



LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 403 West 8th St., Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90014 (213) 626-0370

The LACTC Staff Newsletter "All the news that's unfit to print"

WHAT IS PERS WORTH TO YOU?



We want to tell you about a VERY SPECIAL OFFER available only to LACTCers and a million or so other state, county, city, and municipal employees in California.

Would you believe a retirement benefit worth 15 percent above and beyond your base salary-- and sometimes much, MUCH more?

This amazing benefit means thousands of extra dollars to your personal bottom-line that you may not even be aware of. Our explanation can not be repeated again this year, so don't touch that dial....er, page.

The benefit is called Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), and all payrollled LACTC employees automatically become PERS members the day they are hired.

Here's how it works. First, savings to you result because PERS members have no money deducted from their paychecks for Social Security. On most paychecks, that deduction is shown in a box labeled "FICA." The FICA deduction is figured at 6.06 percent of a person's salary. So if you now make, say, \$30,000 per year, at a non-PERS employer your salary would have to be \$31,935 to earn the same amount, since you'd pay 6.06 percent--\$1,935--in FICA. (Later on we'll show you how to calculate the non-PERS salary amount from your PERS salary amount.)

Included in the FICA deduction since April 1, 1986, is an additional 1.45 percent for Medicare, bringing the total in the FICA box on other people's paychecks to 7.51 percent deduction. LACTC employees hired after the April 1, 1986, date also must pay this new 1.45 percent, just as non-PERS members do, even though we do not pay the other 6.06 percent. People who were hired here before 4/1/86 do not have to pay the new deduction until they change jobs.

PERS, cont. from previous page

TAX FACTS

But wait. Here's something ELSE to consider!

If you were working for a non-PERS organization, you'd have to pay federal and state taxes on \$31,935 instead of \$30,000. Yep --you wouldn't get any more money to spend, but you'd pay a lot more taxes.

Let's say you're in that new 28-percent federal tax bracket and, to make things simple, let's say your state taxes are two percent, for a total of 30 percent state and federal taxes. So on your \$30,000 LACTC gross salary, you'd pay \$9,000 in combined state and federal taxes, but on the \$31,935 non-PERS gross salary, you'd pay \$9,581 in combined taxes. That's another \$581 you'd have to negotiate into your gross salary elsewhere--for a total of \$32,516--just to break even with what you make here. And we haven't even talked about half of the PERS benefit yet.

(Another deduction you'd see on your checks if you left LACTC, although not related to the PERS program, is the deduction for State Disability Insurance or SDI. Since LACTC pays SDI for us, we save 1.2 percent of our gross salaries up to a maximum payment of \$268 each per year. You'd be taxed on your SDI deduction, too; so at our hypothetical rate of 30 percent, you'd pay about \$80 in taxes on money that goes into the state's disability fund.)

THE SEVEN-PERCENT CONTRIBUTION

And that's NOT ALL!

From the day you're hired, even while you're on probation, LACTC figures seven percent of your base salary and puts it into a PERS account in your name. None of this seven percent is deducted from your paycheck.

So, if you're earning \$30,000 a year, an additional \$2,100 is accumulating in your PERS account every 12 months. If you leave LACTC in less than five years, this money plus interest is yours to walk away with. If you are employed by another PERS-member organization within six months, your account easily can be "rolled over."

If you leave LACTC after five years or more, but before you retire, you have the option to take this seven-percent-per-year amount with you or leave it in your PERS account until you do retire. However, if you take the seven percent, you terminate your association with PERS and lose additional money that has been set aside for your pension (see below).

So NOW how much is PERS worth to you? But wait. Don't figure it up yet, because that's STILL not all you get with your amazing PERS benefit.

TRY THIS VEST ON FOR SIZE

LACTC also puts into your account another 5.83 percent (with the seven percent, that totals of 12.8 percent of your base salary every year), which you get under the following conditions:

- 1) LACTC or another PERS employer has paid into your PERS account for five or more years. Five years is the amount of time it takes to qualify for this additional money; qualifying is called becoming "vested."
- 2) You are 50 years of age or older.
- 3) You have retired from LACTC.
- 4) You are no longer working for any PERS member. And,
- 5) You have left all your money in your PERS account; in other words, you cannot withdraw the seven percent and still collect the 5.8 percent after you retire.

This is not to say you must retire from LACTC at age 50; there is no mandatory retirement age in California. But you cannot collect your pension money until you do retire.

Note that the criteria to become vested is the amount of time that money is paid into your account--not how long since you were employed. If you started to work here five years ago but took an unpaid six-month leave of absence, you would not be vested for another six months.



LACTC has
PERS?!

Later with
freelance
photo-
graphy...
Get me an
inter-
view!

HOW TO READ YOUR ANNUAL PERS MEMBER STATEMENT

Total in acct up to beginning of year covered by statement

7% of my earnings since I was hired on Oct. 1, '84 to beginning of year covered by statement (paid by LACTC, not me)

Total contributions to end of year covered by statement

Interest earned up to year covered up by statement

Am't of time since hired = 1 yr, 9 mos. to date of statement

Contributions, interest, total, and time for year covered by statement

Total time to ending date of statement (subtract from 5.000 to get time remaining to become vested)

Refers to add'l "vested" amount paid at retirement

Total in account as of June 30, 1987 (end of stmt year); mine in cash + any add'l whenever I leave LACTC. After 5 years, may be taken or left in for retirement.

PERS
Annual Member Statement
 June 30, 1987

J DOE

678-62-5286 Social Security Number 1149 Employer Code 000 Int. Code 000 Svc. Period Code L & CO TRNS COM Employer Name 0004208

CONTRIBUTIONS		INTEREST	TOTAL	SERVICE CREDIT
BEGINNING ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 1986				
\$3,020.87	+	\$222.78	=	\$3,243.15
CHANGES DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1987				
\$2,053.38	+	\$355.72	=	\$2,409.10
ENDING ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 1987				
\$5,073.75	+	\$574.50	=	\$5,652.25

Member Status
 INFORMATION SHOWN BELOW IS BASED ON YOUR EMPLOYMENT WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AS A MISCELLANEOUS MEMBER.

All Paid by LACTC

YOUR CONTRIBUTION RATE IN THIS POSITION IS 7.000% OF YOUR EARNINGS. THE PERCENTAGE YOU PAY MAY BE LESS THAN WHAT IS SHOWN HERE BECAUSE SOME EMPLOYERS ELECT TO PAY ALL OR A PORTION OF MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS.

YOUR EMPLOYER ALSO CONTRIBUTES AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO 5.834% OF YOUR SALARY ON YOUR BEHALF. THIS AMOUNT IS NOT IN YOUR ACCOUNT, AND IS NOT REFUNDABLE TO YOU.

Five years, by the way, is a very short amount of time to qualify for pension benefits. The RTD, the Social Security system, and many private-sector firms require ten years to become vested. And in many organizations, you must become vested before you qualify for any retirement benefits at all--not just for additional benefits.

WILL YOU STILL NEED ME, WILL YOU STILL FEED ME?

The amount you collect each year when you retire will be paid to you for the rest of your life. This amount will not be the same amount per month or year as what you paid in. PERS administrators will figure the amount you will get based on:

1. The number of years that money was paid into your account while you worked for LACTC or another PERS employer;
2. Your age at retirement (the older you are the more you get, because they expect to have to pay it to you for less time); and,
3. Your average monthly salary for your highest consecutive 36 months of work (usually your last three years).

If you also receive a Social Security allowance of any amount, your PERS payments are reduced by one-third. That doesn't seem fair, but that's the way PERS regulations stand now. (You need ten years or 40 quarters of paying into Social Security to qualify for their

benefits.) However, if your spouse collects Social Security benefits, it has no impact on your PERS retirement benefit.

Personnel Officer JOSE MESA requests that you not ask him to figure your hypothetical PERS payments after you retire. "There are just too many variables," he says, "so we leave it to the PERS experts." However, José points out that each employee receives a blue PERS booklet when hired, and on pages 10 and 11 are instructions to help you calculate approximately how much your payout allowance will be.

FAMILY MATTERS

What about your nearest and dearest if they outlive you? Thanks to PERS they will receive:

1. A lump-sum "death benefit" in the amount shown toward the bottom of your annual member statement;
2. The basic seven-percent contribution for all the years you've been a PERS member, plus the 8.5 percent interest it earned;
3. An amount equal to six months' worth of your gross salary;

Cont. on next page



PERS, cont. from previous page

4. Additional benefits known as "1959 survivor benefits," automatically provided to all LACTC employees at no charge to the employee. This means that a monthly allowance will be paid to one or more of your survivors (spouse, unmarried children under 22, dependent parents) if they meet certain eligibility requirements. The requirements and the amounts that would be received are outlined in your blue PERS booklet, page 7, under "1959 Survivor Benefit." (LACTC has not made the "additional contract amendment" mentioned on page 7 that would increase the survivor allowance by 25 percent.)

Even if you are vested, your survivor(s) will not receive any of the additional 5.8 percent contribution, nor any interest that this "second tier" percent has earned.

Survivor benefits are paid whether or not you were eligible to retire at the time of your death; but note that your survivor(s) will not receive PERS survivor benefits if they qualify to receive such benefits from Social Security.

So NOW how much is PERS worth to you? But don't figure it up yet! Because there's still more to this incredible benefit.



INTERESTED IN INTEREST?

Every year on July 1, your PERS account is credited with 8.5 percent of the total amount accumulated so far in your name. This is your annually compounded interest.

"That interest rate could change," says José, "but it's held pretty steady now for the last four years or so." He explains that the principal in each employee's account is guaranteed--that is, even though the money is

invested, you can not lose any of the original money LACTC contributes for you; and interest earnings are also guaranteed at the published PERS rate until we are notified of a change. In this post-crash-of-'88 investment era, your average Jane and Joe LACTCer probably won't scoff at a worry-free 8.5 percent return on their retirement dollars.

Since interest is compounded only once a year, it will not have escaped the observant reader that anyone planning to change employers near mid-year might want to give notice after July 1.

THE BOTTOM LINE

So okay already, how much IS PERS worth to you?

