

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"

Special Commemorative Paul Taylor Issue

Paul Taylor:

A Man of Many Faces



While many of us sit in our cars, at our computers, or at the dinner table, we daydream about what it would be like to be something or somebody else. But here we all are at 403 Eighth Street working for the LACTC. One day, sooner or later, we'll move on to something else, but it may not be the fantasy we see in our daydreams. . .

In a Walter Mitty-like vision, Paul Taylor hears his page: "Dr. Taylor, Dr. Taylor, code blue in critical care unit." If he hadn't become a rail engineer, Paul says he would have liked to have been a doctor. He has all the attributes to make a good one--he's bright, personable, and confident and he has Marcus Welby white hair. But he did become an engineer, and a damn good one at that. However, he doesn't really look like an engineer and even a few engineers agreed with that point.

Inside Moves conducted an informal opinion poll asking random employees this question: *"If Paul Taylor wasn't a rail engineer, what do you think he would be and why?"* Some people had a quick response, while others hemmed and hawed and thought about it for a few minutes. A few said they would have to think about it for awhile and call in their answer, but never did. A couple of people gave me an answer, but then wouldn't let me print it.

Here are the responses:

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Paul Taylor:

A Man of Many Faces



"I can picture him as a high-school teacher or a college professor, but I can't think of any one subject he would teach. He sort of looks and acts like one I suppose. He sort of has that personality about him, one that would get along well with high school or college kids." — Pete DeHaan

"A model. He'd be on the cover of GQ, that's for sure. He's got style and he's distinguished looking. Or he'd be something to go with the color of his hair, a judge maybe, or Santa Claus. — Glenda Hill

"An ambassador, a statesman, a diplomat, because he's good at getting along with people, coalescing them, bringing them together." — Jim Wiley

"A TV news commentator. He's got that look, you know the one." (Jerry Dunphy?) — Ginger Gherardi

"To me he looks like an engineer. He's very methodical, precise, and detailed." — Kathy Torigoe

"A prince. He looks like one." — Tomiko Hirano-Monkawa



"A game show host because he's so flip. He always has a wisecrack to make." — Sharon Neeley

"A politician. He's diplomatic. He always has a good view of the whole problem and includes everyone's interest in that view." — Mario Guzman

"Not a banker, he's not formal enough. A stockbroker maybe. . . aaahhh, that's a tough one. Okay, a stockbroker. He can pass for that." — Rita Vega

"A stand-up comedian. He has good wit." — Kathy Sweet

"A biology teacher. He reminds me of one I had in high school." — Jim Cohen

"A politician. I wouldn't want to say why in public." — Pat McLaughlin

"An amateur womanizer, because he's just that type of guy." — Bob Minahan.

"A priest. He's got a quiet and calm personality." — Kyra Miller

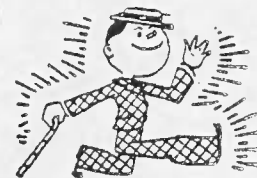
"A college professor. He could have been a good social-science professor. He's a good engineer but he doesn't come across as an engineer. That's a good thing though." — Ed Danesh

"A PR person. He has that kind of chemistry with people." — Art Gomez



"I picture him as a John Steinbeck kinda writer, living in Carmel. . . writing on the beach about. . . hhhmmm, I dunno. . . I'll have to think about it." — Al Scala

"A song and dance man, because his hair is always falling in his eyes." — George Livingstone



"A comedic professor, you know, one of those professors that use humor in their teachings. He uses a lot of humor in his presentations to people." — Naomi Nightingale-Keyes

"I think definitely a closet queen. I think he wears ladies' crotchless underwear." — Lou Hubaud

"A priest. He's a very caring, empathetic individual." — Dick Dominguez.

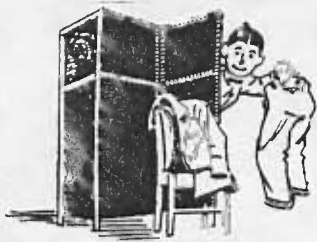
"An auditor, because he just looks like one of those guys. He doesn't look like an engineer." — Cristina Marquez

"A Priest. He understands people and has compassion."
— Ed McSpedon

"A sporting goods manager. I guess because of his personality. He looks like he'd be in that type of sales." — Frank Flores

"A millionaire jetsetter. He should be rich because he likes to travel and he likes different types of food, people, places, and things." — Barbara Norris

"Some kind of diplomat. He always knows how to state his position positively and never really seems to make enemies. He knows how to compromise. He'd either be that or a male strip-tease artist." — Richard Stanger



"A chief executive officer somewhere. He's got that outward appearance, he's knowledgeable, and he's got the right type of communication style." — Harvey Saulter

"A hairdresser. He has a flair about him. He's a little sophisticated, suave, and he can handle everyone's style, even their hair." — Margarita Ortiz

"A cowboy. I see him riding on a range, his range. It would be a 40-, 50-acre spread. He'd be chasing them doggies." — Therese Hernandez

"Because of his fluency in Spanish, he'd probably be selling tamales on a street corner in Oaxaca, Mexico." — Mary Lou Ecternach

"President and CEO of an agricultural combine in Oklahoma. A national rep to the Corn and Wheat Price Support Advisory Committee, a PAC based on his award-winning hayseed Halloween costume." — Steve Lantz

"A politician. I've seen him talking. He probably will be someday." — Arif Motiwala

"I didn't even know he was a rail engineer. But, yeah, he would be some kind of a politician. He has a nice demeanor, his appearance, and the way he interacts with people low on the totem pole. I like it." — Rick Sheffer

"A Hyundai dealership owner. He talks enough to sell cars. Or an Episcopal priest. I know he's Episcopalian and he'd get a kick out of that. Or a high-school Spanish teacher. He looks like my high-school Spanish teacher." — Claudette Moody

"A senator, because he can make quick decisions and is sure of himself. He would be in politics." — Carol Martin

"A politician, because of his overall style, manner of dealing with people and situations." — Sharon Robinson

"A announcer at Sea World, because of his light affability in working with mammals." — Gray Crary

"He would have been an architect. I've seen him in a hard hat. He could fit in. He's got a white shirt and gray pants." — Deana Burton-LaCroix

"The Mr. Planters Peanuts mascot because he has a bowtie and I can see him in a top hat and cane." — Cindy Kondo

"An English aristocrat who would save the fox at the hunt." — Anne Roubideaux

"A golf pro. He's got that kinda steady casualness about him, yet he can take command and give directions in a tactful way." — Brynn Kernaghan

"Director of the Commission. I don't know, that's my two-second thought. Or maybe president of New Day or whatever that stuff is that darkens your hair." — Alan Patashnick

"I would say a comedian. Deep down he has a heck of a sense of humor. I don't see him as a professor or anything else like that." — Jose Mesa

"Maybe a coach, working with college kids." — Maria Porrata

"A talk show host whose public image is a cross between Alan Alda and Phil Donahue." — Erica Goebel

"An actor. He just has an aura about him. . .the looks and personality, I think." — Vicky Lechuga



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"A U.S. Senator, because he's distinguished." — Jerry Givens

"I've always had my own private nickname for him—Cool Breeze, because he seems to walk on his toes and his hair is always flying back. He reminds me of a flower child of the eighties." Pat Simmons

"A make-up consultant, the kind in the better department stores, because he has a style of presenting things in the best possible light." — Susan Brown

"A professional wine taster, because of all the people here at the LACTC besides myself, he loves his vino." — Larry Gallagher

"A preacher. Because of his love for truth and wisdom." —Rick Richmond

Inside moves: "Any advice for Paul in his new position?" R. Richmond: "Take a hit on 13 or below."

