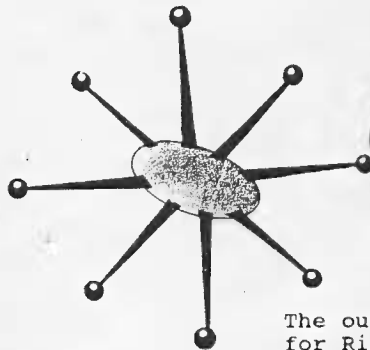


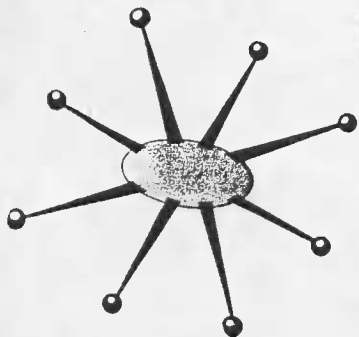
LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 403 West 8th St., Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90014 (213) 626-0370

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

PACK THIS IN YOUR SUITCASE
RICK



The outcome of our recent going-away party for Rick Richmond looked more like the remains of a scavenger hunt. Our presentation of commemorative gifts to Rick would have stolen the show had it not been for his four young children who hovered over and clawed the goodies with the similar fervor reserved for Christmas morning. Our departments flourished in creativity (or bizarreness) with their parting mementos. Take for example the "LACTC Memorial Door Stop" made from shimless rubber grade crossing (by Ann Reeves), the work shirt with shirt-tail suspender snaps (Leon Cooksey), and the famous "letters of transit" and a photo of "Rick's Place" from the all-time classic "Casablanca" (Sharon Robinson).



Ed McSpedon's group presented the "New Joizey Survival Kit" complete with a windshield ice-scraper and framed photo of his new boss. According to Richard Stanger, "Getting a consensus on a gift from my department was like choosing a route for rail in the Valley," but Stanger took direction from his crew and designed an all-purpose, handcrafted wooden desk organizer. We can thank Judi Norman for her direction of the campy video; praise Rabbi Patashnick for a superb performance; question Paul Taylor for commissioning the sculpture "A Hand in the Till" that featured mannequin parts and a pink cash register; ponder the dementedness of the sculpture's creator; and applaud Sharon Neeley for her patience and endurance in taking and collecting staff photos for Rick's album. Many other clever gift-givers shared in the fun--too many to mention. ▷



GOOD LUCK RICK

By the time this issue hits your in-boxes, RICK RICHMOND will be settled into "Joizy," having been roasted (by staffers on Feb. 18) and toasted (by Commissioners on Feb. 24) and finally East Coasted. (Little poetic license there.) Rick hired on here almost ten years ago as rail transit development coordinator; he was promoted to executive director in August 1980. Now he's left us to become a deputy general manager in New Jersey Transit Corporation's rail operations, where he works for Jerry Premo--who was LACTC's E.D. before Rick and so was Rick's boss once before. (Sounds like a repetition-compulsion to me.) In his new position, Rick is responsible for the capital improvement program for 365 miles of existing commuter rail lines--in a part of the country where folks actually like rail transit, too.

While Rick was captain of our ship, conductor of our train, pilot of our plane, driver of our van (pick your favorite transportation metaphor), LACTC chalked up numerous milestones



Rick's four children almost stole the show with their enthusiasm for the opening of the gifts.

in the history of L.A. transportation--if you want the official list, see our recent ProMotion story. In these pages--the unofficial, more accurate list--Rick once described his principal responsibilities as: "Reading agendas before they are one month out of date; acting like Scrooge with the staff; talking on the phone; attending meetings; and occasionally trying to direct our efforts toward our naively laudable goals." And here are some parting words that Rick recently penned especially for Inside Moves: "It's been both a pleasure and an honor to work with the people at the Commission. I take great pride in having played a part in developing an outstanding staff and have every confidence that you will continue to be successful after my departure. Please come see us in New Jersey." End of an era, that's for sure. We'll miss you, Rick. ♦



AI P.

Judi



SJM P3

COMINGS AND GOINGS

COMING ON BOARD...

The soothing voice at the switchboard belongs to BEVERLY BROUMAND, our new receptionist as of December '87. Her calm and friendly manner is just what we need to handle our front desk. Seventeen years at Pacific Bell has made her a real pro at plugging in the right extension. Beverly grew up in Saratoga, New York. She now lives in San Gabriel with her husband and teenaged son, a dog, and a fish "that Mr. B. threatens to fry," she says. (What is it, a goldfish or a trout?) Her other son and two daughters flew the coop, and somewhere along the line made her the proud grandmother of three granddaughters. When she isn't immersed in a Danielle Steele romance, she can be found gardening, swimming, cooking, and basically just enjoying life. Bev must get a good return on her philosophy of life -- "You get back 10 times what you give out, so make sure what you give is only good."



After eight months as a student intern here at the LACTC, GRAY CRARY became a permanent employee in January filling the analyst, Local Return position. Gray left his hometown of San Marino, CA, to earn his BA degree in geology from the University of Colorado in Boulder, CO. He now resides in Park LaBrea with his fiancee, and is inching his way through the MBA program at USC. Before getting a job in the real world, Gray counted Christmas birds for the Audubon Society (a job that would drive anyone over the cuckoo's nest). Gary's list of favorites reads like an enticing ad in the personals column: "gyros, Tom Robbins 'cuz even analysts get the blues, Violent Femmes and Squeeze, George Miller of Mad Max, and Catalina on a couch." He doesn't say anything about the crazy socks that his ankles flaunt, but they're a definite dress to impress accessory.

I CAN SQUEEZE YOU IN!
.....MAYBE.



Coming On Board



Up on the 6th floor, RITA VEGA stepped into Pam Mock's shoes in January as a local assistance analyst in the P&FA division. Rita's already put out her first issue of "Transit Tips," and is working hard on revising the Prop. A Local Return guidelines and assisting cities in spending their Prop. A money. She tells us her most interesting job before this was with the Council on Foundations, reviewing grant proposals and helping to award millions of dollars to non-profit organizations "to see creative ideas become reality." (Bet there were more flakes in the proposal-review file than in a cereal bowl, right, Rita?) Rita also worked at the RTD, but she was never a meter maid. She grew up in Española, New Mexico, and earned her BA in Poly Sci at the U of NM in Albuquerque. She's single, now living in Alhambra; hobbies include sports, movies, visiting family, friends and art galleries, eating Chinese food, reading novels by John Steinbeck and Alice Walker, and going to the beach. Her philosophy of life: "Try to find a balance between work and one's personal life, and try to laugh even if it kills you."



Coming On Board

FRED SILVERMAN grew up in the same neighborhood with the Dodgers, the Brooklyn Dodgers that is. "As a kid, I could walk to Ebbetts Field and see the game," he writes. Little did he know then that he would live across the country and still be minutes from the Dodger stadium. The new rail development engineer recently moved to Los Angeles after a 14-year stint in Florida. Fred has seen a lot of this country. He got his BA from the University of Virginia and his MA in Urban Planning from the University of Northern Colorado. He put those degrees to use in the transportation field, directing Florida's high-speed rail transit study, and working with the bus and rail systems in Washington, Atlanta, Miami and Tampa. Fred enjoys the bachelor life, old film classics, warm beaches, and a variety of music ranging from salsa to classical.

WOW



MOVING ON...



Sure he's
pretty, but
can he type?

This year will be a turning-point year for RALPH AVILA. He started a new job on January 11 with the City of Los Angeles as a planning assistant, and later this year he'll wed his main squeeze Rose. Ralph was a local assistance program analyst in P & FA for three years. Prior to his employment here, he worked for Caltrans. His responsibilities ~~was~~ included writing and editing Transit Tips. He earned his M.A. in Urban Planning from UCLA. "It won't be the same around here without me, but life must go on," he quipped. Ralph won't be too far away--just up the hill at City Hall. A few of his friends here have threatened to meet him for lunch some time. We wish him good luck in all his new ventures.