Once a year, usually in September, each PERS member receives a statement showing exactly how much is in her or his account to date and how much time has been credited to that employee toward being vested (see accompanying sidebar on how to read this form). This does not represent the full value of PERS, however, since it does not include the "no FICA" benefit and related tax savings.

So, let's take our assumed salary of \$30,000 a year and say you've been at LACTC just a week or so more than one year.

\$30,000 - 93.94 (100% - 6.06%) =	
gross salary needed elsewhere	
to cover FICA.....	\$ 31,935.00
Less LACTC/PERS gross salary.....	<u>30,000.00</u>
Savings related to non-payment	
of FICA.....	\$ 1,935.00
\$1,935 (above) x 30% (fed/state	
taxes saved).....	581.00
\$30,000 x 7% (contributed by LACTC to	
pension fund on employee's behalf)	2,100.00
\$2,100 (above) x 8.5% interest.....	<u>179.00</u>
VALUE OF YEARLY PERS BENEFIT	
AFTER ONE YEAR.....	<u>\$ 4,795.00</u>

For an employee earning the same amount after working just more than five years at LACTC, the last three figures would change to:

\$30,000 x 12.8% (instead of 7%).....	\$ 3,840.00
3,840 x 8.5% interest.....	<u>326.00</u>
VALUE OF YEARLY PERS BENEFIT	
AFTER FIVE YEARS.....	<u>\$ 6,682.00</u>

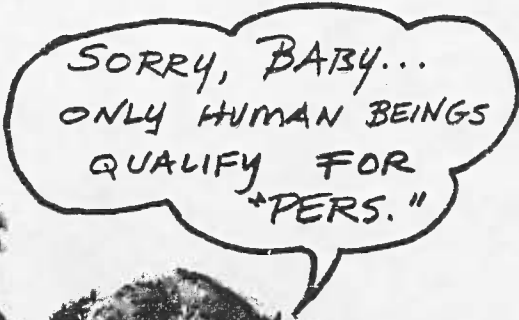
It's TRUE! The above figures prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that your astounding PERS benefit after only one year is worth almost 16 percent of your base salary. After five years, it's worth an incredible 22.2 percent! This does not even take into account that taxes on the amount LACTC contributes for you, plus any interest, are deferred until you withdraw the money--when usually your tax-bracket is lower--and does not include the non-PERS savings on SDI (\$268 per year for most people, plus related tax savings).

LEARNING LATE

"I didn't realize how few employers offered a total compensation package equal to what I made at the Commission," admits STEVE PARKS, a former LACTC communications rep. "I've checked around a lot since I left, and I haven't found anyplace where the benefits compare in terms of what you get for what you put in."

THE

ECHTERNACH/PATASHNICK SOLUTION



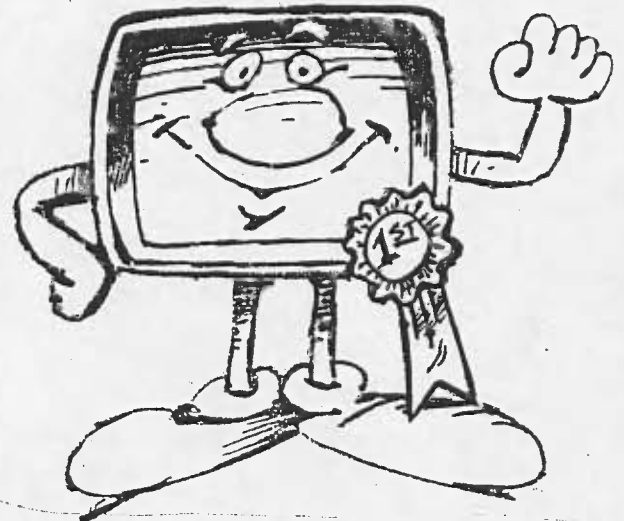
There's this long-running debate over whether or not Prop. A Local Return money can be used for street and road repairs. You've heard about it, right? Lately some officials have suggested that if a street is "predominantly" used for public transit (i.e., used by lots of buses, which are hard on streets), it might be repaired with Prop. A funds; but if a street is only "proportionally" used for transit, it would not qualify for funds.

Then comes the familiar problem of where to draw the line. This is quite a matter for hot debate on the current municipal-government circuit. Government Relations Representative MARY LOU ECHTERNACH, who handles local government affairs (as opposed to state or federal), and Senior Local Assistance Analyst ALAN PATASHNICK have put their heads together and come up with a solution to this dilemma.

"If a bus falls into a pothole," says Al, "but you can still see it, that's proportional."

"But if it falls in and you can't see it," explains Mary Lou, "that's predominant."▲ --A.R.

VIDEO -VIDEO - VIDEO



"The Reach of Rail" has been awarded one of the highest tributes an industrial film can receive -- "a Golden Eagle" from CINE, the Council for International Nontheatrical Events. The film is now bound for competition abroad, as well as up against other APTA entries in their "Adwheel" contest. It also received a silver award at the Houston Film Festival.

Copies of the latest video (May 1988) on LB-LA construction are available. See Erica if you would like to borrow one.▲

Another person who found out the value of PERS only after leaving LACTC is Community Relations Secretary DEANA BURTON. "A year and a half ago," Deana says, "I got an offer I thought I couldn't refuse--a base salary of \$6,000 more than I was making at LACTC. What a shock to find out that my take-home money wasn't that much more at all."

Deana wasn't very satisfied with the general atmosphere at her new job, either, so she bided her time and eventually was able to move back into an open slot here. If she chooses to, she can redeposit an amount equal to the amount she took out of her PERS account, including the interest her money would have earned had it been left in. She then will have bought her way back into PERS, and her account will be treated as if she'd never left. You can buy back into PERS by using a lump sum or by spreading it out through monthly payroll deductions.

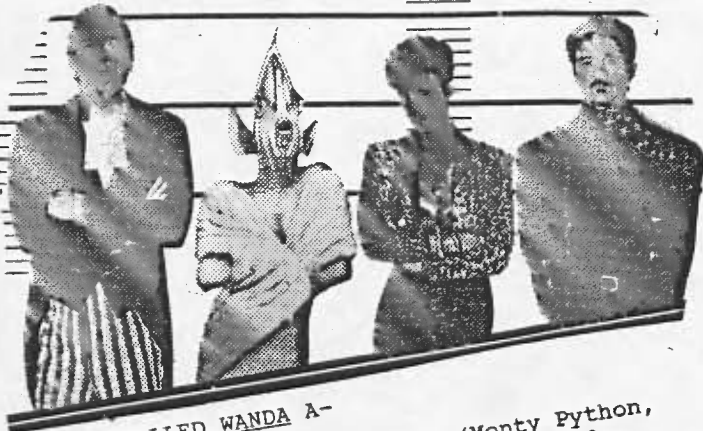
So now all of you in our reading audience know the full value of this unique benefit. The special PERS offer will NOT be repeated in the private sector. Appreciate it today!▲

--Ann Reeves

Other PERS benefits unrelated to retirement--health plan, home loans, life insurance, etc.--will be covered in future issues, as will LACTC's non-PERS benefits.

MINI FILM REVIEWS

by Claudette Moody



A FISH CALLED WANDA A-

Any one who loves John Cleese (Monty Python, Fawltly Towers), should not miss this film. Cleese is a master, Jamie Lee Curtis is the best she's ever been, and Kevin Kline is a marvel. Kline plays a character so totally different from his previous movies, you will wonder why he hasn't done this kind of comedy before! He is hilarious as a dumb, trigger-happy American in London, with no discernable working knowledge of Italian. (You have to see the movie to get that last point.) (R)

PRESIDO C+=movie A=Connery

I loves ya Sean, no matter how mediocre the flick!



BAMBI A

Except for the scene when Bambi's Mommy-doe bites the dust, this is a great movie. Almost as good as "Bambi Meets Godzilla." (G)



BULL DURHAM A-

Hot time in the summer time! This movie is not for children, but it sure is fun for mature adults and baseball aficionados. Kevin Costner fans will love it and Susan Sarandon is wonderful. For those of you who have a salty sense of humor and think baseball is a spiritual experience, this movie is for you. (R)



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WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT? B

The animation achievements almost equal the advance press for this second Disney feature of the summer. Just seeing Bugs and Mickey together again for the first time is worth standing in line for an hour and a half (sort of). I wonder, though, how many people got the fact that the "toons" were suppose to represent 1) actors during the studio system, and 2) other oppressed peoples? Anyway, there is a great recreation of the old Red Cars and the whole story centers around the building of the LA freeway system. (PG)



COMING TO AMERICA B

This movie is cute. Eddie doesn't cuss very much and he's looking better with age. The movie's best scenes involve the "side" characters played by Murphy and Arsenio Hall. The barbershop men and the preacher are worth the price of a matinee performance.

WINGS OF DESIRE B

Not for the uninitiated. To know Wim Wender is to spend a lot of time trying to figure him out. It is an interesting, though long, movie. Peter Falk, for once, does not enhance the film. (R)



BIG (Screening did not fit into my schedule. Thank goodness.)

How many times are they going to make this movie? This has got to be the 4th outing for a story about a child who becomes an adult or vice-versa. (In fact, I think "Vice-Versa" was the title of one of them.) As one woman wrote to the Calendar section, (and I paraphrase), "A 12-year-old in a man's body is not a woman's fantasy, that is usually her reality." (PG)

ARTHUR 2-ON THE ROCKS (\$6.50 for this? No way!)

Gee, don't we see enough drunks who are down on their luck on Hill Street? (PG) ▲



L-R: Bertie Jackson, Rob Ball (TransCal), Jerry Givens, Mary Sue O'Melia, Bob Minahan. Photo: anon.

LACTCers SHUFFLE OFF TO BUFFALO

By: Mary Sue O'Melia

On-the-spot coverage of the APTA 1988 Rapid Transit Conference, held in Buffalo, New York, brings the following report.

Sunday night cocktail parties and dinners aside, the conference began bright and early on Monday morning, June 6th. At registration, conferees were presented with a shopping bag full of goodies including: New York State wine, beer, cocktail glasses with the APTA logo, a free transit pass, and tickets for various tours. So begins a new standard for future rail conference mementos.