Call it women's intuition, a lucky guess, or a good reading of people—three staffers had an inkling of Paul's fancy for the medical profession:

"A doctor. Maybe because of his white hair." — Maria White

"A family doctor. He's someone who would inspire your trust." — Susan Rosales

"Probably a doctor, because it would be a challenge and something new." — Martha Dunn ▲

RT

Inquiring minds want to know ...

PAUL TAYLOR'S OFFICIAL PARTING QUESTIONNAIRE

If you hadn't become a rail engineer, what else would you rather be?

A doctor.



What is your parting advice for:

G&PA — Take time to laugh — that is the music of the soul.

TP&A — Take time to give — the day is too short to be selfish.

Adm. — Take time to think — that is the source of power.

Rail — Take time to play — that is the secret of perpetual youth.



Who were you in high school?

A nerd with thick glasses and a crew cut.



What was the one thing no one ever knew about you while you were at the LACTC?

That I used to be a nerd.

What was the best time you ever had at the LACTC?

Campouts 1,3,4 and 5.

Selecting management team (I hired 16 of the top 25 managers at LACTC — 64%).

The worse?

Campout 2 (ants and heat!).

If you had it to do over again, you would ...

do nothing differently. ▲

The Famous, the Infamous, and the Dead React to Paul's Departure



Diaphanous Being: I am the ghost of decisions past. I haunt the hallways of the future until the present arrives. I'm very happy about Paul's departure—it will give me lots to do.



Gordana Swanson: Paul leaving? I won't cry—I'm still miffed that he didn't fall for my line about how sewing up the money-handlers' pockets would solve the problem of lost revenue.

Alfred Hitchcock: Good evening, friends. The year of wondering is over, and I for one am glad. Those commissioners don't really know how to do interesting suspense, do they?



Mel Gibson: Paul's leaving LACTC? Well, at least he's not going into acting—he'd be tough competition.

Michael Landon: Paul's exiting LACTC? That gives me a great idea for a new TV show: "Highway to Trouble." A series of disasters rocks the local transportation scene after Paul goes. I can play an angel who swoops in to save the day—each time at the last minute. Now that's high concept!



Alan Pegg: Thank God he's going! He looked so much better in a hard-hat than I do!

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Michael Jackson: I kept telling Paul he should jazz up his image—get a nose and chin job like I did, or at least wear some sequins or one white glove. You've got to be memorable!

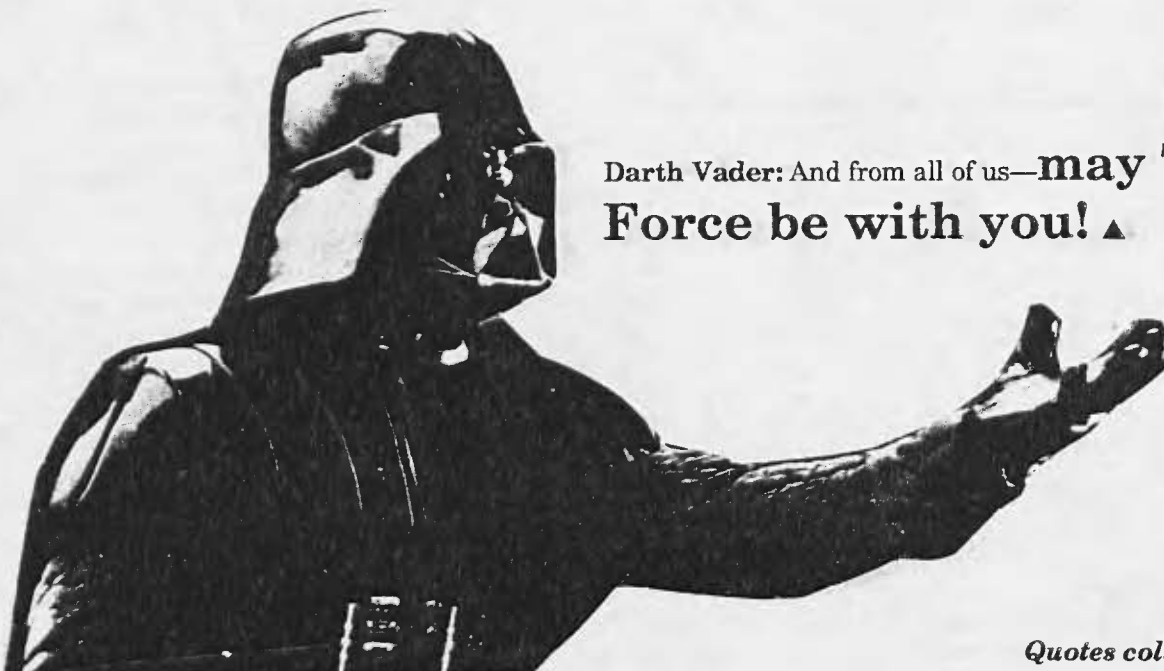
Natalie Wood: The social event of the season—Paul's farewell party! If only I were still alive, I'd be a smash in this hat!



Mayor Bradley: You're asking me for a spontaneous reaction? After all these years as the Big Cheese of local politics? Be real.



Anonymous rail-line construction worker: Paul's LEAVING??? Aauurrrgghhh!!!



Darth Vader: And from all of us—**may The Force be with you! ▲**

Quotes collected by Ann Reeves



ON BOARD



A lot of L.A.'s home-team spirit must originate on our 5th floor with accounting technician **RICK SHEFFER**. During major playoffs, we've seen Rick decked in Dodger Blue, laced in Laker purple, and trimmed in Ram gold. Sports enthusiast Rick became a permanent employee in August after being on contract here for 10 1/2 months. His skeptical eye sweeps your monthly travel, mileage, and expense reports, so don't try and take him to lunch with your LACTC gold card. He does a variety of other accounting duties and procedures. Born on a cow farm in Caso City, Michigan, Rick's family moved to Azusa, CA, when he was 14. He now lives in the quiet foothills of Montrose/Glendale where he says "the deer and the coyotes play, but not together." Rick's favorite movie is "Brazil," he enjoys written works by Howard Rosenberg, and would take a ticket to Kauai any day.