DID YOU KNOW...?



Did you know that on Dec. 22, at the G&PA Christmas party, none other than the King of Rock & Roll himself showed up? Not to worry--the Memphis Mafia was not with him. (The elusive Mr. P has made few appearances in the last 20 years, but he was coaxed into the special perf by graphic designer LEON COOKSEY, who can talk even dead people into just about anything.) Elvis warbled his way through numerous hits, with willing and less-willing harmonizers MARGARITA ORTIZ, NAOMI NIGHTINGALE, KATHY TORIGOE and others. Even our erstwhile E.D., RICK RICHMOND (ever a good sport), stripped off his tie and got down (on one knee, that is). Division chief SUSAN BROWN came away with a souvenir--- Elvis's red satin neck scarf. Additional entertainment was provided by ROBIN MCCARTHY's new baby and by JOHN HIGGINS's mild, medium, and hot (read "hot," "very hot," and "for masochistic maniacs only") enchiladas.... Longtime staffer ANNETTE MENDOZA of the finances section gave birth to a 9-lb., 2-oz. baby boy on January 13, by the Lamaze method. Annette and her husband Marcelo bestowed the name Marc Ryan on the baby, which is their first. Annette should be back with us in early April.... The stork struck again in early February, when rail-track engineer and Toastmaster mainstay SUSAN BRAUKIS brought a 9-lb., 4-oz. baby girl into the world by natural childbirth. And are you ready? That means not only no drugs, but no doctor or hospital either. Would you believe just a midwife and a clinic? But never fear, if anyone can bring that off, it's Susan, who practiced up on her first one about three years ago. She and her husband named the new baby Erika... Down on the third floor, Transit Development Secretary KYRAH MILLER is expecting her baby on April 5; this will be a first for Kyrah and Jon.... Congratulations to all these baby-makers, but just remember, for every baby, you must provide one parking space or roadway improvement.... Did you know that PAM BARKER, also over in finances, has a 28-pound cat?? "That's more than Andrea weighs," pondered Senior Secretary MARGARITA ORTIZ in wonder, referring to her 16-month-old daughter. Sources close to Pam reveal that she is training the titanic tabby to be

continued on next page.



MARC RYAN...
Annette's
Bambino



Robin & lil Sara

an attack cat.... Heard about the literature teacher who got on the U.S. Department of Defense mailing list? After being appalled, then amazed, then amused at the DOD's misleading use of language, the professor published a list of what some famous written works would have been titled in DOD parlance. For instance, Degraded and Benign Environments (War and Peace), Attrition of a Salesman, and so on. Sounds like word-engineering to me.... Did you know that External Affairs Manager SHARON SIVAD-EL has now dropped the last name Sivad-el (which was a married name) and gone back to her own name of SHARON ROBINSON? She'd like the rest of us to go back to Robinson as well. No problem, Sharon, we're all flexible. Just look how fast we readjusted to Annette Hon--doza, and Pat Van, oops, McLaughlin.... Bet you didn't know that G&PAer MARY LOU

ECHTERNACH paints beautiful oil paintings and plays classical piano? This despite losing a battle with a vacuum cleaner over the holidays, which necessitated stitches in her right elbow. We hear she makes a mean chocolate mousse, too: mean to one's diet, that is.... And is there anyone here yet who doesn't know that the fourth floor's own PAUL TAYLOR has migrated to Rick's old office on the 5th floor? Paul is our acting executive director until the board makes its permanent selection.... Meanwhile, Acting Community Relations Manager NAOMI NIGHTINGALE is about to stop acting and go back to real work (just kidding, NN), when ROBIN MCCARTHY returns once again to the old west--west 8th street that is--and exchanges those Pampers for pamphlets, those bottles for battles (with LB Blvd merchants, etc.), and those leisurely walks with the stroller for the old morning and evening commute. Robin's easing back in slowly, with part-time work starting Monday, March 7. Welcome back, Robin!.... Guess who has received--and turned down--four proposals of marriage? She's waiting til she finds someone who likes "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" as much as she does; she's seen the classical musical no less than 30 times....

continued on next page. .

Last conspicuous at the annual Commission campout, DON HARRISON departed the LACTC--and California--in December. Don was a rail systems engineer who brightened up the third floor with his wiry energy and constant good humor. I hear he made pretty good home-made wine, too, which he would sip while watching late-night movies with Elvira "Mistress of the Dark." He's now pursuing greater fame and fortune, or maybe just more time for wine-making in Birmingham, Missouri--where he is director of marketing for light rail systems for UTDC Corp. Somehow Don snuck out before your almost-ever-vigilant I.M. reporters could cajole a parting quote or two from him, but secret sources revealed to us the philosophy Don lived by and the thought he'd want to leave us with is, "What goes around comes around." Good luck, Don. (Don has been replaced by BART KANE, whom we'll profile in our next issue.) ♦

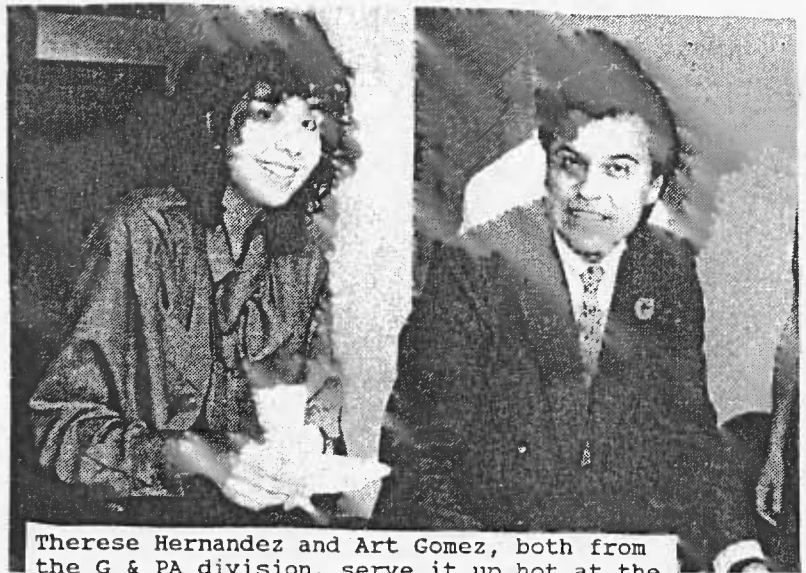
MOVING ON...

Cont. from

page 5



Who would have suspected that Rail Construction Manager JOHN ADAMS would have a combo exercycle-rowing machine in his office, and what's more, comes in early every morning to work out? Way to go, John.... How many of you have visited Real Estate and Development Officer BOB FLYNN down on the third floor? Check out those photos that adorn his every wall! Not only does Bob do gorgeous nature photography (Yosemite, etc.), but he's got a great collection of celebrity portraits that he took mostly at sporting events. Super shots of Paul "Dorian Gray" Newman (he must have a wrinkled, bald, spotted painting in the attic, right?), Ernie Borgnine, the Heathers Locklear and Thomas (and numerous other tall, tan, blonde starlets of that ilk whose faces seem familiar but whose names I can never remember), Bob Hope, John Travolta, my personal favorite Sean Connery, and an additional cast of dozens.... What's this about Senior Local Assistance Analyst JUDI NORMAN making off with an extra-large, empty supply box from the 6th-floor lunch room? (My notes are a tad illegible.) Something about using it to take her Imelda Marcos-sized shoe collection to Las Vegas.... And here's the bit you've all been bating your breath about: MICHAEL LOLLER's greyhound, Blue, continues to rack up honors. Blue took "Best Opposite Sex" (hey, that's the category; I just write this stuff up) in the Los Encinos Kennel Club Show not long ago, giving him only four more points to go before he becomes a "Best of Show" champion who'll compete only with other champions; while his female (greyhound, that is), Hannah, will be a "Best of Show" champion by the time you read this column.... From our "Whatever Happened To" file: LINDA (Pendlebury) BOLLINGER, who once headed up our highway section, turned up at our staff going-away party for Rick Richmond. Linda is deputy director for transit with the California Transportation Commission, and can be spotted at the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and CTC's monthly meetings, in Riverside. Seems Linda's been doing more public speaking lately, and she'll be moderating a panel at UMTA's upcoming conference on privatization in New Orleans. (Hey, Linda, don't you need a good PR person to go along on that trip?) Linda's husband, Augustine Zuniga, is deputy director of the California Special Districts Association, and they live in Sacramento with two cats.... Remember former transit analyst JULIE AUSTIN? She's been selling real estate since she left us, and recently took a seminar aimed at making her "the ultimate salesperson." Her



Therese Hernandez and Art Gomez, both from the G & PA division, serve it up hot at the buffet table at the group's holiday party.



