, "Big Ben," and the Palace of Westminster, past Piccadilly Circus and the VIP grandstand of London's Mayors. Last year the parade was broadcast on 550 stations worldwide by satellite. Bone is hoping a local station in Los Angeles will carry the event.

On the trip, students will also tour the historic town of Windsor, Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford, Brasenose College in Oxford, Stonehenge, Canterbury Cathedral and Dover Castle. (The students may also be surprised to learn that any college in England costs

about 3,000 pounds a year.)

Bone has orchestrated special events for 35 years. He helps produce the New Year's Day Festival of Music in Paris, France, and the Easter Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. The London parade is "an antidote" to New Year's Eve, "which is not a family event," he says. "We wanted something created to bring four generations of family together."

Busy directing musical festivals around the world leaves little time for his own musical practice. "I used to play the clarinet, badly," said Bone. "I still play the piano, worse. Now I play things like radios."

Visit www.londonparade.co.uk



Photos by Katina Dunn Robert Bone, from London, visiting music students at Pasadena High School

Pasadena High School musicians performing at the Travel the World of Music concert last Friday. The event, held at the school, was directed by David Miller and showcased student talent in a repertoire that encompassed Mozart to Mingus.



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Lisa Feldman Head of School

La Salle High School Celebrates 2007 Reunions Saturday, June 23, 2007

La Salle High School will celebrate the reunions for the classes of 1962, 1967, 1972, 1979, 1982, 1987 and 1992 in the Dining Pavilion at the School.

For more information contact Kristen Schultz '98, Director of Alumni Relations at 626.696.4362 or e-mail kschultz@lasallehs.org

Spring Elementary Music Festival 2007
Wednesday, May 23, 2007
Wilson IB Middle School Auditorium
300 S. Madre Street
7:00 PM

Participating schools include Altadena, Don Benito, Hamilton, Loma Alta, Madison, Washington and Willard.

Students will perform under the direction of Rosanne Dubouché and Chad Prick.

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For more information, contact the Arts Education Office at 626-795-6581 ext. 313 or go to www.pusd.org

Pasadena Conservatory of Music Offering Scholarships
The Pasadena Conservatory of Music is offering partial and full tuition scholarships for students who play any of the following instruments: oboe, bassoon, French horn, trombone, tuba, and baritone. Scholarships for individual lessons will be awarded to beginning, intermediate and advanced students for the 2007-08 school year. Interested students should call 626-683-3355 for information and to schedule an interview. Beverly Lafontaine, Marketing Director Pasadena Conservatory of Music - 626-683-3355

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TABLE FOR TWO by PETER DILLS



Cheeseburger Cheeseburger Cheeseburger

May is National Hamburger Month. So I decided to do a round up of the Best and dare I say the worst, (let's call them sub par burgers) in the San Gabriel Valley. My criteria are simple, no rules... It doesn't matter the cost or how many locations a restaurant may have.

Now onto to the Best of The Best.
Robin's BBQ and Grill

Grade: B+

All of the Burgers come with a side dish and a knife for cutting
395 N. Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 351-8885

Tops Burgers

Grade: B-

There is always a line of cars waiting for these Burgers
1792 E. Walnut Ave., Pasadena

Pie N' Burger

Grade: A-

One of the few places that grinds its meat daily
913 E. California, Pasadena (626) 795-1123

Hamburger Hamlet

Grade: C

Yikes, why call it Hamburger Hamlet, sorry just too plain for me
214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena (626) 449-8520

In 'N' Out

Grade: B-

That's not a bad thing to say about LA's Favorite Burger
E. Walnut St./Craig, Pasadena

Smitty's Grill

Grade: B+

Actually one of the better entrees at this Parkway Grill offspring and they use real Tillamook Cheese.
110 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena (626) 792-9999

Did I miss your favorite spot?

E mail me and let me know your thoughts.

Did you know that 33% of us have had a burger in the last 24 hours? Americans consume over 5.5 Billion burgers a year. Hamburgers are only rivaled by pizza as Americans' favorite food.