At the opening session, rail buffs from all across the United States and Canada packed the room. LACTC's own Norm Jester was presented with an award for having the best tan of those in attendance. Norm, sporting a new LACTC pin for market testing, blushed as he received the award and was heard to comment, "Gee guys, I didn't think you would notice."

During the two-hour lunch that followed, LACTC's own Paul Taylor was seen eating on the patio with a guy from New Jersey who looked very much like Rich Rickmond, only a lot skinnier. Since the Rich Rickmond look-alike was sitting, an accurate identification by his shirttails was not possible.

In the afternoon sessions, the LACTC's own executive director was holding conferees spellbound with his presentation regarding PMO. Or is that PMS? It doesn't matter, the presentation was a success. (For the uninitiated, PMO stands for "project management oversight.")

The conferees then bolted for buses to take in an evening of fun at Niagara Falls. Buffalo and APTA really outdid themselves with an outdoor reception where guests were greeted with glasses of champagne to sip as they proceeded down a receiving line that

included such notables as Al Savage, executive director, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority; Jack Gilstrap, executive vice president, APTA; their wives; and a few other cute babes brought in for the occasion.

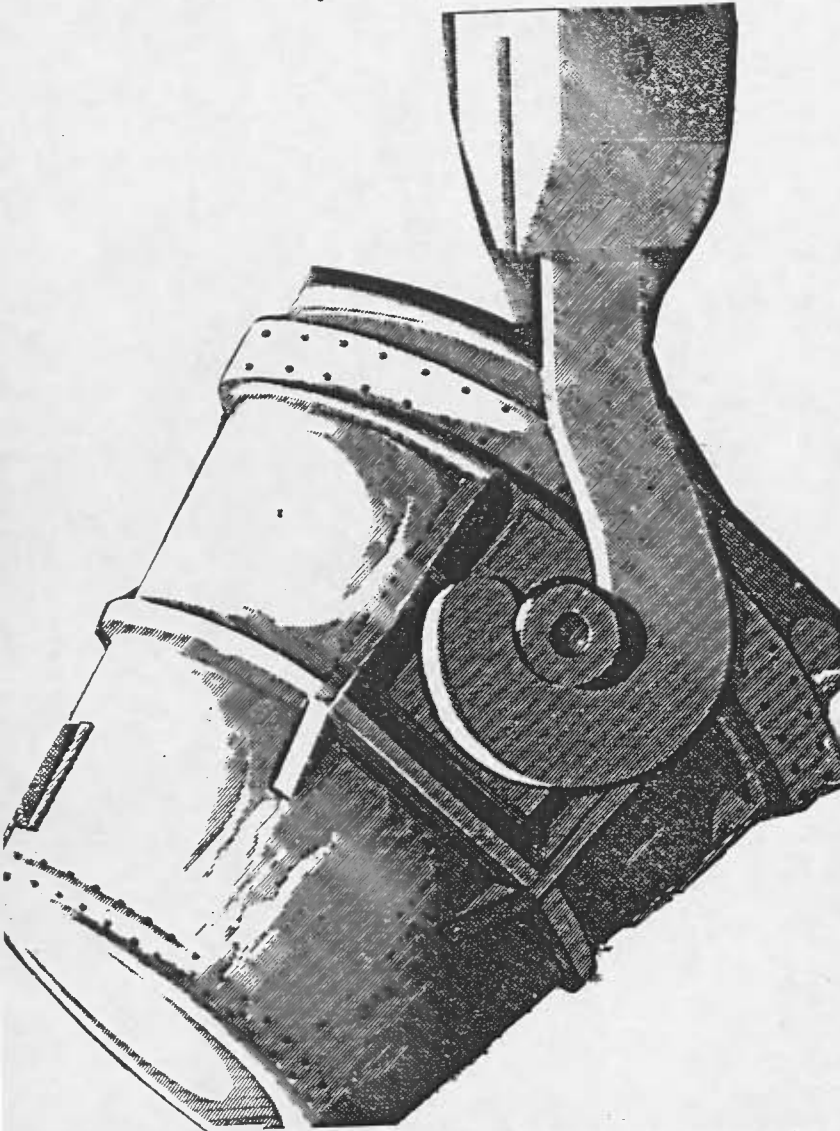
Next, guests converged on tables laden with food and drink. A reggae band played on while conferees proceeded to drink, dance, tell lies, and tour the falls in a boat. The evening ended with a trip to the Canadian side of the falls for a spectacular night view complete with colored lights.

After all sensible people went to bed, LACTC staffers showed Eastern rail buffs how to shoot shots of tequila with beer chasers. The Easterners were invited to the next LACTC campout to sample "Kondo Slammers." Then the Eastern rail buffs showed LACTC staffers how to play poker, smoke cigars, drink, joke, and be "good old boys and girls."

Day two came early but not so bright for those who had too much unscheduled fun the night before. Thus the expression, he who hoots with the owls at night cannot soar with the eagles the following morn. A variety of workshops -- followed by tours of the Buffalo rail system, central-control facility, and rail-maintenance shop -- were the scheduled highlights of the morning.

Continued on next page





The highlight of all the workshops was Tuesday afternoon's presentation given by LACTC's own Bob Minahan, titled "Utilities in the Critical Path of a Critical Path." In a standing-room-only crowd of over 200, all ears were tuned as Bob outlined critical concepts related to utilities in the critical path of a critical path. The critical presentation of Bob Minahan had been preceded by two days of intense advertising. Whether the standing-room-only crowd was a result of the intense advertising, the Laker and Dodger shirts distributed by Bob at the workshop, or the critical nature of the presentation, is unknown.

The social event of the evening for LACTC staff was to watch the Los Angeles Lakers on big screen TV without the benefits of Chick Hearn's radio announcing. LACTC's own Jerry Givens was heard to say that Pat Riley was his idol, brylcreem and all.

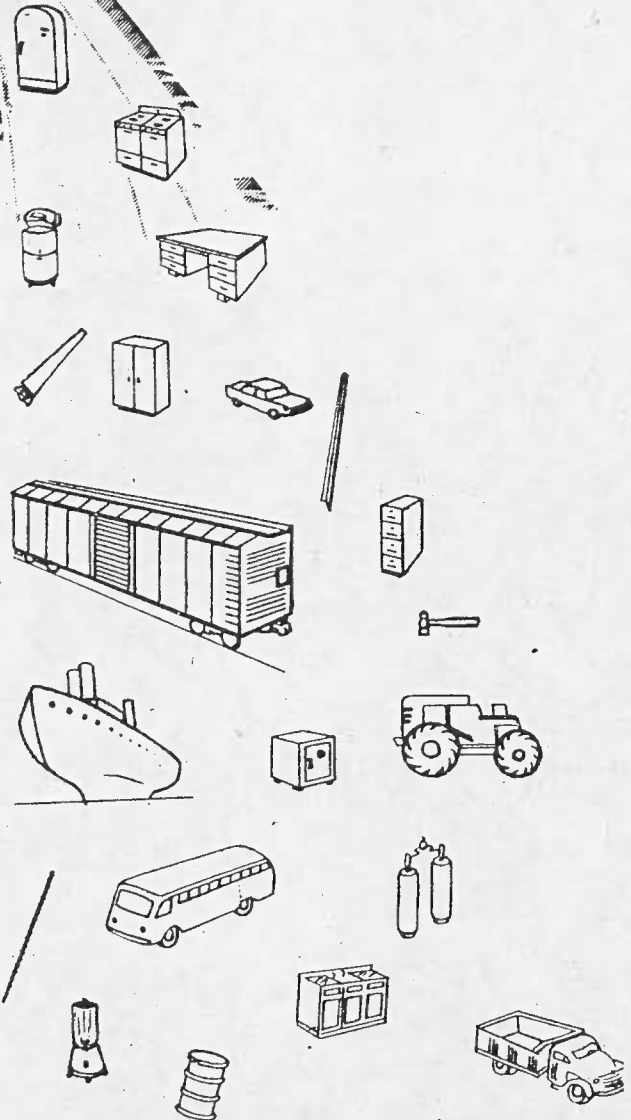
After the game, Bob Minahan proceeded to lose game after game of shuffle board to his "daughter," also in attendance, and to Bart Kane (who actually has rail operating experience!). ▲

Day three also began bright and early with the LACTC's own Ed McSpedon giving another spectacular presentation, complete with audio-visual aids showing the construction progress on L.A.'s light rail projects. Way to go Mr. Ed!

During lunch, the Rich Rickmond look-alike was seen in the hotel lobby warmly embracing that famous Los Angeles celebrity, Dr. John Dyer. Dr. George and Dr. John held a brief exchange complete with big smiles and lots of handshaking and headshaking. These two were obviously overjoyed to see each other and were heard to exchange compliments regarding Dr. Dyer's new hairdo and color, and Dr. George's size three-waist.

All good things must come to an end. LACTC staffers hung in there until the last workshop of the conference, where LACTC's own Paul Taylor was part of a panel of light rail experts. The skill with which Mr. Taylor (he hasn't received his doctorate yet) held the microphone when speaking, along with the authority in his voice, clearly showed the benefits of participating in Toastmasters.

There was a closing banquet and ceremony later that evening but, unfortunately, this reporter had to shuffle out of Buffalo for the Big Apple. My dad, Bob Minahan, has promised to discuss this final event with anyone willing to buy him a Corona beer.



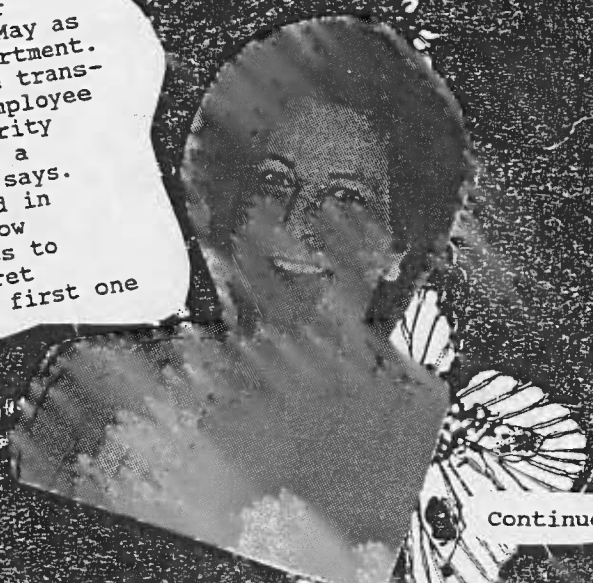
COMINGS AND GOINGS

COMING ON BOARD...