Linda P.

"That's the most ridiculous thing I ever heard."

most prestigious sale: a house to an L.A. Raider and his wife. Non-work events of interest in Julie's recent life include meeting Rodney Dangerfield at the Improv and having drinks with him the next day; a great two-week trip to New York last summer (her first time there); looking for a new car; and "thinking about" a trip to London this summer.... Your intrepid Inside Moves reporters recently heard that our one-time head of the LB-LA rail line, DAN CAUFIELD, was "starving" for our news. Through our volunteer program, RAIL AID, we shipped Dan an immediate care-package of brochures, ProMotions, I.M. back issues, and construction newsletters. We got a nice thank-you note back (with a request to be on our permanent mailing list--you got it, Dan) and two glitzy brochures of impressive projects recently finished by the Long Island Rail Road, where Dan is VP of capital construction.... How 'bout this letter LACTC recently received: "Dear Sir: I'm a Senior Citizen without a car and must reside on Public Transportation...." ♦



Julie A.

MEET YOUR CO-WORKERS

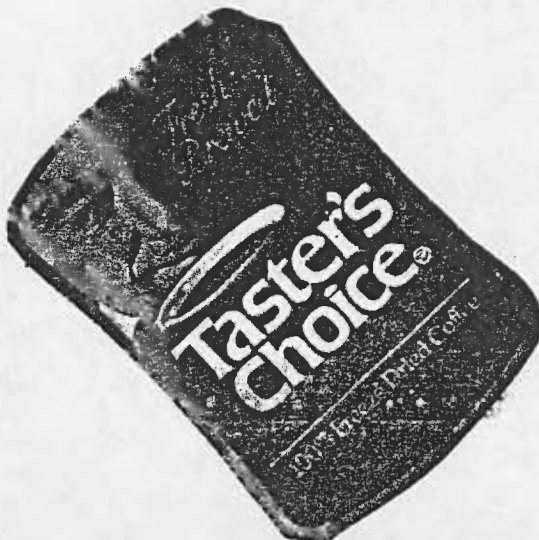
More "Co-Workers"
on page 12.

Name: ANN REEVES
Started with LACTC: October 1984
Current position: Communications Rep
Division: Government & Public Affairs, 5th floor
Responsibilities: Help write our newsletters, press releases, articles, speeches, editorial rebuttals, etc.; translate things into Spanish; talk on phone a lot with reporters.

Home Life: Live in Laurel Canyon with architect, Richard and, periodically, his two girls aged 10 and 13.

Hobbies: Seeing friends; playing guitar (blues, folk); writing (even though I do it for a living.)

Grew Up In: Mar Vista, W.L.A. (2nd generation native)
Education: Venice High; three years as Spanish major at UCLA; BA in journalism from Lindenwood U 's "University Without Walls."



Favorites:

Food - Anything exotic, spicy, and not too pricey

Pop Writer - P.J. O'Rourke

Pop genre - mysteries

Book of all time - Anna Karenina

Recent book - The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat

Music - Van Morrison (no contest)

Filmmaker - Fellini

Movies - "8-1/2," "The Meaning of Life" (Monty Python), "His Girl Friday"

Vacation - Venice, Italy

Pet Peeve: Any song with the word "cherish" in it.

Quote: "Do not do unto others as you would that they should do unto you. Their tastes may not be the same." --George Bernard Shaw
"There are two tragedies in life--one is not getting what you want, and the other is getting it." --Oscar Wilde ◆

THE SOCIAL SCENE

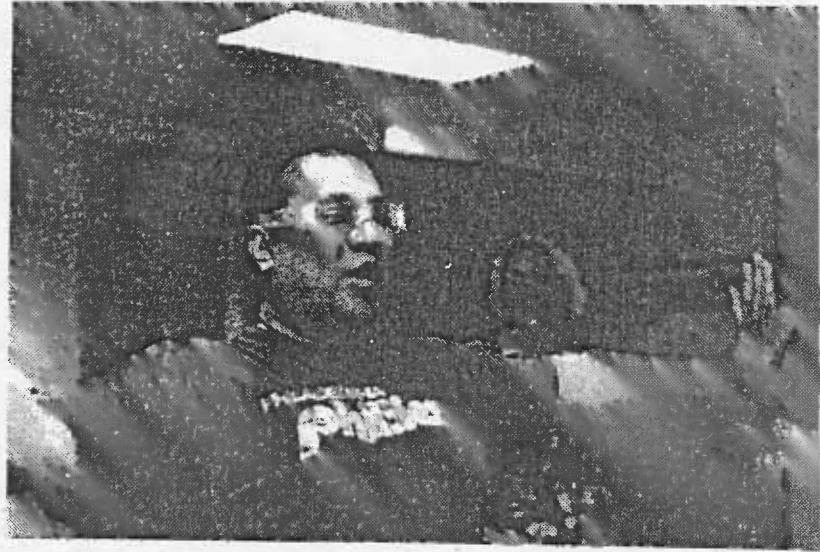
THE COMMISSION MISSION--OFF WITH THOSE INCHES!

LACTCers are getting into shape with the help of Naomi "De-Sade" Nightingale. The acting manager of Community Relations is leading a group of us through an hour-long exercise session every Tuesday and Thursday evening in the 6th-floor main conference room. We do stretching, toning and firming exercises to upbeat music. The class is starting out at a beginners' level, so there's no competing with gym jocks or lithe leotard lovelies. Another plus for this class is that there are no membership fees or parking hassles 'cuz we're already here in the building.