Email Peter at: thechefknows@yahoo.com



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Looking Up

With Bob Eklund



Photo by Jean Boenish

When I was taking high school French, I had to memorize a sentence from a 19th-century French play called "Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon." Perrichon, a rather pompous *nouveau riche* would-be gentleman, is vacationing in the Alps, and at a vista point overlooking the great *mer de glace* (sea of ice) glacier near Mont Blanc, he finds a register book for visitor comments. With a grand flourish, he writes in the book, "*Que l'homme est petit quand on le contemple du haut de la mère de glace!*" Intending to say "How small man is when one contemplates him from the height of the sea (*mer*) of ice!" he misspells "*mer*," adding an "e" and changing the meaning to "mother"—much to the amusement of his entourage. Ever since memorizing Perrichon's bit of high-sounding pomposity, whenever I come across a mountaintop log book I can't resist paging through it to see if anyone is guilty of similar grandiose language. So, when I found out that log books were being kept in the Mt. Wilson Astronomical Museum for guests to register their names and comments, I was eager to check them out. I just finished going through one of these register books (for 2003–2005), and it's been an interesting read. There is very little pomposity of the Perrichon sort—but a great deal of sincere and heartfelt appreciation for their Observatory visit from people from all over the world. Here are some of the comments I found:

- "Look up and wonder what else is there that we can't see." (Ricardo)
- "At school, I learned about astronomy, so my parents decided to take me here. So far it's been great." (Tiffany, age 10)
- "Astronomy is cool!" (Ashley)
- "I came from France to visit this Observatory...The loneliness here is so beautiful." (Corina, from Paris)
- "An exquisite mountain site—we need more people to visit this place so they can feel the majestic reality of Mother Nature...and the hope in progress

being presented by the researchers on this

- site." (Refugio)
 - "Thick fog. Eerie in its beauty!" (Nitta and Jay)
 - "Pretty foggy. Great silence over great history." (Ron and Saville, from Hawaii)
 - "So peaceful and awesome!!" (John and Jean, from Missouri)
 - "The universe is so big, yet our planet is so small. Would that our care of the planet be as great as the universe is vast." (James)
 - "E=mc²" (Aguestina, age 8)
 - "This place rocks my world." (Tom)
 - "An inversion—what a sight to behold. There is something out there." (Elder Hill)
 - "Worlds without number." (Sister Edwards)
 - "Reminds me of a movie." (Grace)
 - "I like the museum." (Emma, age 8)
 - "Above the gloom, lookin' at the moon." (Gerry)
 - "I loved seeing and reading about the almost incomprehensible." (Mildred)
 - "I always enjoy coming to this peaceful place, and reflecting on stars and planets. Keep this place going." (Dave)
- Well, that's a sampling of the first book. More to come at a later time!
- ACCESS TO THE OBSERVATORY BY THE VISITING PUBLIC is a very long-standing tradition at Mt. Wilson, being provided for in the original 1904 lease agreement signed by George Ellery Hale. Notable visitors since then have included Andrew Carnegie in 1910, Albert Einstein in 1931, and Stephen Hawking, twice.

Next month, members of FRIENDS OF THE MOUNT WILSON OBSERVER will also have the opportunity to share in the mountaintop experience. This in-depth guided tour of the Observatory, for FRIENDS members only, will take place on Saturday, June 16 at 2 p.m. Meet at The Pavilion overlooking the parking lot.

I plan to be one of your docents. See you there!



The Museum features historical photographs taken at Mount Wilson Observatory and exhibits on current projects at the Observatory.

TechKnowledge

Technology Science Business

WorkForce with Madeline

Q: What is your opinion on asking about salary at the first interview? I've been working in retail management for 15 years.

A: For someone with your experience, you should feel confident about asking salary questions right up front. I'm guessing you have to take off from work for interviews, so why should you waste your time at a second interview if the salary is not within your expectations? Many times salary is mentioned in the job advertisement and more often than not at the first interview by the recruiter, so this might not be an issue. Of course, have a good idea of what you expect ahead of time, so you will be able to discuss and negotiate.

If you were a novice, new to the workforce, I would suggest holding off on salary inquiries until you're offered the job or at least until the second interview. Mentioning salary ahead of this time, might make you seem a bit too forward and might not sit well with the recruiter.

Q: I'm manager of a health insurance company and am constantly bothered by my staff with questions on my day off. I feel responsible for answering these inquiries, but they seem to be increasing in volume. How should I handle this?

A: Your day off is just that – your day off. This does not mean spending half your day on the phone or computer answering emails. You deserve total relaxation, time to spend with your family without interruptions, or just time to work on home projects.