Contrary to popular belief, some people are raised in California—they don't just move here from New Jersey or Kansas. **CHRISTINA "TINA" MARQUEZ** grew up, went to school, and now lives in Alhambra. It's a nice little suburb, a good place for her to raise her two sons, Michael, age 12, and Russell, 15 months. Tina is the new secretary to the Government Relations Department, working with Claudette Moody, Mary Lou Ecternach, and Brynn Kernagan on the 5th floor. She gave eight years to the L.A. County district attorney's office. She enjoys skiing and camping.

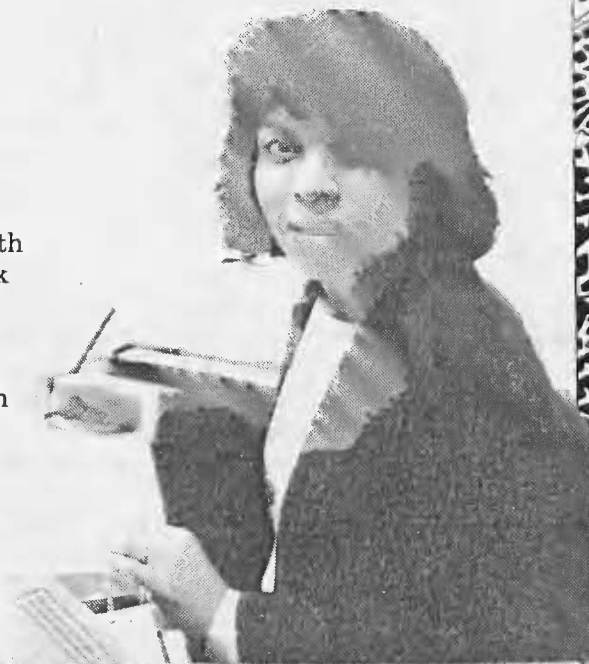


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Will the real Ann R. please stand up. The Communications Department now has two Ann Rs. The new one is senior graphic artist **ANNE ROUBIDEAUX**, with an "e" at the end. (Our other one is Public Affairs Officer Ann Reeves.) The former is in charge of scheduling, design and production of graphics on things like newsletters, brochures, charts, and maps. Anne is bringing her knowledge of computer graphics to LACTC, saving us tons of money on typesetting, and will soon be saving us from clip-out art like this newsletter's. Anne just moved to Hollywood from San Francisco where she was the art director at Charles Schwab. Before that she lived a while in Manhattan. Originally she is from Austin, Texas, where she grew up and earned her Masters in Fine Arts from the university there. Her favorite quote should help her to survive her stint here at the LACTC—"A casual stroll through a lunatic asylum shows that faith does not prove anything."—Nietzche. Her secret ambition is to be Queen of the Zombies, she vacations at the volcano, can sit through many reruns of Dr. Strangelove, and enjoys automotive work in her spare time.



Don't look now, but here's another transplanted RTDer who's now an LACTCer: **LUPE VALDEZ** is the new public affairs officer working with Steve Lantz on the fifth floor. She'll be responsible for community relations work on the Metro Rail, commuter rail, and San Fernando Valley projects. She's a local from Lincoln Heights, and now lives in Montebello. Her B.A. in psychology and Spanish literature and Masters in public administration was earned at USC. Lupe's secret ambition is to fly a plane, hang-glide or parachute. Here's a clue to the fact that she grew up in the 70's sitcom era: a favorite pastime is watching reruns of the Adams Family, Munsters, and Gilligans Island. Our next highway study should address her pet peeve: People who attempt to back into parking spaces on busy streets during peak rush hour.



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Another one of those people who is now a legal LACTCer after a stint of being on contract is **PAT FRANKS**. Pat became our official records manager assistant on July 25th. Your files are in her hands. She microfiches them and then buries them in the desert somewhere. But that's okay because one of her other responsibilities is to retrieve documents. Pat worked for Priority Air Express, is a town local still living somewhere in town locally, and shares her place with a pet fish. And to prove that there's a club for everyone who does anything, she's a member of the Greater L.A. Chapter of Records Managers Association. Her quote on life is from Philipians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me."



HERMAN S. J. CHENG became a permanent employee last fall after working with us as a consultant since July 1986. He's now an official LACTC real estate development analyst in the Program Development Division on the fourth floor. Herman grew up in Taipei, Tokyo, and Los Angeles. He received his Bachelor of Engineering degree from the Tokyo Institute of Technology and later was a planning analyst with KMG Architects and Engineers in Tokyo. His M.A. in geography and urban analysis is from UCLA. He now lives with his family in Hacienda Heights. Some of his favorites include Woody Allen, Barbara Streisand, Japanese and Chinese food, and vacations in Nippon, South Eastern Asia, and Oceania.

Call him **SONNY**. But his real name is **ANASTASIO CABRALES** and he's the new assistant project accountant in Finance & Administration, charged with processing contractors' invoices. He comes to us from the RTD. He grew up in Manila and received both his B.A. and M.A. in his native country. Sonny and his wife have an old-fashioned family of four children ranging in ages from eight to 14. They reside in Monterey Park. When Sonny has spare time, he's an avid golfer and his secret ambition is to beat both Greg Norman and Jack Nicklaus in a round of golf. He enjoys current events, word games, classical music and Frances Coppola movies. He hates long drives, noise, and Mondays, which means that the best time not to stop in and say hello to him would be right after his commute at the start of each week.



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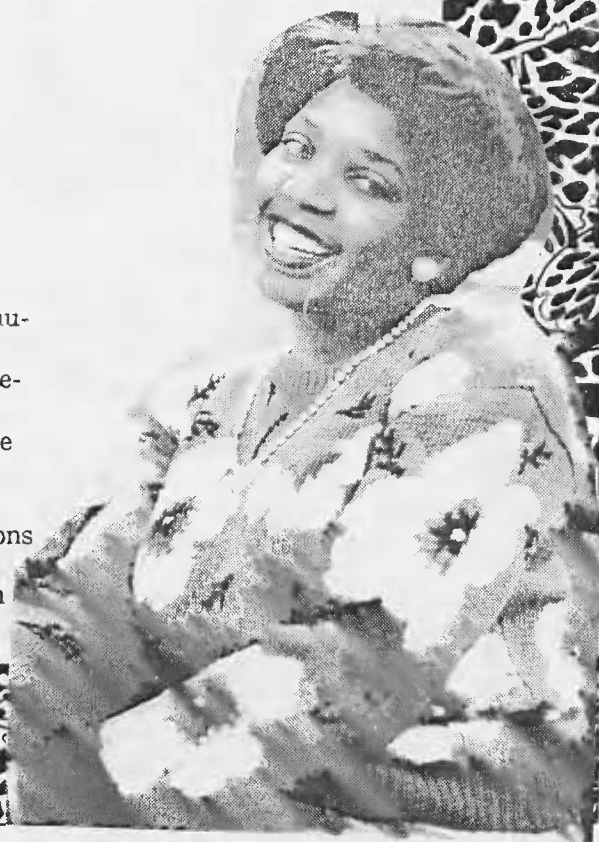


Don't tell anybody, but **FRANCENE JOE** was hired "to help Deana Burton keep her sanity." If that's really the case, then we all could use an extra hand. Francene is an office assistant with the 7th floor Community Relations group. She's working on the school safety program and the Transportation Occupations Program. I'm sure she can tell us a lot of juicy stories about her last job as a personal expense-account clerk for Union Bank executives. (Maybe she should write this rag.) Francene and her roommate pay their rent in Monterey Park. She's a margarita and Patsy Cline fan, which gives her 10 points in my book. Her favorite movie is "The Godfather" and her dream vacation would be to someday see the great pyramids of Egypt.