Everyone on the 5th floor has seen ARIF MOTIWALA wandering past the coffee machine for months now. He's not a new employee, just an "official" one. Arif started here as a consultant in Finance & Administration and became permanent in April as an administrative analyst. Arif grew up in Karachi, Pakistan, but now commutes from West Covina where he lives with his wife and four-year-old son. You may have heard him speaking a little Spanish, which he picked up in his days as an owner/manager of a small Mexican restaurant. Arif received his MBA from Woodbury University in Los Angeles. He's a rock 'n' roller, mystery reader and science fiction movie-goer. For a little "R & R," he heads for the mountains.

"How does she do it all?" is what I wanna know about MARIANNA DROST. She's raised seven children, worked at various jobs, belonged to many organizations from a builders' association to the PTA, taken lots of art classes, and pursues many of her interests. Marianna came on board in May as secretary in the External Affairs Department. She's no stranger to the rigors of the transportation industry as she is a past-employee of the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority that built the subway in Buffalo, NY, a project that wasn't too popular, she says. She was born in Cleveland, OH, raised in L.A., lived awhile in Buffalo, and now resides in South Pasadena. She likes to cook, sew, read and paint. Her secret ambition is to write a book and her first one is in draft.



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ON BOARD cont. from previous page

Are there ANY native Californians out there? The new secretary in the Highways Section, LAURA HOOVER-MCNAMARA, is a transplant from Allison Park, Pennsylvania (north of Pittsburgh). She attended La Roche College, ICM School of Business, and the Computer Systems Institute. Laura comes to us from the planning and land-use firm of Morey/Seymour & Associates. She's an "oldie but goodie" fan when it comes to music, but claims to have no other favorites, as she just enjoys what life has to offer.



Be nice to BART KANE, the new project engineer in rail systems. He's got twelve snakes that he refers to as "pets," along with other undisclosed reptilians. Bart came on board in March, moving here from Miami, FL, where he was the director of operations and maintenance for the Metro Dade Transit Agency. Prior to his Miami stint, he was with American Transit Consultants in Taipei, Taiwan. Someone on our softball team should sign him up to be our official umpire since that's one of the things he does best with his leisure time. His wife Karen and their two sons Bart Jr., 14, and Jerald, 12, are anxiously awaiting their move out west. Besides the snakes and other creatures, they'll be transporting a dog, a cat, and two parrots.



Another outside contractor who has signed on permanently is Real Estate Development Officer LYNN (ANGELINA) BELL. Lynn started working in the west wing of the 4th floor, in the External Affairs Department of the Transit Division, way back in January '87, so she's not exactly a new face around here. She became a permanent LACTer this April. She helps us find, buy, and manage the real estate needed for our rail transit projects. Before we got her, she used to do the same kind of work for US Sprint on a nationwide basis. Lynn grew up in the Philippines, graduated from the U of San Francisco, and did post-graduate work in Real Estate at Golden Gate U. On her Inside Moves form, under "Home life," she wrote, "Which one? Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Hercules (East Bay)?" We understand that she is now working on the script that will be an '80s update of the old TV series, "I Led Three Lives." Lynn's hobbies are aerobics, playing the piano, camping, reading and shopping, and her favorite current movie is "Moonstruck." She's peeved by anything (or anybody) that's unorganized and believes you should "never act on the impulse of the moment."

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At the end of June, we snagged another "outside" person into signing on permanently when PATRICIA MIRELES became an official labor compliance analyst. Patricia has been working in the External Affairs section on the 4th floor since February. She is responsible for seeing that our contractors and subs comply with all state and federal labor laws. Patricia made an indelible impression on her 4th-floor colleagues shortly after she starting working here when she received 150 (yep, count 'em, 150) long-stemmed red roses. They were from her childhood sweetheart/long-time honey, and now we hear the two are going to be married early next month. Now that's flower power! Patricia grew up in West Covina, earned her BA in economics at UCLA, and now lives in Upland. She likes spicy foods, all music, and vacations in mysterious places, and she believe that "Only when we have the courage to face things exactly as they are will a light develop to show us the way."



Welcome to these new staffpeople, and to four even newer ones who will be profiled in the next issue: Community Relations Specialist TORRI HILL-WILLIAMS, Records Management Assistant PATRICIA FRANKS, Contracts Clerical Assistant DENISE KEATON-SMITH, and Government Relations Secretary CHRISTINA MARQUEZ.

MOVING UP...



Congratulations to the NAOMI NIGHTINGALE, who has been promoted to senior community relations specialist in ROBIN MCCARTHY's section up on the 7th floor. Naomi joined the Commission in September 1985 as a CR specialist on the LB-LA project. She has a degree in business administration and worked for the L.A. Unified School District before she came here. In her new slot, Naomi will take charge of the recently expanded Transportation Occupations Program, which gives high-school students a chance for hands-on learning in skills that could lead them into careers in transportation. She'll also continue to head up the "Travis the Owl" school safety program. She'll get help from an assistant and a clerical person as soon as they can be found and hired.

Last year and earlier this year, Naomi gained high visibility when she took over as manager of community relations for rail projects under construction while new mom Robin was out on a five-month maternity leave. Naomi's also well-known as an aerobics advocate, and she's been leading an after-work workout on Tuesdays and Thursdays (see article elsewhere). Her other favorite pastime is shopping, especially for antiques (talked to STEVE LANTZ about that, NN?).

Cont. from previous page

MOVING ON...

Leaving us in early May was Government Relations Secretary MIMI GAMEZ, who had completed a year at LACTC as part of the 5th-floor contingent of G&PA. Here's what Mimi wrote on her "Moving On" form:

Grew up in: A convent, but as a teenager I transferred to a monastery.
Education: Not enough.
Greatest accomplishment at LACTC: Surviving the streets of L.A. and finally conquering SAMNA!!
Next position: "Homeless" -- since I couldn't beat them, I think I'll join them!
Starting on: As soon as my savings account runs out.
Location of new position: Around 5th & 6th, but on LACTC's pay day I'll be on the corner of 8th & Hill.
Parting words: "Do you know what happened to me on the bus today? You are not gonna believe what I just saw down the corner!"
Anything else you want mentioned?: Working in downtown L.A. is an experience I'll never forget. Taking the bus is an experience I want to forget!
The time the bus driver got lost, the time a "flasher" flashed at me, the time a homeless guy jumped up and down on my car's hood, and... and... and...



Rail Development Officer CRAIG JOHNSON left the Commission shortly after Rick Richmond's going-away party. Craig started at LACTC in April 1985. He quickly endeared himself to us all with his hard work, sense of humor, and unfailing pleasantness toward everyone. Last fall Craig circulated a courageous and candid memo about having contracted AIDS; he later said that other staffers' responses were warmer and more supportive than he ever would have thought possible. Craig has stopped working to concentrate on his efforts to fight his illness; he leaves with the most heartfelt hopes of all of us. We miss him around here. As to his philosophy of life, here's what he wrote for Inside Moves' "Meet Your Co-Workers" column last August: "Live every day to its fullest--because it may be your last." Staffmembers who wish to write to Craig should see José in Personnel for his address.





For more than three and a half years, LEON COOKSEY has been doing a great job as a graphics consultant under contract to LACTC. Among other projects, he designed the striping on our light-rail vehicles, designed the mobile-office van that Community Relations Specialist Art Gomez motors around in, and designed our hot new rail transit poster (still in production), which will also become a billboard in the Long Beach area. Although Leon won't be under a continuing contract with us anymore, we expect that he will still be doing jobs for us now and again on a freelance basis. And, even though we'll miss seeing Leon around here as often as we used to, we know he's too much of a partyer to miss out on some of our upcoming social functions. Right, Leon?

For those of you who missed Leon's going-away get-together over in the Rome Room recently, we're printing excerpts from a musical number written especially for the occasion. The number formed the centerpiece of a commemorative videotape produced and directed by Rick Gomez of G&PA Division and foisted off on Leon so that he will never be able to repress the memory of his years here at LACTC.

THE GOODBYE LEON BLUES

(As sung by the Ann Reeves Trio)

WELL, LISTEN EVERYBODY
WHILE I SING THIS SONG
IT'S ABOUT LEON COOKSEY,
AND IT WON'T TAKE LONG.

NOW IF YOU PLAN A PARTY,
LEON IS YOUR MAN.
NOBODY ELSE GETS DOWN
THE WAY THAT COOKSEY CAN.

HE CAN DRAW AND HE CAN PAINT,
DESIGN VANS AND BUILDINGS, TOO,
HE TEACHES AND INVENTS,
THERE'S JUST NOTHING HE CAN'T DO...

