

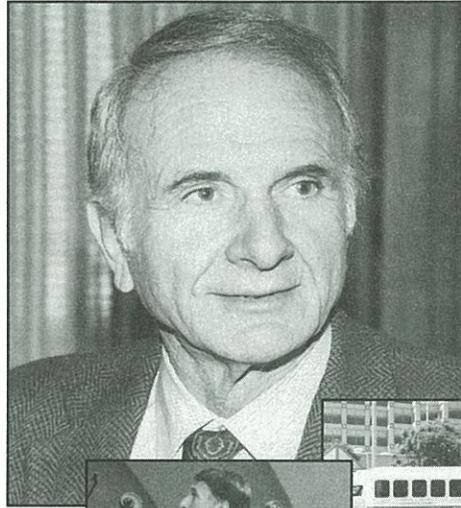
County DIGEST



NOVEMBER 15, 1994

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

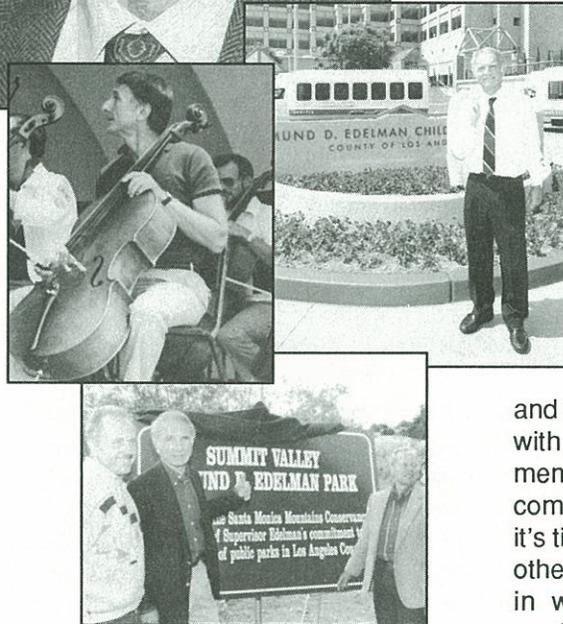
December 5, 1994 begins a new phase in the public life of Third District Supervisor Edmund D. Edelman. As a County elected official, his contributions to the citizens of Los Angeles County have spanned two decades and ranged from his personal involvement in the preservation of 662 acres in Topanga Canyon in the creation of the Summit Valley Edmund D. Edelman Park to the opening of the nation's first child-sensitive courthouse, the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park. The Children's Court stands as a monument to Supervisor Edelman's lifelong commitment to improving services to the County's children.



Edmund D. Edelman:

A Supervisor Reflects

Scenes from his distinguished career: Clockwise, from left: Supervisor Ed Edelman; at the Children's Court; at the park dedication in the Santa Monica Mountains; and a lighter moment -- playing his cello at the Hollywood Bowl.



I will miss my County service and the continuing opportunity to serve with so many talented and dedicated members of the County family. There comes a point when, health permitting, it's time to move on. I intend to pursue other interests and opportunities in fields in which I've long been involved, mediation and arbitration of disputes, and in the analysis and development of public policy.

I want to thank everyone in the various County departments and agencies I've worked with and depended upon through the years. Too often, they have gotten little or no credit for serving the public so ably and selflessly. I also want to thank all of my Board colleagues, past and present, with whom it was a privilege to serve, especially Supervisor Kenny Hahn, with whom I served nearly my entire 20 years on the Board, and whose experience and support so often proved invaluable.

Farewell to all, and my very best wishes to you always.

A message from Supervisor Edelman:

As I prepare to conclude my fifth and final term as a Los Angeles County Supervisor, I can honestly say upon reflection that the past 20 years have been my most satisfying years in public service.

Serving as Supervisor has given me the opportunity to exercise real power to promote programs and build facilities which, in my judgment, serve the public good.