Our Community Relations Department is growing. **BEATRICE LEE** joined the 7th-floor group in September, filling a new position. She'll be assisting Naomi Nightingale with the Transportation Occupations Program for teenagers and the school safety program for elementary and junior-high students, among other tasks. Bea has worked in education as a business instructor at Abram Friedman Occupational Center, working with teens in a vocational program. She's an aerobics enthusiast, enjoys reading, studying the Bible, and being active in her church's activities. Her favorites are Mexican food, Stephen King novels, and the movie "Lady Sings the Blues." Her quote: "Oh, what a wicked web we weave when first we practice to deceive."

Working on the railroad, or at least with the community near the LB-LA rail transit line, is **TORRI HILL-WILLIAMS**. Torri became a permanent Community Relations public affairs officer as of July 1988. When she isn't at her post on the 7th floor, she can be found in the mid-corridor field office where she acts as a liaison between the construction crews and the residents and business owners in the area. Her B.A. in communications is from CSU Dominguez Hills. She and her husband Keith are raising their three-year-old daughter Nicole in Hawthorne.



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ON BOARD

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The Contracts Department grew in August when it hired on clerical assistant **DENISE KEATON-SMITH** or "Necy" as she prefers to be called. Necy comes to us from the Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation, where she worked as a document controller for vehicle merchandising. She is a native of Gardena, CA, and spent her college years testing out majors and earning scattered credits in psychology, finance, business administration, and computer science. She and her husband Mark are raising their three "monsters" here in Los Angeles. When she isn't working on her needlecraft or sewing projects, she can be found ushering her children to ballet practice or Boy Scout meetings. This is true: she is a member of the Official Parents of Young Ballet Dancers, Inc. Her pet peeve is people who chit-chat about the obvious, i.e.,

"You're in the breakroom with a cheeseburger crammed into your mouth, and someone walks in and says, 'Oh, I see your eating a cheeseburger.'"

There's a rumor going around that we're stealing all the good people from RTD. One of them is **JIM SOWEL**, the new senior rail development planner in the Transit Development Division on the fourth floor. He'll be doing what planners do—planning for Metro Rail extensions. He says he'll take on organizing a Friday "lunch bunch." Now I.M. knows who the social bug of the fourth floor is. Jim is from Clinton, Kentucky. He received an M.S. in systems Management from USC. He lives "behind the Orange Curtain" with his wife and a cat named Bubba which owns them. His two grown children have flown the coop. Jim climbed Mt. Whitney in 1988. Besides hiking, he enjoys camping, fishing, skiing, and ethnic food. Many of us will agree with his favorite quote: "It takes a long time to become young."

ELLEN BLACKMAN wrote quite an impressive, lengthy response to our questionnaire. Space, time, and the power of the editor limits I.M. from printing her full message. Ellen came on board in January as a transportation analyst on the sixth floor in Transportation Programs and Analysis. Her last two jobs were her most interesting. She worked on transportation projects with seven regional centers for the developmentally disabled, and then worked for the Lanterman Regional Center. She was born in Chicago, grew up in North Hollywood, and now lives in Culver City near the Fox Hills Mall—her mall. Her big dream is to win a million dollars from Publishers Clearinghouse and her down-to-earth dream is to buy a computer or take another trip to Israel (her favorite vacation spot). She enjoys all food, Robert Ludlum, folk music, musicals, and northern California.



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—Public Affairs Officer JOHN HIGGINS has been recognized with a certificate of appreciation by the City of Garden Grove. John works in Robin McCarthy's Community Relations Section, and he's usually out in the field keeping folks near our construction sites happy.

—Last fall, Manager of Transportation Programs PAT McLAUGHLIN was invited to speak at the Dallas Suburban Mobility Seminar to advise the 25-member Dallas Area Rapid Transit board and staff, and suburban cities, on the role of cities in public transportation. Pat's comment: "With 85 cities in this county, I guess they got the idea we knew something about them." Pat heads up the section that helps those 85 cities spend their share of Prop. A money for various public-transit projects of their choice.

—Manager of Transportation Programs SHARON NEELY, who heads up our bunch of bus experts on the sixth floor, has been chosen as APTA's new Policy & Planning chairperson. She will serve a two-year term.

—Pandick's reproduction supervisor, JOE PARISE, has been awarded a plaque from his grateful bosses, honoring him as "Outstanding Site Manager, FY 1988 - 4th Quarter." Joe does a great job making sure all our xeroxing gets done down on the second floor.

—Director of Design and Construction EDWARD McSPEDON spoke on future opportunities in rail transit construction, at a construction contractors' seminar in November co-sponsored by LACTC and RTD. That's what happens when you're both articulate and personable, Ed.

—Write on: Public Affairs Officer ANN REEVES of the Communications/Graphics Section (and one of our Inside Moves editors) has two articles coming out soon: "Yes! You CAN Get Organized" will appear in the February issue of **Communication World** magazine, and "Time Management for Working Moms" will appear in the March issue of **L.A. Parent**. "Now I only have \$1,880 to go to pay for my \$2,000 custom-built p.c.," says Ann.