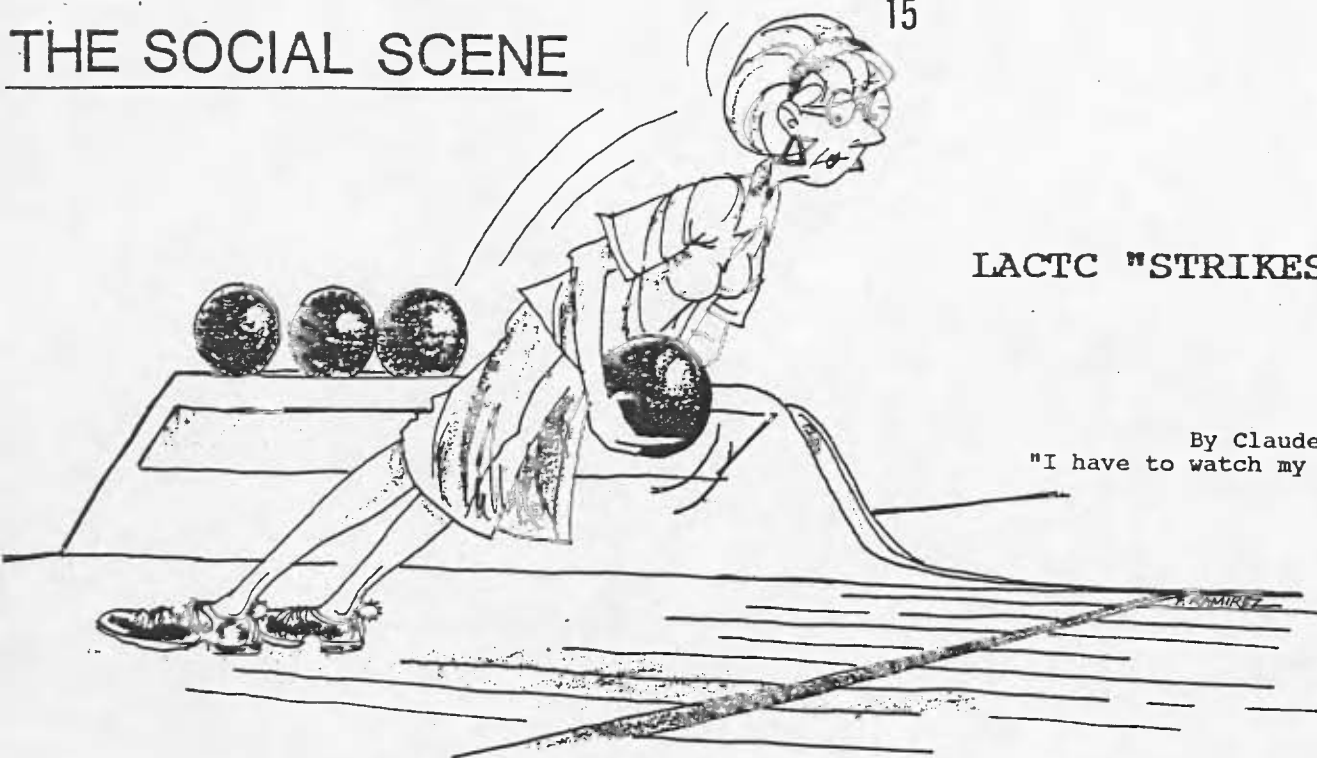
REMEMBER WHEN HE GOT ELVIS
TO SING FOR G&PA?
AND HOW BOUT THOSE FOUR GREAT SONS?
ALWAYS READY TO LAUGH AND PLAY....

YES, LEON, WE WON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU,
IT'S BEEN SO GREAT WORKING TOGETHER,
WE WON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU! ▲



LACTC "STRIKES" AGAIN

By Claudette
"I have to watch my shoulder" Moody



On May 21, four courageous G&PA staff braved the wilds of Westchester and the limits of their collective self-esteem to knock down little white things with large black objects. No, it wasn't the KKK vs. Mike Tyson, but it was Larry Gallagher, Mary Lou Echternach, Therese Hernandez and moi doing our bowling best for Big Sisters, Big Brothers of LA and Catholic and Jewish Big Brothers.

The LACTC team, affectionately known as "The Pinheads" also included my "little sister" Ebony and her friend Tanisha. Always a trendy group (Spago's anyone?), the Pinheads bowled in the lane next to that world renowned actor, Pat Harrington or "Schneider" on "One Day at a Time." Seriously, though folks, Pat is very active and a great supporter of Big Brothers.

There were several highlights from the afternoon's festivities, very few of them having to do with hitting pins, but entertaining nonetheless. Mary Lou started things off by becoming so attached to her ball, she followed it half-way down the alley. Ain't love grand! Have you thought about "The Dating Game," Mary Lou? ML made up for her opening faux pas by bowling two great games of over 100.

Larry, our bowling mentor, was a great teacher and cheerleader. By the way, Larry is also the co-author of a really funny book on bowling. If you or a loved one likes the lanes, the book would be a great gift. Shop early and often and see Larry for details.

Once the adults stopped trying to "coach" Ebony and Tanisha, they quickly became bowling champions. Ebony quadrupled her score in the second game! Therese arrived late (not totally unexpected), but her "Fred Flintstone" approach to the alley (tippy toes) was great to watch and fairly effective. I sat our second game because of an old shoulder injury (AHH!). I was also quite tired from trying to figure out how to add up the scores.

Except for the bowling alley trying to keep ML's shoes (I understand shoe fetishes are quite common in Westchester), everyone had a wonderful time. A hearty thanks to our intrepid bowlers, Larry "the Pro" Gallagher, Mary Lou "Shoe" Echternach, Therese Hernandez "rock" for their time and efforts. And, on behalf of Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles and all the Big Brothers organizations, Ebony and I also thank all those we hit up for pledges. You gave over \$300 to a very worthy cause. ▲

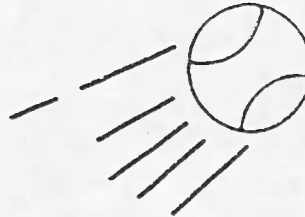
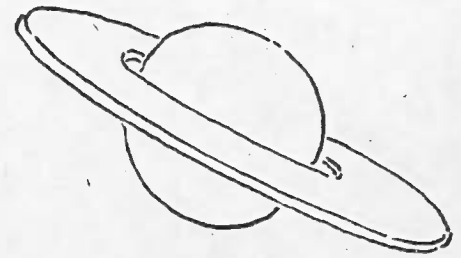
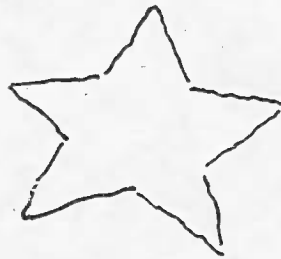


LACTC LAYS DOWN GLOVE, USES BAT TO BEAT TRANSCAL

Speaking of team spirit, the LACTC "Bad News Bears" opened the softball season on May 15 with a comeback against Transcal. Cindy Kondo sang the National Anthem and Charlie Brown threw the first pitch. Our small but mighty team pounded out 16 runs against the consultants' nine. Bob Minahan hit his third home run in three games, and Naomi Nightingale was one for one for the first time in three weeks as the Athletics beat the Brewers at Milwaukee. With the score tied, 2-2, Ilda Licón hit a one-run single in the sixth inning, and Ed McSpedon slashed the invaders with his ninth inning homer. Norm Jester gave up eight hits and four walks in six innings but managed to redeem himself that night, bring his record to 10-5.*

A rematch has been tentatively scheduled for late July. Keep your eye peeled for those pink memos. Thanks, Minahan, for coordinating the effort. --R.T.

*Los Angeles Times, Sports Section, p.3
"American League Roundup,"
Wednesday, June 22.▲



The following is an excerpt
from THE CLARION, Transcal's
occasional employee newsletter.
By June Leivas

The Clients, all five of them, for whom Bob Minahan was the general nuisance, I mean General Manager, were represented by: Cindy Somebody-or-Other, who received the Best Female award not for her playing skills but for her attire; Jack, Cindy Kondo's friend, who was named Best Defensive Player; Bessie's Friend, who received the Least Likely to Give Anyone a Break award; Bill Martinez of DKJV, who was voted Best Offensive Player and given a book on good manners; NAOMI NIGHTINGALE; Naomi's Brother; NORM JESTER; BART KANE; Sharon Clark's Husband; Sharon Clark's Son; ILDA LICON and last, but certainly not least, ED MCSPEDON.

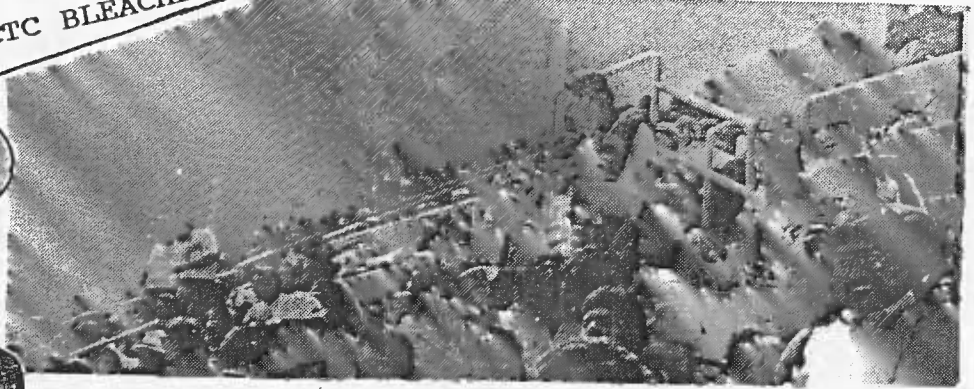
MINAHAN TOASTS BUNS

After the game, a few people (you know, the kind of people that won't go home when the party's over) lingered at the park to unwind and get some much-needed refreshments. Bob Minahan, who seems never to go anywhere without his gas grill, or his weinies and buns for that matter, toasted up his buns, threw hot dogs on his grill and served up lunch complete with potato salad. Thanks for the treat, Bob - you weinie!▲

More SCENE on next page



LACTC BLEACHER BUMS



Peanutbutter

If I had the gumption, I could have whipped up a homemade batch by saving all the peanuts thrown at me on opening day at Dodger Stadium. (Scala, Norris, R. Gomez and ex-LACTCer Ralph Avila. . .guilty, guilty, guilty). Bad throws ended up bombarding the friends I had invited. Even the lone stranger in our group, who musta bought the unclaimed ticket I sold to a corner scalper, got up and left. Quite frankly, the game was so slow that dodging peanuts gave me something to do.

Cindy Kondo blocked-off 133 seats for the occasion and it was a sell out. We brought our friends and families, and were joined by another 48,359 of our closest acquaintances. Together we spent the same amount of time getting in and out of the parking lot as we did actually sitting in the stadium. Leon Cooksey and sons had the right idea--they rode in on their choppers. Next year, I'm donning my leathers and helmet and hopping a ride with one of them. Thanks Cindy for organizing the outing. Let's keep up that "Dodger Blue" spirit! -- R.T.▲



APROVECHE

**"CUENTAME LOS
DETALLES..."**

discursos

JUEGOS

Le podemos ayudar

¿ H A B L A S
E S P A Ñ O L ?

D O Y O U
S P E A K
S P A N I S H ?