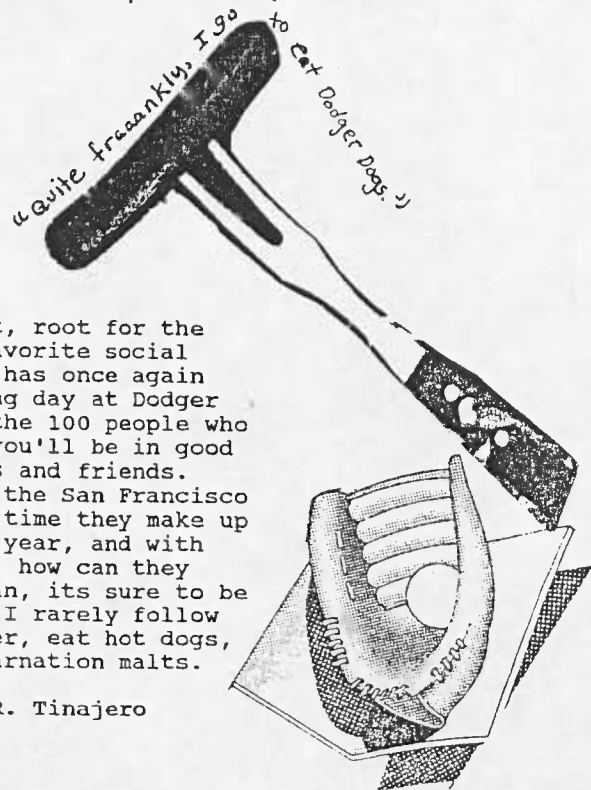
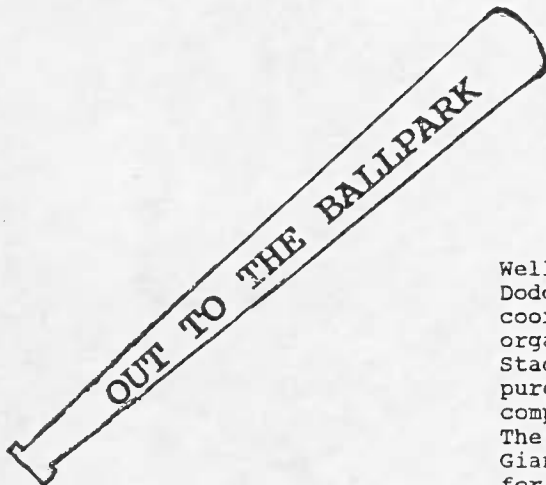
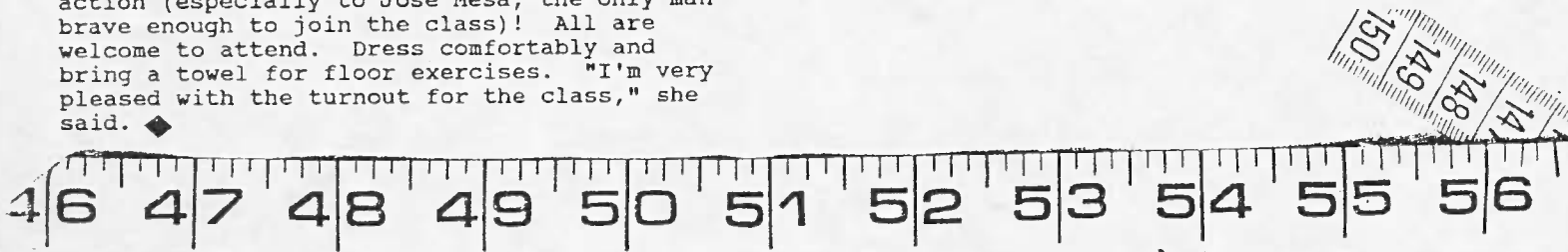
A lot of under-breath grumbling goes on during sit-ups and push-ups, but so does a lot of applause and laughter once the session is over. During umpteen excruciating leg lifts, our leader bellows "You grew it, you lift it."

"A couple of us initiated the class because many never have time for," said Nightingale, who has taught aerobics as a hobby for several years.

Everyone knows that exercise is a stress reducer and a detour to the "love handle" build-up. Congratulations to the 15 or so exercisers who have put that knowledge into action (especially to Jose Mesa, the only man brave enough to join the class)! All are welcome to attend. Dress comfortably and bring a towel for floor exercises. "I'm very pleased with the turnout for the class," she said. ♦



Jose Mesa, a guy with guts to be the only man in the exercise class, shows us how to firm up those biceps. "Where are all the men--don't they want to be in shape,?" he asks. "It's an excellent class and I really feel a difference," said our hunky hero.



Well it's time to "root, root, root for the Dodgers" according to our favorite social coordinator Cindy Kondo who has once again organized seating for opening day at Dodger Stadium. If you're one of the 100 people who purchased an LACTC ticket, you'll be in good company with your co-workers and friends. The Dodgers will be playing the San Francisco Giants that day. It's high time they make up for their lousy season last year, and with our team spirit behind them, how can they lose? Even if your not a fan, its sure to be a fun event. Quite frankly I rarely follow the game. I go to drink beer, eat hot dogs, and scoop those paper cup Carnation malts. See ya at the ballpark. ♦

-- R. Tinajero

Tournament Held

JUST GOLFING AROUND



Transcal players (seated) included Alan Simmons, Clyde Garrison, and Tom Lee. That's our own George Livingstone standing in the back. (Hey, where are the windmills or waterfalls? or is that miniature golf?)



WELL... IF THEY CAN PUT ONE MAN ON THE MOON, WHY NOT ALL OF THEM?



The first of a planned annual "Rich Rickmund Memorial Championship Golf Tournament" was held Saturday, March 5th at the Sandpiper Golf Course near Santa Barbara. Twenty participants from LACTC, Transcal, and MRTC enjoyed a perfect golf day along the Pacific Ocean. Sandpiper is known as the "Poor Person's Pebble Beach."

Trophies and cash prizes were awarded to the more skilled (lucky) golfers. The "Annual International Rich Rickmund Memorial Championship Golf Trophy" was awarded to Art Truman of Transcal for his enthusiasm and overall prowess with his mashies and niblick.

Al Sanderson of MRTC was a double trophy winner with a low gross of 82 and a low net of 75, which indicates Al played a great golf game but didn't get to drink much beer.

GEORGE LIVINGSTONE, AL SCALA, and BOB MINAHAN tied for 2nd low net with 76 and each won an envelope full of money.

Al and Bob also won substantial cash prizes for their ability to drive a golf ball closest to the pin on two designated holes.

Plans are being made for the 2nd Annual Rickmund Championship Tournament and all amateurs are invited. Watch this space for details.

-- Bob Minahan

Editors' note: Two of LACTC's most ardent golfers--MARY LOU ECHTERNACH and SHARON NEELY--were lamentably absent from the above tournament. When queried, Mary Lou explained that Sharon had been out of town and she herself had been a volunteer working on the Los Angeles Marathon. "We were accused of having our priorities out of order," Mary Lou said, "and we humbly apologize. We're ashamed of not putting golf before all other family and civic responsibilities. Watch out for us and more women golfers next time, though." ♦

Name: KATHY SWEET
 Started with LACTC: August 1986
 Current position: Engineering Analyst
 Division: Rail Facilities Coordination, 3rd floor
 Principal responsibilities: Get 'em up -- move 'em out.
 Most interesting job: Hard to say if it was for the Smurfs, or for Mickey Mouse ... Mickey I guess.
 Grew up in: Still waiting to grow up.

Education: Some
 School: Hard Knocks
 Home life: Yes, sometimes I'm at home ... in Pasadena with my 17-year-old daughter Jenny; son Greg (19) is in northern CA. Lots of birds in the backyard and at least 2 possums and 1 skunk.
 Hobbies: Bus riding -- ha ha! Serious hobbies -- peace activist and crisis counselor. Fun hobby -- working around the house and in the yard.

Favorites:
 food -- yes; but no turnips or brussel sprouts
 author -- Casteneda, Vonnegut, Atwood
 music -- yes, all except RAP or "disco"; especially love Pink Floyd
 movie -- Buckaroo Bonzai
 vacation -- Maybe someday ◆

Pet Peeve -- I cannot tolerate intolerance!
 Quote -- "Make love, not war."



Name: DICK DOMINGUEZ
 Started with LACTC: August 1986
 Current position: Director, Finance & Administration
 Principal responsibilities: Oversee the Finance, Personnel, administrative and treasury functions of the Commission.
 Last job before LACTC: Operations & Finance Manager, Santa Ana Community Redevelopment Agency, Portland, Oregon & Boise, Idaho
 Education: B.A., Economics/UCLA
 M.B.A., Urban Economics/UC
 Berkeley Home life: Live in Placentia with my wife JoAnne and five children: Christine, Rob, Nathan, Matthew, and Heidi, ages 16 through 7. Before her career as a professional mother, JoAnne taught English at junior high level. We enjoy the simple life of teaching, playing with, and helping the kids with studies, love life, friends, etc. There may even be some things we could teach Bill Cosby.

