



DIGEST

MARCH 15, 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Lomonaco: The Man Behind the Scenes in TV Series

Instead of watching TV, Deputy Sheriff Joseph Lomonaco Jr. would rather get involved. In fact, he's working behind the scenes helping create the "Ask the Sheriff" series, which reaches about 400,000 cable-equipped households each week.

Employee of the Month

As the Sheriff's communication liaison for the Channel 53 series, Lomonaco helped produce the Sheriff's SANE anti-drug program episode, which won the 1989 Western Access Video Excellence Award for an educational program.

Lomonaco's Channel 53 activities include film production, gathering deputies and locations for segments and serving as a technical spokesperson on department policies and issues.

For his outstanding contributions and effective representation of the County, the Board of Supervisors honored Lomonaco as the February County Employee of the Month at a Board Hearing Room ceremony on February 20.

As a community involvement deputy at the



Joseph Lomonaco Jr. and Supervisor Pete Schabarum

Norwalk Sheriff's Station, Lomonaco makes presentations to business and professional groups regarding law enforcement topics. And he uses puppetry for presentations at schools.

He also established the Neighborhood Watch
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SELF-ESTEEM Celebration Spotlights Leaders, Information

A host of celebrities and entertainers gathered together with County employees and officials on Valentine's Day for a civic center rally honoring 20 self-esteem leaders.

More than 200 spectators, braving bone-chilling winds, meandered through the County mall where self-esteem groups and public information booths mingled with entertainment and food concessions. The three-hour rally was held in observance of the Board of Supervisors motion proclaiming February self-esteem month.

As author of the Board motion that created the County Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility in 1987, Supervisor Mike Antonovich said the task force is a "weapon which will help turn the tide against gangs, child abuse, teenage pregnancy, and drug and alcohol abuse."

Referring to such role models as actor Billy Barty, FBI official Ted Nichols and armless
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Probation Hoop Kings Eye National Crown

In last year's Budweiser 3-on-3 National Basketball Challenge, Charles McDaniel and Ernest Pettway's team blazed through a field of 3,000 competitors to finish in second place.

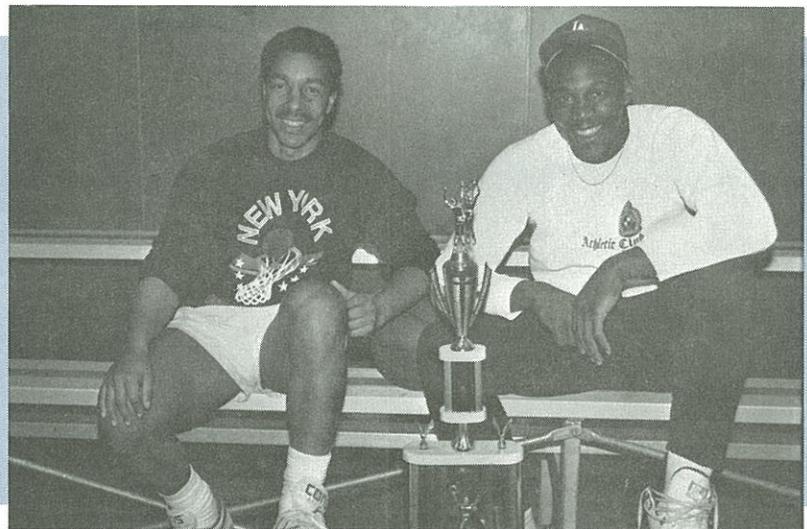
But runner-up status won't make the grade in 1990. The two Probation Department hoop kings are now set for "total dominance."

"The team's very strong both offensively and defensively," Pettway, a detention service officer, said. "No other team is as solid; we'll go all the way this year."

Recovering from a broken hand, Pettway has been off the court for the past six months. But through daily jogging and frequent endurance competitions, he maintains conditioning.

In June, the duo will compete against 100 teams in the Pasadena-based Diet Pepsi Hoops and High Tops tournament.