There has never been a dull day in this job, with a seemingly endless series of issues to be dealt with -- from transportation, criminal justice, homelessness, and the mentally ill to the complex management of such major public institutions as the Hollywood Bowl and our County museums.

As a twice-elected member of the City Council, I could easily have chosen perhaps a more predictable path and run for Mayor or a seat in Congress, but I never regretted having chosen to run for Supervisor. The political mentors whom I trusted and often turned to for advice --- my fellow Councilmember John Gibson, former Supervisor John Anson Ford, then-Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh - all advised me to run for

Supervisor as the next best job in state politics beside governor.

What gave me the greatest satisfaction was being able to get things done for the public good. All that I have accomplished through the years in this position, however, I never could have achieved without my loyal and devoted staff, as well as County staff in general. They have served as my eyes, ears, arms and legs to represent me and assist me in getting things done. I also want to thank my wonderful and supportive family - my wife Mari and my daughters Erica and Emily - without whom I could not have succeeded.

Frank Mora:

T H E M O T I V A T O R



Frank Mora and
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite
Burke

Helping others find work is the ideal job for Frank Mora, Department of Public Social Services' GAIN services worker. "GAIN" stands for Greater Avenues for Independence, a special program designed to help welfare recipients get back into the working world. In the past year, it has helped more than 3,500 County residents find entry-level jobs and eventually get off welfare.

Since February, the GAIN Region V's placement record has soared from 98 to 441 per month, with much of the credit going to Mora's enthusiastic efforts.

"I like seeing people become employed. It makes my day," says Mora, who spends his day supervising a group of GAIN workers from his Region V office in Rancho Dominguez. Mora has spent considerable time searching out and conferring with prospective employers in each of his region's targeted cities, convincing them of the benefits of hiring GAIN trainees.

"After the initial letter of introduction, we call each employer and set up a brief meeting to discuss our program. We personally sell them on it," he explains.

For the more than 1,000 participants seeking employment each month, Mora personally assists them to improve their self-esteem and make them job-ready. He helps them overcome their fear of giving up public assistance for the uncertainty of the job market.

Mora relocated from St. Louis, Missouri to Los Angeles in 1986. He came to work for the County in 1989 in the GAIN program and now oversees seven other workers in his area.

His dedication to others spills over into his personal life. While living in St. Louis, Mora's active participation in the Jesuit Church led an affiliated church in Miami to request his services when 125,000 Cubans came to the United States in the "Cuban Boat Lift." He took a leave of absence from his job and worked for 12 hours a day, seven days a week for three months straight to help process and relocate these refugees. U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, then Miami's prosecuting attorney, commended Mora with a special certificate from Miami for his service to the community.

Standing outside the Board hearing room with his Employee of the Month scroll in hand, Mora beamed with pride. "I really enjoy my job," he smiled.

Putting Aside Prejudice

Employees Sought for Diversity Committee

Teaching 85,000 County employees how to put aside their individual prejudices and appreciate the cultural magnitude of the County's workforce is the goal for the new Diversity Advisory Committee being formed by Affirmative Action Compliance Officer John Hill.

Hill is seeking 50 County employees, including one from each department, to serve as representatives. Members will initially be invited to a group meeting to discuss their own prejudices, according to Hill. Diversity training will follow, with the hope that "each employee will go back to his or her department and work toward the same goal of easing tensions," he says.

"The County has one of the most diverse workforces in the nation. We don't have a problem recruiting minorities - over 50 percent of our employees are from minority groups and over 50 percent are women. The problem is how to get our diverse groups to work together," says Hill.

Citing his strong support from department heads, Hill is confident that many benefits will emerge from this new committee.

"I want employees to realize that, despite differences, we can work together. People deserve the right to be promoted based on skills and ability, not on how we look or how we speak. We make snap judgments which have a devastating affect on people," he explains.