Favorites:
 food -- Lobster or salmon steak
 author -- Dow-Jones editors and Adam Smith (economist)
 music -- pops, and classical (elevator music)
 movie -- Anything with Paul Newman, Dustin Hoffman, Richard Dreyfus, or Meryl Streep, also muppets or cartoon characters.
 vacation - Around Western states with family, van, and tent trailer.

Hobbies: Running, bicycling, backpacking, and family outings. I have run three marathons and countless 10K runs. I am bicycling right now due to an injury, but someday I hope to run the Moscow (Russian) marathon.

Pet Peeve: Things that are late or don't work, and people with too many peeves.
 Quotes: -Live moderately, avoid extremes and do your best, and leave unto the Lord the rest.
 - Don't take yourself too seriously, no one else does. ◆



California Bear
Credit Union



**OVERLOOKING
OUR
CREDIT UNION?
CO-OP BANKING
CAN
SAVE YOU \$\$\$!**

Food co-ops or condos are what most people associate consumer cooperatives with. However, there are dozens of other cooperative businesses that serve a range of industries, including credit unions. As employees of the LACTC, we are eligible to join the California Bear Credit Union.

Credit unions (CUs) are non-profit cooperatives, owned and controlled by their members. Members share a common bond--they may work at the same place, attend the same church, belong to the same professional group or live in the same community. About 80% of the California Bear CU members are state employees. The board of directors is made up of members. You could actually be in on the decision-making at your financial organization if you chose to run for office. As a CU member, you and your fellow CU members/coworkers vote for the board.

The combined savings of members become the source of loan funds at a credit union. As a member, you can borrow money at interest rates usually considerably lower than at banks, savings & loans, or finance companies. CU loans are usually for all the things you would normally borrow from a bank for--a car, home, trip, college, wedding, etc.

The "common bond" theme and co-op nature of credit unions may make them more approachable in dealing with your financial issues. Savings and checking accounts are referred to as "share savings" and "share draft" accounts. Your deposits represent your share of ownership, and like other corporations, owners share in the earnings through dividends. Even your checking account will earn you dividends on every dollar of your minimum balance, and at rates higher than those paid by many banks or savings & loans.

Whereas other financial institutions may consider you a "customer," credit unions call their patrons "members." Just like other financial institutions, credit unions may offer automatic teller banking, credit cards, and direct deposits. Automatic banking through the California Bear CU is easy; you may withdraw cash or make deposits at Security Pacific National Banks.

The credit union idea originated about 135 years ago in Bavaria, Germany. The mayor of a small town was so appalled at the poverty of farmers, workers and tradespeople in his region that he organized a cooperative savings institution to permit them to pool their money and make loans to themselves, saving them from the clutches of unscrupulous money lenders. The concept reached California in the early 1920s, when a young San Francisco lawyer named Leo Shapiro was inspired to fight for credit union legislation after saving a destitute client from the clutches of a loan shark. Cooperatives surged during the depression as people were open to try new ventures because so many known operations were failing.

"What I like about credit unions is that they offer pretty much the same features that banks do, but with benefits like no-service-charge checking, quick car loans, and sometimes a lower interest rate on credit cards," said Jose Mesa, LACTC personnel director. "I've switched all my banking transactions to a credit union," he said.

California Bear also offers free notary service, no charge travelers checks/money orders, insurance programs, and reduced legal services. Full more detailed information, call Mesa at ext. 521 or the California Bear CU directly at 213/624-9511, 125 W. 4th St., Suite 101. ◆

Look who's back in the picture.



Name: Bob Minahan
Started with LACTC: November 1985
Division: Rail Facilities Coordination
Principal responsibilities: To coordinate the design and relocation construction of utility facilities affected by LRT construction.
Last job before LACTC: Specification Engineer/SCRTD
Grew up in: Troy, NY (the home of Uncle Sam)



Education: Hudson Valley Technical Institute, University of Connecticut, University of Miami, UCLA
Home life: Glendale with Tina.
Hobbies: Sailing, skiing, scuba, cooking, eating -- collecting everything.



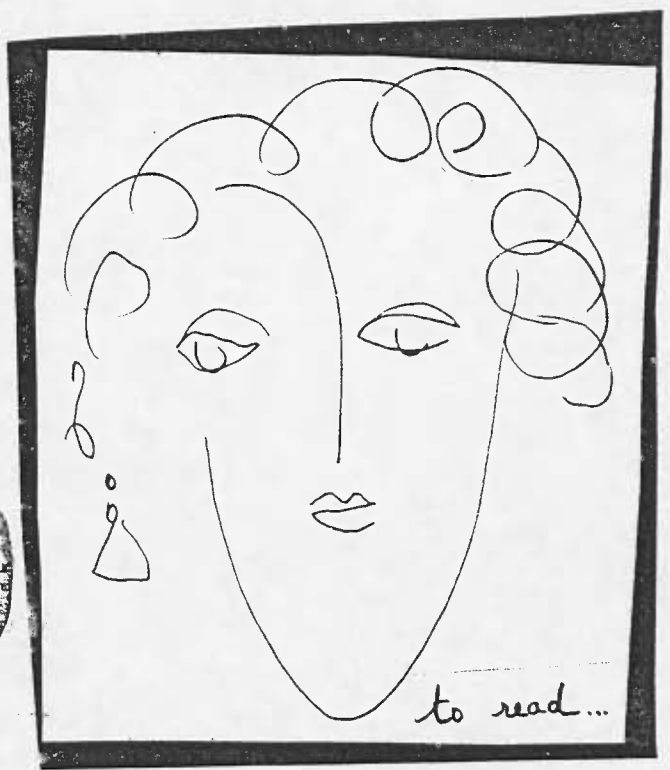
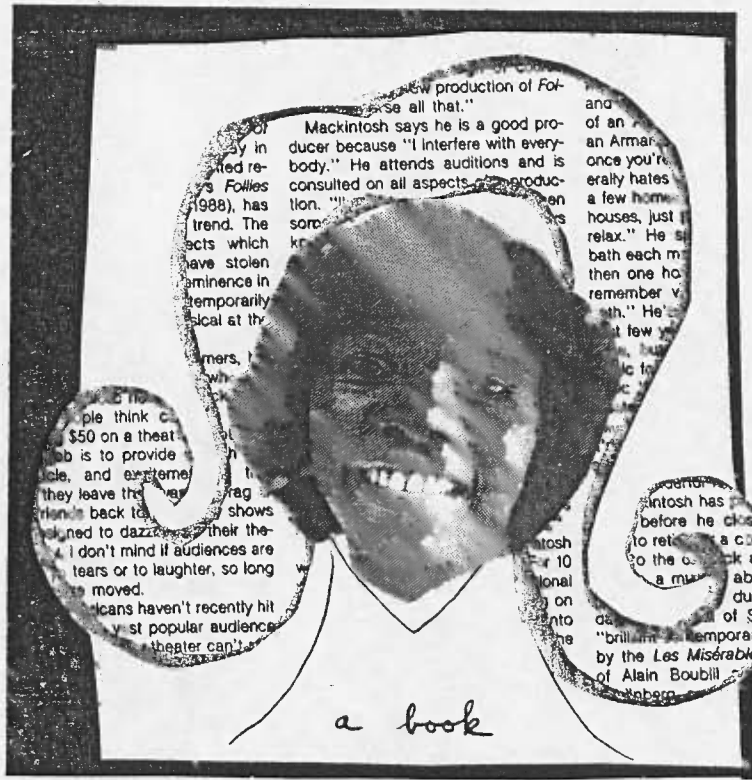
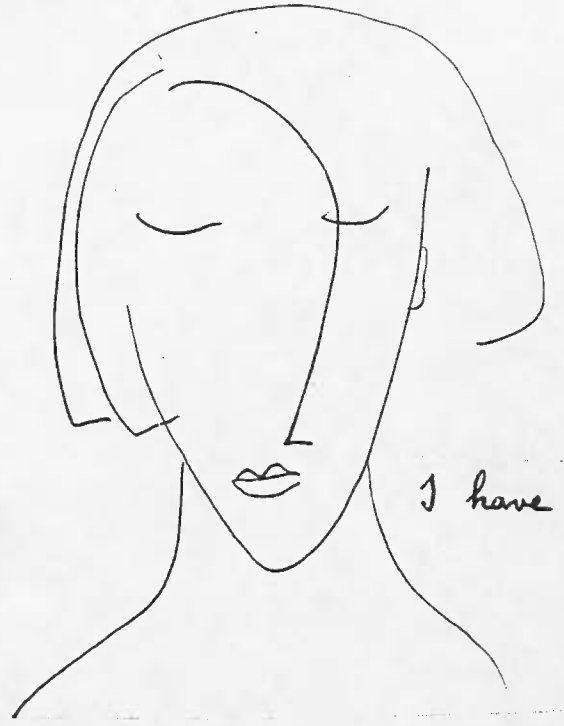
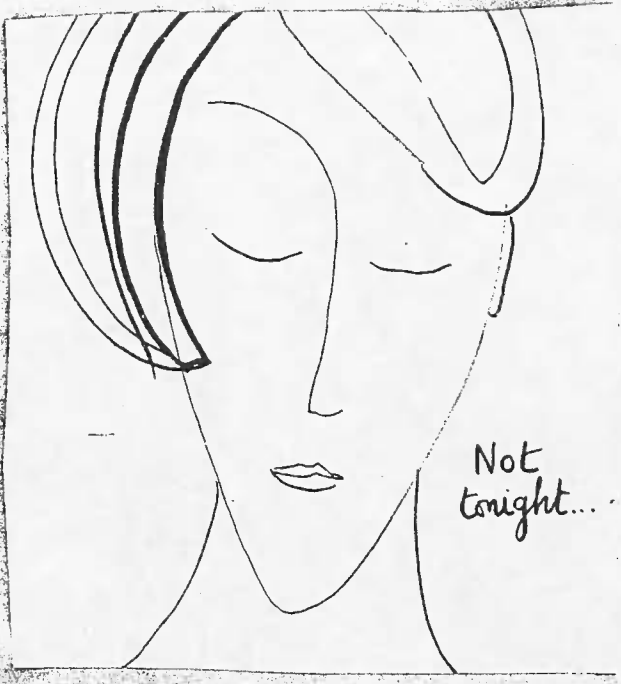
- Favorites:**
 food -- LaMonicas NY pizza
 author -- John Minahan -- MASH and many others -- mainly mysteries.
 music -- There are only two kinds of real music -- Country & Western
 movie -- Currently, Moonstruck -- the best of the year.
 vacation -- Cayman Island -- I met my wife there.
 Pet Peeve -- Everything that is imported.
 Quote -- Here to serve! ♦

