



DIGEST

FEBRUARY 29, 1988

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich challenges youth to "dedicate themselves to the preservation of our liberty and equal opportunity for all Americans."

U.S. Constitution is Focus of Youth Conference

A "Youth Leadership Conference" commemorating the 200th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution was held on Saturday, January 16, 1988, in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at the Hall of Administration.

The goal of the program, according to Dr. Larry Arnn, Chairman of the Los Angeles County Bicentennial Task Force, was to educate, inspire, and involve students in the spirit of the Constitution. Using leadership qualities as criteria, County high school principals nominated over 200 high school students to participate in the day-long event.

Addressing the group were Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Dr. Larry Arnn, Dr. Charles Kesler, Claremont McKenna College, and Los Angeles Dodger sports commentator Al Downing. Other notable speakers included Sheriff Sherman Block, Judges Ron Lew, Robert Lopez, and Eric E. Younger.

The day was highlighted by a stimulating student debate on the topic "Resolved: That Congress is interfering in the making of American foreign policy in an unconstitutional manner".

"One message that we hope the students took home with them is that the Bicentennial of the Constitution is more than an anniversary. It challenges all Americans to reaffirm the principles on which this country was founded and to renew our dedication to the defense of these principles," Dr. Arnn concluded.

Brenda Pospisil Makes Safety and Security her Top Priority

In recognition of her outstanding commitment to the safety and security of Data Processing employees and facilities, Brenda Pospisil was named the January 1988 County Employee of the Month.

Employee of the Month

Brenda is a Security Senior Systems Aid who is employed in the Physical Security Section, Executive Branch, of the Data Processing Department. Most noteworthy of Ms. Pospisil's many outstanding accomplishments was her performance during the major earthquake that struck the Los Angeles area October 1, 1987. Of the security staff on-site when the quake occurred, Brenda was the senior member and immediately became aware of her responsibility for overseeing building evacuation, damage control, coordination with executive staff, and cleanup and repair operations.

Her conscientious and calm manner during this catastrophe resulted in no employee injuries and facilitated a rapid initiation of building restoration activities. Through her immediate assessment of earthquake procedures, she directed evacuation which resulted in the safe exit of approximately 700 employees. During the course of the morning of October 1, 1987, she coordinated cleanup and repair activities tirelessly.



Supervisor Deane Dana and Brenda Pospisil

When she's not coordinating earthquake evacuations, Brenda is primarily responsible for security badge preparation and issuance for over 2000 employees, management of the computerized Access Control Security System, visitor control, assisting in security guard training and monitoring of their activities, and assisting in emergency preparedness activities.

Brenda has been described as a true professional and an outstanding employee in every respect.

She has been a County employee for 19 years and is a resident of Bellflower.

With pride and admiration, we congratulate Brenda Pospisil on her selection as Employee of the Month.

New Carmelitos Housing Wins HUD Award

Through a monumental 10-year effort, a wondrous transformation has occurred at the 713-unit Carmelitos Public Housing Development owned by the Los Angeles Community Development Commission (CDC). Located in North Long Beach, Carmelitos was the first public housing project constructed by the County of Los Angeles over 36 years ago.

Focused on rehabilitating over 33 deteriorating buildings, tenants at Carmelitos became actively involved in the restoration process and joined representatives of Long Beach, project architects, the CDC, and HUD to form the Management Assistance Planning Team. This team worked long and hard to

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Community Development Commission Housing Director Diane McNeel accepts a Public Housing Agency Performance Award in Washington, D.C. from HUD Secretary Samuel R. Pierce (center). Looking on is John E. Wilson, HUD Deputy Regional Administrator.

Express Commuter Buses *ON THE MOVE*

Good news for downtown Los Angeles commuters from outlying areas! Expanded express bus services and brand-new coaches now make public transportation a viable option for those who want reliability in getting to and from work on time in comfortable, uncrowded coaches.

Foothill Transit operated by the County of Los Angeles offers commuter service from the San Gabriel Valley to downtown Los Angeles on Express Lines 492 and 494. Foothill Transit coaches are operated by the private sector and offer high-backed seats with extra leg room, relaxing music, and individual reading lights and are fully accessible to the handicapped. For bus schedule information, call (213) 626-4455.

Commuter Express, operated by the City of Los Angeles, also offers modern, luxurious buses with limited stops, leaving mornings from the cities of Van Nuys, Westlake Village, Pacific Palisades, Westwood, Marina del Rey, Hermosa Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, and Encino. Commuters have the option of three different departure times each morning and evening. These buses pick up passengers at a few stops before linking onto freeways. For bus schedules, call (800) 832-3434.

Express routes from outlying areas to downtown still served by RTD originate in San Pedro (#445), Northridge (#418), Montclair (#497), San Gabriel Valley (#467), Fullerton (#464), La Mirada (#466), El Monte (#480, 481, 482, 484, 486, 490, and 491, depending on point of origin), Diamond Bar (#495), and Covina (#498). Park and Ride lots are available at some of these locations. For more information, call RTD at (213) 626-4455.