Surely there is someone else in the office who can handle questions. If not, appoint a second-in-command and make sure he/she knows not to disturb you unless a dire emergency presents itself. Perhaps, you should even discuss with your next-in-line what you consider an emergency.

By all means, don't let your work overtake your personal life. This can only lead to resentment and stress.

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

BiblioFile

with Jeff Brown

Momma Zen: Walking the Crooked Path of Motherhood

By Karen Maezen Miller

Momma Zen is funny, profound and great to read. It's not just about being a mother, it's about life. This book is for anyone seeking a deeper happier existence. Karen Maezen Miller lives in Sierra Madre, is a mother, wife, writer and Zen Buddhist priest.

The ancient religion of Hinduism recognizes four main stages of life. The first two are the student and the householder. The final two are the retired person and the ascetic, both where you seek the truth. This implies that one looks for wisdom when one's worldly duties are done as we are facing old age & death. Can we find truth, our true self and wisdom before old age?

Zen is a school of Buddhism notable for its emphasis on practice and experiential wisdom by doing sitting meditation, known as zazen which is focusing on ones breathing which helps one become intensely here and now, and also by conversational contact with a Zen Master. This practice is for the attainment of awakening thru direct individual experience of one's own true nature.

In "Momma Zen" we see that Motherhood is one of those intense circumstances which can both inspire and, like Zen, help on our spiritual journey that can take us beyond our ego to our true God source right now, even if we are householders and parents. Like any mother, Miller discovered along the way that she didn't always know the right things to do, and had many negative thoughts, self doubts and sometimes felt overwhelmed.

Parents think they need a book, a correct way to go about it. Over time, she learned that there is no right way. By watching our children and slowing down and paying attention, how to handle things becomes clear. Children are in the here and now, not worrying about the future or guilty over the past. They pull us into the present. They demonstrate compassion and kindness. The intense love we feel for them can be a portal to spirituality. What children really want is a happy

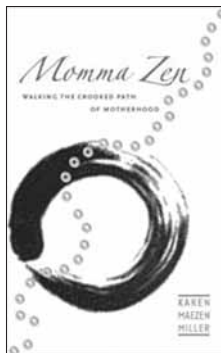
parent. We can learn that we are ok, our children are ok, and our life is ok. However, the path is crooked. One day we get it another day we don't. We try again!

As the author writes "Motherhood is a spiritual practice. It is a crash course in wisdom. It is your spiritual legacy lying in wait for the taking. How else do you suppose mothers always end up knowing best? You do not have to mount a formal spiritual quest to uncover spiritual truths. I have, and it helps me. But you may not. As a mother, you have many priorities. Those priorities are nothing but your practice. If you allow it, being a mother is one of the most amazing, miraculous, mysterious, dignifying and illuminating things you will ever do."

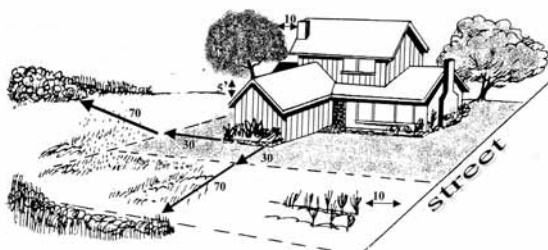
Karen Maezen Miller will be reading from Momma Zen at Sierra Madre Community Arts Commission's first Author's night on Monday, May 21st, at 7 p.m. at Sierra Madre Elementary School.

She will be signing books and some of the proceeds will go to programs at the school. Her website is www.mommazen.com

For any book comments or recommendations you can email me at mtbiblio@yaho.com

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 - The next 70 feet of ground cover around any structure shall be maintained at a height of no greater than 18 inches*.
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 - No closer than 18 feet to other vegetation or structures.
- *exception: trees, ornamental shrubs or plants used as ground cover that do not enhance the spread of fire.
- Maintain trees within 100 feet of any building or structure and 10 feet from any roadway free of dead foliage and maintain branches and foliage 3 feet off the ground.
- Remove any portion of a tree which extends within 10 feet of an outlet of a chimney.
- Keep all shrubs and other growing vegetation adjacent to or overhanging any building free of dead limbs, branches or other combustible matter.
- Maintain 5 feet of vertical clearance between roof surfaces and portions of trees overhanging any building or structure.
- Maintain roof surfaces of all structures free of leaves, needles, twigs and other combustible matter.
- Maintain all weeds and other vegetation within 10 feet of a roadway at a height of no greater than 3"
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Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

Peeling Back The Years At Pinney House



FRONT of Pinney House

Apparently Sierra Madre has always been politically charged. The street where the historic Pinney House was built over a century ago was originally named after the 1890's California governor, Henry Markham. The town folk deemed such a naming too partisan, and eventually changed it to Lima.