MOONLIGHTING

New Episode Tonight
9:00/8:00 Central



CO-WORKERS, cont. from previous page



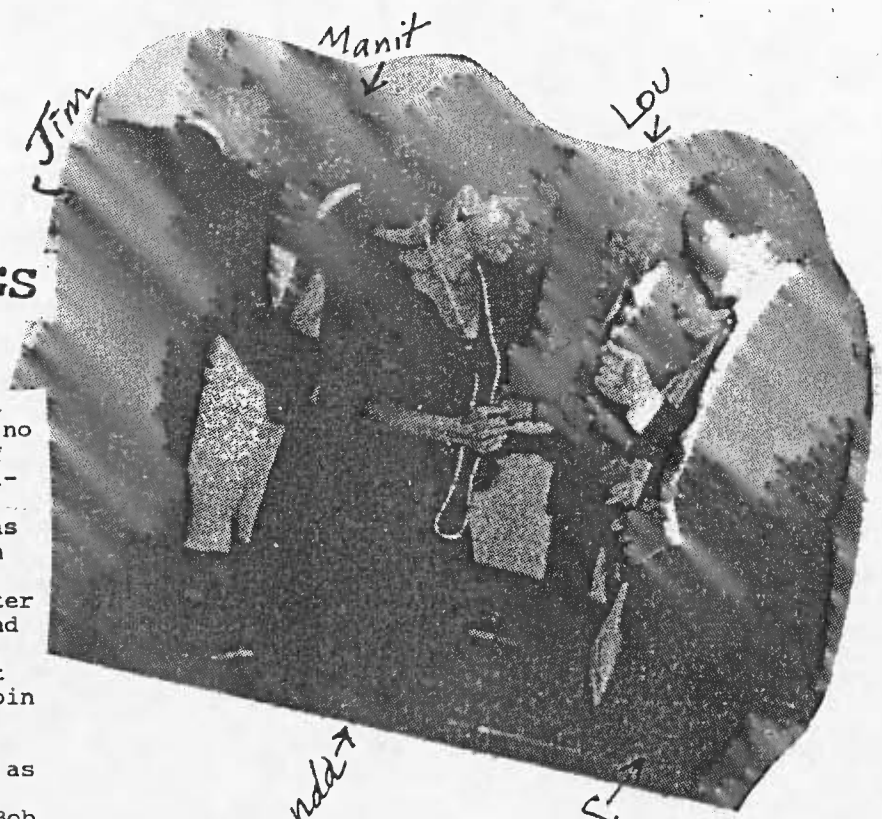
Name: MARTHA DUNN
Started with LACTC: January 1980
Current position: Senior Secretary
Division: Rail Transit Development, 4th flr.
Principal responsibilities: Provide secretarial and word processing support do director of program development; supervise External Affairs, Contracts and Rail Planning secretaries. Act as administrative assistant to Richard Stanger.

Hobbies: Sewing, interior decorating.
Entertainment: Jazz, pop music and entertaining friends and relatives. When time permits, I also enjoy gardening.

Grew up in: Los Angeles, CA
Home life: Live in Lynwood, CA, with my 14-year-old son, Haji, who keeps me on my toes. Thanks to Ginger, Diane and Peter, I've learned to cpe with single-parenting.

Most Interesting Job: Most interesting job was with Programming & Fiscal Analysis -- under the direct supervision of Ginger Gherardi. Through Ginger, Diane Perrine and Peter De Haan, I became familiar with the administrative side of Highway/TSM Programs. ◆

STAFFERS FROLIC AT HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Santa Claus didn't make an appearance at LACTC's holiday party last December 11 but no one was disappointed. There were plenty of entertaining moments to keep the crowd smiling from the start to the finish of the evening. The chicken wasn't rubber, nor was the fish frozen, and the program didn't run overboard. Not bad for a banquet event.

The festively decorated USC Faculty Center was filled with about 120 staff revelers and their spouses (and lone Commissioner Bob White). Even new momma Robin McCarthy left the semi-seclusion of maternity leave to join us with husband Jim.

G&PA's Rick Gomez exploited his little-known past as a radio announcer by serving as the event's MC, awarding door prizes to at least a dozen lucky winners. But why did Bob Minahan present the reactionary women's book, Beyond Women's Lib, to our own I.M. reporter Ann Reeves? "God only knows," said Ann, "and she's not telling."

Rick G. also introduced a talented group of LACTCers who delighted us with Christmas carols, and we were enchanted by Sylvia Bronson's rendition of "Silent Night" and Manit Churanakoses' "White Christmas."

By the way, could you believe how well behaved Rick G. was? His wife Rosa obviously had a calming influence on his usual (not to say constant) boisterous mischievousness. We also heard that one enterprising group was circulating a bottle of bubbly under the table--but we're sure this was just an unfounded rumor.