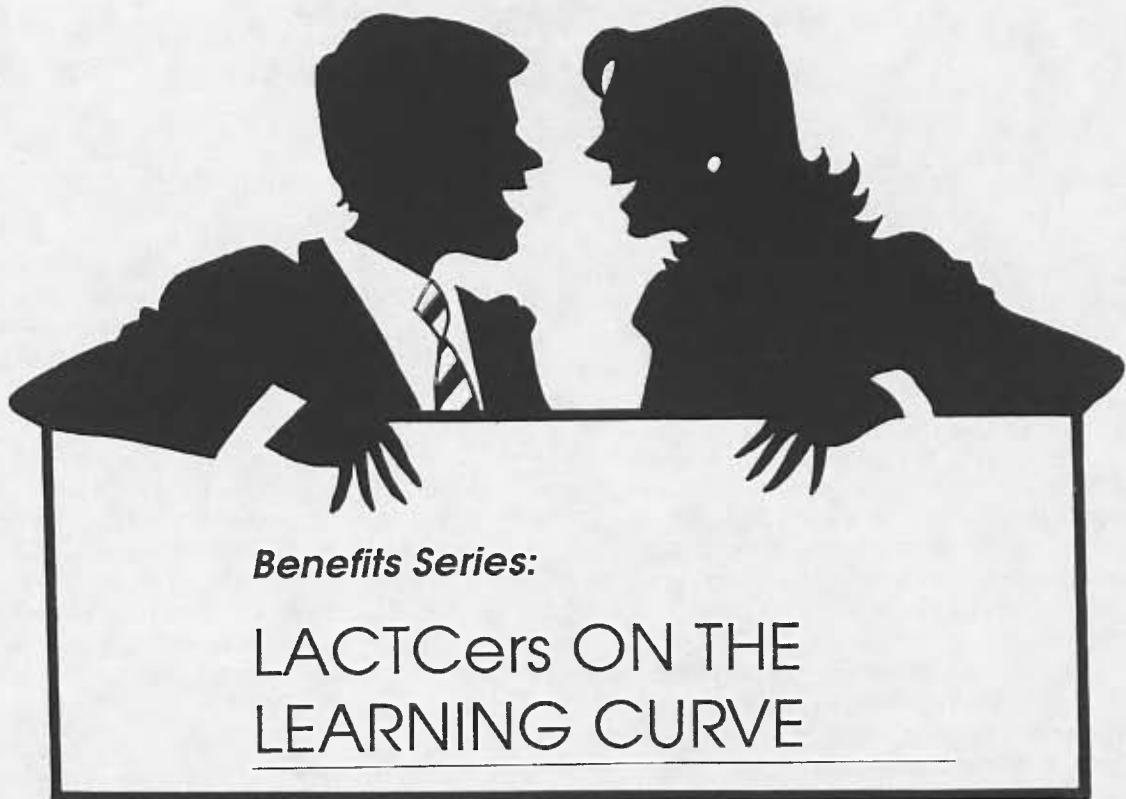
—How's this for prestigious? Real Estate Office BOB FLYNN (the one who takes all those great celebrity photos) is listed in Who's Who in American Law AND Who's Who in California.



—**Miscellaneous Strokes Department:** Boss Richard Stanger would like us to acknowledge Senior Rail Development Planner FRANK FLORES for all his hard work last fall on the Metro Rail Phase II and Phase III grant applications; boss Claudette Moody wants both her Public Affairs Officers MARY LOU ECHTERNACH and BRYNN KERNAGHAN and her Secretary TINA MARQUEZ to get praised in print for their efforts to obtain a veto on Senate bill 2111 and for their activities on behalf of our takeover as Metro Rail grantee for Phase II, also last fall; and Rail Division Secretary Carol Martin wants another stroke to go to FRANK FLORES for reducing secretarial stress with light-hearted one-liners, such as his reminder that "Typing fingers are happy fingers." Of such moments are job satisfaction born. ▲

TURN IN YOUR ITEMS FOR THIS COLUMN TO ROBERTA OR ANN IN COMMUNICATIONS. WE PERIODICALLY SEND AROUND A FORM, BUT IT'S NOT REQUIRED.





The following is part of a continuing series of information on our employee benefits.

Do you sometimes feel like your duties in life are forcing you to be a BIONIC man or woman? You're counted on to be the expert at your job, a spouse, a parent or friend at home, and maybe a member of a church, athletic team or club. How can you give your best to all you do? Here's one idea: You can learn to manage time, reduce stress, and improve your job skills by participating in classes or seminars. As long as you're breathing, you're learning, but only you can take the initiative to enhance the learning process by going to classes.

The commission supports employees' development in three ways: college tuition, training fees, and membership dues to professional associations.

Everyone at LACTC is allotted 400 **tuition** dollars for classes pertaining to the job he/she now performs or toward the completion of a college degree or certificate related to his/her position. These conditions leave the door open to a lot of disciplines that may be related to your job; for instance, presentation skills, business writing, or computer programming.

Tamiko Hirano-Monkawa has already received her certificate in computer programming, but continues to take advanced courses at Cal State L.A. "The technology changes all the time," said the Finance and Administration secretary, who spends most of her Saturdays in classrooms. "LACTC helps me to expand my training."

LACTC's tuition assistance was part of the incentive for Therese Hernandez to return to school after a three-year lapse. Therese, a Community Relations secretary, said the \$400-tuition allotment pays for books and a small registration fee at a local community college. "This benefit gives all of us a chance to explore career options. We're all professional in what we do, and this agency gives us the opportunity to enhance our knowledge."

The **training** fee offers us an alternate way of polishing our skills. "This fee covers workshops, conferences, or seminars in a specialized subject," explained Personnel Officer Jose Mesa. "Again, the topic should be work-related and approved by your manager and/or division head."

"You should always take advantage of education," believes Kyra Miller in Transit Development. "There's a lot of **good seminars out there** and you can always learn something." Kyra, has participated in everything from

writing and speaking workshops to a "parent in the workplace" seminar.

"Training fees can range anywhere from \$35 to \$500 depending on how many days it is and what organization is putting it on," said Mesa. Our LACTC Toastmaster fees come out of the training account. About 25 commission employees are improving their public speaking skills through the club's communications and leadership program.



DID YOU KNOW?

That's not a garage sale on the 3rd floor. It's Bob Minahan's office. But maybe it should be a flea market. He's pack-ratted a host of offbeat collectables including a real German railroad lantern, a loaded gumball machine with stale gums, a neon clock, a skull hologram, a brass bin of green and red apples, a plaster wall trophy, and framed business cards of the great CEOs (Henry Ford, Benjamin Franklin, John D. Rockefeller, Howard Hughes, and of course Robert J. Minahan.) Everyone's eyeball can't help but get caught on the psychedelic wall mural, a kind of melted orange and black wax painting. Hey, I'll give him five bucks for the whole lot.

Mary Lou Echternach in Government Relations wins first prize for the best office toys. Most people adorn their walls with framed certificates—not Mary Lou. Plastic animal noses dangle above her bookcase. A caption reads: "If you want to stick you nose in my business, at least be creative." On any given day, Mary Lou has been known to don an elephant trunk, a bird beak, or a pig snout. When Brynn Kernaghan, her office mate, is taking a flex, Mary Lou is kept company by a talking Pee Wee Herman. Every now and then Pee Wee steps out to have lunch with Therese Hernandez. "He's my kinda guy," says a starry-eyed Therese. "He only speaks when you pull the string." Other award-winning toys: a basket filled with various whistles, a yoyo, a blue plastic bear that spouts bubbles, vegetable beanbags, and a real alligator's shrunken head.