Originally surrounded by 30 acres envisioned as vineyards, the 1887 Pinney House has been a mountain retreat just three minutes from the train, a hotel with adjacent tennis facilities, a sanitarium rumored to have "dried out" Jimmy Durante's mother a time or two, an apartment building, and a movie location for Barbara Stanwyck's 1942 movie, "Great Man's Lady", and Bob Hope's 1955 "The Seven Little Foys". Stanwyck's movie producer didn't like the front porch façade of the home, and replaced it with a different one before filming. That façade remains today.

The 30 acres of vineyards never really produced, and eventually the land was subdivided for smaller homes around the estate. Today Pinney House is in the process of becoming a 10,000 square foot private home. Greg Asbury and Judy Smith Asbury made Pinney House their family's residence in 2003, 116 years after Dr. Elbert H. Pinney completed it. If you were a turn of the century vacationer from back East, you might have made reservations for a summer in the country at this "Hotel Sierra Madre", or other similar mountainside hotels in Glendale, Burbank, San Dimas, etc., along the railroad line. Upon disembarking the train, horse and buggy service delivered you to your Sierra Madre vacation destination.

Asbury rolls his eyes a bit when he remembers a time, just after their purchase, when he rolled up to find a busload of Japanese tourists, "Westways" magazine article on the home in hand, surveying his new abode. He has found

billow out of cans of debris lowered from the second floor.

Two rooms off the foyer will once again become a ballroom, incorporating the 1900 sun room addition. Since the original structure did not offer interior plumbing, electricity or an attached kitchen, these retrofitted amenities came in stages, and now require updating and reconfiguration to accommodate a 21st century family. The separate "cook house," typical of upscale Victorian life, was connected to the main house at one point, and the original outhouses are thankfully no longer needed. A main floor library, guest bath near the entry, a second floor master suite overlooking Lima, a spacious home office on the third level are included in the laundry list of planned improvements and restorations.

They removed half of the back parking lot that formerly accommodated the



Two workers with ropes lowering can of debris with Asbury in foreground. Greg Asbury seems to take all the hubbub of a rehab in stride.

nine apartments, to create a beautiful Victorian style brick patio with arbor, used for their daughter's recent wedding reception. Many of the original or at least vintage plantings are still alive, including towering cypress street trees, a magnificent pepper tree creating lacy shade in the side yard, a flowering shrub called "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" plus many other Victorian garden shrubs and trees. Since this is a Victorian, of course there is a beautiful rose garden, though the roses don't date back a century.

Greg Asbury started rehabbing old homes during college in Oregon, turning them into student housing. His cooperative quickly became the largest non-profit student housing corporation in the country, during what he smilingly calls his "hippie stage." The interest in preserving beautiful old homes remained alive through his stint as the General Manager of the Rose Bowl, and through

the last twenty years as a public relations and marketing consultant. Asbury comments that his some of his best, first hand information comes from local citizen and historian extraordinaire, Phyllis Chapman, recalling the many events she attended here over the decades.

Happily, the Asburys see the Pinney House as a treasure to protect and preserve. Sierra Madre looks forward to following the progress of the Asbury's project, bringing this signature property back to life! Have a home, garden or person that might be of interest to our readers? Contact Chris Bertrand at C.Bertrand@TheMtWilsonObserver.com



Only the foyer and a couple of rooms currently reflect the bygone Victorian glory.

former residents from the apartment building phase wandering the halls, deep in reminiscence. A discreet brass plaque at the picket fence gate, now politely requests, "Private."