Elsewhere, privately and publicly operated commuter buses are also in service. Transit service to downtown includes express buses from Antelope Valley (call 800-552-8287), Santa Monica (451-5444), Gardena (324-1304), Torrance (328-7402), and Orange County (714-636-7433). There is also a bus-pool driven through Redlands, San Bernardino, Ontario, and Pomona which stops near shopping areas with available parking. For more information on this commuter bus to downtown, call Mack Barnes at (213) 239-4545.

Please note that these are **express** bus services from outlying areas to downtown Los Angeles only. For **local** buses serving your area and/or downtown Los Angeles, call your city's transportation department or RTD for more information.



Shown signing contract are: (L. to R.) Phillip Bennett; Elliot Marcus; Eugene Moutes; Wilbur F. Littlefield, Public Defender; Gareth Kim; Mark Reid, Union Chief Negotiator; Bill Pirie; Jim Mahone; Bill Saul; and (R. front) Ron Adler and Ed Perez.

Status of Bargaining

Public Defender Investigators, pictured at their contract signing ceremony, will receive an initial salary increase effective February 1, 1988. As of this date, a total of 28 bargaining units have signed tentative agreements or ratified successor Memoranda of Understanding with the County. Some employees in the listed units received or are scheduled to receive salary increases on or before July 1, 1988 as a result of their timely settlement agreements.

- Agricultural Inspectors
- Appraisers
- Automotive and Equipment Maintenance
- Building Custodians
- Building Trades
- Child Welfare Workers
- Corrections Officers
- Dental Professionals
- Engineering Technicians
- Firefighters
- Institutional Support Services
- Interns and Residents
- Mental Health Psychiatrists

- Operating Engineers
- Paramedical Technical
- Peace Officers
- Professional Engineers
- Psychiatric Social Workers
- Public Defender Investigators
- Security Officers
- Social Workers
- Supervising Appraisers
- Supervising Building Trades/Operating Engineers
- Supervisory Engineering Technicians
- Supervisory Firefighters
- Supervisory Peace Officers
- Supervisory Professional Engineers
- Supervisory Professional Social Workers
- Supervisory Security Guards

Some bargaining units that remain unsettled were also scheduled to receive increases in February; however, any such increases will be delayed until the parties reach a negotiated agreement on salary and other outstanding language issues. County management is hopeful settlements will be reached in the immediate future.

Assessor Activates Disaster Task Force

Continuing to assist the public, County Assessor John J. Lynch recently activated a special task force to deal with applications for tax reduction reassessment of property damaged by recent weekend storms.

"The same special group within our office which dealt with tax reduction assistance for victims of the October earthquake will also handle forms to aid those whose property was severely damaged by this latest calamity," said Assessor Lynch.

Owners of storm-damaged homes and businesses should report immediately any destruction involving taxable property by writing a letter requesting a reassessment form. To expedite the process, property owners should write directly to Assessor John Lynch at his office in the Hall of Administration, Attention: DLS, Room 250, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-2770. Information may also be obtained by calling (213) 974-3332 or 974-8658.

The request should include the property owner's name, the address of affected parcels, and the assessor's identification number (as listed on a tax bill), as well as a current mailing address. Section 170 of the state Revenue and Taxation Code provides for a review of taxable property suffering at least \$5,000 in damage due to a disaster.

An application for a tax reduction reassessment form will be mailed to those persons who, on March 1, owned, possessed or had under their control, property which was damaged by the January 16-18, 1988 storms.

Applicants have 60 days from the date of the damage to submit their requests, Assessor Lynch said. "It would be helpful to include photographs of the damaged property when writing for the required forms, and the more documentation on ownership which can be provided, the better," he added.



Gene Valle, who is a patient in the Pediatric Ward at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, cuts the ribbon to officially open the "Laugh Room" at the hospital. Joining in the event are, from left, Joseph Barbera, President of Hanna-Barbera Studios; Rozina Brown, Head Nurse of the Pediatric Ward; Ed Foley, Director of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center; Supervisor Kenneth Hahn (seated); Norman Cousins, UCLA Medical School Professor; and Robert Gates, Director, Department of Health Services.

Laughter Is the Best Medicine

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc., recently dedicated a new "Laugh Room" in the hospital's pediatric ward.

The Laugh Room, an idea of Hanna-Barbera president Joseph Barbera, is a cooperative effort between the company and the County hospital to bring laughter to hospitalized children.

The room consists of cheerful Hanna-Barbera cartoon character decorations and cartoon films for the young patients to view. Special cables were installed on television sets in each room to allow all children access to cartoon viewing. The cartoons will be aired three days each week between 4-5 p.m.

The dedication ceremonies took place in the Footlighters Child Life Building, located in Torrance and were attended by County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and Norman Cousins, the UCLA faculty member whose book, "Anatomy of an Illness," provided Barbera with the idea of laughter therapy. Many of the well-known Hanna-Barbera characters, such as Yogi Bear, Fred Flintstone, and Huckleberry Hound also attended the program.

A research study is being developed by Harbor's nursing staff to test the effects of laughter on hospitalized children.