Other bulletin boards are less eclectic, but still sport a few notables. Al Scala keeps his Travis button nearby. Travis, the animated owl that teaches children safety rules to follow during our construction, lives by this slogan: "Safety for Who? Safety for You." Al says it's the



perfect pin to wear to singles bars. (Al, what are YOU doing in singles bars?) Speaking of safety slogans, we hear that Chicago's rail system was asked to install machines that provide condoms as well as tickets. We suggest this ad line: "Goiinnng alllllll the wayyy? We get you there safely."

Steve Lantz is a conscientious traveler. He tries to carpool or take the bus on his commutes into town. One evening Claudette Moody offered several Westsiders a ride home. Steve bypassed the RTD in favor of her invitation. When he got home, his car wasn't in his driveway and he hesitated to get out of Claudette's car. "Was your car stolen, Steve?" asked a fellow passenger. No, it was sitting in a downtown lot. Steve had driven in that day.

Rick Gomez, Steve's former staff member, visited us a few days after his going-away party (see Moving On section.) Rick had been shopping with the gift certificate we presented him to the Sharper Image, the yuppie toy store that's stocked with everything you'll find at a garage sale in 1995. Did Rick buy a cool globe lamp? Noooo. Did he buy an ultra-groove digital clock? Noooo. Did he buy the executive office golf set? Noooo. He squandered the bucks on a plastic duck phone! I guess he's planning on making a lot of quack calls. (boooooooo)

Rick's replacement, Paula Willins, has quickly jumped into community relations work, even on the weekends. While Paula was doing a little shopping at the mall, she overheard a customer ask a clerk "Where's the subway?" The clerk said "There's no subway here." Paula, never missing an opportunity to educate the public, jumped in and said "It's still under construction and will open in a few years." The shopper was looking for the Subway Sandwich Shop.

Speaking of sandwiches, Bob Sanders eats a peanut-butter and jelly sandwich 363 days of the year for lunch and has been doing so for fortysomething years. He gives up his PBJ habit on December 25 and 26 for Christmas dinner and then has the leftovers. Every now and then his department coworkers will drag him out to a restaurant for lunch. What does he order? A sandwich, usually roast beef. And do they taste as good as his PBJs? Sure, but that's because Cindy Kondo picks up the tab.

Wishing you all a new year as sweet and simple as Bob's lunch. . .

continued on next page



LACTCers ON THE LEARNING CURVE

DID YOU KNOW?

P.S. notes from the red-eye-alert file: People who have fallen asleep with their contact lenses on— Kay Cooley, Cristina, Margarita and Brynn.

Quotes: "Contract lawyers are the proctologists of the law field."—Al Scala

"I own two credit cards. One is for vacation money and the other is for reality. The reality card isn't used too often. The vacation card is just about paid off when it's time to take another." — Steve Lantz

Best kept secret: The third floor has a Friday bagel club. \$13 gets you a fresh bagel every Friday of the year. You can choose from an assortment of raisen, onion, egg, etc. Ask Kyra.

From the talented offspring file: Judy Norman's young daughter is an actress who has done commercials and pilot programs for TV. One day we'll be able to say we knew her mother way back when.

Mario Guzman's daughter, a member of the Juilliard Chamber Orchestra, recently had a flute recital at the Lincoln Center in New York.



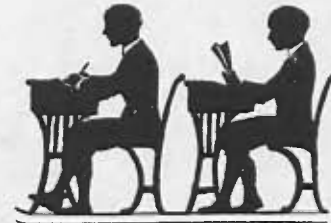
From the new offspring file: People who are being woken up by middle-of-the-night feedings include new daddys Richard DeRock in Local Assistance and Joe Parise in the Copy Center; dads that have been broken in—Arif Motiwala in Finance and Ray Maekawa in Fiscal Analysis; and moms-again Barbara Gatewood in Contracts and Laura McNamara in Highways. Waiting for her her first arrival is Nalini Ahuja in Transit. ▲

Your I.M. snoop reporter, R.T.

Many of us are members of associations—groups that keep us current on our professions. Most associations meet once a month, sponsor an annual conference, and publish professional journals or newsletters. LACTC pays up to \$75 of our membership dues for professional associations. "Going to the meetings gives you an opportunity to exchange ideas and problems with people who are performing similar job tasks that you are," stated Mesa who belongs to the Southern California Personnel Managers Association. "We also get to listen to and meet some of the leaders in the business."

Ann Reeves belongs to the International Association of Business Communicators. "Because LACTC pays about half of my yearly membership dues, I feel I can afford to belong. I get a lot out of being an active member and participating in the group's activities," she said.

"A good majority of us use these benefits," according to Mesa. "A lot of times it's difficult to work full-time and take a three or four unit class or attend a weekend seminar, but if you're motivated and ambitious, LACTC offers the ways and means to be more effective on the job and in your life."▲ RT



Smiles from the Sixth Floor: L-R, Nalini Ahuja, Elyse Kusunoki, Judith Norman.

AROUND THE FILM WORLD



MINI MOVIE REVIEWS

by
Claudette Moody

Working Girl (B+)

Listen, don't try to read any deep meaning into this film. It's a fairy tale and a pleasant one at that. Melanie Griffith finally is getting some recognition with this one and Harrison Ford takes a nice break from action pictures. Yeah, she lies and cheats to make it to the top, but she comes clean in the end. Enjoy the pretty pictures.

Accidental Tourist (A-)

I liked this movie despite myself. I really cannot stand William Hurt, but he is perfect for this part. The film is very good, almost European in flavor and tempo. Geena Davis is wonderful as Murial Pritchett. It's an interesting and fun character study of how opposites not only attract but can be essential to happiness.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (C+)

I only give this film a C+ because I love Michael Caine. I like Steve Martin too, but his talent is wasted in this one. Caine is always wonderful, no matter how bad the flick. Renting is the way to go with DRS.

Naked Gun (Movie-making—B/Enjoyment Factor—A-)

This is a silly romp, with obvious gags and over-acting on all parts. So? Who cares? It ain't suppose to be art. This is a funny movie. Leslie Nielsen parody's all the tough guy cops you've ever seen on film and Priscilla Presley is actually quite good. I used to watch the T.V. show too, so maybe I'm biased, but I had a good time with this salute to slapstick comedy.

Mississippi Burning (A-)

I am one of those who think that Gene Hackman can do no wrong. He is at his best in this movie. Definite Oscar material. The film is flawed in many respects, one of which is by fictionalizing (thus, trivializing) a real American tragedy. I don't mind having the civil rights story told from a "white" point of view as long as other movies tell the struggle from the viewpoint of the people who really experienced it. To not share the black experience of civil rights on film is like telling the story of the Holocaust with Jews as background characters. The problem may have been that the director is British and really only heard about the struggle from white newscasters. One good thing to note is that now other movies are in the works.

And, *Mississippi Burning* is still a good movie. Hackman's performance is awesome and worth a full price admission.