IF YOU WISH TO IMPROVE YOUR SPANISH SPEAKING SKILLS JOIN THE CLUB ESPAÑOL DE LOS AVIADORES. WHETHER YOU SPEAK SPANISH FLUENTLY OR HORRENDOUSLY, JOIN US FOR LUNCH EVERY THURSDAY AT 11:45 A.M. WE MEET IN THE DOWNSTAIRS LOBBY. THERE ARE NO MEMBERSHIP DUES NOR AGENDAS NOR CLUB OFFICERS NOR OTHER OBLIGATIONS. EXCEPT, OF COURSE, EVERYONE PAYS FOR THEIR OWN LUNCH. AND EVERYONE MUST CONVERSE EN ESPAÑOL. TOTAL IMMERSION: ¿COMPRENDE? ▲

SCENE cont.

from page 17



SOCIAL SCENE ALERT!
 The Sunshine Club is now defunct, so there will be no holiday party in December. That means the campout is the LACTC social event of the year. Be there or miss out on the next three months of in-jokes.

Campout Capers

HOT FUN IN THE SUMMER

The Boy Scouts would be appalled, the Camp Fire Girls horrified, but Yogi Bear delighted at the havoc that breaks loose in the forest when the LACTC campers meet in Leo Carillo Beach for their annual weekend campout. Seldom do we have the opportunity to socialize with each other or rather to just let our hair down and party, but the campout gives us that chance to REALLY get to know our coworkers. The event is being organized by our favorite social coordinator Cindy Kondo, a.k.a. Ranger Cindy, who along with her campout cronies has finally been able to reserve a weekend at the campground. Apparently, the one reservation line for all of California's campsites is only open one hour, once a week. Cindy's telephone crew

had been stalking the speed dialers trying to get through. Mark your calendars for September 9-11 for Leo Carillo Beach.

True troopers can pitch tents or roll in their motor homes on Friday, while day picnickers can just show up on Saturday for the evening barbarque and campfire. Good food, music, laughs, games and a few surprises make the weekend a "don't miss" party. Campsite fees are inexpensive, so watch your inbox for further details on what equipment to bring and how to get there.▲

-- R.T.

More SCENE on next page

LACTC STUTTER BUSTERS

Aaahhhhhh.

Aaahhhhh.

Aaahhhhh.



SCENE cont. from page 18

Aaahhhhh. . .Ummmmmm. . .yeah, you know, you know, you know
pause. . .pause. . .pause....
so then, so then, so then. . .
lemmme see. . .
OKAY? OKAY? OKAY, ENOUGH ALREADY?

How many times have you been trapped in a lecture where the speaker got stuck on the "you know" track or began every new thought with "aahhhhh. . .?" You may be just as guilty of the stutters whenever you are called upon to speak to a group, on the phone or even face-to-face with another person. The experience is a familiar one to everyone, and as annoying as suddenly being conscious of your eye blinks.

Annoyed yet?

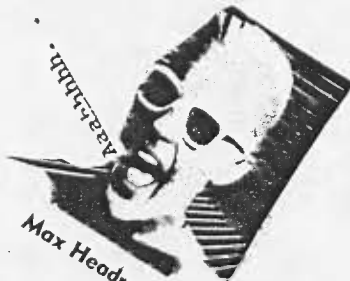
LACTC Toastmasters helps break down those lags and stutters that are often just the result of the jitters. Our small and friendly group is a good place to get comfortable and work out the "bugs" in your presentation skills.

We meet every two weeks, now on THURSDAYS, at noon in the 6th floor conference room. Almost everyone is assigned a small task. The "ah counter" keeps tabs on all those "ums 'n ahs" that slip into your speech. A "grammarian" makes sure that you don't get no double negatives in your talk along with other grammer-don'ts, and the "timer" does just that--times your presentation. You get a friendly and constructive evaluation when you're all through. Remember, expressing your thoughts can be one of the most challenging tasks of the day. Toastmasters allows you to develop and practice your communications skills that will help you to beat that challenge.▲

--R.T.



Aaahhhhh.



Max Headroom?

THE BIG SNOOP



It was about eleven o'clock in the morning, warm June, with the wind not blowing and a look of dirty brown smog in the foothills. I was wearing my Kaspar suit, faux pearls, and black patent heels, and I didn't care who noticed. I was everything the well-dressed snoop ought to be--I was working on another "Did You Know?" column for Inside Moves.

The last issue was funnier than ten stand-ups at The Improv and weirder than the crowd at Canter's deli on Saturday night. I knew we'd have a hard time living up to it, but I thought we could have fun trying. I was right.

My first hunch took me to the wild west end of the fifth floor. P&FA head DICK DOMINQUEZ cranks out jokes faster than a pasta-maker cranks out spaghetti, and I figured his humor would fit right in.

"Did you hear the one about....." began DD, as soon as my toe crossed his doorjamb, "...the restaurant on the moon?" While I waited for the punch-line, I noted his light blue seresucker pants, white Oxford shirt, and last year's yellow power-tie. "It closed," DD said gleefully, with a smile as wide as Wilshire Boulevard. "The problem was, it had a great menu--but no atmosphere."

Twelve and a half jokes later I staggered into the office of Personnel Officer JOSE "Mr. Muscles" MESA to recover. Muscles was wearing grey slacks, a lavender button-down shirt, and pale purple striped tie. As I caught up on my foot-dangling, he rhapsodized about his music collection. His stack of wax and CDs could turn Robert Hilburn green. Everything from vintage fifties to current hits--about 650 album titles in all.

"But my favorites," Mesa confided, "are Van Morrison's Moondance and the first Crosby, Stills, and Nash album."

Tracking more tidbits, I checked out my own wing of Floor Five. My fellow G&PAers have a whole collection of "Gaffes for Laughs," like this one: Back in April, Community Relations Specialist RICK GOMEZ was conducting a tour of the east extension of Metro Rail and split his pants loading up the van. Gomez rushed to Broadway Street and bought a pair of cheap jeans ugly enough to make Calvin Klein wince. The tour must go on.

Not to worry. Mr. G's rep survived. The following month, big poobahs from the gov's office in Sacramento asked Gomez to present a proclamation to the Olvera Street Merchants on behalf of the Iron Duke. Part of a special "Cinco de Mayo" ceremony.

During lunch I handled the tough part of my assignment: grilling the bartender in the

Rome Room of the Italian Kitchen. I learned that when our last issue came out, Community Relations Manager STEVE LANTZ had pored over it in the RR, drinking and searching for his name. He didn't find it. Then he really poured over our last issue--his beer, that is.

Fortified for further snooping, I sauntered back to the Garfield. Was it possible the security guard knew anything? That I could even consider the notion testifies to the brain-draining quality of Rome Room booze.

I scorned the elevator to go leaping up the stairs one at a time. Word had spread that I was looking for staffers with big ears, long memories, and loose lips. Suddenly I had more informants than Stephen King has best-sellers. That was fine with me.

My pencil flew across my notepad as I wrote down rumors, hearsay, scuttlebutt, gossip, murmurs, chat, and tattle. Anything but the facts. I wasn't called "The Shameless Shamus" for nothing.

Here's a small part of what I found out. The rest is negotiable to the nosey on a first-come, first-heard basis. And for a reasonable bribe, I'll make sure your name never appears in this column. After all, every hardworking gumshoe has to make a living--and I don't do divorce work.

[From Shameless's notes....]

--Office on 6th floor, west, Local Assistance section, known as "The Marriage Room." No one who works there stays single. List:
1. Former Local Assistance Program Analyst PAM MOCK: married last fall, moved to Santa Cruz.
2. Intern-turned-Local Assistance Analyst GRAY CRARY: married this spring.
3. Former Local Assistance Analyst RALPH AVILA: wedding planned for summer.
4. Local Assistance Programs Analyst RITA VEGA: wed July 24. [Mesa keeping waiting list of singles who want to work in Marriage Room.]

--Other weddings...Community Relations Sec. DEANA BURTON, now Burton-LaCroix, 7th floor: married June 25, honeymooned in Carmel.

Highway Dept. Intern DAVID YALE: married at

Continued on next page

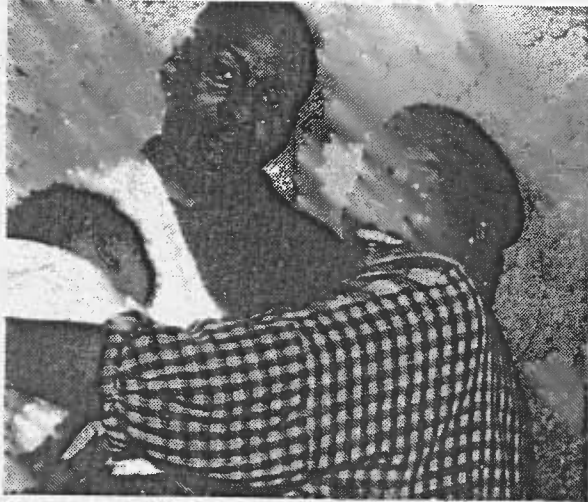


City Hall on April Fool's Day.

Contract Compliance Analyst **PATRICIA MIRELES**, 4th floor: wedding plans for Aug.

--Babies...Boy born to Rail Development Secretary **KYRAH MILLER**, third floor, and husband **JON**; dubbed *Jacqué Lorenzo*, their first; Mom says JL "already loves to look at women's legs."

RICK GOMEZ's wife *Rose* expecting 2nd child, Feb. 1989.



--Manager of Contracts **AL SCALA**, 7th floor: puts bows in hair of his black dog; admits he never took anything seriously in college, just partied.

--Construction Project Engineer **LAURENCE WELDON**, 7th floor: spreading story that actor *Nicholas Cage* had all upper front teeth pulled for part in movie "Birdy." Naive Brit falls for Hollywood hokum? [Call publicist to confirm.]

--Senior Local Assistance Analyst **AL PATASHNICK**, 6th floor: used to hit multiplexes early in day, spend all afternoon going from movie to movie. Also, swears there's a town in Pennsylvania that changed its name from "Molehill" to "Mountain."