Currently, the Asburys are busy peeling back the years to restore this Victorian treasure. Only the foyer, stairs and small parlor appear Victorian and relatively "finished" right now. Many rooms have been stripped to the studs, removing a hundred years of room divisions into awkward hotel rooms, some even without windows, odd bathrooms, 1970's apartments complete with interior mailboxes and little kitchens, and a 1985 remodel. The sounds of demo work signal progress of the Asbury vision becoming reality. Clouds of plaster dust

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Pat Birdsall

Is Paris Burning?

Raise your hand if you feel that Paris Hilton doesn't deserve a 45-day jail sentence. Okay, seeing no one, I'll... Oh, sorry Mrs. Hilton, I didn't see you behind that stack of cash.

I am just as tired of this subject as everyone else, but after hearing today that Ms. Hilton is too emotionally distraught and traumatized over her 45-day jail sentence and that she isn't capable of testifying in a civil lawsuit against her, I almost lost my appetite. Almost... According to her psychiatrist, Ms. Hilton needs time to recover from the shock of receiving jail time and her fear of incarceration. Makes one want to weep doesn't it? In unison now, "She should have thought of that at the time!"

She got behind the wheel of an obscenely expensive automobile while intoxicated and got arrested for reckless driving. She just received probation for that offense, and has violated that at least twice by continuing to drive while

her license was suspended, hence the 45-day jail sentence. Not even taking responsibility for that, she blamed one of her "handlers." Handlers! Good grief. She said he told her it was alright to drive if she was going to work. Puhleeze. She fired him and then rehired him the next day.

Maybe the "poor little rich girl" analogy truly does apply here. What a vacuous life... Her mother was in court when the judge handed down the sentence and she laughed out loud and asked him for his autograph! She then proceeded to take her little girl shopping. If there is anything Paris Hilton doesn't need it is to go shopping. What she needs is someone, obviously from outside her family, to care enough to teach her to be responsible for her own actions, and that there is more to life than one's innocuous self. Hmmm, I think I know where she just might find that person. Do not pass go, do not collect \$200.00...

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As a member, you would serve as a communication link between the community, City Council and the Community and Personnel Services Director regarding recreation and community service items.

Serving as a youth commissioner is a one year commitment from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Work on the City's Youth Master Plan.

For more information, please contact Michelle Keith at the Community & Personnel Services Department at 626-355-7135.

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SPORTS

50 Years Of Sierra Madre Little League

By Larry Bortstein



Little League baseball has been part of the fabric of Sierra Madre life for half of the city's 100-year existence. With the season drawing to a climactic close on June 2, 21 teams with 275 youngsters ranging from T-ball, starting at five years old, to Majors, up to 12 years old, have been competing in Sierra

Madre Little League's 50th year since Feb. 25. "There are 12 other leagues in the area," said SMLL president Pete Siberell, "but I think ours is the best. We certainly have the most history."

Siberell, who is the director of community relations at Santa Anita Park, heads a volunteer organization that is one of 12 local leagues representing Little League



baseball District 17. The SMLL teams play at Heasley Field (at Sierra Vista Park), Sierra Madre Elementary School and St. Rita School. Games are usually played Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, with the Little Leaguers sharing Heasley Field with Sierra Madre Girls Softball Association.

The leading teams for the first half of the season were the Indians, who topped the Majors (10-to-12 year-olds) with an 8-3 record, and the Yankees, who led the Minors (9 to 11) with an 8-2-2 mark.

Phil Gleason, the manager of the Indians, is a financial planner in Pasadena who has been a fixture in SMLL



a boy here on the Indians, Calvin Christiansen, who could be headed to big things in baseball. Our catcher, Wes Coffey, has been on our team for three years and has really developed."

Dave Ardon is a Monrovia resident who works for the Sierra Madre Water Department and manages the Yankees. Now 41, he has coached or managed Little League teams since he was 13.

"Our main thing is to build confidence in these kids," Ardon said. "Some of these kids are better athletes than others. It doesn't matter. We have a boy who caught a flyball in right-field and that was the best thing that ever happened to him. It made him feel good about himself."

Joey Williams of the Giants, a member of the Majors, was the first player to hit a home run at Heasley Field this year during a 3-1 victory over the Indians on April 25. His name will be raised on the Heasley Home Run Heroes banner in center field.

For information on SMLL, go to www.sml.org. The website for District 17 is www.ca17.org

for nine years after 16 years of working with Little League teams in Long Beach.