Rainman (A)

Dustin Hoffman's performance in *Rainman* is Hackman's only real Oscar competition. Hoffman is fantastic as Raymond, the savant with a penchant for numbers. Surprisingly, (for me at least) Tom Cruise turns in a fine performance as Raymond's no account brother. As a friend of mine observed, Cruise may be one of those actors who rises (or dips) to the level of his co-stars. Whatever the case, both actors are strong and the story is moving. Go see it.

Beaches (B+)

This movie is terribly manipulative at the end, and of course, I cried my eyes out. Women could really relate to this story of the ups and downs of a friendship. I'm not so sure about men, but you never know. Bette is great and sings up a storm. Barbara Hershey? Well, I kept looking at her lips (puffed up surgically for the part), but if men think the story is too sappy, there is a lot more of Barbara to look at. You could probably rent this one and watch it with your best friend, or at least have her phone number handy so you can call her when its over.

Little Dorrit (A+)

If you dreaded reading David Copperfield and thought Tale of Two Cities tedious in high school, this is not the movie for you. I like the characters, the atmosphere and the politics of Charles Dicken's novels, so I had to see it. This six-hour Dicken's love fest is really two movies of the same events told from two points of view. (Note: you have to pay twice, so go on separate days.) At first I noticed some technical difficulties; but then, the story and even more the point the acting, drew me into 19th Century London. Every working British theatre actor must have had a part in this flick (except that Olivier was sick during filming) and believe me the rigorous training they experience as English actors is evident in every scene. The Greeks invented it, the Americans give it an energy and intensity, but the British make acting an art. If you're a Dicken's fan or an acting buff, take six hours out of your busy life and check this out.

Dangerous Liaisons (B+)

This film is also not for everyone. It starts out like a farce of some nasty people, but ends up to be a morality play. Sort of a commentary on the phrase "what goes around, comes around." If you can get past Malcovich's Chicago accent coming out of a powered head, the acting is terrific. There are lots of words and not a lot of action, so expect an intellectual experience.

continued on next page



MINI MOVIE REVIEWS

continued

(I wrote the following about four months ago, so many of these movies have bit the dust. Check you favorite video rental store if any interest you.)

Sweethearts Dance (B)

This would have been a nice TV movie of the week. There is some lively male/female relationship dialog and the movie offers a good look at healthy (as opposed to unhealthy) male bonding. Not great, but pleasant enough. Try renting it on a rainy afternoon.

Bird (B+) Movie—A/Music—C

I love jazz, so this movie was a must for me. I liked the film noir feel to it, but there were way too many flashbacks. At one point there was a flashback within a flashback. It got kind of confusing. Ah, but the music is wonderful. And the performances of Forrest Whitaker and Diane Venora are Oscar quality. Clint (Eastwood) also does a very good job of showing the destructive nature of drugs on creativity, on family, on life itself. Despite the nature of the story, I would take older children to see it just because of that theme.

Punchline (B+)

I was pleasantly surprised by this flick. Sally Fields is perfect as the very funny, less than professional housewife. Tom Hank's character is somewhat obnoxious, but if you've ever seen Robin Williams interviewed in the company of other comedians, you know his portrayal is right on. The ending is rather sugary, but all and all, the movie is a nice diversion.

Crossing Delancy (B+)

This movie doesn't have the production value of "Moonstruck," but I think it captures the single woman situation a lot better than the Cher"ized" version of the same theme. I liked the little slice of modern-day Judaism in the movie. It really subtly details the conflict involved for those seeking "success" in the greater world and the importance of holding on to heritage.

Bagdad Cafe (A)

This film has been out a while. It is a real charmer, though. You could call it a "woman's film" that appeals to men. Look for showings in the paper. It's worth the hunt. (Note: it's by a German director, so it's a little different, but variety is the spice of life, right?)

Imagine (A-)

Hey, what can I say? I've always loved the Beatles. (Paul was my fav.) This movie is truly a tribute from people who loved John. I can't fault Ono for that. I'm sure the real John Lennon is somewhere in between the guy in "Imagine" and the ogre in Goldman's book. It is still great to hear his voice, to see the old Beatles films and to reminisce about my childhood.

Clara's Heart (B)

This is Whoopi's best performance to date. (I felt The Color Purple was too sentimental and manipulative — black folk according to the Spielberg Gospel.) This film is just sweet enough without being overly syrupy. I didn't expect much, and there is not much there. Nevertheless, I was rooting for Clara and her charge by the middle of the flick. Another "renter" for the whole family.

Track 29 (C+) Blackhumor—B/Violence—C-

Now, this is a weird one. Roeg (director) is weird, his wife, Theresa Russell (the star) is weird, and Gary Oldman is beyond weird. This is a jet black comedy, with some hilarious scenes of train nuts in action. There is violence (or perceived violence), there is sex (of a fashion), and there is a strange ending. For adult film buffs only.

Young Guns (C+)

I love westerns. This is the closest Hollywood has gotten to a western since "Silverado." The history is screwed, but Esteves got Billy the Kid's mental illness down pat (rebel with a persecution complex). Unless you're a 14 year old with a crush on one of brat pack boys ("oh, he's soooo cute), rent "Red River" if you want a good psychological western.

Running on Empty (B-)

Well, the politics are correct (depending on your point of view), but the execution is less than sharp. That's surprising, considering Sidney Lumet is such an experienced director. If you are a child of the sixties, you may like this movie. If not, skip it and see "Imagine."

Madame Sousatzka (B+) MacLaine—A-/Film—B

Shirley is good, but the story is really slight. I guess if you had a dictatorial piano teacher you could empathize. I saw her at the Women in Film presentation of this movie. She is much prettier in person and her legs are to die for. This movie is not to die for, but it's ok. ▲



No One Gets Trashed at Annual Bash

GOOD, CLEAN FUN AT HOLIDAY PARTY

The true holiday spirit came shining through when about 60 people drove through the hard-hitting rain to celebrate the season at the annual holiday party. Once there, everyone realized the trek was well worth the effort. The food was good, the music was great, and of course the company was swell.

Norm Jester's son, Norm Jr., has a DJ service called Dance Beat Productions. He spun a variety of tunes that got just about everybody out on the dance floor. Bev and Bob Broumand broke the dance floor ice and started the shaking. Steve Lantz was shocked that his wife Terry, a non-dancer, even got up. And who could say no to 'ole blue-eyes, Mario Guzman? Dick Bennett and George Trnka were the dime-a-dance duo, providing their partnership to a table of single ladies. But the one that showed us all up was Naomi Nightingale. That woman can move.