"This is a great event," said Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. "This Laugh Room should provide a model for hospitals throughout this nation. Laughter is truly the best medicine. I am particularly grateful to Norman Cousins for his landmark research into the value of laughter and its positive impact in combating illness and disease. I know this will be a wonderful place of joy, hope, love, and laughter."

Secretarial Council to Hold Dinner Meeting

"Residential Burglary Prevention" will be the topic of the County Secretarial Council's March dinner meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 1988, at 6 p.m. at the Assistance League of Southern California. Deputy Greg Rigali, an investigator, from the Sheriff's Department will provide information on how to prevent burglary of your residence. An interesting film will be shown and a demonstration of various methods utilized by burglars will be presented.

To top off this informative evening, door prizes will be awarded. All members and non-members are invited.

The Secretarial Council provides opportunities for an exchange of views, information and experiences, and offers educational programs to foster professional growth and development.

Membership is open to any secretary at the level of Secretary I or higher among all series, including legal and medical secretaries and persons on secretarial items in special departments.

For further information, contact Jane Sawai, (213) 974-4181, or Mary Patton, (213) 974-4206.



Front (L. to R.) Connie Evans (DPSS), Board member; Nancy Apeles (Health Services), President; Terry Wright (Health Services), Vice President; Jane Sawai (Sheriff), Treasurer; Vicky Hansen (CAO), and Toni Simmons (Parks & Recreation), both Board members. Second row (L. to R.) Board members Mary Villanueva (Office of Education); Mary Ortiz (Assessor); Mary Patton (Sheriff); and Evelyn Fontecchio (County Counsel). Not shown are June Hamilton (Mental Health-Retired), Secretary and Rose Marie Olivas (Public Library), Board member.

HUD Award

(Continued from page 1)

ensure the revitalized Carmelitos project included such features as a senior citizens center, a community service center including day care, a modern playground, and spacious landscaped areas in a 64-acre site.

For their monumental sustained effort, the CDC was recently presented in Washington, D.C. a Specific Activity Award in the annual Public Housing Agency Performance Awards Program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



Pictured in front of the "whalemobile" are: (L. to R.) Ed Harrison, President of Museum's Board of Governors; Dr. Ralph Schreiber, Curator of the Ornithology Division and Head of the Birds and Mammals Section; Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Deane Dana; and Dr. John Heyning, Assistant Curator of Mammals.

'Whalemobile' Donated to Natural History Museum

Recovery of beached whales and other marine mammals can now be accomplished faster and easier by County Natural History Museum employees who will be using a specially equipped truck donated by Ford Motor Company.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Deane Dana accepted the F-700 four-wheel drive truck on behalf of the County, noting the Museum's Mammal Recovery Program staff is the scientific institution that collects and studies these marine mammal specimen.

The truck is equipped with a tilting bed and winch similar to the new style tow trucks. It will be able to drive on sandy beaches, eliminating a logistical problem that often slowed recovery of beached whales, porpoises and other marine mammals in the past.

The Natural History Museum's stranding program has built a research collection of marine mammal specimen second in size only to the Smithsonian Institution. Museum curators and other researchers around the world use this research collection to increase understanding of many species, including those endangered.

In the past 10 years, over 60 publications in scholarly journals have utilized data collected from specimens held in the Natural History Museum.

In appreciation of its donation, Ford Motor Company is being acknowledged as a Distinguished Friend and a recognition plaque will be placed on the main foyer wall of the Natural History Museum.

Matching Grants Awarded to County Arts Organizations

The Board of Supervisors has approved \$89,000 in matching grants to 22 County-resident arts organizations through the National/State/County Partnership, administered by the County Music and Performing Arts Commission. The challenge grant program was created to address the needs of emerging, experimental and other County-resident arts organizations that have limited access to private, corporate or governmental funding sources.

The program recognizes the significant contributions being made by emerging and innovative organizations to the cultural awareness of the whole community and seeks

to establish a means of fiscal stability upon which the organizations may solidify and expand their programs.

To provide a source of flexible and immediate funding, grants are awarded every six months. Guidelines and applications for the next grant period are now available through the National/State/County Partnership Office, 135 North Grand Avenue #204, Los Angeles, 90012. Deadline for receipt of completed application is Friday, March 4, 1988.

For further information regarding the Partnership, telephone (213) 974-1317.



(L. to R.) Jaime Meraz, Maria Mitchell and David Guerrero

Merchants Assist Special Pet Adoption Program

As part of a new private/public sector partnership, photographs of available shelter pets were recently placed in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune in hopes of finding new homes. Local merchants working with the Baldwin Park Shelter of the Department of Animal Care and Control, purchased space in this local newspaper and each sponsored a different shelter pet.

Ads filled four full newspaper pages and obviously touched the hearts of many area residents. Shelter Supervisor, Jaime Meraz, and his staff were enthusiastic about the positive response. As a result, over 180 animals including puppies, kittens, dogs, cats, rabbits, and chickens were placed into new homes in just three days.

The department hopes that this experience will generate ongoing involvement with these merchants to help Los Angeles County promote responsible pet care programs.

A special thanks to Maria Mitchell, of the San Gabriel Valley Tribune.

County of Los Angeles

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