If you're interested in joining this group, please submit a brief resume and a 100-word statement about how you will contribute to increasing the understanding and valuing of diversity among the County workforce to: Dennis Tafoya, Senior Deputy, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, 780 Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The deadline for submitting applications is **December 15, 1994**. Committee members will be named by January 15, 1995 - fittingly, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

New County Job Hotline

A new 24-hour job hotline that features information about open competitive examinations in all County departments is now available. These examinations are open for filing by all County employees, as well as the general public. Although there is a Countywide hiring freeze, there are a number of critical positions currently open for filing, primarily in the public safety and health-

related area. By calling (213) 351-LIST, employees can receive the latest information from a touch-tone phone, spanning five job categories: clerical, accounting and administrative; technical, engineering, crafts and maintenance; health-related; public safety and justice system; and miscellaneous.

1944-1994: Half Century of Human Relations

More than 52 years have passed since the body of 22-year-old Jose Diaz was found on a hot August night in an irrigation ditch in Montebello. The incident became known as the "Sleepy Lagoon" murder of a Mexican-American youth in a 1940's gang-style beating. Although what happened to Diaz never became clear and the 22 youths charged with his murder were eventually set free for lack of evidence, the incident changed the course of history in Los Angeles.

The subsequent "Zoot Suit" riots of 1943 between U.S. servicemen stationed in Los Angeles during World War II and young Mexican-American men

illustrated the growing cultural conflict between the city's ethnic groups.

Following that clash and the "Sleepy Lagoon" murder trial, Supervisor John Anson Ford created the Joint Commission for Interracial Progress on January 11, 1944. The Committee's charge was to "seek out the causes of racial tension and devise all means possible to eliminate them."

In 1946, the effort was renamed as the Commission on Human Relations, focused on bringing together a community known as a microcosm of the country's struggles for gay rights, women's rights, peace and civil rights - an experimental laboratory for the rest of the nation.

On October 6, 1994, the Commission celebrated its 50th anniversary at a gathering of over 800 at the Biltmore Hotel. Hosted by the Board of Supervisors, the event acknowledged all former commissioners and volunteers from the community, corporate, media/entertainment and professional arenas who helped shape the many

successes in furthering human relations.

The Commission is the oldest agency of its kind in the United States.



Los Angeles Times journalist Patt Morrison (center) and lawyer Hugh Hewitt (right), co-hosts of KCET-TV's "Life and Times," join Commission President Gerald Alcantar (left) after serving as celebrity hosts at the Biltmore.

The Roger D. Arthur 5P21 Art Coalition: Legacy of Hope

Roger Arthur was a patient and volunteer in the 5P21 Rand Schrader HIV/AIDS Outpatient Clinic at the LAC+USC Medical Center. He was also an artist. Creatively, he merged those roles into the formation of a first-ever coalition of artists determined to make a public hospital clinic's sterile atmosphere a more comfortable, nurturing place for patients, staff, volunteers and visitors. When he passed away on August 2, 1994, he left behind a legacy of hope.

"From the moment he walked into 5P21, he began to make a difference," says Bonnie Stover, the Clinic's volunteer programs coordinator, describing Arthur's early efforts to establish the group in late 1992. "He didn't hesitate when approached by the administrator to bring art into the plainly decorated waiting rooms and treatment areas. He thought of a way to involve patients and others whose lives had been affected by AIDS. Soon, we were planning our first art show."

Calls for artwork went out through AIDS organizations, art galleries and the local media. A handful of interested artists blossomed into dozens of calls each week. Within four months, the first show was unveiled on April 23, 1993, celebrated by a small reception in the Clinic's lobby, where guests could meet each artist and wander through the three-story building -- virtually transformed into an art gallery.

"Roger believed that creating art would somehow empower patients and other participating artists whose lives have been

Arthur presented the Coalition's official t-shirt to Gebbie. The angel logo was designed by Arthur.



Arthur was named Health Services 1994 Volunteer of the Year, receiving an award from CAO Sally Reed.

impacted by the disease," explains Stover. "He also believed that art is a healing medium, inspiring hope for patients and their loved ones."