Last season, The Vation, named after the Salvation Army gym where the team practices, finished first in both the Pasadena competition and the West Coast Budweiser 3-on-3 Challenge basketball tournament, where 500 teams competed.



Hoop stars Charles McDaniel (left) and Ernest Pettway pose with trophy for runner-up finish in Budweiser 3-on-3 Basketball Challenge.

Then, in September, the team traveled to the World Trade Center in New York to face three other regional championship teams.

And according to Pettway and McDaniel, that's when the situation got "red hot."

"Our semi-final match was against the New York team," said McDaniel, an eight-year County employee. "They were supposed to take it all. It was their turf."

Two-thousand "very hostile" spectators packed the World Trade Center and chanted "beat L.A., beat L.A.," McDaniel said, adding that he expected bottles to fly through the air when The Vation soundly defeated the New York team, 15 - 9.

But in the finals, the team lost, 15 - 13, to a team from Atlanta. The experience, however,
(Continued on page 2)

CAO Answers Health Insurance, Social Security Questions

Recently, a long-term County employee sent a letter to the Chief Administrative Officer expressing concerns about health insurance premiums. In this same letter, she also expressed concern about the County's lack of participation in the Social Security program. Following is Richard Dixon's response to her concerns.

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your concern about health care insurance premiums and their effect on your take-home pay. Let me assure you that the Board of Supervisors and I share your concern both for the cost of health care and insurance and for adequate compensation protection and take-home pay for dedicated County employees such as yourself.

However, I do need to provide you with some important facts so that you can better understand why you suffered a loss of take-home pay in January. Specifically, for months, the County has offered a significantly improved fringe benefit program known as "Choices" but, of all the County unions, Local 660 alone has rejected this improved program.

Because of our continuing interest in the recruitment and retention of qualified employees, in mid-October we offered significant increases

in the County's subsidy of health insurance premiums even if Local 660 would not let its members join the improved "Choices" program. Unfortunately, Local 660 did not elect to accept the County's offer for improved health insurance subsidies until January 30 — too late to save those of our employees who are represented by Local 660 from the loss of take-home pay in their January 15 paycheck.

We regret this loss of take-home pay to our valued employees such as yourself. Fortunately, however, all County unions, except Local 660, approved fringe benefit agreements as offered by the County last September, thereby protecting their members and our employees from losses like yours. In addition, I am pleased to say that with Local 660's tentative agreement, we will work hard to adjust employees' payroll beginning February 1. However, a portion of this adjustment will have to be retroactive as we cannot adjust the payroll until the agreement has been ratified by both Local 660's membership and the Board of Supervisors.

In your letter, you commented that the County has removed its employees from Social Security. That is a correct observation, but I do not believe you are also aware of the several benefits to you and other employees from this

action. Specifically, if you were in Social Security during 1990, your potential Social Security tax upon your current income would be \$2,184, which would reduce your take-home pay by approximately \$182 per month. In addition, when the County removed its workforce from Social Security, we took other steps to improve our County employee benefits, including qualifying our excellent County employee retirement system pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 414 (h) (2) so that employee contributions to their retirement plan are tax free, thereby increasing their take-home pay. The County has also established a thrift plan under Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code permitting employees to save additional monies for their retirement in a tax favored method and to enjoy County matching contributions of 50 cents on the dollar for up to 2.5 percent of their annual salary in this program.

I, like you, am a long-term County employee (32 years in my case), a homeowner, and taxpayer of Los Angeles County. I have found Los Angeles County to be an excellent employer and take great pride in joining you and similar people to make our County a better place to live and work. I hope this information has been of assistance to you.



Earthquake Safe

Pamela Broadous, public information officer for the Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Project, receives award from Supervisor Ed Edelman. SCEPP coordinates with Los Angeles and seven other Southern California counties in the Earthquake Survival Program. "The contributions of this project have enhanced the County's effort to become better prepared for a major disaster," Edelman said.