The prom-king prize goes to Norm Sr. who came decked in a black tuxedo. The party-poop prize goes to the 12 people who bought tickets and didn't show. And the gold star goes to Margarita Ortiz for picking up the ball to organize the party after Rick Gomez left. Since we don't have a Sunshine Club anymore, it was really nice of her to do all that work. Let's eggnog her on to do it again in '89. ▲

LATE BREAKING SUMMER REPORT; 6th ANNUAL WEEKEND CAMPOUT

Although the weekend wasn't as wild 'n crazy as last year's event, the 21 campers enjoyed a relaxing weekend. It started with my sidekick, Jack, arriving two hours late with a flat tire, followed by Bob "wienie man" Minahan and his busted water hose. Paul Taylor won the tequila shooter contest and felt no pain til Sunday morning. Minahan and Al Scala's wife, Mary, trailed PCT with a Jack Daniels and seven shooter blast, moving right along to pure fire Stingers. Bob Sanders let us see his other side by showing us how Texas folk swig shooters - fast and mean. Bill Gardner (Bob M.'s friend from TRAN-SCAL) won the limbo contest and Boo-Boo Licon (Yogi's long-time friend) scooped up in the women's division. As for the kids, all received prizes for competing in the jr. div. musical chairs and limbo contests. Nick, son of PCT, was officially named "Pyro Taylor" for his ability to set anything a blaze with some wood and matches. Pete De Haan, remembering stiff hangovers last year, held back a bit while newcomer Marianna Drost watched everyone

else make fools of themselves. Leon Cooksey made a two hour appearance on Saturday afternoon arriving in a vintage '52 black Cadillac. Topping it off was Tamiko's son, Alan, winning the calamity award for falling out of a tree three times and getting stung by a hornet. Ahh, till we meet again next year. Good weather, good friends, and some tequila can make event the smallest of LACTC campouts a weekend to remember. —Cindy Kondo ▲

THE "INSIDE MOVES" STAFF

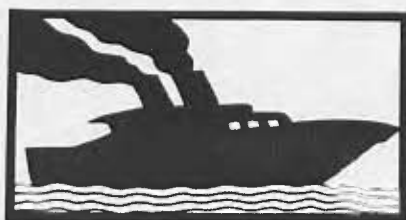
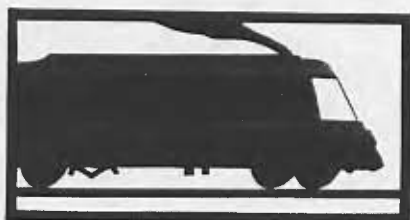
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GUEST COLUMNISTS ARE INVITED;
CALL ANN OR ROBERTA

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GUEST
WRITERS, CINDY KONDO AND
CLAUDETTE MOODY.



MOVING ON



RICK "RICARDO" GOMEZ split the scene in October after 2 1/2 years of duty in the Community Relations Department. I'm sure most of you remember Rick, he made it a point to talk to everyone. He is well remembered for founding the LACTC Toastmasters, the production of the infamous Mr. Fish video, and for trying to corrupt anyone brave enough to step into the Golden Gopher with him. He is now the Hispanic field marketing manager for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco USA. Last time I saw him he was riding a camel wearing sunglasses down Broadway. Since he's been gone, I haven't seen anyone sneaking a smoke on the fire escape or dancing to the jukebox in the Rome Room. His parting shot—"I met and worked with a bunch of basically very nice people."



BEVERLY BROUMAND answered the phone approximately 365,000 times since last December and said "LACTC." No wonder she left. That would give anybody what I call "cauliflower ear" after spending too much time on the phone. Bev was our cheerful and good-natured receptionist for one year. She and her family wanted to get away from the big city life and moved up north to Sacramento. Bev's parting words were, "Take this job and fill it." She also said, "To all my friends at LACTC, thanks for all the memories."

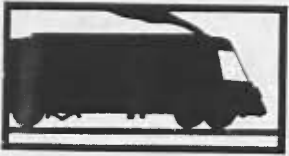




On Board Continued

INSIDES MOVES welcomes these new employees, who may be featured in the next issue if they hand in their forms: Jan Wall, Paula Willins, and Maria Porrata.

INSIDE MOVES welcomes these new employees who will be featured when we give them a form (we regret that production time prevented I.M. from covering these staffers) Ann Colfax, Geraldine Brody, and Nelia Custodio. ▲

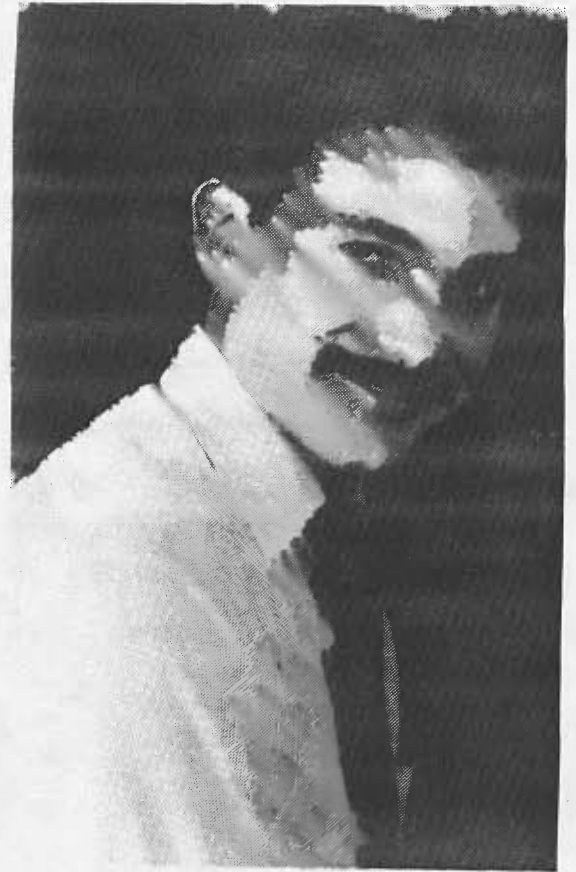


MOVING ON CONTINUED

Adios to **BEN DARCHE**, the smartest kid on the block. He's got a Phd in something from UCLA. Ben started here in 1982 as a rail development officer and climbed the ladder to become manager of rail planning. Ben put into place the financing structure for the rail program and developed the general plan for the Prop. A rail program. He's going on to be a managing consultant in public financial management in San Francisco. His parting words: You never know what it's like until you try it—"it" being something on the physical, mental, or spiritual level. Ben says "I enjoyed working with a neat group of people and watching the LACTC evolve into a dynamic organization—with its growing pains."



After three years as a transit program analyst, **MARY SUE O'MELIA** packed up her desk and hit the road. She didn't stray too far though—just over by LAX where she is a public transportation consultant for Booz, Allen, and Hamilton. Mary Sue is originally from beautiful Palm Springs, CA, where she once served as Miss Palm Springs. She earned her M.S. in Public Administration at SUNY at Stony Brook. She considers one of her major accomplishments here was "keeping Mary Lou out of trouble." (Not much was accomplished in that area.) Her philosophy of life—"Sometimes you just have to say what the #@*&."



*In Loving Memory of
Craig E. Johnson
March 28, 1958 - October 23, 1988*

*After Glow
I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an after glow
of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways
of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those that grieve
to dry before the sun
of happy memories that I leave
when my life is done. Δ*