The Coalition's roster has grown to more than 80 artists and is currently exhibiting its fifth art show. Recently, the group was awarded a \$50,000 education grant from the County's AIDS Program Office to provide a unique HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention program targeted to high-risk teenagers in Los Angeles.

Twice, the Coalition received national attention when Kristine Gebbie, President Clinton's former AIDS policy coordinator, visited the Clinic to view the artwork on display and voice her support. As a result, several gifts of art from Coalition members are now proudly on display in the White House AIDS Office in Washington, D.C.

"It was Roger's dream to see this happen," adds Stover.

DIGEST NOTES

DIGEST NOTES is a column featuring short items of interest. Share your ideas with Kristina Balian, Digest Editor, at (213) 974-2449, or fax them to (213) 680-2450.

Take It Literally...

Southern Californians have a new bilingual literacy referral service linking residents to information about literacy programs in Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. By calling the toll-free Literacy Line at 1-800-707-READ (7323), callers using touch-tone telephones can enter their home or work zip code and hear prerecorded referrals to literacy programs in the zip code area closest to their residence or place of business.

A database of more than 700 programs exists, through the generosity of the Los Angeles Times' donation of start-up costs, computer equipment and programming of the toll-free line.

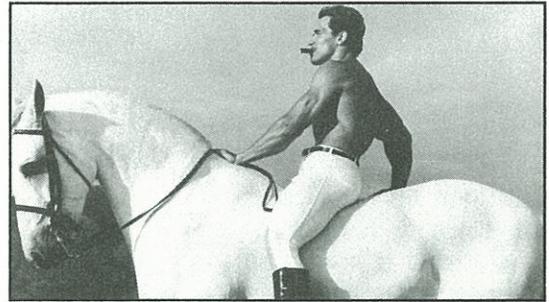
Library staff are hopeful that this new service will chip away at the fact that 50 percent of California adults have "low reading, writing and math skills - a real challenge to keeping up with today's technology," says Cindy Costales, literacy coordinator.

"Annie Leibovitz: 1970-1990" at the Museum of Art

Portraits of John Lennon, Ella Fitzgerald and early Rolling Stones are among the 150 images in the Museum's exhibit, "Annie Leibovitz: Photographs 1970-1990," running November 17 - February 12, 1995.

The exhibit may be viewed during the Museum's regular hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. The

Arnold Schwarzenegger, as captured by Leibovitz.



copyright 1991 Annie Leibovitz

Museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. For more information, contact the Museum of Art at (213) 857-6000.

Fox 11 News Launches "Sunday's Child"

Department of Children's Services Director Peter Digre (left) joins "Fox News at 10" anchor Christine Devine (far right) to launch "Sunday's Child," a weekly segment featuring children like five-year-old Lamar (second from left) who's looking for an adoptive home with the assistance of DCS Social Worker Patricia Pruitt (center). The weekly campaign began



November 6 during "Fox News at 10." Devine will focus on children who have had difficulty finding an adoptive home due to their age or individual needs. For more information about adopting a child, call (213) 738-4577.

Take County Time To Donate Bone Marrow

Saving someone's life usually happens by accident. But by deciding to become a bone marrow donor, you knowingly prepare to save someone's life.

Each year, more than 16,000 children and adults in the United States are diagnosed with a fatal blood disease, such as leukemia or aplastic anemia. A donation of your bone marrow could give someone the chance of a lifetime.

On September 13, 1994, during "National Marrow Donor Awareness Week," the Board of Supervisors, by motion of Supervisor Molina, voted to provide paid time off for employees who participate in a bone marrow donor program.

To find out if you're eligible to donate, employees simply attend a five-minute testing session where a small blood sample is drawn and a consent form is signed allowing your name to be added to the national registry of potential bone marrow donors tracked by the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP).

The County is currently in the process of developing several testing sites throughout the region and is working with the American Red Cross to defray possible testing costs. Employees must be between ages 18-55 and in good health. For more information, please contact your departmental personnel officer.

County DIGEST

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