County Recycling Gets Curbside Service

The inauguration of a curbside recycling program aimed at conserving resources, protecting the environment and extending the life of County landfills has been announced by Supervisor Mike Antonovich and Public Works Director Tom Tidemanson.

The program, which will soon have pilot projects in all five supervisorial districts, began in January in the unincorporated County areas of Altadena, La Crescenta and Montrose.

Supervisor Antonovich said recyclable materials to be separated from other trash include aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, and newspapers. "This accounts for about 20

percent of residential waste."

"We generate about 50,000 tons of waste per day — enough to fill Dodger stadium every nine days," said Antonovich.

"Without recycling," he added, "the County's solid waste production will increase to approximately 60,000 tons of waste per day by the year 2000 because of population growth and increases in the volume of waste generated by each person.

"When everyone in the County recycles these items, an estimated seven percent of the total wastestream will be diverted from landfills," Antonovich said.

The Vation: Shooting for the Top

(Continued from page 1)

offered many rewards, including an all-expense trip to New York, \$800 each in cash, free basketball shoes and sweatshirts.

For Pettway and McDaniel, sensational basketball skills were not acquired overnight.

McDaniel was a star guard at Pepperdine University in the 1970s and Pettway served as team captain for Chaminade University in Hawaii in the early 1980s.

While no Vation team player stands taller than 6 feet 4 inches, a height problem has never occurred, Pettway noted.

"I have a basketball mind," Pettway said. "I know how to adjust to any situation. I know how to focus for success and I know how to win."

Lomonaco Honored

(Continued from page 1)

program in the unincorporated areas of Whittier, which now has 15,000 participants. He provides tours of the Norwalk Station and coordinated the expansion of the station's 1989 open house.

Lomonaco has also received local, state and department awards. In addition, he has been involved in a wide range of volunteer and department activities including organizing a station blood drive and working with the Angel Tree program for needy children. He supports little league and the annual Kops for Kids golf tournament. And with a packed agenda, he still found time to lend a hand with the Sheriff's chili cook-off competition.



A noontime crowd gathers at the County mall for self-esteem celebration.



Emmy-winning actor Edward James Olmos (center) with Supervisor Mike Antonovich (left) and Assemblyman John Vasconcellos at self-esteem rally.

Leaders Gather for Self-Esteem Rally

(Continued from page 1)

guitarist Tony Melendez, Antonovich said these are "contemporary heroes whose self-esteem and sense of responsibility helped them emerge as winners."

Antonovich added that Barty "stands tall as a world famous entertainer and great humanitarian despite his three-foot, nine-inch stature." He also recounted how armless Melendez "inspired the world when he played the guitar with his toes and sang for Pope John Paul II during the Pope's visit in 1988."

The award winners, who included Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and first lady Barbara Bush, were honored for their efforts to promote positive pro-

grams and teach the importance of instilling a strong sense of self pride in all people.

Edward James Olmos, an Emmy-winning actor who starred in the movie "Stand and Deliver," asked workers to rekindle self-esteem in themselves as a way of addressing today's problems.

"I've been noticing that the values in our country, our city and our community are quickly deteriorating," he said. "That has an effect on us all."

Olmos, who grew up in East Los Angeles, was honored by the task force for his work in juvenile halls and prisons.

Jim Newman, task force chairman, said self-

esteem should be viewed as a learnable, preventative medicine that cures a disease.

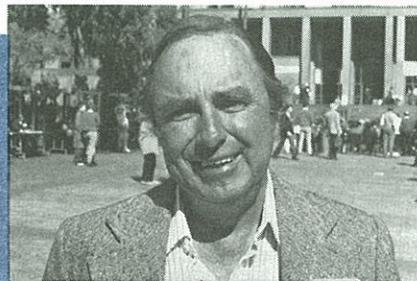
Patterns exist "which provide young people with the inner resources they need to cope with peer pressures and make the positive decision that will build a productive and healthy life," he said.