For many of us, the holiday party is one of the rare opportunities to mingle with people from other departments, and mingle we did. When the DJ started spinning the tunes, partygoers broke loose on the dance floor for four solid hours of gyrating, boogeying, boppin 'n hoppin. In fact, we danced so hard

Yolanda →

Richard S. →



Mingle Bells,

Mingle Bells...

the floor came apart at one point. Leon (a man who REALLY knows how to party) and his handsome sons helped liven up the dancing for some of our single women. If those of us over 35 might have liked a little less disco and a little more of our era's dance tunes ("Heard It Through the Grapevine," etc.), it didn't matter much, since after a few glasses

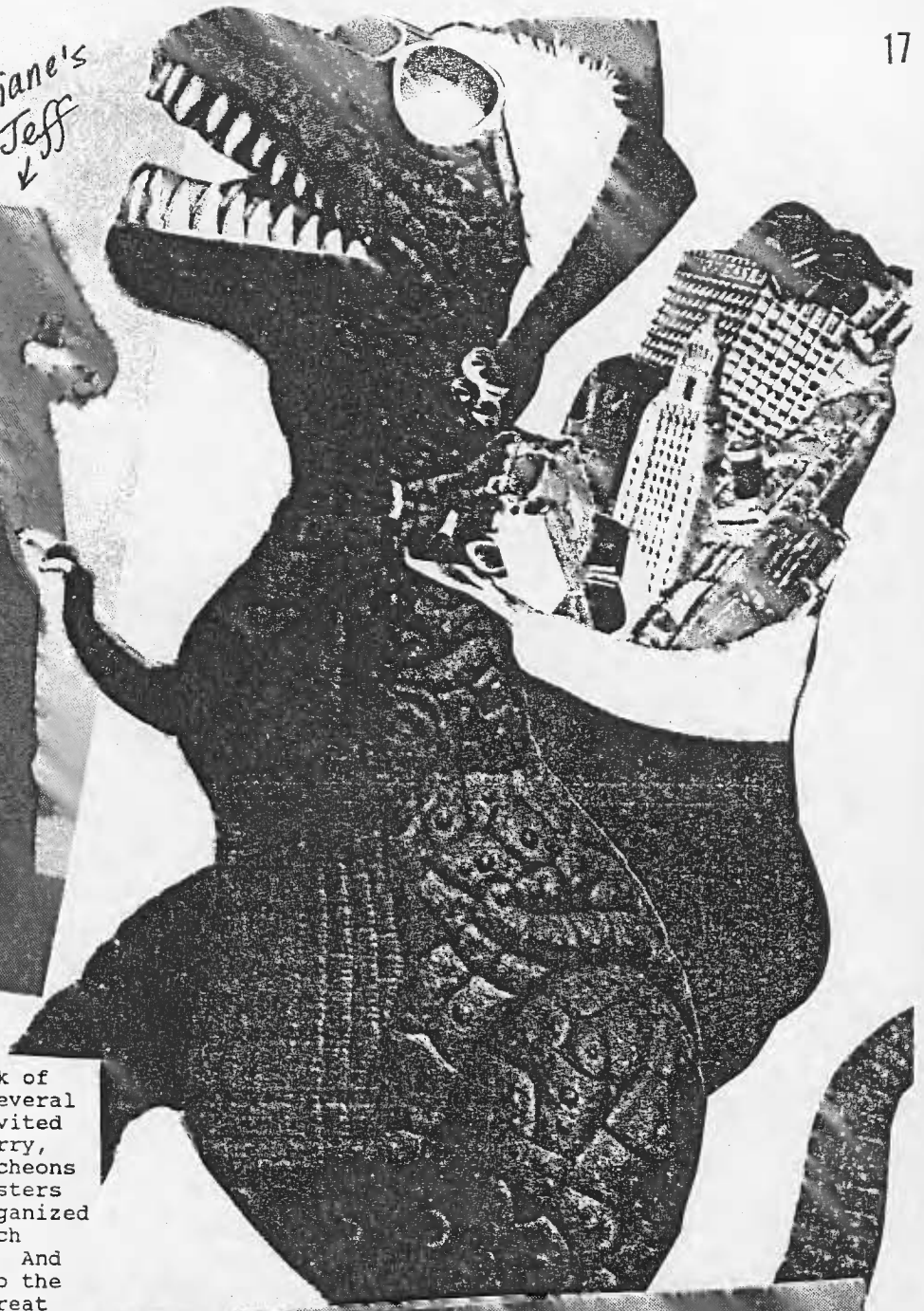


of wine we can dance to anything--right? Everyone looked great in their evening duds, but let's face it, the prize for the best outfit goes to the lady in leopard. Or didn't you notice her? Many thanks to the Sunshine Club Co-Presidents Ilda Licón and Annette Mendoza for organizing the festivities, with help from José Mesa. Bob Minahan helped with prizes and music, and Cindy Kondo once again volunteered her excellent photographic skills to give us all permanent memories of the occasion.



Cindy's Jack

Diane's Jeff



The Christmas party popped the cork of holiday celebrations for LACTCers. Several departments opened their doors and invited everyone to come eat, drink and be merry, while others stole away for quiet luncheons or after-hours drinks. LACTC Toastmasters held a noontime potluck (very well organized by track engineer Susan Braukis), which packed the 6th-floor conference room. And thanks to everyone in contracts and to the gang in the rail division for their great spreads of food and hospitality.

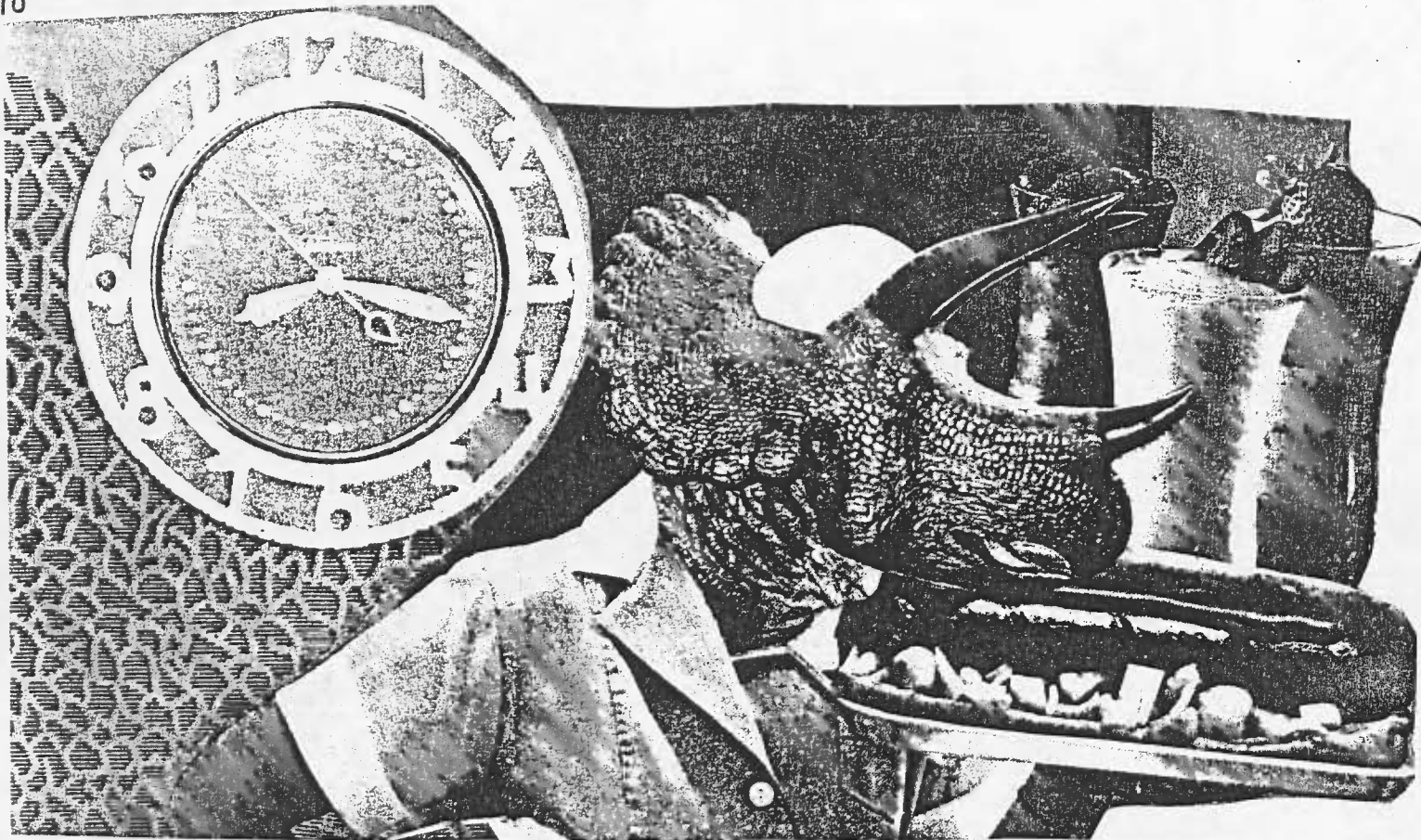
Doesn't it already feel like the holidays are about six months behind us? But s' ve those unsent Christmas cards, because before you know it, the merry season will be on us again. **