--Manager of Admin. Services **CINDY KONDO**, 2nd floor: June vacation in San Diego & Las Vegas; won \$\$\$ in L.V. Query: did she do her *Nightingale Arm Rolls & Leg Lifts* on vac?

--Director of Program Development **RICHARD STANGER**, 4th floor: went to elementary school in Germany, age 6 to 11; und sprekendi deutsche. Also, selling boat; call for details.

--Senior Secretary **ELYSE KUSUNOKI**, 6th floor: confesses to love of beer, tho says she's no connoisseur; enjoys sampling imported beers; collects unusual beer bottles.

--Community Relations Specialist **JOHN HIGGINS**'s method for warming burritos: wrap in tinfoil, open hood of car or truck, put on intake manifold of engine, drive until mealtime.

--Rail Dev. Engineer **FRANK FLORES**, 4th floor: has "LA RAIL" license plate.



Pat



Olga

--**PATRICIA SIMS**, longterm temp during *MARGARITA ORTIZ*'s last pregnancy, now temping for LACTC consultants, 3rd floor: won trip to Bahamas & Mexico in Publishers' Clearinghouse contest.

--**OLGA PHILLIPS**, former G&PA sec, now marketing sales manager for Inland housing agency with own secretarial support staff: happy in new job; she & husband improving their home; misses "the gang."

--Highway Section Analyst **PETE DE HAAN**, 6th floor: bought new house in Sunland [ck map--where IS that?].

--Query: Why is Transit Programs Analyst **NALINI AHUJA** never on the bus anymore?

--Project Accountant **DICK BENNETT**, 5th floor: ask re diamond-stud earring.



--Communications Rep **ANN REEVES**, 5th floor: dumps longtime mate *Richard*, takes up with funny-looking bear; *Richard* reported desolate over A's weird new fetish.

--Government Relations Representative **MARY LOU ECHTERNACH**, 5th floor: elected to board of YWCA in May.

HEEEEEERE'S HEIDE

--Community Relations Specialist NAOMI NIGHTINGALE, 7th floor: participated in daughter Felicia's debutante ball May 7; Naomi & partner learned ballroom dancing a la Ginger & Fred for occasion.

--Mail Messenger NICKY ASTILLA, 2nd floor: back at his post; replaces VINH HO, promoted to key operator in xerox center; Nicky once champion scrabble player in Phillipines.▲

--Ann Reeves



Heeeee's Baaaaaccck--Roberta Tinajero and Erica Goebel helped the second floor crew bid mail messenger Nicky Astilla adieu, but not for long.

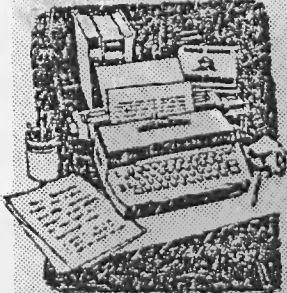
Now that transportation is one of the top stories in almost all the news media--and looks to stay there--we in Communications are busier than ever. The time we spend talking to writers and editors, arranging interviews, taking TV crews on construction tours, researching and responding to reporters' questions, sending out photos, etc., etc., has probably quintupled in the last three years. That leaves much less time for us to spend at our word-processors.

Enter Heide-Marie Wenzel, a communications consultant who works under the business name, "The Focus Group." Heide has lots of expertise in transportation and planning as well as publication production. She has a B.A. in journalism/poli-sci and an M.A. in architecture and urban planning; she has worked for SCAG, the City of L.A., and the El Segundo Employers Association, among others.

Heide is now writing and helping to handle the production of our quarterly newsletter, ProMotion, starting with the issue that came out about a month ago (featuring the rail construction update). We supply her with a story list approved by our senior staffpeople, and she researches the topics--usually by phone. We're asking all staffpeople to cooperate with her in answering her questions, reviewing/signing off on her articles, processing her requisitions, and so on, as promptly as you would for any of us. We work closely with her on the production of the newsletter, advising her of our procedures and policies and suggesting ways to handle the copy and photographs.

Producing the spring ProMo with Heide went very smoothly. Heide is pleasant and professional, and we know you'll enjoy working with her as much as we do.▲

--A.R.



THE "INSIDE MOVES" STAFF

Publisher: Erica Goebel
 Editors: Ann Reeves,
 Roberta Tinajero
 Graphics: Ann, Roberta
 Photos: Ditto unless credited.

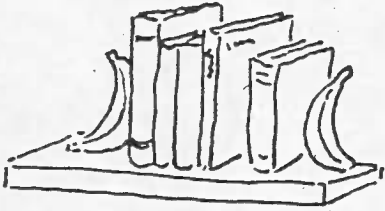
**GUEST COLUMNISTS ARE INVITED;
 CALL ANN OR ROBERTA.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GUEST WRITERS,
 MARY SUE O'MELIA AND CLAUDETTE MOODY.
 AND THANKS TO JOSE MESA AND ARIF MOTIWALA
 FOR ASSISTANCE WITH OUR "PERS" FEATURE.**

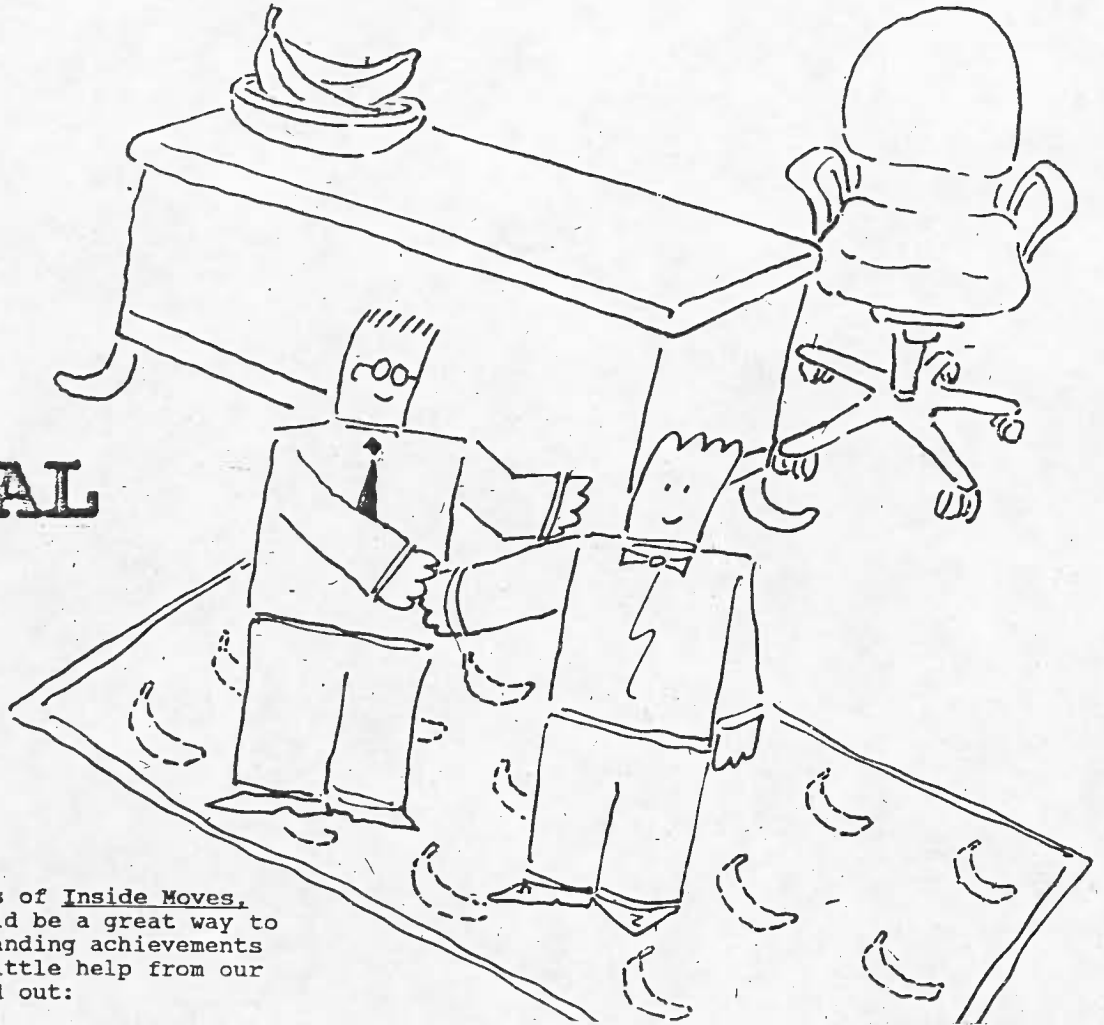


**NEUROLOGISTS
 BUILD CASTLES IN THE
 PSYCHIATRIC
 LAME IN THEM
 PSYCHOLOGISTS
 COLLECT THEM**

"It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable."
 -- Mohere



PERSONAL BEST



Here in the editorial offices of Inside Moves, we felt this newsletter would be a great way to let you know about the outstanding achievements LACTC staffpeople. With a little help from our friends, here's what we found out:

--Manager of Transit Programs **SHARON NEELY** spoke at a conference of the American Public Transit Association (APTA) on 4/18; topic, "The Dilemma of Cost Comparisons."

--Communications Manager **ERICA GOEBEL** wrote an article on avant-garde designer Marika Contompasis that was published as the cover story for Ornament Magazine in May.

--Acting Executive Director **PAUL TAYLOR** has been selected by the Urban Transportation Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers as the recipient of the 1988 Frank M. Masters Transportation Engineering Award. The honor will be presented in a ceremony at ASCE's annual convention in St. Louis in October.

--In May, the Institute of Certified Records Managers notified LACTC that Records Manager **BOB SANDERS** had passed a rigorous six-part examination to earn their designation as a Certified Records Manager. "Mr. Sanders is now a member of an elite group represented by five percent of all practicing records managers," the Institute informed us.

--In mid-May, Communications Representative **ROBERTA TINAJERO** was guest speaker at East L.A. College as part of a course in public relations. She gave an overview of working in the PR field and tips for entering the job market.

--By clever negotiating with the Port of Long Beach, Government Relations Representative **MARY LOU ECHTERNACH** saved the Commission about \$12,000 in dock fees when our last shipment of rails for the LB-LA line arrived.