The 24-member task force was formed to help overcome the problems of crime and violence, drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, welfare dependency, and the failure of some children to reach their potential. A direct correlation exists between self-esteem and many of the social problems we face today, according to the task force.

What Does Self-Esteem Mean to You?



Rita Hall
 Sheriff's Department SANE Unit
"When someone has good self-esteem, he or she is very productive and has a positive outlook on themselves and life."



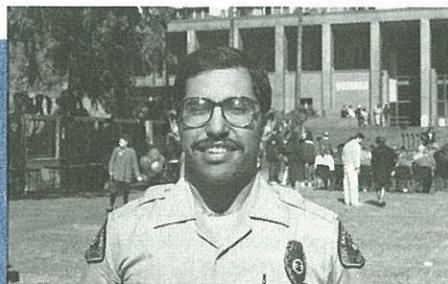
Vince Healy
 A 22-year retiree with the Department of Children's Services
"Self-esteem is a love of self and others."



Preacher Shauntee'
 Los Angeles Municipal Court senior secretary
"Being positive, optimistic and having a born-again experience. They all attribute to self-esteem."



Tim O'Clock
 Assessor appraiser
"To hold oneself in high regard."



Art Bencomo
 Deputy Marshal
"Pride in yourself and knowing what you want in life."



Terry Ceja
 Treasurer and Tax Collector clerk
"Being able to accomplish one's goals for the future within a determined period of time."

Explorer Graduation Day



Ninety-eight young men and women of Law Enforcement Explorer Class 43 gather for graduation ceremonies at the Hall of Administration. Sheriff Sherman Block, who conducted the ceremony and is seated front center, is joined by County executives and police officials from Huntington Park, Montebello and other neighboring communities.

New Digest Editor Joins County Team

Larry Welsh, a former public relations executive and newspaper reporter, is the new Digest editor.

Prior to joining the County, Welsh served as a public relations writer and media expert for Carl Terzian Associates, a Los Angeles public relations firm.

Before that, he worked as a general assignment writer and community political reporter for the Daily Breeze, a 95,000-circulation newspaper in Torrance.

A native of Los Angeles, Welsh graduated with distinction from California State University, Long Beach, with bachelor degrees in journalism and political science.



Digest Editor Larry Welsh

Hotline correction

The hotline phone number for the Language Learning Centers was listed incorrectly in the February 23 issue. The correct number is 1-800-372-6641. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.



CENSUS '90 Attention America

During the next two weeks, every American household will receive — via the local mail carrier — a once-a-decade task: to fill out the census questionnaire and mail it back in a pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope.

Households will receive the questionnaire by Census Day, April 1, and one adult member in each residence must complete the form. For the five out of every six households receiving the short 20-question form, the task lasts no more than 15 minutes.

The remaining 17 percent will receive the longer form, which takes about 45 minutes to complete and contains additional questions on demographics and socioeconomic characteristics of each household member. Questions on income, ancestry, occupation, education, travel to work and housing costs will also be included.

Households failing to send back completed questionnaires will be contacted by telephone or in person by Census Bureau workers.

In more rural areas, census workers will call door-to-door to pick up or complete the forms.

Census response, which is required by law, is strictly confidential. The law requires information obtained be used for statistical purposes only and only census bureau officials and employees get access to individual information. It also requires a format for published data that does not identify an individual, household or housing unit.

**REMEMBER, APRIL 1, 1990
ANSWER THE CENSUS.**

Deadline Nears for Employee Essay Contest

Although an April 6 deadline is quickly approaching, there's still time for all County employees to enter the Public Service Recognition Week Essay Contest. A wide variety of prizes, including computer equipment, a weekend hotel stay for two at the Biltmore and a year's membership in the American Society for Public Administration will be offered to the top finalists in the 200-words-or-less competition.

Employees must answer the question: What role do I play in providing quality service to County residents?

Submit your essay, along with your name, work address and work telephone number, to Larry Welsh, Digest editor. Send to County Special Programs, Room 783, 500 W. Temple St., L.A. 90012.



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