Leon's son Perry

Roberta

ANSWER TO SANTA PHOTO QUIZ FROM LAST ISSUE: THERESE HERNANDEZ!



The Unofficial Best in Eating Downtown

The First Annual Buzanis Awards

by Marie Buzanis

Working or living Downtown this year felt like being at the hub of the universe. The world seems to revolve around us. We experienced both the rumblings of the earthquake and the stock market. We lined the streets to welcome the Pope and to herald the Lakers, and then cleared the streets to make way for Metro Rail. We all experienced first-hand what it was like to be at the center of a bustling, growing city that continues to expand its skyline and, at the same time, make room for small merchants.

1987 was also a stellar year for restaurants. As new ones came to town, old standbys continued to thrive and the disasters mercifully closed. I've queried friends, Downtowners and co-workers about their choices for the Best of Downtown restaurants for 1987. Below are their thoughts—everything from a favorite new club to the most inviting outdoor dining spot.

Best Crab Croquettes: The Wave
Best Deluxe Club Sandwiches: Allen's Sandwich Shop

Best Vegetarian Restaurant: Country Life
Best Chicken Bowl: Sushi & Teri
Best Place to Impress Clients: Seventh Street Bistro
Runner Up: Cardini
Best Lamb Dip Sandwich: Phillippe's
Best Tom Yum Koong (spicy shrimp soup): Thai Deli
Best Art Deco Bar: Rex il Ristorante
Best Nicaraguan Picadillo (shredded beef with raisins): Managua Restaurant
Best Designer Doggie Bags: Tokyo Kaikan
Best Outdoor Dining Spot: San Antonio Winery
Best Jazz (and Jambalaya): Bourbon Street Grotto
Best Cheap But Good Quality Buffet: Court Cafe at the Biltmore
Best Cole Slaw (in the world): The Original Pantry
Best Happy Hour: Stepps
Best Place to Get a Beer at 4 p.m.: Al's Bar
Best Rock Music Juke Box: Atomic Cafe
Best Crooners Juke Box: Yee Mee Loo
Best Pancakes: Hilbie's Corner
Best Kung Pao Chicken Outside of Chinatown: First Street Cafe
Best Strawberry Cream Cake: Phoenix Bakery
Best Lunch Buffet: Flower Street Bar
Best Hot Fudge Sundae: Gorky's Cafe
Best Fashion Show: Monet Restaurant at the Cal Mart

Best Dark, Comfortable Bar: Casey's Bar & Grill
Best View of Downtown: The Tower, atop the Transamerica Tower
Best Seafood Salads: Fisherman's Outlet
Best Blue Corn Muffins: Sonora Cafe
Best Backroom Discovery: The Savoy
Best Lahmajunc (meat turnovers): Bijoux Cafe
Best Meditation Room in a Restaurant: Clifton's Silverspoon
Best Zucchini Bread: People's Muffinry
Best Turkey Picatta: The Back Porch at the Sheraton Grande
Best Fresh Fruit Pies: Vickman's
Best Lobster Tacos: Cocola
Best Chicken and Tempura Combo: Suehiro
Best Pizza by the Slice: Lamonica's New York Pizza
Best-Kept Secret: Little J's
Best Garlic Bread: Sam's Italian Kitchen
Best-Known New Downtown Club: Stock Exchange
Best Early Bird Dinner Deal: Marcus Steak House
Best Dim Sum To Go: Grandview Gardens
Best German Draft Beer (Ritterbrau): Cole's P.E. Buffet
Best Gado Gado (salad): Dewi Indonesian

PEOPLE WHO ALMOST MADE IT BIG...BUT NOT QUITE:

by Larry Gallagher

The person who came up with the phrase "Behind the 7 ball."

The person who wrote the script for "Snow White and the six dwarfs."

The person who invented a soft drink and called it "6 UP."

The president who wrote on an envelope "Four score and six-and-a-half years ago...."



THE FIVE DEPARTMENT SONG
 "The days of line and hoses."

THE RUSSIAN WEATHERMAN'S SONG TO HIS WIFE
 "Rudolph the red knows rain, dear."

THE DIAPER SONG
 "I Cover the waterfront."

THE BEACH-GOERS' SONG
 "Red snails in your sunsuit."

-- Larry Gallagher

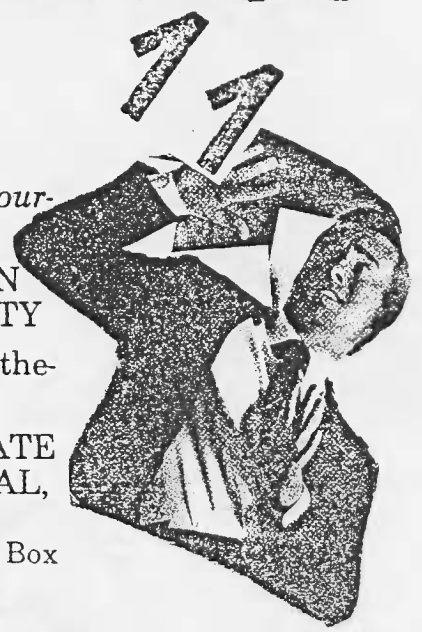
World Ends; Film at

If you enjoy words, you'll probably appreciate these headlines from John C. Quinn, editor of *USA Today*. The headlines describe the end of the world.

- In *The Wall Street Journal*:
 STOCK EXCHANGE HALTS TRADING AS WORLD ENDS
- In *The New York Times*:
 END OF WORLD HITS THIRD WORLD HARDEST
- In *The Washington Post*:
 WORLD ENDS; MAY AFFECT ELECTIONS, SOURCES SAY

- In the *Lawrence (Kan.) Daily Journal World*:
 WORLD ENDS; LARRY BROWN STAYS AT KANSAS UNIVERSITY
- In *USA TODAY* the end-of-the-world headline is:
 WE'RE GONE ... STATE-BY-STATE DEMISE ON 6A ... FINAL, FINAL, FINAL SCORES ON 8C

Source: *The Executive Speaker*, P.O. Box 292437, Dayton, OH 45429.





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 Golfers - Bob Minahan
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 Guest Columnists: Larry Gallagher, Bob Minahan

Is this issue fun or what? (If you like our new look, we'd appreciate hearing from you.)