--Contract Analyst **GLENDA STAMPS** organized a seminar for rail project contractors, held April 20 at the Mayfair Hotel, that was praised by our Commissioners.

--Manager of Contracts **AL SCALA**, Manager of External Affairs **SHARON ROBINSON**, Manager of Rail Construction **JOHN ADAMS** all spoke at the above contractors seminar, talking about what we've done so far on the L.A. County rail system and what are the opportunities for the future.

--Communications Specialist **JOHN HIGGINS** recently earned his B.A. in Business Administration from California State University at Long Beach.

--Communications Representative **ANN REEVES** was guest speaker at the Long Beach chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. Her talk was titled, "Romancing the Clock: Time Management for Writers."

--Construction Project Engineer **BERTIE JACKSON** spoke at a conference in Calgary, British Columbia, at the end of April, as part of the semi-annual meeting of the Track Construction and Maintenance Subcommittee of APTA. In June, he presented a refined version of the same talk at the APTA conference in Buffalo. ▲

We'd like to make "Personal Best" a regular feature in Inside Moves, so please submit notice of your own or a co-worker's achievement. Call the Communications Department for the official form.



Name: SUSAN ROSALES

Started with LACTC: April 1986
 Current position: Rail Development Officer
 Division: Current position, 4th flr.
 Principal responsibilities: Manage planning efforts for a rail line from Downtown L.A. (where LB-LA stops) to Pasadena.
 Most interesting job: Teaching brain-dead UCLA undergraduates probability and decision-making theory.
 Grew up in: San Diego, CA (And even went to summer school at Rick G's former elementary school for B.A. and for M.A. in Urban Planning for B.A.)
 Education: UCLA school.
 Home life: I share a home in Culver City with my husband Dan Mayeda. Dan is a lawyer but still manages to be very nice. We're negotiating on whether to have children, and what their last names should be. (I studied classical piano for 13 years but am surprisingly incompetent.)
 Hobbies: piano and guitar.
 Favorites: Seafood, chocolate
 author -- None
 music -- Classical or Rock
 movie -- I don't watch any movies.
 vacation -- Europe
 Pet Peeve: People who talk too much and don't listen.▲

Principal responsibilities: Joining forces with Steve Lantz and Rick Gomez on all our wonderful possible rail routes throughout L.A. I've survived all of our SFV meetings so far, and can't wait to hit those community groups again!
 Most interesting job: Chauffeur of a star-studded limousine service; drove Emma Samms, Mr. & Mrs. Danny Thomas, George Carlin, Lola Falana, Bryan Brown (sign!) he's Rachel Ward's husband, Florence Henderson, Bruce Weitz and various producers. I also promoted Sony's 8mm film camera at various shopping malls. And, I delivered phone books too!



Name: THERESE HERNANDEZ
 Started with LACTC: April 26, 1987
 Current position: Secretary, Community Affairs
 Division: Govt. & Public Affairs/5th flr.

Favorites:
 food -- Changes daily!
 author -- Anais Nin, Simone Beavior (sp?)
 music -- jazz, from avant-garde to rag-time
 movies -- Diva, This property is Condemmed, Walk on the Wildside
 vacation -- Tahiti, but so far it's just a dream. I'd also like to go to a spa and be completely pampered!

Grew up in: Los Angeles, CA
 Education: Some broadcasting; now working on AA at Pasadena City College.
 Home life: Pasadena; live alone but may be inheriting a cat.
 Hobbies: Moving, just kidding, I've moved from my residences 4 times since starting with the Commission. Working out, playing handy person stucco-ing and painting my apartment, singing.

Secret ambition: To hide from Rick Gomez and not be found! Also, just kidding, to render our SFV opposition speechless and content!

THE
FAITHFUL
FEW
FORGE ON!



5:30 p.m.--A stillness descends on the hallways of the Garfield Building. Most LACTCers are packing up their briefcases and calling it a day.

But in the sixth-floor conference room, every Tuesday and Thursday, Naomi Nightingale's faithful followers are pushing chairs out of the center of the room and doing a few preliminary stretches. Where once the floor was crowded with happy huffers and puffers, now there is plenty of space for everybody's beach towel.

The familiar strains of disco exercise music start up. Deana, Jose, Roberta, Ann, Cindy, and Pat look expectantly toward their leader. The stalwart band is ready for another invigorating hour of stretching, toning, and firming their sometimes reluctant bodies.

Why do they keep at it?

"I definitely notice some muscle-definition in my upper arms," declares Jose Mesa, proudly flexing his emerging biceps.

"And I put on an outfit I haven't been able to fit into for a long time," adds exercise-advocate Deana Burton.

"I definitely notice my legs are getting stronger," reflects Ann, who supplements the class with trampolining.

"I really appreciate the class," said Naomi, "because it's as beneficial for me as for the ones who come."

Not for this valiant few the ever-steady slip into shapelessness! Not for these seven the suddenly pulled muscles of the slavishly sedentary nor the fitful sleep of the underexercised! No, not for them the burst of good intentions followed by a commitment that shrinks to nothing. We're talking your hard-core masochists here--the ones who want to be sore week after grueling week.

And what happened to all the others who started off with such enthusiasm just a few short months ago?

In our ever-pending search for truth, your I.M. reporters polled the drop-outs. However, to a person their excuses were so flimsy, not one would speak on the record. But if any of you wants to come back to class, we'd love to have you with us again--and we promise not throw your temporary defection in your face.

New recruits are encouraged to give the class a try. The class is really fun and you can go at your own pace, doing only the exercises that you're able to do without major strain. It's stress-reducing, too; and you'll never find an exercise class that's more conveniently located.

So come to the class that lets you know that you may never be 17 again, but you don't have to feel as if you're 70 after a day of softball or a night of dancing.▲

--A.R.

MOMILIES

If you had a mother, chances are you heard some of the following "words of wisdom" when you were growing up.

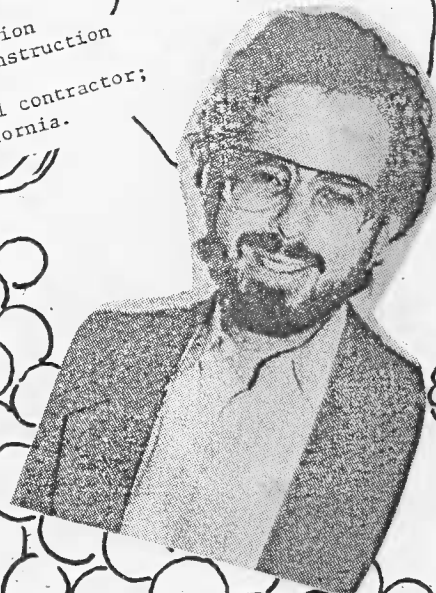
- "If you break your leg, don't coming running to me."
- "Don't play with that, you can poke somebody's eye out."
- "If you get into an accident, I hope you have clean underwear on."
- "You'll understand someday, when you have kids of your own."



by Larry Gallagher

- "I don't think you be can mine -- the doctor must have switched babies at the hospital."
- "Just wait til your father gets home."
- "I may not always be right, but I'm never wrong."
- "You certainly didn't learn that kind of language from me."
- "The starving children in China would love to eat that."
- "If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times"
- "I've worked my fingers to the bone for you."
- "Someday you'll thank me for this."
- "I don't care what the other kids do."
- "To think I gave up a promising career for this!" ▲

Name: JIM COHEN
 Started with LACTC: November 1985
 Current Position: Project Engineer-Construction
 Division: Transit Development, 7th floor
 Principal responsibilities: Oversee construction management consultant forces on various construction contracts for LB-LA line.
 Last job: Project engineer with a CA general contractor; worked on various projects all over California.
 Grew up in: West Haven, CT
 Education: BSCE-Tufts University, Boston, MA;
 MSCE (Construction Management)-Stanford University



Home life: Live in Van Nuys with wife Suzee. No children or pets.
 Hobbies: Collect mortgage! heads (work related).
 Secret ambition: To own a toll booth on the Ventura Freeway.
 Favorites:
 food -- Italian
 author -- Robert Ludlum
 music -- 60's & 70's, "Classic Rock & Roll"
 movie -- Raiders of the Lost Ark
 vacation -- A cruise to just about any place.

Pet Peeve: People who do not refill ice cube trays or the water bottle at the drinking fountain.
 Quote: K.I.S.S. (Keep it simple, stupid.)

Name: ED McSPEDON
 Started with LACTC: January 1985
 Current position: Director, Design and Construction
 Division: Transit Development, 4th floor
 Principal responsibilities: Digging up streets and creating noise, dust, and traffic jams in downtown and points countywide (short-term pain for long-term gain). Fighting with consultants, fighting with railroads, fighting with regulatory agencies, fighting with utility companies in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation. Enjoying the privilege of managing the most dedicated and talented group of professionals I've ever met.



Most interesting job: Spent six years trying to keep the New York City Subway System running (early evidence of latent masochistic tendencies).
 Grew up in: Yonkers, New York (suburb immediately north of N.Y.C.)
 Education: Manhattan College (in the northwest Bronx, near Hudson River), Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil Engineering; majored in Transportation and Structural Engineering.
 Home life: Live in West Hills (west fringe of the Valleeey) with wife JoAnn (RN at County USC Medical Center--another masochist in the family) 10-year-old daughter Karen (with a great personality), dog Heidi (Dachshound with a miserable personality).
 Hobbies: Jog, swim, golf, play guitar, read professional sports--but not enough of any.
 Secret ambition: Centerfielder for New York Yankees.

Favorites:
 food -- Italian (any kind) but preferably Northern with some seafood thrown in.
 author -- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
 music -- Love it -- all kinds -- Dire Straits -- George Thorugood (of Chicago Transit Authority (of course) -- The Band -- C.S.N.Y. John Houston -- any Bogart film -- any Robert Shaw film.
 movies -- What's that?
 vacation --

Quote: Give a man a fish -- you can feed him a day. Teach a man how to fish -- he can feed himself for a lifetime.

Pet Peeve: People who insist on trying to read the L.A. Times or Wall Street Journal while driving at 40 mph behind you or alongside of you on the freeway in the morning.