"We had Sean Burroughs there," Gleason, 46, recalled of his days in Long Beach, whose father Jeff was a major league star and who made the majors himself. We have



Fey Day

By Larry Bortstein

Mark Friedlander and Michael Carlson will leave big gaps in the middle of La Salle's offense and defense next year. The two senior middle blockers were key performers for the Lancers boys volleyball team during its run to the CIF Southern Section Division IV playoffs this season.

The Lancers (22-9) advanced to the Division IV round of eight by beating North Torrance, 25-21, 23-25, 25-18, 25-19, at the Saxons' gym Tuesday night. Michael Fey had 16 kills to lead the victory.

They also starred during La Salle's three-game sweep of San Marino, 25-15, 25-22, 25-22, in a first-round playoff game Friday night at the Lancers' gym. The 6-foot-6 Friedlander had 10 blocks and six kills against the Titans and Carlson, who is 6-foot-5, managed five kills.

"You can't coach height and in Mark and Michael, we have two of the biggest players in our division, which gives us an advantage we try to exploit every chance we get," said Franco Macchia, who is in his second year as the Lancers coach.

La Salle, which finished second to Bishop Montgomery in league play and is ranked ninth

overall in Division IV, was scheduled to face North Torrance at the Saxons gym in the South Bay in a second-round playoff match Tuesday night.

Macchia has a busy teaching and coaching schedule. In addition to guiding La Salle's boys, he also coaches the girls volleyball team at St. Lucy's High in Glendora (girls volleyball is a fall sport) and teaches physical education at Jefferson Middle School in San Gabriel.

"So in the fall, I go East coming out of the Jefferson driveway to go to St. Lucy's to coach the girls and in the spring I go West to La Salle to coach the boys," said Macchia, 34. "That's great for me. I've played and coached volleyball for 20 years."

His assistant coach at La Salle also does double duty. In the fall, Brett Fabbri is the head coach of Alverno High's girls volleyball team. Though senior outside hitters Fey and Joey Evamilla lack the height of Friedlander and Carlson, they are major contributors to the Lancers' successful season.

"I've been coaching both of them since seventh grade," Macchia said. "They play for different club teams pretty much year-round."

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View From The Couch
By Stanley J. Forrester

Repeats

Lately I have been glued to the TV watching the basketball playoffs, and for the most part the games are exciting. They are, except for the fact that the Lakers played without any enthusiasm or passion. This makes it impossible to repeat as a champion.

In every sport it seems that we do not have those teams that win consecutive championships. There are organizations that are always in the mix that we classify as winners. But these teams in recent years have not won back-to-back titles.

Why not? No one has given a clear-cut answer to that question but many theories abound. That old demon "free agency" is often given as the reason. In the good old days the winning nucleus of the team stayed intact and the organization added to what was perceived as weak spots. Each team had its superstars.

Those players that were considered to be team leaders were the players that could be counted on to come through in a clutch. When I look at the teams of today I see those types of players. The guys that want the ball at the end of the game, the guys that will dive to the floor to get the loose ball, and those players that will do the hard things to help the team to win. They exist, and they play for championship teams, but there is another element in today's superstar and I think that this element adds to the inability to repeat as champion.

What is missing is the work ethic. There is the admonishment for winning championship games, "keep on doing what got you here" or "dance with the partner that you came with", and those sayings are equally as true for repeating. To repeat a team must start from ground zero and work just as hard for the second championship as they did for the first.

Perhaps they must work even harder for each opponent who will want to beat the champions. When the Boston Celtics were in

their second or third dominant team run, Larry Bird was the superstar. Each summer when Larry went home he went to the old high school gym and worked on those things that he did so well, seeking to maintain that constancy. Jack Nicklaus who is still crowned as the greatest golfer who ever lived, started each season with going to his coach and checking his grip, and other fundamentals. Tiger Woods is coming up but as of yet he has not replaced Jack in the record books.

They say that no golfer works harder than Tiger who works on every aspect of his game - his conditioning, his swing and his shot making. The late great Walter Peyton had a work routine prior to the start of football season which caused many a player who attempted it to become physically ill. Sweetness' (Peyton's nickname) thought was that if he could take the punishment then he could handle the tackles at the end of the season as well as he did at the start of the season.

Those who are truly great, get it. In order to repeat you cannot sit on your laurels, you must continue to work. And that goes for the entire team.

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